



BlueGreen Alliance California Newsletter June 2024

Welcome to the June [BlueGreen Alliance California](#) (BGA CA) newsletter! The start of the 2025 fiscal year is quickly approaching with months of budget negotiations finally coming to an end. Bills have been making their way through the committee process, and BGA has been hard at work to support our partners' priorities. Amongst those bills is SB 1182 (Gonzalez), a master plan for healthy, climate-resilient schools that the coalition is supporting, and we highlight why it's necessary for California in this month's spotlight.

ICYMI

BGA Endorses Biden for Reelection, Calling Him the Most “Pro-union” and “Pro-climate” President That Americans Workers Have Ever Had

“Joe Biden has stood with union workers and has taken action to make it easier for people to exercise their right to form a union,” **Jason Walsh, Executive Director of the BlueGreen Alliance**, said in a press call with BGA national partners present. “His leadership is delivering for workers and the environment, and he is ready to continue the fight for a clean, prosperous, and equitable future for all in a second term.”

Participants in the press conference included:

- **Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Campaign Manager, Biden-Harris 2024**
- **David McCall, International President, United Steelworkers (USW)**
- **Carl Kennebrew, President, IUE-CWA**
- **Manish Bapna, President, NRDC Action Fund**
- **Claire Cawley, Organizing Director, IUPAT District Council 57**
- **Dee Thomas, Member, USW Local 697**

Read the full press release [here](#).

Legislative Update: Movement on Coalition Supported Bills

BGA continues to provide support for the bills below by submitting coalition support letters, working with legislators and other stakeholders, and registering support in-person. As they move through the legislative process, here is run down of what comes next:



BGA partners, Vince Sugrue, SMART Local 105, Fatima Iqbal-Zubair, EnviroVoters, and Franki Gracey, BGA pose with Senator Wahab following the passage of SB 984 and SB 1321 out of Senate Labor & Employment.

AB 2083 (Berman) is a study bill to assess the potential for the state to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from the industrial sector by at least 85% below 1990 levels by 2045. The bill passed the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee and is up in the Environmental Quality Committee on July 3.

AB 3190 (Haney) will mandate prevailing wages for the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit program affordable housing projects. The bill recently passed the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement committee and heads to Appropriations.

AB 3258 (Bryan) sponsored by BGA labor partner, USW, is headed to the Senate floor after passing the Senate Labor and Employment and Appropriations committees on consent.

SB 984 (Wahab) would authorize a state agency to undertake a major state construction project only if that project is governed by a project labor agreement. The bill passed the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee and is now in the Assembly Appropriations.

SB 1182 (Gonzalez) sponsored by BGA labor partner, CFT, is headed to Assembly Appropriations after passing the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and the Education Committee.

SB 1321 (Wahab) sponsored by BGA labor partners, SMART and the California Labor Federation, will make necessary updates to the Employment Training Panel to ensure public funding creates high road jobs. The bill passed the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee and now heads to Appropriations.

SB 1325 (Durazo) authorizes a state or local agency to award contracts through a best value procurement method for the purchase of equipment with a base value of \$250,000 or more, as specified. The bill passed the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee and is up in Appropriations next.

SB 1337 (Gonzalez) is sponsored by BGA labor partner, SEIU, to increase transparency for voters in the referendum process and recently passed the Assembly Elections Committee and will be heard next in Appropriations.

SB 1375 (Durazo) will create the Equity, Climate Resilience, and Quality Jobs Fund to finance workforce training and standards to meet our climate resiliency workforce needs. The hearing in the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee is coming up on July 2, so be sure to show up in support if you can.

Spotlight: California Needs a Plan to Decarbonize Schools

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time, and children are especially vulnerable to extreme weather. California's school infrastructure is largely outdated, making it ill-equipped to protect students and teachers against rising temperatures and increased exposure to smoke. Students' health and learning are put at risk by not updating schools to be able to handle current and future climate change challenges. California school infrastructure itself takes up a considerable amount of space and requires a large amount of energy to operate, releasing **1.6 million megatons of CO2 emissions per year**. As weather patterns become more extreme, creating a plan that will most effectively update school infrastructure to be efficient and environmentally friendly is necessary.

SB 1182 (Gonzalez) addresses these issues by requiring a master plan to make our state's schools environmentally friendly and safer for students. This essential piece of legislation will ensure that there is a clear direction and goal across agencies for resources to be allocated in the most effective way to create healthy, sustainable, and climate-resilient schools. Increased exposure to extreme heat and wildfire smoke disproportionately affects disadvantaged communities, making it even more necessary for a plan that will address these inequities.

“When it's too hot to teach, it's too hot to learn. Our members need climate resilient schools just as much as our students, but our aging school buildings were not built to handle the ravages of climate change,” **said Jeffery Freitas, President of CFT, A Union of Educators and Classified Professionals**. “SB 1182 (Gonzalez) will create a plan to help our schools better withstand extreme heat, wildfire-affected air, increased demands on HVAC systems, and other harms of climate change that are happening now and worsening every day. This bill will position California's education infrastructure to function well under future climate challenges and allow both students and workers to thrive.”

Creating a plan will ensure that resources are effectively allocated so that every dollar has the most impact and aligns with California's emission reduction goals. As federal funding for climate projects floods into the state, a clear direction for decarbonizing schools will also open the door for schools to capitalize on these funds.

BGA coalition partners support this bill because it will show how we can improve climate infrastructure while creating better working conditions for teachers and jobs for those who must update the infrastructure. We must invest in the future of a clean economy to create and reap the benefits of an equitable California. The bill recently passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and the Assembly Education Committee and will go to Assembly Appropriations next. Send a support letter to the Appropriations Committee if you haven't already done so!

Hope everyone enjoys some much needed rest during July recess! If you have any questions, comments, or feedback on what you want us to cover, please let us know: tchowdhury@bluegreenalliance.org.

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