



## BlueGreen Alliance California Newsletter August 2024

Welcome to the August [BlueGreen Alliance California](#) (BGA CA) newsletter! This month we're sharing a report BGA did comparing manufacturing jobs under the Trump and Biden administrations. We also have an update on our coalition-supported bills that made it out of Appropriations this month, an update on the ACF waiver hearing at the EPA, and a highlight on why best value procurement is an essential policy for when the state purchases electric vehicles.

### **ICYMI: Then and Now - US Manufacturing Under the Trump and Biden-Harris Administrations**

BGA compiled a report comparing manufacturing jobs under the Biden-Harris administration to the Trump administration, showing the vital role of the Inflation Reduction Act. Manufacturing in the US has been declining, but recent investments have seen growth in the sector with good jobs for workers. Key findings in the report found that more than 775,000 manufacturing jobs have been added to the economy since Biden took office. The growth is expected to continue, with the Inflation Reduction Act estimated to create 336,000 manufacturing jobs a year until 2035. In contrast, more than 200,000 manufacturing jobs were lost during former President Donald Trump's single term.

Investment in manufacturing is beneficial to workers, and it is especially essential to invest in clean tech manufacturing to drive down pollution in this sector. Read the [full report here](#).

### **Legislative Update**

These are the bills BGA supported that still stand:

**[AB 3190 \(Haney\)](#)** will mandate prevailing wages for the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit program affordable housing projects.

**[AB 3258 \(Bryan\)](#)** sponsored by BGA labor partner, USW, that will make necessary updates to the process safety management code to include safety protections for alternative fuel refinery workers and not just oil refinery workers.

**[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.

**[SB 1182 \(Gonzalez\)](#)** sponsored by BGA labor partner, CFT, is a study bill to determine the most effective ways to update school facilities and make them more climate resilient.

**SB 1321 (Wahab)** sponsored by BGA labor partners, SMART and the California Labor Federation, will make necessary updates to the Employment Training Panel to increase transparency and ensure public funding creates high road jobs.

**SB 1337 (Gonzalez)** is sponsored by BGA labor partner, SEIU, to make changes in the referendum process that will increase transparency for voters.

**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.

Unfortunately, **SB 1325 (Durazo)** and AB **2083 (Berman)** did not make it out of the Appropriations suspense file.

### **Regulatory Update**

**BGA CA State Policy Manager, Tamina Chowdhury** testified in front of the US EPA to emphasize the importance of not leaving workers behind in California's Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) waiver request if it is approved. The ACF rule will create a new standard for truck fleets to transition to zero-emission and requires manufacturers to sell 100% clean emission trucks by 2036. As Tamina stated, "This transition is not only crucial for our environment but also for the health and safety of our workforce. Workers in logistics, transportation, and related industries are often on the most exposed to harmful emissions from diesel-powered vehicles. The ACF rule promises a future where these workers can breathe cleaner air, resulting in fewer health issues and a more vibrant workforce."

### **Spotlight: Best Value Procurement Benefits Workers and the Environment**

California is leading the country in electric vehicle purchases, spending billions to clean up the transportation sector. This kind of purchasing power gives the state leverage to ensure public dollars are being spent on manufacturers that have strong labor standards for their workers and are environmentally responsible. Public agencies across California have adopted the best value procurement policy framework, which has successfully been used to ensure that California is not purchasing from companies that mistreat their workers. Best value procurement allows consideration for important factors like job creation, pay, and benefits for workers to be evaluated as part of contracting decisions, in addition to price. This policy differs from the lowest responsible bidder model, which ignores the major issues of worker pay, training, as well as employment access, environmental standards, and community impacts.

California has bought hundreds of vehicles from companies whose practices are in direct conflict with the labor values that we stand for here in California. The best value procurement framework will ensure that when public dollars are being used, Californians get the most benefits with cleaner fleets and better jobs for workers. Along with ensuring manufacturers have strong labor standards, best value procurement takes into consideration companies that use vehicle battery materials from domestic producers or recycled sources, rather than from a supply chain rife with dangerous and

exploitative labor practices. Currently, only some public agencies have the authority to use best value procurement, despite the benefits it can bring to workers and communities. SB 1325 (Durazo) would have extended best value authorization to more agencies, but it was unfortunately held in the Assembly suspense file earlier this month.



"With California set to receive tens of billions of dollars from the federal government in the coming years, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to use these funds not just to build out our critical infrastructure needs, but also to raise job standards across the state," said **Emily Gartenberg, California policy and legislative manager for Jobs to Move America**. "By adopting best value procurement, local and state agencies can amplify the impact of public dollars to create good jobs and advance racial, gender, and climate equity."

A clean economy is the future of California, but we must do the work now to ensure workers are not left behind. Purchasing electric vehicles from low road employers goes against California's values and harms vulnerable communities and workers. BGA CA strongly supports best value procurement in the transition to zero-emission vehicles.

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Thanks for reading and good luck with the end of session! If you have any questions, comments, or feedback on what you want us to cover, please let us know: [tchowdhury@bluegreenalliance.org](mailto:tchowdhury@bluegreenalliance.org).

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*The BlueGreen Alliance (BGA) unifies labor unions and environmental organizations into a powerful force working for an economy that fights climate change, protects the health of people and the environment, stands against economic and racial inequality, and creates and maintains good-paying, union jobs in communities across the country.*

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