



BlueGreen Alliance California Newsletter February 2025

I hope you're all doing your best to take care of yourselves while we're all dealing with a difficult federal landscape. BGA continues to work to create a strong economy for workers and communities, and our work this month has included combating narratives around federal funding cuts, submitting comments to the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) regarding California offshore wind, and tracking regulatory proceedings and breaking legislation. BGA CA is also excited to spotlight Majority Leader Lena Gonzalez (D – Long Beach) as our 2024 legislative champion.

You probably wish you could forget, but ICYMI:

Billions in federal funding remain frozen despite court orders to keep money going out the door. CNN reported on the state of chaos in the government, and how it's leaving government contractors in the lurch:

“People are just flipping out, and most of them are being careful about what they say,” said **Jason Walsh, Executive Director of climate and labor group the BlueGreen Alliance.**

Walsh told CNN that reactions from EPA grantees—whose funding was paused, restarted, and then paused again last Friday—has been a mix of “panic, confusion and anger.”

“Contracts are going to get broken if this doesn't stop, and workers are going to get laid off,” Walsh said. “I didn't anticipate how fully brazen they'd be in ignoring the courts.”

Read the full article [here](#).

Regulatory Update: California Offshore Wind

Despite a hostile federal environment for offshore wind, BGA CA submitted comments to BOEM on the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for California offshore wind. We appreciate BOEM's draft PEIS analyzing the potential impacts of offshore wind energy development in the five lease areas off California's coast. The final sale notice for these areas included lease stipulations designed to promote the development of a robust domestic supply chain, advance flexibility in transmission

planning, and create good paying, union jobs. BGA urges BOEM to include more robust stipulations and bidding credits in its future leases and consider our recommendations in this letter.

Find the full letter [here](#).

Spotlight: BGA Legislative Champion



BGA CA is [excited to announce](#) Majority Leader Lena Gonzalez (D – Long Beach) as our 2024 legislative champion. As our coalition works together on labor and environmental issues, we recognize the importance of strong leadership in these spaces. Senator Gonzalez has been a strong advocate for communities and workers and recognizes the urgency of addressing intensifying climate impacts.

“Thank you to the California BlueGreen Alliance coalition for selecting me as their 2024 Legislative Champion,” **said Majority Leader Lena Gonzalez (D – Long Beach)**. “With the increasing frequency of climate emergencies, we must continue building a

clean economy that not only addresses the climate crisis but also strengthens and protects workers and communities. I look forward to continuing this work in the legislative session ahead.”

We especially are thankful for her collaboration and hard work on SB 1182 that would have created a master plan for climate resilient schools to create healthy learning and work environments that was cosponsored by BGA partner CFT.

“Senator Gonzalez has long been a champion for both workers’ rights and climate goals,” **said Jeffery Freitas, President, CFT, A Union of Educators and Classified Professionals**. “As a champion of this work she authored SB 1182, landmark legislation to create a master plan for climate resilient schools. Senator Gonzalez has not just relentlessly fought for such measures, she has also consistently worked to link the issues of workers' rights with climate goals. We are extremely grateful for her advocacy, her leadership, and her drive to ensure that education workers and students can thrive in a safe and healthy environment.”

While the bill was unfortunately vetoed, we recognize the importance of bringing these issues to the forefront and laying the groundwork for future legislation that will protect students and teachers. As climate change creates intensifying disasters, it is imperative our communities are equipped to handle rising heat and worsening indoor air quality.

The BGA coalition looks forward to continuing our collaboration with Senator Gonzalez.

Thanks for reading! If you have any questions, comments, or feedback on what you want us to cover, please let us know: fgracey@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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