



**BLUEGREEN
ALLIANCE**

2022 STATE POLICY AGENDA CALIFORNIA



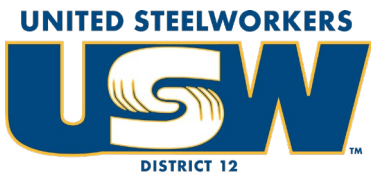
WESTERN STATES



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL VOTERS
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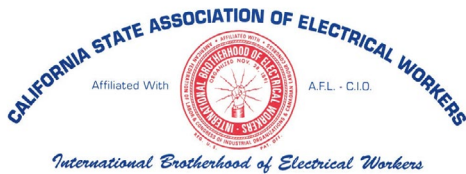
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■ Introduction

California faces the triple threat of widespread economic injustice, mounting climate change and climate disasters, and the devastating human and environmental impacts of pollution. While our state leads the country in advancing progressive state policies, California is also home to significant economic inequality, highly exploited workforces in many sectors, and some of the most polluted cities in the country.

BlueGreen Alliance California (BGA CA) unites our state's labor and environmental movements at the state level to build power and deliver wins for working people and a cleaner, more sustainable environment. We seek to advance our mission in alignment with California's environmental justice movement.

In building power among our movements, BGA CA aims to pass policies that greatly increase union jobs and union jobs for workers of color and other exploited workers, support our climate goals, and mitigate environmental injustices. No one should have to choose between living in a safe, stable environment and the economic security of a high-quality union job. BGA builds coalitions around policies that expand unionization, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) and pollution emissions, and deliver benefits and justice to low-income communities of color.

This Policy Agenda presents BlueGreen Alliance California's policy goals for 2022. Below, we describe priority campaigns and practical demands of policymakers in the economic sectors within which we are working. BGA CA stands ready to work with all government, non-profit, and private sector stakeholders to advance these intersecting goals, and others, through legislation and regulation in 2022. We hope you will join us.

Note that this agenda does not reflect all planned BGA CA work, issues, or bills in 2022. This is a preview of our priority campaigns for this year, and while campaigns reflect the collective priorities of BGA CA, any campaign may not be a priority for a particular member or work that all partners engage in.



■ 2022 Priority Campaigns

I. Workforce Equity in Climate Investments

Climate investments are market-based policy tools for accelerating clean energy transition. Climate investments also give government critical leverage to incentivize union jobs and economic equity and justice for California's black and brown, LGBTQ+, disabled, and other excluded workers. **In many cases, workforce standards**—such as wage and hiring standards, targeted hire standards, compliance mechanisms, training and apprenticeship programs, the right to organize, and RFP criteria to leverage good benefits and working conditions (e.g., the US Employment Plan)—**are the only surefire way to ensure that clean energy investment and buildout creates high-quality jobs that benefit California's blue-collar workers, low-income workers of color, and dislocated workers.** That's why workforce standards are so important.¹

BGA has advocated for workforce standards on California climate investments in, among other places, energy efficiency funds (CPUC Workforce Standard Decision), charging infrastructure installations (AB 841, Ting), and last year by co-sponsoring AB 794 (Carrillo), which attached a workforce standard to trucking industry investments. **We need to embed workforce standards across all sectors of California climate investment.** For a list of workforce standards BGA has identified as essential to equitable economic development, please see the following linked reports: *Advancing High Road Standards In Zero-Emission Transportation*, and *State-based Policies to Build a Cleaner, Safer, More Equitable Economy*.²

BGA CA's 2022 goals for workforce equity in climate investments include:

- **Community Economic Resilience Fund:** In 2022, BGA CA will work towards embedding workforce standards and community-labor democratic decision-making requirements within the one-time \$600M California Economic Resilience Fund through program guidelines designed and enforced by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA). At present, the guidelines for the CERF program do not meaningfully structure community and labor leadership into regional planning tables, nor is there a clear mechanism to ensure unionization or workforce standards will be achieved in program implementation.
- **AB 680 and AB 794 Implementation:** BGA CA will work to ensure that AB 680, the *California Jobs Plan Act of 2021*, and AB 794 are adequately funded to apply workforce standards as directed by the legislature to GGRF funds (AB 680, Burke) and CARB's trucking industry investments (AB 794, Carrillo). We will work to ensure that CARB develops strong and enforceable workforce standards in the AB 680 process.

■ 2022 Priority Campaigns

- **Workforce Standards Administrative Architecture for Implementing Agencies:** we will work through the budget to ensure that the Labor Agency is adequately resourced with an enforcement architecture to assist implementing agencies where necessary to administer and enforce workforce standards.
- **Federal infrastructure fund spending:** BGA CA will work with budget committees, implementing agencies, and the legislature to ensure that federal infrastructure funds passed through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) include strong workforce standards across construction, manufacturing, operations, service, and other investments.

II. Resilient Buildings and Communities

As California ramps down emissions from buildings, BGA CA members are focused on both decarbonization efforts *and* the need to leverage the expertise and work of plumbers, electricians, and other unionized workers to construct and maintain energy- and water-efficient buildings of the future. We collectively agree: union jobs must be preserved and expanded in the building arena as we transition to energy sources of the future.

Water efficiency measures will be a key deliverable from our buildings work in 2022. Most buildings in California use potable water to supply the non-potable water demands from toilet and urinal flushing, floor trap priming, cooling towers, and air-conditioning devices—thus depleting drinking water supplies during a likely interminable drought. The State Water Resources Control Board has established goals of recycling 1,500,000 acre-feet of wastewater by 2020 and 2,500,000 acre-feet of wastewater by 2030 to ease water concerns. California is not currently on track to meet those goals, and very little recycled water has been made available to replace non-potable water use in buildings.

BGA CA is also focused on delivering billions of dollars in investment to disadvantaged communities for building decarbonization, efficiency, and energy reliability measures while pairing these investments with workforce standards. These investments are being championed by our EJ partners and will be critical, when paired with workforce standards, to improving construction job quality and targeting investments to public sector facilities. Our 2020 report, *Resilience Before Disaster*, outlines the need for such holistic investments.³



■ 2022 Priority Campaigns

BGA CA's 2022 goals for resilient buildings and communities include:

- **Healthy & Resilient Buildings and Communities Priorities Budget:** we support the \$922 million proposed budget for low-income building retrofits/upgrades and *support a request for a further \$1 billion investment in the construction of and upgrades to community resilience centers*, e.g., community centers, schools, libraries, health clinics, and other public institutions in communities. A combined \$2 billion infrastructure investment will help reduce climate pollution, mitigate the impacts of worsening extreme heat, address historic burdens and structural inequities in working-class communities of color, spur economic growth by creating good jobs, and build climate resilience in households and communities.

III. Zero Emission Transportation

Forty percent of California's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation and tailpipe emissions. Transportation pollution emissions also account for a significant share of environmental health and environmental justice impacts due to airborne pollution. ***If managed through strong, proactive policy mechanisms***, the transition to clean, zero-emission transportation can create, preserve, or improve millions of good jobs throughout the transportation supply chain, while addressing immediate climate and public health impacts. At present, transportation jobs are of variable quality (and often among the most exploitative in trucking and ridehailing) and at high risk of offshoring (in auto manufacturing).

In 2022, BGA CA aims to address the misclassification of drivers as independent in trucking and Transportation Network Company (TNC) driving, which undermines climate, environmental justice, and economic justice goals.⁴ We also aim to support continued CA leadership on clean vehicle standards.

BGA CA's 2022 goals for resilient buildings and communities include:

- **CPUC Clean Miles Standard Adoption with Workforce Equity:** over the last two years, a BGA-led coalition has helped pass a strong Clean Miles Standard at CARB to lower TNC greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adopt a zero-emission miles target. We will continue to work at the CPUC in the implementation regulation of the Clean Miles Standard to ensure that companies internalize the cost of transition. Our aim in 2022 is for the CPUC to assess a per-mile or per-trip fee on TNCs to fund a state-controlled transition fund available to TNC drivers for transition assistance.

2022 Priority Campaigns

- **Pass Trucking and TNC Data Transparency Bills:**
 - **AB 2057 (Carrillo)** would require CARB to collect and consolidate specified data related to goods movement in the transportation supply chain and would require the agency to make this data publicly available on its internet website. The bill would require all maritime ports to collect data and statistics from trucking companies related to contractors and provide the data to the agency. This bill fills a critical hole in the data landscape around trucking companies that will facilitate our zero-emission trucking goals and our worker justice goals in the trucking sector.
 - **SB 1276 (Durazo)** would ensure that state and local agencies have the authority to collect data from TNCs and other mobility providers, as long as they have privacy protections. SB 1276 would protect the ability of CARB, the CPUC, and other agencies to collect the data needed to enforce the Clean Miles Standard, and would additionally allow cities to collect granular data on TNCs, scooters, and other micro-mobility to facilitate urban and regional planning.
- **CARB Advanced Clean Fleet Rule Adoption with Workforce Equity:** CARB is now developing the Advanced Clean Fleet Rule requiring California trucking fleets to phase in conversion to zero-emission fleets over many years. The coalition has secured preliminary language ensuring controlling trucking companies are held accountable. The weaker than needed ZE adoption standards in the rule, particularly among non-port serving drayage trucks, currently threaten its viability. The coalition will aim to strengthen the priority fleets mechanism in the rule heading towards a final vote in early 2023 to ensure achievement of labor, environmental, and EJ goals.

IV. Domestic EV Manufacturing and High Road EV Supply Chain

The EV supply chain includes the industrial processes of mineral mining, refining, battery production, auto manufacturing, recycling, and ancillary industries of power transmission, construction, and others. California's leadership position in EV manufacturing and adoption put our state in a position to lead on social and environmentally responsible manufacturing policy.



Conclusion

If done responsibly, economic development related to California lithium in the Salton Sea region might remediate legacy toxic contaminants in the region, facilitate development of geothermal power resources, and offer a promising scalable manufacturing pathway for CA blue-collar workers and workers displaced from oil and gas.

BGA CA's 2022 goals for domestic EV manufacturing and High Road EV Supply Chain include:

- **Leverage high road US/CA jobs through incentives:** administering and procuring agencies should attach workforce standards to consumer incentives, manufacturer incentives, government procurement RFPs, and other vehicles, through budget action or administrative decisions, to ensure that state-subsidized vehicles are US-made and leverage high-wage jobs for disadvantaged and dislocated workers. BGA will continue this work through budget and administrative advocacy.
- **Responsible Lithium Valley development:** in 2022, BGA will convene and take leadership direction from local labor, EJ, and environmental partners on the ground in Imperial County, the Coachella Valley, and the Inland Empire to support aligned state policy strategies for local union jobs, environmental remediation, and provision of community benefits.

While much is made of disagreements between environmentalists and labor unions, BGA CA's campaigns highlight the deepening well of ongoing blue-green collaboration in California. *We strongly urge policymakers to support the affirmative, united goals of labor and environmental leaders working together as described in this Policy Agenda.* Where divides between our movements do exist, BGA CA commits to redoubling our efforts to build solidarity. We affirm, however, that in many spaces in California, alliances between Blue and Green are strong.



■ Endnotes

- 1 BlueGreen Alliance and Gridworks: *Advancing High Road Standards In Zero-Emission Transportation*. 2021. Available online at: https://gridworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Advancing-High-Road-Standards-report_FINAL.pdf.
- 2 *Ibid*; and BlueGreen Alliance: *State-based Policies to Build a Safer, Cleaner, More Equitable Economy*. Available online at: https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/StatePolicyToolkit_Report2020_vFINAL.pdf.
- 3 APEN, SEIU CA, SEIU 2015, BGA, *Resilience Before Disaster*. Available online at: <http://apen4ej.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Resilience-Before-Disaster-FINAL-UPDATED.pdf>.
- 4 UC Berkeley Labor Center. *Truck Driver Misclassification: Labor, Environmental, and Environmental Justice Impacts*. Available online at: <https://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/truck-driver-misclassification/>.