

Introduced by Senator Alarcon

February 1, 2000

An act to add and repeal Article 7 (commencing with Section 65055) to Chapter 1.5 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code, relating to the environment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1408, as introduced, Alarcon. Environmental Justice Technical Assistance Grant Demonstration Project.

Under existing law, the Office of Planning and Research is the coordinating agency in state government for environmental justice programs.

This bill would enact the Environmental Justice Technical Assistance Grant Demonstration Program. The bill would require the office, from funds appropriated to it for that purpose, to allocate grants in amounts up to \$25,000 to community-based nonprofit organizations in communities with low-income populations or minority populations to obtain technical assistance in connection with the organization's participation in a decision to issue a permit by any board, department, or office within the California Environmental Protection Agency, or in a decision to issue a permit by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission.

This bill would require the office to submit an evaluation of the program to the Legislature no later than June 30, 2004. The provisions enacted by the bill would become inoperative on June 30, 2004, and would be repealed on January 1, 2005.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares
2 as follows:

3 (a) Many communities with low-income and minority
4 populations are subject to disproportionately high and
5 adverse human health or environmental effects.

6 (b) One of the causes of this historical inequality of
7 environmental burdens is the lack of financial and other
8 resources in communities with low-income and minority
9 populations to obtain technical assistance with
10 complicated state permitting processes.

11 (c) Without that technical assistance, communities
12 with low-income and minority populations are at a
13 disadvantage in terms of effectively voicing their
14 concerns about a project.

15 (d) The provision of technical assistance grants to
16 community-based organizations in communities with
17 low-income and minority populations will facilitate
18 greater participation by those communities in permitting
19 decisions and reduce the risk that already overburdened
20 communities will be subject to additional environmental
21 degradations.

22 SEC. 2. Article 7 (commencing with Section 65055) is
23 added to Chapter 1.5 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the
24 Government Code, to read:

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26 Article 7. Environmental Justice Technical Assistance
27 Grant Demonstration Program

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29 65055. From funds appropriated to it for that purpose,
30 the office shall allocate grants in amounts up to
31 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to
32 community-based nonprofit organizations in
33 communities with low-income populations or minority
34 populations to obtain technical assistance in connection
35 with the organization's participation in a decision to issue



1 a permit by any board, department, or office within the
2 California Environmental Protection Agency, or in a
3 decision to issue a permit by the State Energy Resources
4 Conservation and Development Commission.

5 65056. The office shall submit an evaluation of the
6 program authorized by this article to the Legislature no
7 later than June 30, 2004.

8 65057. This article shall become inoperative on June
9 30, 2004, and as of January 1, 2005, is repealed, unless a
10 later enacted statute, that becomes effective on or before
11 January 1, 2005, deletes or extends the dates on which it
12 becomes inoperative and is repealed.

