

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 28, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 2, 2000

SENATE BILL

No. 1408

Introduced by Senator Alarcon
(Coauthors: Senators Murray and Ortiz)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alquist, Bock, and
Longville)

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 amended, Alarcon. Environmental Justice Technical Assistance Grant Demonstration ~~Project~~ *Program*.

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 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 involving a permit, remediation order, or corrective action by any board, department, or office within the California Environmental Protection Agency, a decision involving a

permit by the Department of Transportation, or in a decision involving a certification by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission. The office would be required to give priority to grant proposals that would include specified activities. The bill would limit the amount of the grant to \$25,000 for participating in a project.

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 The provisions enacted by the bill would become inoperative on June 30, 2004, and would be repealed on January 1, 2005.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. The Legislature finds and declares as
2 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, remediation order, and
11 corrective action processes.

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

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



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

4
5
6
7

Article 7. Environmental Justice Technical Assistance
Grant Demonstration Program

8 65055. From funds appropriated to it for that purpose,
9 the office shall allocate grants to community-based
10 nonprofit organizations in communities with low-income
11 populations or minority populations, as determined by
12 the office, to obtain technical assistance in connection
13 with the organization’s participation in a decision
14 involving a permit, remediation order, or corrective
15 action by any board, department, or office within the
16 California Environmental Protection Agency, in a
17 decision involving a permit by the Department of
18 Transportation, or in a decision involving a certification
19 by the State Energy Resources Conservation and
20 Development Commission. A grant to any
21 community-based nonprofit organization pursuant to this
22 article shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars
23 (\$25,000) for participation in a project involving one or
24 more permits, certifications, remediation orders, or
25 corrective actions.

26 65056. In allocating grants pursuant to this article, the
27 office shall give priority to proposals that would increase
28 an organization’s ability to engage in one or more of the
29 following activities:

- 30 ~~(a) Identify environmental justice issues.~~
- 31 ~~(b) Improve communication and coordination~~
32 ~~between community members, community~~
33 ~~organizations, agencies, and stakeholders.~~
- 34 ~~(c) Strengthen the capacity of community members~~
35 ~~to identify and respond to issues.~~
- 36 ~~(d)~~
- 37 *(a) Identify issues related to environmental justice as*
38 *defined in subdivision (c) of Section 65040.12 of the*
39 *Government Code.*



- 1 (b) Collect and interpret health and environmental
 - 2 data.
 - 3 ~~(e) Train residents in their rights and responsibilities.~~
 - 4 ~~(f)~~
 - 5 (c) Identify pollution sources.
 - 6 ~~(g)~~
 - 7 (d) Resolve environmental problems.
 - 8 ~~(h)~~
 - 9 (e) Monitor projects and implementation of
 - 10 mitigation measures.
- 11 65057. The office shall submit an evaluation of the
- 12 program authorized by this article to the Legislature no
- 13 later than June 30, 2004.
- 14 65058. This article shall become inoperative on June
- 15 30, 2004, and as of January 1, 2005, is repealed, unless a
- 16 later enacted statute, that becomes effective on or before
- 17 January 1, 2005, deletes or extends the dates on which it
- 18 becomes inoperative and is repealed.

