

## Communities for a Better Environment Stands for Sanctuary



In light of the deportation threats, degrading and racist statements and violent hate crimes that are directed daily to immigrants and people of color across the nation, Communities for a Better Environment strongly supports California's sanctuary cities. Seeking environmental justice, we are building toward empowered, inclusive communities where all people are engaged in the decisions that affect their lives, their health, and their livelihoods. There is no place in this vision for decisions that come from Washington D.C. that would force communities to breathe unhealthy air or drink poisoned water, or forcibly divide families, based on race, religion, or immigration status.

Trump and his cabinet promise to immediately deport millions of immigrants and abolish the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program that provides relief from deportation for long-settled youth in the United States. Trump pledged to fund construction of a wall with Mexico, establish a 2-year mandatory prison sentence (5 years if someone has been deported twice before or has a prior felony conviction) and require that jobs be offered to "American" workers first. For people seeking to come to this country, Trump has pledged to stop all immigration and close the nation's doors to refugees from "terror-prone regions", places where innocent peoples' lives are in terrible danger. Where immigration is allowed, Trump plans to screen all people using "extreme" vetting, including establishing new immigration "screening procedures" to ensure people who are admitted support "our people" and "our values."

The new administration's plans for the first 100 days in office clearly demonstrate corporate profits and political favors are top priority. The pledged plans would jeopardize the health of California's communities in very concrete ways and impact people of color and low-income communities the hardest. Trump pledged to lift restrictions on the production of oil, natural gas and coal, and then remove obstacles to projects like the Keystone Pipeline, so that dirty fuels could reach our most vulnerable communities – ultimately putting public health and safety at risk. Our environment and our climate must be protected *and* we must continue to build people-power in the fight for resilient neighborhoods.

Environmental justice issues intersect with housing, healthcare, law enforcement, transportation, parks and the infrastructure in our communities. The new administration embodies racial inequities that would threaten to reverse the policies our communities have created in the fight for environmental health, racial and social justice, where equity is at the

center of decision-making. Trump's cabinet pick to head the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt, threatens the EJ 2020 Action Agenda that would advance integration of an environmental justice framework to better reduce disparities in the nation's most overburdened communities. Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson, Trump's pick for Secretary of the State and Montana's Representative, Ryan Zinke, Trump's pick for Secretary of the Interior, also threaten the gains California's fence-line communities have made toward moving our state to prioritizing clean renewable energy.

Blatant corporate takeover and fervent anti-immigrant rhetoric in Washington only serves to further harmful immigration enforcement our communities are suffering, as record numbers of people have been deported. Pledges from the new administration also target sending significantly more money to police forces to penetrate even further into our communities. If they go forward, these policies will break up families, devastate communities, and have lasting consequences on the health, civic vitality and economic growth of our city, region, state and nation.

Immigrants and their children are a vital part of society. California has been at the forefront of sound policies centered on immigrant integration and state citizenship for undocumented people. Migration is a human right and is at the root of diversity in our schools, workplaces, communities, civic life, and economy. Our state has thrived for many years due to the vibrancy of the immigrant community – in all the different statuses. Many California cities have recognized the importance of all their inhabitants by declaring themselves to be sanctuary cities.

CBE asks that every California city that has not yet declared itself a Sanctuary City issue an unequivocal, public declaration of support for and protection of the undocumented community that includes pledging to:

- Guarantee privacy by refusing to release information regarding the immigration status of community members.
- Refuse to comply with immigration authorities regarding deportations or raids. This includes protecting our communities by calling on our local county institutions to disentangle themselves from federal immigration enforcement strategies.

It is our duty to fight, win, love and protect one another to shape the future our children will live in. Together, we can stop corporate profits from rolling back our gains in California's communities.

Together, we say No to a corrupt Trump Administration and Yes to the strength and power of the people.

**Please make a contribution to Communities for a Better Environment today as a way of saying you are committed to fighting for environmental health and justice.**

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