

## **CALIFORNIA'S POLLUTERS PAY CLIMATE SUPERFUND ACT (SB 684 & AB 1243)**

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**Who's Going to Pay for the Climate Crisis?** California taxpayers are facing an unprecedented and escalating financial burden from the climate crisis. Tens of thousands of Angelenos are returning to their communities to find homes, businesses and infrastructure destroyed. The recent devastation in L.A. alone is estimated to cost Californians \$250 billion.

Insurance giants are abandoning Californians. Communities are shouldering unaffordable insurance rates, housing costs, utility bills, and medical and health expenses. State and local budgets are stretched to the brink as climate risks rise, jeopardizing public services, and forcing taxpayers to carry the burden.

Across the state, climate costs are hurting working families. Unless something changes, Californians will continue to suffer the burden of escalating multibillion-dollar costs.

**Polluters Pay Climate Superfund: A Common-Sense Solution.** The climate crisis is a fossil-fuel crisis. A small number of the world's largest corporations have emitted the bulk of global greenhouse pollution, raking in immense profits while we all pay the price. The Climate Superfund Act (SB 684 & AB 1243) would ensure polluters pay their fair share for the climate damage they have caused in California. This bill would:

- **Direct CalEPA to complete a climate cost study:** to quantify total damages to the state (through 2045), caused by fossil fuel emissions.
- **Direct CalEPA to identify responsible parties and assess compensatory fees:** on the largest fossil fuel polluters, proportional to their fossil fuel emissions 1990 through 2024, to address damages quantified in the cost study.
- **Fund California's future:** Fees collected will fund projects and programs to mitigate, remedy, or prevent climate change costs and harms. The aim of this bill is to prioritize strong labor and job standards and dedicate at least 40% of the funds to benefit communities hit hardest by fossil fuel pollution". It will protect Californians and lower costs by funding critical climate solutions, including investments in a clean energy transition, community resilience, home hardening, sustainable infrastructure, and essential workers responding to climate disasters.

California is one of several states considering such legislation. Vermont and New York enacted climate superfund laws last year.

***This legislation could raise hundreds of billions of dollars to protect Californians and fund solutions that build affordable and sustainable communities!***

**Distinct from Cap-and-Trade:** The Climate Superfund seeks recompense to address damage caused by past fossil fuel emissions. Cap-and-Trade is a market-based program to incentivize future emissions reductions. Funds paid into the Cap-and-Trade system are *not* recompense for past damage caused by their emissions; polluters pay into cap-and-trade for others to reduce emissions in their place, so they don't have to. These companies have not remedied the harm caused by their past emissions. The state and taxpayers have never been made whole; the Climate Superfund Act seeks some relief for that injustice.

This bill is separate and distinct from important climate accountability lawsuits brought by California local governments and the state of California to hold polluters accountable for lying about climate change and violating the law.

## **Supporting Organizations**

Sponsors: Center for Biological Diversity, California Environmental Voters, Campaign for a Safe and Healthy California.

1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations  
198 methods  
350 Bay Area Action  
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley  
350 Humboldt  
350 Sacramento  
350 Santa Barbara  
350 Southland Legislative Alliance  
350 Ventura County Climate Hub  
350.org  
ACCE (Alliance of Californians For Community Empowerment)  
Action for the Climate Emergency (ACE)  
Active San Gabriel Valley  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California  
Asian Pacific Environmental Network  
Avaaz  
Azul  
Ballona Wetlands Institute  
Bay Area-System Change not Climate Change  
Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory  
Better Future Project  
Beyond Extreme Energy  
Black Women for Wellness Action Project  
CA Youth vs. Big Oil  
California Climate Voters  
California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) Action  
California Federation of Teachers  
California Green New Deal Coalition  
California Interfaith Power & Light  
California Nurses Association  
California Nurses for Environmental Health and Justice  
Carbon Cycle Institute  
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ)  
Center for Diverse Leadership in Science  
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)  
Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment  
Central California Asthma Collaborative  
Central California Environmental Justice Network  
CERBAT  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network  
Citizens' Climate Lobby Santa Cruz chapter  
CleanEarth4Kids.org  
Climate Action California  
Climate Action Campaign  
Climate and Society Center, UC Berkeley  
Climate Brunch  
Climate Defenders / Defensores De La Tierra

Climate Equity Policy Center  
Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas (CFROG)  
Climate Hawks Vote  
Climate Health Now  
Climate Justice Group, First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego  
Climate Reality Project San Diego  
Climate Reality Project San Francisco Bay Area  
Climate Reality Project, Riverside County Chapter  
Climate Reality Project, San Fernando Valley  
Coastal Lands Action Network  
Communities for a Better Environment  
Consumer Watchdog  
Courage California  
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action  
Defend Ballona Wetlands  
Dolores Huerta Foundation  
Dr. Bronner's  
Ekō  
Elders Climate Action (ECA) Northern California (NorCal) Chapter  
Elders Climate Action (ECA) Southern California (SoCal) Chapter  
Elected Officials to Protect America  
Endangered Habitats League  
Evergreen Action  
Extinction Rebellion Los Angeles  
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area  
Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety  
Food & Water Watch  
Fossil Free California  
Fossil Free Media  
FracTracker Alliance  
Fridays for Future Sacramento  
Glendale Environmental Coalition  
Good Neighbor Steering Committee of Benicia  
Greenpeace USA  
Human Impact Partners  
Indivisible CA Green Team  
Indivisible Marin  
Labor Rise - Climate Jobs Action  
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy  
Los Angeles Climate Reality Project  
Los Angeles Faith & Ecology Network  
Marin Interfaith Climate Action  
Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition  
NextGen California  
No Drilling Contra Costa  
Oil and Gas Action Network  
Oil Change International  
Our Revolution

Oxfam America  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Pennsylvania  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, San Francisco Bay  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sacramento  
Protect Monterey County  
Protect Playa Now  
Public Citizen  
Puvunga Wetland Protectors  
Rachel Carson Council  
Redeemer Community Partnership  
Resilient Palisades  
Rise Economy  
Rising Sun Center for Opportunity  
RootsAction.org  
San Francisco Baykeeper  
SanDiego350  
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network  
SEE (Social Eco Education)  
Sequoiaforestkeeper.org  
Seventh Generation  
Sierra Club California  
SoCal 350 Climate Action  
Spottswoode Winery, Inc.  
Stand.earth  
Strategic Concepts In Organizing and Policy Education  
Sunrise Bay Area  
Sunrise Movement  
Sunrise Movement LA  
Sustainable Claremont  
Sustainable Mill Valley  
The Climate Center  
The Climate Reality Project: California Coalition  
The Eric and Wendy Schmidt Center for Data Science & Environment at Berkeley  
The YEARS Project  
Third Act  
Third Act Sacramento  
Third Act SF Bay Area  
Third Act SoCal  
TIAA-Dives!  
VISIÓN (Voices in Solidarity Against Oil in Neighborhoods)  
Vote Solar  
Waterkeeper Alliance  
West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs  
WildEarth Guardians  
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network  
Youth For Earth  
Youth v. Oil

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