GGRF Auction Results Reveal Plummeting Revenue:
Environmental Justice Groups Demand Action

Sacramento, CA | May 28, 2020 — Today the California Air Resources Board (ARB) announced auction revenues for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). The startlingly poor auction performance shows that cap and trade is not only failing to reduce emissions but is also failing to generate the revenue necessary to power our state’s transition to a just, carbon-free, and zero-emission economy. Today’s auction results confirm what environmental justice advocates have known for years: that the cap and trade system is designed to benefit corporate interests, rather than advance community health and wellbeing.

Now, environmental justice advocates are calling for the state to take a hard look at cap and trade and pursue policy changes that will directly reduce industry emissions, generate stable investments for a just transition for communities and workers, ensure all Californians have clean air and safe drinking water, and increase corporate accountability and responsibility to pay for the impacts of polluting activities on communities and the environment.

“The failure of the cap and trade program is not surprising. It proves that we should not have gambled on a flawed market system which was never designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or help vulnerable communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution. Hopefully this is a wake up call for the state to re-examine its past choices and commit to real solutions that capture the true cost of carbon and drive emission reductions.”
—Ingrid Brostrom, Assistant Director, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

“We have known that cap and trade is ineffective for reducing emissions. We need an approach that takes into account the full costs of fossil fuels and holds polluters accountable.”
—Martha Arguello, Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles

“COVID-19 has only magnified deep injustice and inequity in environmental justice communities. Disproportionate exposure to multiple sources of pollution is an underlying health condition and now wreaking havoc across Black and brown communities most vulnerable to health and climate crises. Relying on fundamentally flawed market based mechanisms is no longer acceptable. We now have an opportunity and must act boldly in support of a just recovery that prioritizes people, clean air and safe drinking water for all Californians.”
—Veronica Garibay, Co-Executive Director and Co-Founder of Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability.

“These auction results are finally revealing what we’ve always known about Cap-and-Trade: it is ill-equipped to deliver the promise of AB 32 or SB 32. As COVID-19 continues to ravage our communities, we cannot afford to keep paying the price that should be borne by industry. CEJA Action demands that the Governor and Legislature take immediate action to achieve direct emissions reductions and a just transition for workers and communities.”
—Katie Valenzuela, Policy and Political Director for CEJA Action

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The Center on Race, Poverty, & the Environment (CRPE) is an environmental justice organization providing legal, organizing, and technical assistance to grassroots groups in low-income communities and communities of color. Our mission is to achieve environmental justice
and healthy, sustainable communities through collective action and the law. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA) advocates for policies that protect public health from nuclear and environmental threats and eliminate health disparities. https://www.psr-la.org

California Environmental Justice Alliance Action (CEJA Action) builds the political power of communities of color to advance environmentally and socially just policies in California. We build power for low-income and voters of color by organizing and training grassroots leaders to advance critical policies that will improve the health and quality of life in communities of color. We believe California’s communities of color are a powerful force for equitable environmental policies and a more participatory, inclusive democracy. www.ceja-action.org

Leadership Counsel works alongside the most impacted communities to advocate for sound policy and eradicate injustice to secure equal access to opportunity regardless of wealth, race, income and place. We work with community leaders throughout the San Joaquin Valley and Eastern Coachella Valley on such issues as safe affordable drinking water, basic transit services, wastewater services, decent affordable housing, and the right to live free from industrial pollution with infrastructure that supports healthy lifestyles. Through copowerment, organizing, litigation, policy advocacy, and research, we confront California’s stark inequalities manifest in too many of California's low income communities and communities of color. Twitter handle: @LCJandA Instagram: @leadership_Counsel Facebook: @LCJACalifornia. Web: leadershipcounsel.org.