

Statement from Senator Dean Florez (ret.) on his appointment to the California Air Resources Board:

I am honored to be named the State Senate's appointment to the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

As a clean air advocate and former Senator, our historic efforts to clean the Central Valley air in the face of intense opposition represented the most important work during my tenure in the Legislature.

Our landmark and historic package of air pollution bills were propelled by a large coalition of environmental justice groups I worked with hand-in-hand, battle after battle. I plan to continue strengthening my partnerships in the environmental justice community throughout the State, especially those communities with low-income populations heavily burdened with high levels of pollution.

This appointment represents a historic legislative first, given past members of CARB have only been appointed by the Governor. I applaud the Legislature for passing AB 1288 last session, which rightly mandated that environmental justice communities have a seat at the table.

Today, as public sentiment across our state, nation and world turns towards new goals to produce lasting reductions in carbon output, I plan to also remind members of CARB that disadvantaged communities are also at risk from the impacts of climate change, yet with fewer resources to respond and adapt to these impacts.

Having represented one of the most polluted regions of our nation--California's Central Valley-- for more than a decade), I am honored by this opportunity to continue pushing groundbreaking work focused on strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the benefit of disproportionately impacted disadvantaged communities.

As California leads the world in the climate fight, I look forward to working with Assembly appointment and environmental justice leader Diane Takvorian in pushing the board to concentrate on reducing short-lived climate pollutants through fully funded emission reduction programs in low-income areas while directing measurable investments specifically aimed at disadvantaged community census tracts.

I would like to thank the leadership of the Senate Rules Committee and its Chairman, Senate Pro Tem Kevin de Leon for entrusting me with this important position that will help define California's clean air and carbon reduction future.

Senator de Leon has demonstrated through countless actions, that his philosophy of providing more opportunities for both urban and rural communities will help advance the State's climate mitigation efforts. I plan to reflect his conviction that the goals of environmental justice, economic sustainability and health benefits should be the foundation for all actions taken at the California Air Resources Board.