

# CRISTINA GARCIA

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

58TH DISTRICT

CAPITOL OFFICE  
P.O. Box 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0058  
PHONE: (916) 319-2058  
E-MAIL: ASSEMBLYMEMBER.GARCIA@ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV



DISTRICT OFFICE  
8255 FIRESTONE BLVD SUITE 203  
DOWNEY, CA 90241  
PHONE: (562) 861-5803  
WEBSITE: WWW.ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV/GARCIA

## Press Release

January 8, 2021

Contact: Leo Briones  
Office: (916) 319-2058

### Assemblymember Cristina Garcia: Governor Newsom's Proposed 2021-22 Budget *Statement from Assemblymember Cristina Garcia*

(Sacramento) Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens) comments on the Governor's 2021-2022 State Budget release today. "Historically poor, black and brown and underserved neighborhoods are the communities most affected by toxic pollution. This systemic injustice is an unfortunate reality in the district that I serve and in the community in which I live. It adversely affects the public health of families and individuals, ultimately cutting our lives short. So, I appreciate that Governor Newsom's 2021-2022 proposed state budget offers funding and Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) governance reform to begin to better remedy these generations of treating marginalized communities like they're disposable, but I look forward to working through the budget to more adequately address the needs of these communities.

"Specifically, Governor Newsom's budget proposes a \$300 million investment for toxic site cleanup and a \$47.9 million loan specifically for Exide cleanup efforts that ensures we are able to fully fund phase one cleaning. However, we still need a plan and funding for phase two and three, which includes over 5,000 households currently living with toxic levels of lead. Last month several of my legislative colleagues and I, submitted a budget request for \$411 million to finish cleaning all the remaining properties contaminated by Exide's facility in Vernon and safeguard that we don't leave any families behind. I look forward to working with the Administration on securing additional funding that is not a loan but an appropriation that will be necessary to ensure the cleanup is thoroughly completed in order to get a little closer to justice for this community. The community should not have to figure out how to pay this loan back when the state is partially responsible for this failure.

"DTSC is the agency mandated to oversee toxic cleanups and to protect communities through the management of hazardous and toxic substances. Tragically, DTSC has been plagued with a wide range of issues including a snail's pace permitting process, lax or negligent enforcement, delayed site remediation, lack of adequate financial assurances, and an unacceptable failure to respond to public concerns.

"To reform DTSC, I have introduced Assembly Bill 1. I am pleased to see the Governor's proposed budget includes DTSC reform and proposes a board. However, critical DTSC reforms are not included in the current budget language that are in AB 1. It is in the best interest of California taxpayers that state government is not throwing full financing at bad governance. So, I look forward to working with the Governor to enhance current language that ensures meaningful DTSC changes are implemented as a condition of full funding. That way we can provide adequate, but fiscally accountable, funding in order for the department to fulfill its duties of effectively regulating toxics for the protection of public health.

"I'm also encouraged by the Governor's proposed changes to pesticide fees, which will discourage the use of toxic pesticides and support enforcement and air quality monitoring efforts in disadvantaged communities. Ensuring that air monitoring is included as a factor in pesticide regulation is something I have long advocated for and I'm pleased to see that the Governor has the same priority.

"Finally, I'm supportive of the Governor's \$1 billion to accelerate zero-emission vehicles on our roads. I look forward to working with the Administration to ensure this funding is applied equitably and allocated toward increasing EV use as well

as infrastructure for supporting more EVs on our roads. People in underserved communities deserve equal access to the infrastructure and the benefits of cleaner air that zero-emission vehicles afford.

“In conclusion, I salute Governor Newsom for acknowledging communities that are overwhelmed with pollution in his state budget. Like all budgets in the past and those in the future—none are perfect. So, I look forward to working with Governor Newsom to modify, amend, and correct any areas of the budget that will strengthen public health, increase environmental justice, and bring greater fiscal accountability.”

###

**The 58<sup>th</sup> Assembly District includes the cities of Montebello, Pico Rivera, Commerce, Bell Gardens, Downey, Norwalk, Bellflower, Cerritos and Artesia.**