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**STATE LANDS COMMISSION ADOPTS VISIONARY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY**

Sacramento, CA – The State Lands Commission voted to adopt a comprehensive Environmental Justice Policy at its meeting yesterday in San Diego. The Policy sets out 12 goals and a strong Implementation Blueprint and will guide the Commission’s land and resource management duties in the coming years.

“With this Policy, the Commission is taking the lead on principles that matter to the many, not the few,” said State Controller and Commission Chair Betty Yee. “We know the issue of environmental justice is deeply personal for many people, affecting their lives and health. We are eager to start integrating more equity and inclusion in our decision-making process.”

Before developing its Policy, the Commission activated a robust public engagement campaign, meeting with environmental justice communities throughout California to learn about their priorities and hear about their concerns and struggles. The Commission then identified 12 goals that seek to improve conditions for environmental justice communities in California. The Commission’s ambition was to create a Policy that was responsive to the views of environmental justice communities—one that would help galvanize attention across California and make a difference. The new Policy achieves this vision.

"The State Lands Commission has taken a major step in advancing environmental justice and equity in California," said Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom, member of the Commission. "Once again, the Commission is leading on issues that matter, demonstrating its commitment to elevating the voices of the most

vulnerable, facing the highest risks and without forward-thinking action, are exposed to paying the highest price.”

The 12 Environmental Justice Policy goals are to promote equity; increase awareness about the Commission’s work; increase and support equitable public access; identify and engage with impacted communities; analyze impacts and identify benefits; reduce impacts and increase benefits, honor the importance to Tribes’ ancestral homelands; build trust and form relationships; support cleaner industry; advance climate equity; increase public participation; and accountability. The Policy is intended to improve public access to open space and recreation for disadvantaged or marginalized communities, reduce pollution, support cleaner industry, and achieve more equity in the distribution of environmental benefits and burdens. It is also intended to result in more inclusive decision-making that considers the disproportionate burdens on disadvantaged communities and Native Nations.

The Commission, a recognized leader in land management, manages about 4 million acres of tide and submerged lands and the beds of navigable rivers, streams, lakes, bays, estuaries, inlets, and straits. These lands, often referred to as sovereign or Public Trust lands, stretch from the Klamath River and Goose Lake in the north to the Tijuana Estuary in the south, and the Colorado River in the east, and from the Pacific Coast 3 miles offshore in the west to world-famous Lake Tahoe, and includes California's two longest rivers, the Sacramento and San Joaquin.

The Commission protects and enhances these lands and natural resources by issuing leases for use or development, providing public access, resolving boundaries between public and private lands, and implementing regulatory programs to protect state waters from oil spills and invasive species introductions. The Commission also monitors waterfront and other land granted in trust by the California Legislature to roughly 70 local jurisdictions.

The Commission’s Environmental Justice Policy and Implementation Blueprint are here:

<http://www.slc.ca.gov/Info/EJ/EJPolicy.pdf>.