

# SB 194

Community Equity Investment Act of 2009

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## The Problem

Over *one million*<sup>1</sup> Californians live in disadvantaged, unincorporated communities. Predominantly Latino and African-American, these communities range from remote but concentrated settlements of industrial or agricultural laborers to neighborhoods at the fringes of cities and towns that have been excluded from city borders. **Residents of these areas struggle to attain the most basic features of a safe and healthy environment**—services like clean water, sewage lines, storm drains, streetlights, sidewalks and safe housing. Dependent on rural county governance for urban needs, **these communities are systematically underserved in the overall allocation of public resources**. Neglect and deprivation prevent these neighborhoods from realizing their potential as livable and economically viable communities and threaten the health, safety, and economic security of residents.



## The Solution

SB 194 will expand equity and prosperity by:

1. **Reprioritizing existing funding** streams to ensure that public health, sustainable development, and infrastructure resources are directed to disadvantaged, unincorporated communities, and
2. **Incentivizing local planning** to address infrastructure deficits by linking state planning funds to the adoption of Community Equity Investment Plans;

Each Community Equity Investment Plan will:

1. Identify disadvantaged unincorporated communities within, or proximate to, a city or county's boundary;
2. Analyze basic infrastructure and identify infrastructure deficits in each disadvantaged, unincorporated community;
3. Establish goals to address infrastructure deficits; and
4. Include a comprehensive program of actions to accomplish these goals and address infrastructure deficits.

SB 194 will facilitate much needed investment in disadvantaged unincorporated communities and will ensure that all California communities are able to realize their potential as livable, healthy and economically viable places.

## Sponsors of SB 194

California Pan-Ethnic Health Network - California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment - Planning and Conservation League - PolicyLink

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<sup>1</sup> This number is derived from US Census Data and only includes those residents living in disadvantaged Census Designated Places (unincorporated communities that are tracked by the US Census Bureau). It does not account for the residents living in approximately 650 additional unincorporated communities that Census does not track and for which there is no single reliable source of demographic and economic data by which to identify disadvantaged communities.