

AB 310

CALIFORNIA STATE PUBLIC BANK SUPPORTS A GREEN NEW DEAL

A California State Public Bank will fund a Green New Deal for California.

As the 5th largest economy in the world, California needs a state public bank to make existing funds available NOW to fund new green technologies and strengthen infrastructure to manage fires and floods. Germany has led the way in building a green economy with its public banks. Now it's California's turn! We must recover from this crisis with a healthy and regenerative social and economic order by creating a new financial institution that invests in our future—accountable to the people and the planet.

With available money from California's Pooled Money Investment Fund (PMIA), the existing state Infrastructure Bank (IBank) can start making loans within weeks of this bill becoming law. As the loans begin, the IBank will also start transitioning into a depository public bank. The state bank can quickly and efficiently allocate monies to projects with a triple bottom line: preserving the state's capital, helping people in need, and protecting the planet.

OUR STATE BANK CAN DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS.

Every dollar in a Wall Street bank is leveraged for the benefit of the fossil fuel industry and against our best interests. A state public bank will put our money where our values are: in regenerative economics and clean resources.

OUR STATE BANK WILL CREATE GREEN JOBS.

Infrastructure projects and green technology initiatives—large and small, local and statewide—are job creators, and the state bank funding can help ensure that the jobs are well-paid. Resulting improvements in quality of life and long-term outlook for Californians will strengthen the state's economy on every level.

OUR STATE BANK WILL SAVE MONEY AND LEVERAGE CAPITAL.

California pays billions per year in interest to private banks, which invest far more money against sustainable and regenerative activities than they invest in them. When we deposit money from our cities and counties into the new public bank, we can fund public projects with minimal fees and interest costs. That alone will cut the cost of infrastructure needs in half and double our power to invest in our own communities.

A state bank can leverage capital up to ten times—every dollar of capital enables ten dollars of loans, providing funds for climate protection projects alongside needed dollars for hospitals, schools, and affordable housing.