



August 23, 2021

California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: The 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan should chart an actionable path to achieve the state's 2030 greenhouse gas emissions limit and carbon neutrality by 2035

Dear CARB Board Members:

The scale and severity of the climate crisis demands urgent action. This summer alone, California has endured record-breaking heat, heat-induced threats to our power grid, a worsening drought, and explosive wildfires. We no longer need scientific models to affirm that we must rapidly slow, stop, and reverse the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to stave off even more catastrophic impacts.

We are encouraged by Governor Newsom's letter directing CARB to evaluate how to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035.¹ **But we must do more than analyze what's possible – we must plan for what's required.** As you embark on developing the 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan, the state's climate blueprint that inspires and guides jurisdictions around the world, we therefore encourage you to treat our existing climate targets as the floor of our ambition. Specifically, the Scoping Plan should develop actionable scenarios that meet and exceed the 2030 greenhouse gas emissions limit established by Senate Bill 32 and achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible but no later than 2035.

Previous Scoping Plans, while instrumental in laying the foundation for California's climate leadership, evaluated different pathways to achieve the same emissions outcome. Although these scenarios demonstrate the array of strategies we can deploy to reduce emissions, they also suggest that combining and integrating strategies would yield even greater benefits. An integrated approach will be particularly important in the context of carbon neutrality, where

¹ [Letter from Governor Newsom to CARB Chair Randolph](#) (July 9, 2021).

carbon removal and sequestration must work alongside – and not in lieu of – emissions reductions.

Developing scenarios that achieve carbon neutrality by 2035 is also consistent with the legal framework guiding the development of the Scoping Plan. Bills passed by the legislature require the Scoping Plan to ensure statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced *at least* 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 by achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions, accounting for the social cost of carbon, and identifying opportunities for reductions from all verifiable and enforceable voluntary actions, including carbon sequestration projects.² Executive Order B-55-18 further directs your agency to develop a Scoping Plan that achieves carbon neutrality “*as soon as possible* but no later than 2045” (emphasis added).³

We are confident that this analysis will show feasible pathways to achieve net-negative emissions by 2035 with net benefits to California. Over the past two decades, California’s climate leadership has positioned our state as a global hub for clean energy jobs and innovation.⁴ But California’s 2030 climate target of a 40% cut from 1990 levels now lags the European Union’s target of a 55% reduction from 1990 levels and President Biden’s target of a 50-52% reduction below 2005 levels. To maintain our competitive advantage, we additionally request that the Scoping Plan achieve accelerated greenhouse gas reductions to match and exceed other leading jurisdictions and our national commitment.

To be clear, setting targets is no substitute for the hard work of implementation. While we achieved our 2020 target four years early, the state’s current pace of reductions must more than double to get on track to achieve our 2030 emissions limit. This must be CARB’s priority as it updates the Scoping Plan. However, the strategies we adopt today will determine the climate we inherit. We must plan for a climate-safe future and enforce our current commitments.

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time. As the most recent IPCC report warns we are facing a “code red for humanity” that requires every jurisdiction to do its part.⁵ We ask that you develop and approve a Scoping Plan that puts California on a path to be carbon neutral by 2035 for the health and wellbeing of the climate, our state, and future generations.

Sincerely,



Henry Stern, 27th Senate District



Al Muratsuchi, 66th Assembly District

² Senate Bill 32 (Pavley, Stats. 2016, Ch. 249); Assembly Bill 32 (Nuñez/Pavley, Stats. 2006, Ch. 488); Assembly Bill 197 (E. Garcia, Stat. 2016, Ch. 250).

³ [Executive Order B-55-18 to Achieve Carbon Neutrality](#) (Sept. 10, 2018).

⁴ Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), [Clean Jobs California 2020](#); Next 10, [2020 California Green Innovation Index](#).

⁵ [“Secretary-General Calls Latest IPCC Climate Report ‘Code Red for Humanity’, Stressing ‘Irrefutable’ Evidence of Human Influence”](#) (Aug. 9, 2021).



Monique Limón, 19th Senate District



Cristina Garcia, 58th Assembly District



Ben Allen, 26th Senate District



Kevin Mullin, 22nd Assembly District



Scott Wiener, 11th Senate District



Eduardo Garcia, 56th Assembly District



Dave Min, 37th Senate District



Luz Rivas, 39th Assembly District



Dave Cortese, 15th Senate District



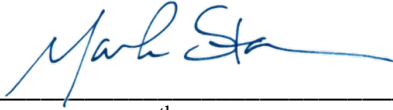
Laura Freidman, 43rd Assembly District



Lena Gonzalez, 33rd Senate District



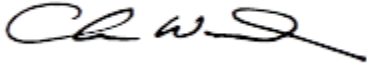
Phillip Ting, 19th Assembly District



Mark Stone, 29th Assembly District



Buffy Wicks, 15th Assembly District



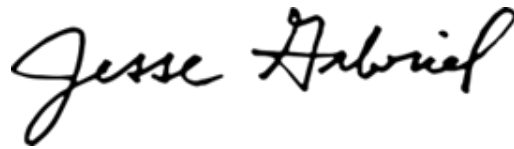
Christopher Ward, 78th Assembly District



David Chiu, 17th Assembly District



Robert Rivas, 30th Assembly District



Jesse Gabriel, 45th Assembly District

- cc.
- Liane Randolph, Chair
 - Sandra Berg, Vice Chair
 - John Eisehunt, Member
 - Daniel Sperling, Member
 - John Balmes, Member
 - Diane Takvorian, Member
 - Dean Florez, Member
 - Hector de la Torre, Member
 - Davina Hurt, Member
 - Barbara Riordan, Member
 - Phil Serna, Member
 - Nathan Fletcher, Member
 - Tania Pacheco-Werner, Member
 - Gideon Kracov, Member
 - David Garcia, Legislative Director