

DRAFT Resolution: Opposition to Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) in California

Whereas, the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC) of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is dedicated to advocating for equitable and sustainable solutions to climate injustices and environmental degradation,

Whereas, the adoption of Engineered Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) strategies is counterproductive to meaningful climate action and CCUS investments increase reliance on fossil fuel infrastructure, hindering the transition to truly zero-emission energy sources,

Whereas, CCUS projects perpetuate fossil fuel dominance, exacerbate harms to frontline communities, and present risks to public health and safety,

Whereas, it is recognized that while efforts are made to oppose CCUS strategies altogether and advocate for bolder, justice-oriented emissions reductions, there is a simultaneous need to mitigate the potential harms and risks associated with CCUS projects if they persist,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC) of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) formally opposes the deployment of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) technology within the state of California,

Be It Further Resolved, that EJAC urges all state agencies overseeing CCUS deployment in California to exercise discretion and reject project applications outright, given the clear evidence of CCUS's track record of failure as a greenhouse gas reduction strategy and its potential risks to the health and safety of Californians, especially those residing in already pollution-burdened communities,

Be It Further Resolved, CARB must pursue immediate implementation of the provisions in SB 905 pertaining to community protections, including but not limited to ensuring no net increase in air pollution,

Be It Further Resolved, that EJAC advocates for the adoption of common-sense policy protections, to limit the harms and risks of CCUS to communities in California, including but not limited to:

- Ensuring that CCUS projects cannot proceed if they threaten groundwater and drinking water supplies or increase water, soil, or air pollution within designated community radii.
- Prohibiting the siting of CCUS infrastructure in or near overburdened Environmental Justice (EJ) communities and implementing a minimum buffer distance of 10 miles from all capture, storage, and pipeline facilities.
- Requiring CCUS projects to be powered solely by excess clean, renewable energy.

- Mandating notification and community engagement processes for residents and schools within buffer distances of planned CCUS sites, including workshops or community meetings to address concerns and discuss community benefits.
- Requiring a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for all proposed CCUS projects, informed by local and statewide adverse impact research and worst-case scenario modeling.
- Implementing financial assurances that do not rely on the long-term fiscal health of companies, such as bonds and strong third-party insurance.
- Not allowing projects to generate credits for carbon markets or other systems, as this undermines the goal of getting to net-zero emissions, perpetuates business as usual, and opens up the possibility of double counting reductions and dangerously delaying progress.

Be It Further Resolved, that EJAC emphasizes the need for CARB to confine CCUS deployment, if allowed, to truly hard-to-decarbonize sectors and prohibit CCUS in sectors such as refineries, natural gas power plants, bioenergy facilities, waste incinerators, chemical recycling facilities, and ethanol production facilities, to limit harm to the climate and communities.

Be It Further Resolved, that EJAC calls for further research and regulatory improvements regarding CCUS transportation, storage, and other related aspects, including:

- Maintaining the carbon pipeline moratorium until updated federal regulations are in place and ensuring safety measures such as defined safe distances, odorant addition for leak detection, and consideration of community burdens during site exploration.
- Prohibiting the conversion of existing transmission pipelines to CO₂ service and ensuring that regulations require pure carbon dioxide streams.

Be It Further Resolved, that EJAC commits to working with stakeholders and advocating for policies, regulations, and direct emissions reductions that prioritize environmental justice, community health, and sustainability in California's climate and energy initiatives.