

California State Senate

SENATE MINORITY LEADER BRIAN W. JONES

FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



October 2, 2025

Lauren Sanchez, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 I St
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Inclusion of Wildfire Smoke in the CARB Scoping Plan

Dear Chair Sanchez and Members of the Board:

Wildfire smoke is the single largest source of uncontrolled greenhouse gas and toxic air pollution in California, yet it is still excluded from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Scoping Plan used to direct California's investments and efforts to reduce air pollution. That omission is indefensible.

Stanford University research released last week projects 30,000 more U.S. deaths annually by 2050 from wildfire smoke. Under the immense responsibility and authority afforded the Board, it is your duty to utilize the best available science as the basis for your activities.

A failure to incorporate the new scientific evidence warning of widespread death from wildfire smoke pollution is a failure to fulfill your duty to the people of California. As you know, Californians—especially those in rural and working-class communities—bear disproportionate health and economic burdens from this pollution, and it is your explicit charge to protect those communities.

Incorporating wildfire emissions in the Board's 2025 Scoping Plan update will:

- Produce an honest greenhouse gas inventory.
- Support forest management strategies that reduce both emissions and taxpayer costs.
- Expose the true scale of health impacts Californians face.

Republican legislators have pressed this issue for over a decade through bills, oversight, and hearings. With new peer-reviewed science on the table, we again urge you now to act. Continued omission will only deepen inequity and undercut California's efforts to protect the people from harmful emissions, whatever their source.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Jones", is written over a horizontal line.

Brian W. Jones
Senate Minority Leader
California State Senate, District 40