

**State of California
Air Resources Board
Board Item Summary**

Item # 22-5-2: Public Meeting to Hear Draft Scenarios for Achieving Carbon Neutrality in the 2022 Scoping Plan Update

Staff Recommendation:

This item is an informational update.

Discussion:

The 2022 Scoping Plan update will assess progress towards achieving the Senate Bill 32 2030 target and lay out a path to achieve carbon neutrality no later than 2045. Following last month's informational update which provided an overview of development of the 2022 Scoping Plan update, staff will present greenhouse gas (GHG) modeling results of draft scenarios for achieving carbon neutrality.

Scenarios were developed based on feedback from topical experts, affected stakeholders, other state and federal agencies, and the Assembly Bill (AB) 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee solicited at public meetings and workshops. Staff will present initial modeling results of scenarios that identify outcomes in terms of technologies, fuels, energy sources, and infrastructure that will need to be developed to transition away from fossil fuels by mid-century. Staff will also present modeling results that will help demonstrate the role of natural and working lands as a key climate change mitigation tool along with mechanical carbon dioxide removal as the State works towards carbon neutrality. Subsequent to this informational update, staff will quantify the air quality, health, ecological, and economic impacts of each scenario. Based on evaluations of the different scenarios, staff will identify a single proposed scenario in the Draft Scoping Plan to be published later this year for public review and Board discussion.

Summary and Impacts:

Achieving carbon neutrality will bring a number of changes to California, including moving the State away from fossil fuel combustion to drastically reduce air pollution disparities that persist in disadvantaged and low-income communities, and support economic and job growth. This Scoping Plan update has the longest planning horizon of any update previously developed. This extended planning horizon befits the greater focus on outcomes that ensure alternatives to fossil fuels are readily available. This is the first Scoping Plan update to comprehensively assess the contribution that Natural and Working Lands can make towards achieving carbon neutrality and will also assess the economic, health, and other co-benefit impacts of improved land management. Achievement of the outcomes recommended in this Scoping Plan update will require the development of regulatory measures, funding, technology research and deployment, permitting actions, incentives, subsidies, and other

programs and activities that will occur as part of implementation following approval of the Scoping Plan update.

The Scoping Plan is required to satisfy a range of statutory requirements outlined in AB 32 and other authorities. These include providing direct GHG emissions reductions and air quality benefits, minimizing emissions leakage, facilitating sub-national and national collaboration, and supporting cost-effective and flexible compliance.

No action is needed. Both the draft and final 2022 Scoping Plan update reports will be presented for Board consideration at future dates.