



April 28, 2014

California Air Resources Board  
Post Office Box 2815  
Sacramento, California 95812  
Attn: Chairman Mary Nichols

**RE: Comments on AB 32 Scoping Plan Draft Update**

Dear Chairman Nichols and Air Resources Board Members,

As leaders in various faith organizations representing thousands of California congregations and religious institutions, we want to thank you for your on-going work on AB 32 implementation. We strongly support this suite of regulations aimed at reducing carbon pollution and improving public health.

In terms of AB 32's Scoping Plan Draft Update, we support and would like to see the following aspects strengthened:

1. Public outreach campaign stressing the co-benefits of climate change mitigation as well as regional benefits like improved public health in the most impacted communities. All major faith traditions stress the importance of the sanctity of life, especially those persons who are most vulnerable in society. Given that, many times, it is communities of color in economically disadvantaged areas that experience a disproportional share of pollution-related illness, highlighting the co-benefits of greenhouse gas emissions reductions is crucial. ARB public outreach campaigns could provide further resources to our faith groups that are in and who work with highly-impacted communities
2. The establishment of strong mid-term, 2030 targets to ensure we're on the road to 80% emissions reduction by 2050. People of faith are among many others who have been following the alarming scientific reports on global warming, most recently with the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The IPCC states that we must act quickly with strong regional, national and international policy to reduce carbon emissions to avoid a 2 degrees Celsius rise in temperature by 2100. Already with just a 0.8 degree Celsius increase we are seeing an increase in severe regional and global weather and weather-related events. Our 2020 goal of attaining 1990 emission levels by 2020 is only six short years away, and work toward achieving that goal has gone on for over a decade. Now is the time to begin working toward a 2030 goal, which will build on the 2020 and keep in place permanent market mechanisms. National and international eyes are on California,

and successes here can help inspire the rest of the nation and world to adopt strong climate policy.

3. The reduction of short-lived climate pollutants, for example methane. Because methane has a global warming capacity of 20-100 times greater than CO<sub>2</sub>, California needs to be proactive and strong on reducing these pollutants. When many people think of the climate crisis and the greenhouse gases that are causing it, they think in terms of carbon dioxide. However, the threat of short-live climate pollutants can be a game changer with the dangers we already face.

The faith community will continue our efforts to reduce the worst effects of climate change and to protect public health by supporting policies to reduce pollution and modeling solutions in our own facilities. We appreciate the leadership of the California Air Resources Board moving our state toward a clean energy future and a safer climate for our children.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Susan Stephenson, Executive Director  
California Interfaith Power & Light

The Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham, Canon for the Environment  
Episcopal Diocese of California

Katelyn E. Roedner, Environmental Justice Program Director  
Diocese of Stockton Catholic Charities

Shakeel Syed, Executive Director  
Islamic Shura Council of Southern California

Mark E. Carlson, Director  
Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California

Bhawana Kamil, Board Member  
Muslim American Society, Bay Area

Margaret Henke, President  
The Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment

Rev. Timothy Murphy, Ph.D.  
Progressive Christians Uniting