

June 22, 2012

The Honorable Mary D. Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board (CARB)
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812

Subject: Investment of Cap-and-Trade Auction Funds in Reproductive Health and Family Planning

Dear Ms. Mary D. Nichols,

Ensuring public health in the state of California through cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is a top priority mandated by AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act. In addition to the importance of reducing consumption and emissions through clean energy investments, we write to express our support for directing a portion of cap-and-trade funds to women's reproductive health services, one of the most cost-effective means of meeting this mandate.

The CARB notice, "Public Consultation on Investment of Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds," which announced the meeting in Sacramento on May 24th, described two panels of speakers, the first of which was tasked with examining how the auction funds can most effectively be used to meet the goals of AB 32, "...including support of long-term, transformative efforts to improve public health...". This point is of particular interest to environmental and women's groups throughout California. We fully support CARB's strategic investment of auction funds – projected at \$1 billion annually – to further the purposes of AB 32 and deliver long-term economic, environmental and public health benefits.

California's Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment programs (Family PACT) provide teen pregnancy prevention, mammography and cervical cancer screening, women's shelters and counseling, and treatment for Californians living with HIV/AIDS. Apart from the important personal, social and economic benefits this provides to California's men, women and youth, in 2007 PACT programs helped avoid approximately 133,000 unintended births in California, including 40,600 to our adolescents.¹ Government expenditures for Family PACT clinical services that year were \$437.3 million, making the average cost for the safe prevention of each unplanned birth \$3,288.²

The average Californian, like most Americans, is responsible for approximately 20 tons of carbon emissions per year and lives an average of 78 years, generating about 1,560 tons of lifetime carbon emissions.³ So for every unplanned pregnancy that is safely prevented, we avoid 1,560 tons of carbon emissions at a cost to taxpayers of \$2.11 per ton.⁴ (\$3,288 per safe prevention divided by 1,560 tons).

Two recent studies of carbon emissions found similar results. One study estimated the cost of reducing one metric ton of carbon emissions by family planning at approximately \$7.00, compared to the costs of other means, such as low-carbon technologies, ranging from \$24 to several hundred dollars per ton.⁵

¹ Biggs M. Antonia; Foster, D.; Hulett, D. *Cost-Benefit Analysis of the California Family PACT Program for Calendar Year 2007*, San Francisco, CA. Submitted to the California Department of Public Health, Office of Family Planning Division. Page 16, April 2010. http://bixbycenter.ucsf.edu/publications/files/FamilyPACTCost-BenefitAnalysis2007_2010Apr.pdf

² Actual cost to CA per safe prevention may actually be significantly lower because expenditures of \$437.3 million include all PACT services, not just family planning services. Biggs M. Antonia; Foster, D.; Hulett, D. *Cost-Benefit Analysis of the California Family PACT Program for Calendar Year 2007*, San Francisco, CA. Submitted to the California Department of Public Health, Office of Family Planning Division. Page 15, April 2010. http://bixbycenter.ucsf.edu/publications/files/FamilyPACTCost-BenefitAnalysis2007_2010Apr.pdf

³ The World Bank: *CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)*. June 2, 2012. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>

⁴ Potts, Malcolm; Marsh, Leah. *The Population Factor: How does it relate to climate change?* Bixby Center for Population, Health and Sustainability at University of California, Berkeley. February 2010.

⁵ Wire, Thomas. *Fewer Emitters, Lower Emissions, Less Cost*. London School of Economics & Population Matters. August 2009.

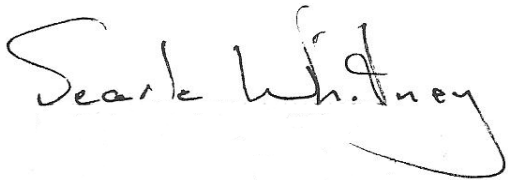
Another study concluded the greenhouse gas impact from preventing one unintended pregnancy is 19 times more significant than all other EPA-recommended actions combined (such as driving a high mileage car, recycling, and using energy-efficient appliances and light bulbs).⁶

AB 32 mandates that we reduce California's carbon emissions and consider cost-effective means of doing so. With estimated cost per ton between \$2.11 and \$7.00, voluntary family planning is certainly among the most cost-effective ways to achieve this.

In addition to moving California toward its AB 32 goals, family planning meets an existing desire among many women to delay or avoid pregnancy. Nearly 50 percent of pregnancies in the U.S. today are unintended, and despite recent advances, California still ranks among the highest with 66 per 1,000 women.⁷ Meeting these needs will allow parents to choose the timing of their families in ways that benefit their education and careers, and maximizes benefit to both their children and the state. A 2004 study looking only at funding for family planning clinics showed that California taxpayers saved nearly \$570 million in costs associated with maternity care, delivery and infant care.⁸

We believe the data is compelling. Just as California is leading the nation in the CARB initiative, so too must we lead by directing a portion of these proceeds to voluntary family planning programs and organizations that are working to help women avoid pregnancies they do not want, and plan pregnancies they do want. We understand and appreciate this initiative would be breaking new ground, and are pleased to meet with you or your staff if you think that useful. We are also available to be represented at any public hearings, or otherwise support your important agenda in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Searle Whitney, President
Institute for Population Studies (IPS)

Enclosures (2)

cc:

Martha Campbell, President, Venture Strategies for Health and Development
Malcolm Potts, Chair, Bixby Center for Population, Health and Sustainability, UC Berkeley

http://populationmatters.org/documents/reducing_emissions.pdf?phpMyAdmin=e11b8b687c20198d9ad050fbb1aa7f2f

⁶ Murtaugh, Paul A.; Schlax, Michael G. *Reproduction and the carbon legacies of individuals*, Department of Statistics, Oregon State University, Corvallis; College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University, Corvallis. 2009.

⁷ *Facts on Unintended Pregnancy in the United States*. The Guttmacher Institute, January 2012. <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/FB-Unintended-Pregnancy-US.html#6>

⁸ Frost, Jennifer J., DrPH; Finer, Lawrence B., PhD; Tapales, Athena, PhD. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved, The Impact of Publicly Funded Family Planning Clinic Services on Unintended Pregnancies and Government Cost Savings*. 2008. http://www.guttmacher.info/pubs/09_HPU19.3Frost.pdf