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July 21, 2010

Doug Ito, Manager
California Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Emissions reduction target for Santa Barbara County.

Dear Mr. Ito,

The Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST) is a non-profit organization in Santa Barbara County devoted to bringing about efficient and sustainable communities with attractive opportunities to travel by foot, bicycle and public transportation. We urge the Air Resources Board to set a useful Green House Gas reduction target for Santa Barbara County as part of the SB 375 process. As noted by Michael Chiacos of the Community Environmental Council in his recent letter from a coalition of local stakeholders, there are reasons to believe that much greater emissions reductions are achievable than those that the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) has considered in their analysis for target setting.

The worst congestion in our area is caused by commuters driving from Ventura County to jobs in Santa Barbara's South Coast. In fact, the most expensive projects in SBCAG's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) are aimed at relieving congestion caused by that long-distance commute. Land use policy changes in Santa Barbara County can and will have a significant influence on future GHG per capita in both counties.

Considering the significant role that the jobs/housing imbalance plays in GHG emissions, the miniscule target that SBCAG is proposing will result in blunting the intended goals of SB 375 on future transportation and land use planning in Santa Barbara County. This missed opportunity will cause adverse impacts at local levels and beyond. We respectfully urge the Air Resources Board to establish an emissions reduction target for Santa Barbara County consistent with those set for Ventura County and the rest of Southern California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Pujo". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Alex Pujo, President