

GreenLA Coalition

August 30, 2008

Ms. Mary Nichols
Chair, California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Higher priority for VMT reductions in the AB 32 Scoping Plan

Dear Ms. Nichols:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, members of GREEN LA's Transportation Work Group or it's Urban Ecosystems Work Group, we write to urge you to elevate the priority of local government actions to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as a key strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The current draft AB 32 Scoping Plan targets local government land use decisions for only 2 million metric tons (MMTs) of reduced greenhouse gas emissions out of the total 169 MMTs which is the estimated target for achieving the AB 32 goals for cutting California's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. Since transportation is California's single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, and since a large part of the transportation-related carbon emissions are caused by long-distance commuting patterns based on local land use decisions, this is a major weakness of the Scoping Plan in its current draft form.

Rising gas prices already are causing many Californians to rethink their attitudes towards car use and the locations of their homes and jobs. The ARB's Scoping Plan could reinforce these fundamental shifts in people's thinking by encouraging mixed-use neighborhoods near transit, building homes near job centers, and funding transit and other alternatives to individual driving.

The Scoping Plan could achieve these goals by:

- Shifting capital investment funding to local governments which promote climate-friendly land use patterns
- Putting more emphasis on CO2 reductions from local land use and transportation policies which reduce unnecessary driving, car use, and gasoline consumption
- Supporting transit and other innovative alternatives to single-passenger car use which would use existing streets and highways more efficiently for maximum individual mobility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Linton, Urban Nature Program Associate
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cc: Members of the California Air Resources Board

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