January 29, 2016

Floyd Vergara, Phil Serna
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812
fvergara@arb.ca.gov, SupervisorSerna@saccounty.net

Re: Supporting the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee's Work

Dear Mr. Vergara and Mr. Serna:

We are writing as members of the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC) to ensure that the Committee's work is successful in advising the State's 2030 Scoping Plan to meet the AB 32 Global Warming Solutions Act. It will take improved effort from the ARB to support the EJAC moving forward.

After the first two sessions of this EJAC, we have observed meeting disorganization and lack of meaningful engagement by ARB's extensive staff on large climate topics-- especially on the Scoping Plan itself. We outline key issues below and steps the ARB can take to remedy the situation.

1. STAFFING. So far, part of one ARB staff and a part time facilitation consultant has been assigned to staff the EJAC. There are 13 EJAC members, coming from various environmental justice communities who have often been left out of decision-making and technical processes, to advise the State on achieving climate pollution reduction goals to 2030. We've noticed that compared to the second round of EJAC and the task of a 5-year Scoping Plan, this third iteration of the EJAC is asking us to advise on a longer range plan (15 years) plus many additional matters including the Short Lived Climate Pollutants Strategy, Cap and Trade amendments, Adaptive Management Plan, US Clean Power Plan and SB 350 implementation. The disparity in staffing for the task at hand has already created tension at the first two meetings-- from rushed presentations and discussions, unclear direction, confused facilitation, lack of or last-minute follow-up from action items, to technical difficulties. At our meetings, EJAC members have asked for additional staffing to support the success of our work, including providing stipends or per diems to compensate members who take on bigger roles like research, attending issue-related workshops and reporting this back to the EJAC. Meaningful engagement of EJ communities across the state also require additional resources for workshops, translation, etc.

2. TIMELINE. We lift up the 1/20/16 EJAC letter requesting a 2-year timeline instead of the 1-year plan from ARB. We stress the importance of meaningful stakeholder engagement especially from the most disadvantaged and climate-vulnerable communities in California. Having 13 leaders from EJ communities on the EJAC does

not replace a process for reporting to and seeking feedback from the many EJ communities statewide about climate programs that integrate them. Further, the 4/11/14 EJAC Recommendations highlighted the need for the State to conduct an AB 32 study on its impacts on EJ communities; we need data from this study to advise the state on what's starting to work and what needs to be improved for the next 15 years. Releasing major drafts of the Scoping Plan need to integrate ample time for the EJAC to weigh in beforehand, and staff should be pro-active about ensuring this happens.

3. KEY CLIMATE ISSUES. So far, the EJAC has received short presentations from staff about many climate topics that haven't allowed for much discussion or follow-up. While we are still waiting to get a full briefing of the ARB approach to the 2030 Target Scoping Plan, we have identified the following key EJ issues for staff to review and discuss with us. We request that you direct leading staff of these issue areas to set up a meeting with us in the next month.

    - Carbon mechanism or GHG pricing options (not just Cap and Trade)
    - Offsets and international REDD programs
    - Carbon counting methodology for biomass and waste combustion emissions (biogenic carbon)
    - Adaptive Management Plan and actions on violations

We are excited to develop California's climate plans through the next decade with good environmental justice integration. We take our AB 32 responsibility seriously to create plans that successfully reduce GHG emissions, especially for the communities at the frontline of that burden. The spirit of this letter is to ensure a successful planning process with the EJAC so that we accomplish our work effectively. Thank you for your partnership in this effort and we look forward to your response in the next 2 weeks.

Sincerely,

Martha Dina Arguello, EJAC Member, Los Angeles
Mari Rose Taruc, EJAC Member, Oakland
Monica Wilson, EJAC Member, Berkeley