



*Help for Today...
Hope for Tomorrow*

**Catholic Charities
Diocese of Stockton**

Elvira Ramirez
Executive Director

August 24, 2011

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**Testimony of Betsy Reifsnider
Environmental Justice Director
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton**

I am speaking in support of the Scoping Plan and in support of implementation measures that result in real, measurable, and verifiable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has not taken a position on Cap and Trade per se. However, the Bishops have stated:

*Policies addressing climate change should enhance rather than diminish the economic situation of people in poverty and,
Policies should help vulnerable populations adapt to climate impacts and to actively participate in these efforts.*

With that in mind, Catholic Charities, Stockton Diocese urges the Board to make a very clear statement on the importance of developing an adaptive management program in implementing AB 32.

In regards of offsets, we agree with the Union of Concerned Scientists and others who have submitted comments that, because the Air Resources Board is allowing such a large number of offsets, those offsets must be additional, verifiable, transparent to the public, and very closely monitored.

Thank you to the Board and the staff for your years of hard work on this monumental effort.



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