

May 19, 2014

Dear Governor Brown, ARB Chairman Nichols and ARB Board,

We write to support and acknowledge the hard work and input of the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC) in developing the AB 32 Scoping Plan Update. Integrating economic justice into the fabric of our state's climate program strengthens its original environmental intent while also enabling shared prosperity for more Californians. We urge you to work closely with the EJAC members as you consider their recommendations and strengthen the engagement with this important community in the ongoing implementation of AB 32.

California today boasts an enviable diversity of residents, the majority of whom are people of color. Environmental justice communities stand at the front lines of our new approach to a clean, sustainable future. Voters of color led the charge to defeat passage of Proposition 23, which would have halted progress on AB 32. Furthermore, SB 535 (de Leon) is poised to invest greenhouse gas reduction funds in the communities hardest hit by pollution, promising to energize new constituencies. The EJAC members' real-life experiences with pollution and its adverse impacts provide invaluable perspective on how to design climate strategies to protect the most vulnerable in our state, as well as new paths forward.

We support the EJAC as an advisory body and in particular strongly support their top recommendation to develop EJ metrics to evaluate the performance of AB 32 implementation. The state has to assess the impacts of AB 32 on environmental justice communities to ensure they are not, once again, an economic casualty of policymaking. Setting aggressive midterm targets for emissions reduction is good for both stemming climate impacts globally and to stem the public health impacts for Californians living in areas overburdened with air pollution. California has shown time and again clean energy solutions and economic prosperity go hand in hand. More investment in public transit ridership, for example, offers simultaneous environmental and economic benefits to those who most need them.

AB 32 is our promise to California and the world. We must charge forward with a stronger set of climate strategies and mobilize new supporters for this vital cause along the way. We urge you to work with the EJAC to ensure we achieve the multiple goals of AB 32.

Sincerely,

Miya Yoshitani, Executive Director
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Bonnie Holmes-Gen, Senior Director, Policy and Advocacy
American Lung Association in California

Andy Katz, Government Relations Director
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