



CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**TOM TORLAKSON**

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

December 14, 2015

Members of the Board  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments on Revised Draft Second Investment Plan for Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds

Dear Board Members:

The California Department of Education (CDE) has been closely following the progress of the Second Investment Plan for cap-and-trade auction proceeds. On the recommendation of my Environmental Literacy Task Force,<sup>1</sup> which developed California's first environmental literacy plan, I have asked my staff to explore the ability of schools to access the many programs supported by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF).

While we are pleased to note that the Revised Draft Second Investment Plan makes more explicit references to schools and seems to "open the door" for their potential access to many GGRF-funded programs, there is also an opportunity to do more in order to make these programs truly accessible to our kindergarten through Grade Twelve (K–12) schools.

At least six separate GGRF-funded programs across the transportation, energy efficiency, and natural resources priority areas appear to be well-suited to K–12 schools. Children are among our most vulnerable populations, and although schools would benefit greatly from these types of projects, they will face significant challenges accessing these programs.

I encourage the Air Resources Board to explore a funding set-aside for K–12 schools before the Second Investment Plan is sent to the Legislature.

Sustainable communities depend upon sustainably-minded citizens, and our schools are the place where these citizens are grown. The students of today will be the

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<sup>1</sup> Please see the California Department of Education "A Blueprint for Environmental Literacy" Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/sc/envronliteracyblueprint.asp> for details.

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architects of future climate strategies and our champions for achieving greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your significant work to date administering the GGRF.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Torlakson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent blue horizontal line above the first few letters of the first name.

Tom Torlakson

TT:lt