



Central Coast Coalition

Moving California's Economy

March 8, 2013

Mary Nichols, Chairperson
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Investment Plan
Comments on Draft Concept Paper and Workshop

Dear Ms. Nichols:

The Central Coast Coalition of transportation planning agencies in the five counties of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito would like to comment on your proposal for investment of Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds.

The Central Coast is a vital economic region for California, and as a result draws substantial travelers from throughout the state on its roadways. US 101 corridor through the Central Coast supports over 150,000 vehicles per day. Our region represents a major portion of California's agricultural production, at \$7 billion per year, resulting in high freight volumes in the corridor. The Central Coast is also home to some of the nation's premier destinations, which draw thousands of visitors to our regional road network to support the \$5.5 billion per year tourist industry. Our fourteen colleges and universities support 130,000 students, many of whom are dependent on non-single occupant vehicle transportation such as bus transit, rail service, bicycling and walking.

We support the Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities' proposal to assure that a fair share of Cap-and-Trade funding is returned to transportation projects. We also ask that the funding be distributed to every county in the state, not just the large urbanized areas, given that every region will be paying the cost of the Cap-and-Trade program and that every region can benefit from low emission transportation improvements. Finally, we ask that your definition of "disadvantaged" be expanded to include low income areas within our region, reflecting the needs of our population for low emission transportation improvements.

The Central Coast Coalition believes that implementing the *Coast Daylight* passenger rail service between Los Angeles and San Francisco would be an excellent candidate for Cap-and-Trade revenues. A small investment of auction revenues would allow this

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intercity passenger rail service to be implemented immediately resulting in significant greenhouse gas emission reductions, supporting economic development and job growth and reducing reliance on automobiles for longer trips.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at jkemp@sbcag.org or 805-961-8908.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Kemp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jim Kemp
Central Coast Coalition Chair