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Comments on Item 16-5-4: Proposed Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy

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Let me start by congratulating the state of California and the ARB Board for its leadership on climate. I'm here today representing Napa Climate NOW, a Napa County citizens' organization formed to advocate for smart action in response to the climate crisis we face at the community, state, national and international levels.

We're very encouraged that you have recognized the importance of mitigating short-lived climate pollutants as a priority for California. In the interest of further strengthening the state's climate change position, we hope you will take these additional observations to heart.

The pace of climate change is absolutely staggering. Many impacts that climate models predicted would happen decades in the future are already happening. And we are beginning to see frightening, non-linear impacts, such as the surface melting of Greenland, the dying of the Great Barrier Reef and other coral reefs, and the loss of summer sea ice in the Arctic.

One of the keys to tackling climate change is to focus on radiative forcing, as the IPCC has done in its Fifth Assessment Report, and not just on temperature rise. The net increase in radiative forcing drives the rise in global mean temperature. The fact is that we are very near to a critical radiative forcing threshold. Within the next 5-10 years, radiative forcing is projected to cross the threshold that, if sustained, will lead the earth's temperature to increase beyond the 2° Celsius temperature tipping point.

In short, this means that we need to make every minute and every dollar count. Yes, California's efforts to mitigate methane, black carbon, and fluorinated gases are crucial in this effort. But the Proposed Strategy should also be addressing Tropospheric Ozone head on, which is 1,000 times more potent than CO2. And we need to think about getting the most bang for our buck. That means investing not just within the state's borders, but beyond our borders. For instance, it turns out that we could significantly multiply the effect of our mitigation dollars on global temperature rise if we invested in black carbon hot spots around the globe. This would make California a true leader in the global climate fight, and set an important example.

Your actions and decisions are crucial for all of us, operating at the city and county levels, to be effective with our local Climate Action Plans.

We look forward to tracking your progress and to continuing the dialogue. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.