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California State Senate

SENATOR
HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



April 24, 2013

Mary D. Nichols
Chairman, California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Cap-and-Trade Auction Funds/Ship Speed Reduction Program

Dear Chair Nichols:

I have reviewed the Draft Investment Plan and would like to recommend including the Santa Barbara Air Quality Management District proposal to implement a Vessel Speed Reduction Incentive Program along the California coast in CARB and Department of Finances' Final Investment Plan as a priority for funding.

This is a unique opportunity to leverage partnerships between environmental and conservation groups, the Air Quality Management District, and the shipping industry. The plan has received broad-based support from federal, state, regional and local agencies, elected leaders, NGO groups, industry, and the community. Not only do vessel speed reductions result in lower greenhouse gas emissions, but they also reduce the likelihood of lethal whale strikes. Most importantly, the programs provide an economic incentive to alter behavior which will likely be a key part of any comprehensive attempt to mitigate climate change. While the programs are voluntary, they are extremely popular and their demonstrated success is evident in high rates of participation by the shipping industry at the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports.

As we work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions it makes sense to prioritize partnerships that involve both a broad range of stakeholders, as well as deliver multiple goals from a single investment as this project does. The reduction in emissions accomplished by Vessel Speed Reduction Incentive Programs reduces emissions near ports, which presents an environmental justice issue as the pollution disproportionately impacts lower income communities that are often clustered in the immediate vicinity.

The VSR program aligns with investment plan objectives and significantly reduces GHG emissions from transportation while also having the following co-benefits: improving air quality for public health, enhancing coastal air districts ability to meet state air quality standards, benefiting disadvantaged communities in Oxnard and Port Hueneme, and protecting whales. The ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate pollution in areas where marginalized communities have disproportionately suffered the impacts, and provide a conservation benefit to whales is exactly the type of program the Cap and Trade Funds seem designed to fund. Please consider including the Santa Barbara Air Quality Management District proposal to implement a Vessel Speed Reduction Incentive Program along the California coast as a funding priority in the final plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah-Beth Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
Senator, 19th District