

To: Cheryl Laskowski, California Air Resources Board (CARB)

From: Jeremy Martin, Union of Concerned Scientists
Connie Cho and Julia May, Communities for a Better Environment
Faraz Rizvi, Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Date: December 19, 2022

Subject: Petroleum phaseout workshop for Low Carbon Fuel Standard

We appreciate the brief reference to phasing out petroleum credits at the November 9th Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) workshop. The 2023 LCFS rulemaking could have a large influence on how the petroleum phasedown laid out in the 2022 Scoping Plan plays out on the ground, so it is important that these decisions are shaped by meaningful participation from environmental justice (EJ) and frontline communities with the most at stake.

We request that CARB hold a workshop in the first few months of 2023 to consider how to most effectively align the LCFS with the state's commitment to equitably manage the phase out of petroleum and other fossil fuels. The LCFS should include specific safeguards to ensure that it remains aligned with the needs of the state as it transitions away from petroleum and prioritizes direct environmental benefits for communities most burdened by pollution. To facilitate meaningful engagement, we urge CARB to include dedicated community outreach and to design the workshop in consultation with community-based EJ groups—and the permanent EJ Advisory Committee, to cover the issues that are relevant to our communities and achieve CARB's equity goals.

While the LCFS is one key policy, there are several others proceeding in parallel, including the interagency working group on petroleum phasedown and the SB 905 process to create a program regulating carbon capture and sequestration. It would be helpful to consider these in a comprehensive manner.

Topics we would propose for an LCFS petroleum phaseout workshop include

- Mechanisms to ensure that the quantity of petroleum projects and infrastructure systems supported by the LCFS do not exceed the level of petroleum consumption in the scoping plan.
- Mechanisms to ensure that petroleum projects generating LCFS credits are subject to adequate public engagement prior to approval and that equity and environmental justice are key considerations in project design and approval, including the prioritization of direct environmental benefits.
- Environmental assessment.
- Clarification of how the various regulatory processes affecting petroleum are connected, including the interagency working group on petroleum phasedown, the SB 905 process on carbon capture and sequestration, the LCFS rulemaking, LCFS pathway/project approvals and local permitting for projects.