Signatures of the organizations involved in the campaign.
Liane M. Randolph, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 “I” Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 108 Organizations Call for A Just and Ambitious 2022 Scoping Plan

To the California Air Resources Board,

We are writing to you on behalf of 108 organizations representing hundreds of thousands of members across California to request revisions to the 2022 Draft Scoping Plan. We strongly support Governor Gavin Newsom’s call for California to “do everything possible to accelerate our climate targets and increase the pace of action to transition to a low-carbon future.” We are gravely concerned that the Draft Scoping Plan plainly fails to meet this call: It fails to accelerate our 2030 and 2045 climate targets, and it fails to increase the pace of California’s actions beyond existing commitments. Because existing commitments alone are insufficient, the Draft Scoping Plan fails to reach even the statutory 2030 requirements set in 2016, and it fails to meet the 2045 carbon neutrality targets set in 2018. To make up for the shortfall in reaching these inadequate targets, the Draft Scoping Plan relies on record-breaking levels of unspecified mitigation from the cap-and-trade program in 2030 and entirely unrealistic levels of direct air capture in 2045. This is not a serious climate plan for California.

Instead, we need a plan that transitions us away from the extractive, fossil-fueled energy system at the pace and scale demanded by climate science and environmental justice. In practice, this transition requires two fundamental strategies. First, we must maximize near-term progress by accelerating deployment of proven, cost-effective, zero-emission solutions that alleviate the disproportionate harm caused by fossil fuels. Second, we must take an environmental justice approach to the final, hardest-to-decarbonize sectors that does not unnecessarily prolong our dependence on fossil fuel extraction and combustion.

Our organizations present the following policy solutions to address these issues. We view these changes as the bare minimum necessary for a stable, realistic, and just path to achieving urgent climate targets:

1) **Oil Extraction and Refining:** Phase out fossil fuel extraction by 2035 and refining by 2045 at the latest.

2) **Electric Power:** No new gas-fired generation starting today, and a greenhouse gas (GHG) target of 0 million metric tons (MMT) by 2035.

3) **Transportation:** Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction of 30% by 2035, at least 75% zero-emission passenger vehicle sales by 2030, and 100% medium- and heavy-duty truck sales by 2035.

4) **Buildings:** Phase out sales of new gas appliances by 2030 and ensure a full decommissioning of the gas distribution system by 2045.
5) **Alternative Fuels:** Exclude reliance on alternative fuels that worsen pollution burdens and take an environmental justice approach when addressing hard-to-electrify sectors.
   
a) **No Role for Dairy Biomethane:** Regulate dairy emissions by 2024 and reduce methane emissions through a transition to agro-ecological alternatives.

b) **Role of Hydrogen:** Focus on 100% green electrolytic hydrogen only for hard-to-decarbonize, heavy-duty shipping, aviation, rail and industry.

c) **Role of CCS:** No Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) for continued fossil fuel combustion, oil refining, or bioenergy.

d) **Remaining Role of CDR:** Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) should be limited to offset the final sliver of emissions that cannot be directly eliminated.

We underscore that CARB must maximize near-term climate action by accelerating proven solutions that alleviate the disproportionate harm of extraction and combustion. We detail these recommendations further below.

1. **Oil:** Phase out fossil fuel extraction by 2035 at the latest, and refining by 2045, without relying on CCS.

   Fundamentally, the Draft Scoping Plan fails to move California beyond oil and gas. This failure not only jeopardizes our climate goals, but also perpetuates environmental racism. The communities that are forced to live along the fossil fuel supply chain suffer from poisoned air, water, soil and ecosystems. These communities—predominantly low-income communities of color—have become sacrifice zones.

   The Draft Scoping Plan delays the phase out of oil extraction to 2045. This timeline is unacceptable to meet our state’s climate and health goals. According to a recent study, the United States and other rich oil-producing nations must phase out oil production by 2034 to stay within the Paris Agreement’s carbon budget and allow adequate time for less-resourced oil producers to transition. As the wealthiest State in the wealthiest nation, with one of the most well-diversified economies of any oil-producing jurisdiction, California has an obligation to, at a minimum, meet this phase-out goal.

   There is also no plan to manage the decline of oil refineries, which leaves the fate of refinery communities and workers up to the fossil fuel industry. The Scoping Plan must initiate a plan to effectuate a coordinated phase out of oil refining by 2045. The plan should also include an immediate call for a robust safety net for fossil fuel communities and workers to ensure a just and equitable transition.

2. **Electric Power:** No new gas-fired generation starting today, and a 0 MMT GHG target by 2035, without relying on CCS.

   The Draft Scoping Plan proposes to build 10 GW of new gas capacity, equivalent to at least 33 new large or 100 new peaker gas power plants. New gas-fired power plants are incompatible with our climate, public health and economic goals. Rather than building new fossil fuel infrastructure, the Scoping Plan should pursue additional demand response, renewable energy, and storage technologies.
In light of the climate emergency, the International Energy Agency (“IEA”) called for no new fossil fuel infrastructure starting last year, in 2021. Yet the Draft Scoping Plan pushes California in the opposite direction, proposing significant new gas build by 2045. In addition to harming the climate, gas plants emit many harmful pollutants that unjustly and disproportionately burden disadvantaged communities. This pollution could increase under the Draft Scoping Plan if California builds additional gas capacity. Furthermore, building new renewable energy capacity is cheaper than running existing gas plants and expanding gas infrastructure. CARB must exclude new gas-fired power capacity for the Scoping Plan.

In addition to excluding new gas build, CARB must set a GHG target of 0 MMT by 2035 for the electric sector and plan to phase out fossil gas-fired generation, starting with power plants located in disadvantaged communities. The IEA has explained that all advanced economies must achieve a carbon-free electric sector by 2035. President Biden’s Executive Order has also set a goal of 100% carbon-free electricity for the United States by 2035. Yet the Draft Scoping Plan proposes an astonishing 30 MMT by 2045. This is unacceptable because SB 100 requires California to achieve a zero-carbon electric system by 2045. Further, CARB’s own analysis shows that a 15 MMT in 2045 scenario (i.e. half the 2045 emissions currently proposed in the Draft Scoping Plan) is more risky than the more ambitious scenarios and unlikely to achieve climate and air quality goals and requirements. CARB should therefore revise the Draft Scoping Plan’s misguided 30 MMT by 2045 GHG target and set a more ambitious target of 0 MMT by 2035.

3. **Transportation: Reduce VMT 30% by 2035, achieve at least 75% passenger ZEV sales by 2030, and achieve 100% ZEV truck sales by 2035.**

The Scoping Plan needs to do more to reduce transportation sector emissions, which is the largest source of greenhouse gas pollution statewide.

First, the Plan should incorporate higher reduction targets to VMT to reduce direct vehicle emissions. The Draft Scoping Plan proposes a mere 22% reduction in VMT by 2045 and should be updated to a 30% reduction in VMT by 2035. Strategies like mass transit investments are critical to decarbonizing the transportation sector and addressing access to opportunity. These changes can facilitate more emissions reductions at potentially lower cost than other policy measures, while also supporting affordable housing and livable communities. As the State works to achieve its goal of 100% ZEV car sales by 2035, it is important that we maximize near-term progress, by at a minimum achieving an interim target of 75% ZEVs for new car sales by 2030, in line with CARB’s own Mobile Source Strategy.

Similarly, the Draft should advance the phase out of new combustion medium and heavy-duty truck sales to 2035, consistent with the Mobile Source Strategy. By delaying the phase out until 2040, the Draft Scoping Plan would allow new, polluting trucks to stay on the roads well beyond 2050, undermining Governor Newsom’s Executive Order that aims for all trucks on the road to be zero-emission everywhere feasible. Moving forward the phase out of new combustion sales is a low-cost, high impact mitigation strategy, especially given that CARB’s own analyses indicate that zero-emission trucks will be cheaper to own in every category as early as 2030. The Scoping Plan should also ensure that 100% of all drayage trucks and transit buses on the road are zero-emission by 2030. Finally, the Plan should reflect that all polluting trucks are retired when they reach the end of their useful life. CARB staff clearly agrees with
this assessment as they proposed the Zero Emission Trucks Measure in the January Draft of the State Implementation Plan Strategy, which aims to retire fossil fuel trucks as soon as possible and replace them with zero-emission vehicles.

4. Buildings: Phase out sales of new gas appliances by 2030 and ensure a full decommissioning of the gas distribution system by 2045.

The Draft Scoping Plan recommends that gas appliances in commercial and residential buildings are retired at the end of their useful life but does not allow for early retirements. From an economic perspective, this approach hampers the decommissioning of segments of the gas distribution system, as commercial and residential buildings will require gas until their appliances burn out. From a climate perspective, it entrenches methane leakage and gas combustion pollution, as gas appliances that were purchased before 2035 can operate for decades, potentially. From a justice perspective, this approach risks leaving the last customers on the gas system without heat if skyrocketing gas rates to retain the system are spread across fewer customers.

We ask CARB to include in its Scoping Plan strategic retrofits before end-of-life to protect customers from loss of service upon burnout, to better plan the transition away from gas to electric, and to support electrification efforts and their corresponding climate and public benefits. All gas end-uses should be retired by 2045. Given that all of CARB’s scenarios eventually achieve 100% sales of electric appliances, the eventual retirement of the gas distribution system is implied in all scenarios by varying dates. The costs of early retirements for the progressive, strategic decommissioning of the gas system are likely substantially lower than the costs of safely maintaining an aging system that is fated to be shut down.

To minimize the scale of early retirements necessary, the Plan should accelerate the phase out of new fossil-fueled appliances. The Netherlands, a notably gas-dependent country, recently announced that by 2026, all new heating systems (both in new construction and replacements in existing buildings) will need to be at a minimum, hybrid heat pumps. Germany is planning to bring forward the phase out of new gas heating system sales from 2025 to 2024. California should aim to hit this milestone by no later than 2030. As in Europe, California’s commitment must be supported by public investment to ensure low-income homes or renters are not expected to finance the shift.

5. Alternative Fuels: Exclude reliance on alternative fuels that worsen pollution burdens and take an environmental justice approach to addressing hard-to-electrify sectors.

A. No Role for Dairy Biomethane: Regulate dairy emissions starting in 2024, and further reduce methane emissions through increased agro-ecological alternatives.

CARB’s current proposal relies on increasing dairy digester capacity in an attempt to capture dairy manure methane emissions. This proposal will only continue to exacerbate the air, water, soil quality, and health impacts borne by communities exposed to large herd sizes and factory farming practices. CARB must model and recommend the direct regulation of dairy methane emissions starting in 2024 and phase out incentives for dairy methane reduction via dairy digesters, which are hazardous and ineffective. In the
interim, to further reduce enteric methane emissions, CARB should invest in transitioning large-scale farming systems to diversified, agroecological systems which have more sustainable herd sizes and rely less on emissions-generating practices while increasing natural carbon sequestration capacity.

B. Role of Hydrogen: Limit to green electrolytic hydrogen only for the hardest-to-electrify sectors.

CARB’s Scoping Plan departs from the most common understanding of green hydrogen (i.e. hydrogen produced from electrolysis powered by renewable electricity) by using it also to refer to hydrogen produced from steam methane reformation, gasification, or pyrolysis of biogas and biomass. These forms of hydrogen production are not zero-emission. Their production emits significant pollution, and there is no meaningful supply of sustainable bio-feedstocks to ensure they are low-carbon. CARB should align California’s Scoping Plan with internationally accepted definitions of green hydrogen and reject industry greenwashing. Specifically, green hydrogen should be limited to electrolytic hydrogen produced by splitting hydrogen from water using zero-emissions renewable solar and wind energy, which is the only established way to produce hydrogen without emitting climate or air pollution.

Furthermore, CARB’s current proposal envisions the widespread use of hydrogen for road transportation and blending hydrogen into the gas distribution network. These are consistently ranked among the worst potential applications for green hydrogen’s use. Several studies show hydrogen is unlikely to play a significant role in road transport—even long-haul trucking (although the vast majority of trucks travel less than 100 miles a day). More than 15 studies advise against the use of hydrogen for heating buildings. The Scoping Plan should avoid wasting this scarce and costly resource in applications that delay the transition to a zero-emissions future, and direct it to sectors where its need is more certain, such as long-haul shipping and aviation and heavy-duty rail and industry.

C. Role of CCS: CCS should have no role for enhanced oil recovery, refineries, or power plants, and more promising mitigation should be prioritized for industrial decarbonization.

CARB’s current proposal calls for large amounts of CCS infrastructure on refineries using unfounded assumptions. Capturing high percentages of carbon emissions via CCS in California’s space-constrained refineries is extremely unlikely due to refinery systems complexity and the infeasibility of retrofitting controls onto hundreds of massive combustion units and thousands of fugitive sources. The few CCS demonstration projects on hydrogen units—which exist only in smaller, newer, incomparable refining facilities—show low rates of capture at an extremely high cost.

CARB also alludes to a nonsensical role for CCS on power plants, despite the availability of zero-emission generation resources and peak-shaving measures. The process of capturing, compressing, transporting, and storing carbon is itself energy intensive, though the Scoping Plan does not model the incremental renewable energy needed to power it without additional emissions. Furthermore, CCS would not resolve potent methane leakage and local pollution problems.

Additionally, CARB proposes CCS on all stone, clay, glass, and cement operations by 2045. Before relying on polluting and inefficient CCS technologies, CARB should prioritize industrial decarbonization via energy efficiency, increased recycling, material substitution, electrolytic hydrogen, and investment in
clean industrial technologies to reduce combustion and process emissions at stone, clay, glass, and cement facilities. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that CCS will play the smallest role—and at the highest cost—of any mitigation option evaluated for the industrial sector in 2030. The Scoping Plan must be revised to incorporate additional industrial decarbonization strategies that the IPCC shows have far greater potential, including cementitious material substitution, enhanced recycling, and material efficiency. Each of these approaches has the significant advantage of reducing air pollution.

D. Remaining Role for CDR: Limit CDR to the maximum extent practicable.

The Scoping Plan relies on a whopping 100 MMT of CDR to address the emissions that remain in 2045. Such reliance is unreasonable because, to date, not even 1 MMT of CDR has not been successfully deployed globally. CARB’s own analysis in its 2020 Achieving Carbon Neutrality study shows that pathways that reduce emissions by 87-92% will require only 33-56 MMT of CO2 removal, far less than the draft plan’s 100 MMT proposition. Further, the Draft Scoping Plan fails to analyze the energy demand necessary to power direct air capture, and therefore understates the complexity and cost of this technology.

While there is inherent uncertainty about the optimal way to eliminate all emissions by 2045, greater progress can and must be made now by using existing solutions to end our reliance on fossil fuels. Such an approach will minimize reliance on unproven and costly CDR technologies that could unnecessarily prolong harmful fossil fuel extraction and combustion. To reduce the risk of overshooting climate targets and unnecessarily exacerbating health harms, the Plan should limit CDR to the maximum extent practicable.

In conclusion, as stated above, these five asks constitute what our organizations view as the bare minimum necessary for a stable, realistic, and just path to achieving urgent climate targets. Many of our groups believe even faster progress can and must be achieved for certain sectors. Nevertheless, by applying the solutions enumerated above, we are confident that CARB could achieve far greater direct, and therefore more certain, reductions of greenhouse gases than currently proposed in the Draft Scoping Plan.

Thank you for your consideration on these important changes for California communities and our climate.

Sincerely,

1. Barbara Rhine, Chair of Legislative Working Group, 1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations
2. Claire Broome, Leadership Team, 350 Bay Area
3. Jackie Garcia Mann, Leadership Team, 350 Contra Costa
4. Daniel Chandler, Steering Committee, 350 Humboldt
5. Annie Stuart, Steering committee member, 350 Petaluma
6. William Brieger, Chair, Legislative Team, 350 Sacramento
7. Janet Cox, Legislation/Policy Director, 350 Silicon Valley
8. Sherry Lear, Founding Steering Committee Member, 350 Southland Legislative Alliance
9. Jan Dietrick, Policy Team Leader, 350 Ventura County Climate Hub
10. David Diaz MPH, Executive Director, Active San Gabriel Valley
11. Eric Morrill, Founder, All-Electric California
12. Debra Little, Principle, AjO
13. Amee Raval, Policy & Research Director, Asian Pacific Environmental Network
14. Kyle Tsukahira, Co-Director, Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement (APIFM)
15. Cheryl Auger, President, Ban SUP (Single Use Plastic)
16. Kristel Rietesel, Admin, Bay Area Clean Air Coalition
17. Jake Kim, Chair of Steering Committee, Bay Area Youth Climate Action Team
18. Sven Thesen, Founder, BeniSol, LLC
19. Dan Johnson, Architect, Beyond Efficiency Inc
20. Dr. Hari Lamba, Coordinator, Brighter Climate Futures
21. Jenna Tatum, Director, Building Electrification Institute
22. Igor Tregub, Chair, California Democratic Party Environmental Caucus
23. Neena Mohan, Climate and Air Manager, California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA)
24. Ameen Khan, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, California Environmental Voters
25. Katie Bolin RN BSN MPH, Program Director, California Nurses for Environmental Health & Justice
26. Jenn Engstrom, State Director, California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG)
27. Torri J Estrada, Executive Director, Carbon Cycle Institute
28. Jonathan Pruitt, Program Coordinator, Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton
29. Lynda Deschambault, Executive Director, CCC Climate Leaders (4CL)
30. Dr. Shaye Wolf, Climate Science Director, Center for Biological Diversity
31. Ana Gonzalez, Executive Director, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
32. Juan Flores, Community Organizer, Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment
33. Kevin Hamilton, Co-Director & Co-Founder, Central California Asthma Collaborative
34. Nayamin Martinez, Executive Director, Central California Environmental Justice Network
35. Sofia Magallon Policy, Advocate, Central Coast United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)
36. Graham Emonson, Activist, Citizens' Climate Lobby - LA West Chapter
37. Lynda Marin, Chapter Lead, Citizens’ Climate Lobby Santa Cruz
38. Jesus Alonso, Kern Community Organizer, Clean Water Action
39. Suzanne Hume, Educational Director and Founder, Clean Earth 4 Kids
40. Noah Harris, Policy Advocate, Climate Action Campaign
41. Shannon Simpson, Executive Director, Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas
42. Kristen Sandel, Co-convenor, Climate Alliance of Santa Cruz County
43. Ellie Cohen, CEO, The Climate Center
44. Ashley McClure, MD, Climate Health Now
45. Nailah Pope-Harden, Executive Director, ClimatePlan
46. Kathy Schaeffer, Legislative Coordinator, San Fernando Valley Chapter, Climate Reality Project
47. Connie Cho, Associate Attorney, Communities for a Better Environment
48. Rose Ann Witt, Co-Founder, Conejo Climate Coalition
49. Christy Zamani, Executive Director, Day One
50. Ann Edminster, Founder/Principal, Design AVEnues LLC
51. Paul Seger, President; Diablo Water District
52. Sasan Saadat, Senior Research and Policy Analyst, Earthjustice
53. Taylor Thomas, Co-Executive Director, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
54. James Wang, Founder/Director, Eco-Sustainability Peeps
55. Jessica Mitchell, Education & Engagement Program Manager, Ecology Center
56. Todd Weber, Chair, Elders Climate Action, NorCal chapter
57. Richard Burke, Chair, Elders Climate Action, SoCal chapter
58. Laura Deehan, State Director, Environment California Research and Policy Center
59. Laura Hunter, Boardmember, Escondido Neighbors United
60. Leah Redwood, Action Coordinator, Extinction Rebellion SFBay
61. Jessica Craven, Steering Committee Co-Chair, Feminists in Action Los Angeles
62. Miriam Eide, Coordinating Director, Fossil Free California
63. Kimberly McCoy, Project Director, Fresno Building Healthy Communities
64. Rosalie Preston, President, Friends of the Air, Earth and Water
65. Elise Kalfayan, Steering Committee, Glendale Environmental Coalition
66. Amy Moas, Ph.D., Senior Climate Campaigner, Greenpeace USA
67. Steve Schmidt, Founder & CEO, Home Energy Analytics
68. Steve Mann, Owner, Home Energy Services
69. Solange Gould, Co-Director, Human Impact Partners
70. Adriene Coulter, Director, Indivisible Ventura
71. Andrea L. Traber, Senior Principal, Integral Group Inc.
72. David Levitus, Ph.D., Executive Director, LA Forward
73. Maura Monagan, Policy and Government Affairs Manager, LA Waterkeeper
74. Shayda Azamian, Climate Policy Coordinator, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
75. Heidi Harmon, Senior Public Affairs Director, Let's Green CA!
76. Michele Prichard, Senior Director, Liberty Hill Foundation
77. Dave Shukla, Operations, Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
78. Alicia Nichols-Gonzalez, California Organizing Manager, Mothers Out Front
79. Susan Butler-Graham, Volunteer Team Coordinator, Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley
80. Michael Stocker, Director, Ocean Conservation Research
81. Matt Leonard, Director, Oil and Gas Action Network
82. Teresa Bui, State Climate Policy Director, Pacific Environment
83. Antonio Díaz, Organizational Director, People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights (PODER)
84. Martha Dina Arguello, Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles
85. Matthew Baker, Policy Director, Planning and Conservation League
86. Kathleen Kramer, MD, Co-Founder, Project Green Home
87. Sean Armstrong, Partner, Redwood Energy
88. Ari Eisenstadt, Campaign Manager, Regenerate California
89. Chance Cutrano, Director of Programs, Resource Renewal Institute
90. Anne Sheridan, Public Policy Team Co-chair, San Diego 350
91. James Peugh, Conservation Chair, San Diego Audubon Society
92. Colleen FitzSimons, Executive Director, San Diego Green Building Council
93. Robert M. Gould, MD, President, San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
94. Ben Eichenberg, Staff Attorney, San Francisco Baykeeper
95. Peter Warren, Spokesperson, San Pedro & Peninsula Homeowners Coalition
96. Rachel Altman, Administrator, Santa Barbara Standing Rock Coalition
97. Pauline Seales, Organizer, Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
98. Magi Amma, Co-convenor, Santa Cruz for Bernie
99. Martha Camacho Rodríguez, Educator/Director, SEE (Social Eco Education)
100. Brandon Dawson, Director, Sierra Club California
101. Carolyn Chaney, Chair, Social Justice Ministry, LOUUC
102. Shoshana Wechsler, Coordinator, Sunflower Alliance
103. Stuart Wood, Executive Director, Sustainable Claremont
104. Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director, Sustainable Silicon Valley
105. Rev. Tera Landers, Lead Pastor, Throop Unitarian Universalist Church
106. Roshi Sirjani, Triple Justice Coordinator, Triple Justice Organization
107. Joanna Gubman, Executive Director, Urban Environmentalists
108. Jo Ann Bollen, Founder, Vote Morongo Basin

CC: CARB Board