



15 December 2022

Liane M. Randolph, Chair  
Board Members  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Randolph and Members of the California Air Resources Board,

**Labor Rise Climate Jobs Action Group** is an organization of rank-and-file union members working to strengthen labor's voice in the climate struggle by promoting a vision of a new economy based on a just transition for workers and communities. We are affiliated with Labor Rise for Climate, Jobs, Justice, and Peace, a coalition of union activists that grew out of 2018's 35,000-person Rise for Climate, Jobs, and Justice march in San Francisco.

The 2022 Scoping Plan remains far from adequate in addressing the concerns of California's more than 15 million workers and our families in confronting the coming transformation of our world. Every aspect of our economy will be turned upside down as we move quickly to phase out California's extraction, production, and consumption of fossil fuels.

No blueprint exists for such a massive economic and social transformation, but no plan will succeed without the democratic participation of working people and our organizations in its formulation and execution.

In June 2022, [138 rank-and-file trade unionists intervened](#) in the state's climate planning to demand a labor-generated [climate jobs plan](#) as a necessary component of a just energy transition. We highlighted the astonishing absence of a workforce development plan in the state's 2022 climate policy roadmap.

We called on CARB to incorporate in its final draft a robust plan for job creation based on the [program for clean energy in California](#) drafted by the distinguished economics professor Robert Pollin and a team at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Unfortunately, the final draft of the Scoping Plan is still missing a public sector climate jobs program, relying instead on speculative estimates of long-term job growth in the private sector. And in the short term, the Scoping Plan encourages job growth in [carbon capture](#), [blue hydrogen](#), and other flawed technologies that the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee has exposed as dangerous schemes to extend the production of fossil fuels and prolong exposure of frontline communities to toxic pollution.

The Pollin Report is not a blueprint, but a starting point from which we hope to see California take on a commitment to workers that is more than rhetoric and an occasional nod. "Challenge Accepted," the final chapter of the Scoping Plan, recognizes the role of state and local governments, "low-income communities, tribes, and communities of color," academic institutions, the private sector, and consumers, but ignores the role of unions and other workers organizations. Indeed, the only union mentioned in the entire Scoping Plan is the European Union.

California must do better. The Pollin Report shows that focusing our climate policies on a just transition to a green economy can result in creating a million good green jobs each year – a resounding answer to the "jobs versus environment" conflict that has bogged down effective climate action. We know we can have both if we have the will to do what is necessary to support workers and working-class communities as we make the transition to clean energy.

The Scoping Plan points with pride to some one-time spending that will feature programs we support. But we need a commitment to public investment for the next 5, 10, 20 years, not proceeds from a temporary budget surplus. Moreover,

we need to create many public sector jobs to undertake climate mitigation and adaptation in which profit-based enterprises have little or no interest.

All told, according to the Pollin Report, achieving California's 2030 goal will require \$138 billion per year of investments in clean energy, manufacturing, infrastructure, agriculture, and displaced worker relief programs. This is only 3.8% of California GDP – a reasonable investment to avoid a world on fire. Assuming the public and private sectors split the total equally, \$70 billion per year of public funding – state and federal – will be needed. A realistic California climate plan requires nothing less.

In this decade, the California Climate Jobs Plan, endorsed by over two dozen unions, calls on the State of California to

1. Invest \$70 billion per year in state and federal funds annually in renewable energy, energy efficiency, infrastructure, manufacturing, and organic and ecological agriculture;
2. Budget \$470 million per year to provide a comprehensive transition package for the 112,000 California workers employed in fossil fuel-based industries including pension guarantees, health care coverage, re-employment guarantees, wage subsidies to cover income losses, as well as retraining and relocation support.
3. Fund a robust public sector including public education, universal healthcare, and free childcare to support working families;
4. Require pro-worker policies for all public investments such as the right to organize a union through card check, as well as targeted and local hire provisions for communities.

These are just a few of the highlights of the California Climate Jobs Plan. We invite the Board and other policymakers to take a closer look at the Pollin Report itself. The draft resolution adopting the Scoping Plan calls for “a multi-agency discussion ... to systematically evaluate and plan for the managed phasedown in California in an equitable way.” To bend this process towards Just Transition and away from the profit-driven agenda of the fossil fuel industry, this discussion must be open and transparent, fostering democratic participation of a broad

cross-section of labor organizations, working class communities, and our environmental justice allies.

A "Just Transition" will only exist if it is *just* for workers, communities in which we live and work, and frontline communities that have borne disproportionate harm from the extraction, processing, production, and use of fossil fuels.

Sincerely,

[Signatories to this letter include both members of Labor Rise Climate Jobs Action Group and other rank-and-file union members, active and retired. Union affiliations are shown for identification purposes only.]

Aileen Vance	American Fed. of Musicians Local 1000
Anita M Kline	SEIU Local 1021
Arthur Stern	SEIU Local 1021
Barbara Sattler	American Fed. of Teachers Local 6590
Beth Youhn	Operating Engineers Local 3
Bob Mandel	Adult School Teachers United; Oakland Education Assoc.
Bonnie Lockhart	American Fed. of Musicians Local 1000
Bradley Cleveland	SEIU Local 1021
Chris Kinder	International Bhd. of Teamsters
Cynthia Landry	SEIU Local 1021
Dan Kaplan	American Fed. of Teachers Local 1493
David Henry Williams	SEIU Local 1021
David Page	SEIU Local 1021
David Thoni	IBEW Local 595
Deirdre Snyder	Oakland Education Association
Dr. Susan Penner	University of San Francisco Part-time Faculty
Eddie Isaacs	SEIU Local 1000
Ellen Shaffer	ILWU; SEIU; ACSA
Elvira Velasquez	SEIU Local 1021
Ernest Pacheco	Communication Workers of Am. Local 9412
Eugene E Ruyle	California Faculty Assoc.
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Lawrence Abbott	International B'hd of Teamsters Local 70
Leanna Noble	United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America
Lenny Potash	AFSCME -R Ch. 36
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Marc Norton	UNITE HERE Local 2
Margaret Rossoff	ILWU Local 6; SEIU Local 790
Maria Guillen	SEIU Local 1021
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Michael Eisenscher	American Fed. of Teachers
Michael Kaufman	Communication Workers of Am. Local 37083
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Molly Martin	IBEW Local 6
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Phyllis Mandel	ILWU Local 10
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Sarah Ringler	Pajaro Valley Fed. of Teachers, Local 1936
Steve McFarland	California Faculty Assoc.
Steve Morse	Sheet Metal Workers (SMART) Local 104
Steve Ongerth	IWW; Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific
Steve Willett	UPTC-CWA Local 9119
Susan Schacher	American Fed. of Teachers
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