

May 3, 2022  
To: CARB  
From: Muriel Strand, P.E.  
Re: 2022 Scoping Plan Update – Initial Air Quality & Health Impacts and Economic Analyses Results Workshop

While GDP and GSP growth forecasts may be comparable to standard econometric data, and allow apples-to-apples comparisons of the scenarios, we should all remember that such simple monetary measures are not accurate measures of actual economic health. A balanced and healthy economy contains a diverse menu. Thus, other factors can be expected to have a bigger effect on overall welfare than small changes in future GSP.

Nonbiological CO2 removal seems like working hard not smart. I'm wondering if the cost or perhaps benefit of managing the removed CO2 is included in the modeling?

In the NWL presentation, I heard that the existing amount of carbon stock in California's lands is unsustainable from a wildfire perspective. It's my understanding that in general the mass of a plant's root system is generally the same order of magnitude as the mass above ground. Is this carbon stock accounted for in the modeling?

A few other questions/possibilities occurred to me while listening to the presentations:

- \* Does the model account for a duration of carbon retention in the soil after brush and tree thinning for fire prevention?
- \* Does the model recognize different fire severity as having different ecological effects over the medium to long term?
- \* Does the modeling account for reduced need for AC in well-forested urban areas?
- \* If recent VMT data fail to show reductions predicted by recent policy and regulatory changes, what if these models' predictions also turn out to be overly optimistic?
- \* Will staff be doing sensitivity analyses of the scenario to be recommended in the draft scoping plan?

Assuming that the energy and economic demand projections for modeling inputs are extrapolations of recent trends means assuming that our netzero lifestyles will look like BAU. We need leadership—and plans—that ask more of us, as suggested by this recent critique of political pandering:

Weaning Europe off Russian energy will mean making changes  
So far, little has been asked of citizens

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2022/03/26/weaning-europe-off-russian-energy-will-mean-making-changes>

Sadly, democracy seems to entail plenty of pandering. Can citizens discipline themselves? How can incentives be aligned?