



TO: The Honorable Mary Nichols, Chair California Air Resources Board

FR: John Larrea, Governmental Affairs Director, California League of Food Processors

DATE: August 12, 2016

RE: Collecting Public Comments - EJAC Community Meetings

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the recent Environmental Justice Advisory Committee community meetings.

The California League of Food Processors is a trade association representing forty-seven food processors with operations throughout California, a significant number of whom have facilities located in the disadvantaged communities as identified in the CalEnviroScreen. These companies are wholly invested in these communities, many having been there for decades, providing good, steady paying jobs and benefits for the residents of these communities, as well as contributing to the local economy and investing in the community at large.

California's food processors have been participating in the AB 32 implementation process since its inception. We support developing climate change policies that are best for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions yet allow businesses to continue serving our communities and to grow. This is the formula that will best provide the necessary economic and environmental balance for the economy and for all Californians.

Over the past few months, the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC) has held a number of meetings throughout California in order to inform and to elicit comments from local communities on AB 32 and the Scoping Plan. CLFP's understanding of the goal of these meetings is so EJAC can provide, or possibly incorporate, the communities' position and expectations into EJAC's recommendations as to the update of the Scoping Plan.

However, it has become apparent that the many, if not most, of the locals in attendance at the workshop seemingly had little or no understanding of AB 32. One CLFP member observed that there seemed to be very few actual locals in attendance and that their concerns were singularly limited to local issues, wholly unrelated to informing the 2030 Scoping Plan. Given these facts, CLFP believes it would be a stretch to represent these meetings as a legitimate representation of the "voice of the community."

CLFP's concern is that these facts be accurately and fairly represented in any report by the EJAC to the Board. For instance, one CLFP member pointed out that while the breakout/world café tables allowed participants to voice their ideas and opinions, in some instances, the 'table



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moderator' clearly wasn't conveying what was being said. Instead, the moderator would shape the message so that it fit into what sounded like a predetermined EJAC recommendation. This calls into question the legitimacy of EJAC as the *sole* voice of a community.

CLFP believes that it is important that local businesses and consumers have a thorough and workable understanding of what California is proposing in its future climate change policies so that each community can better judge whether these policies are being implemented in a manner that works for their community, is fiscally and environmentally sound, as well as cost-effective and technologically feasible.

Thank you.