

City of
Richmond

OFFICE OF MAYOR GAYLE McLAUGHLIN

December 4, 2008

Dear Members of the Board,

We are communicating with you in our roles as Mayor of the City of Richmond and a founding member of the East Bay Green Corridor Project, and Richmond City Council Member, respectively.

We believe that the economic and environmental challenges faced by our cities today call for bold and innovative leadership. While some of our cities are hesitant to address the new challenges poised by climate change, many others feel compelled to take action in their communities. Those of us on the front lines are very much in need of assistance and support from the State.

We request that CARB increase the share of greenhouse gas reductions allocated to regional governments from 5 to 11 to 14 MMT. This request is based on a recent scientific analysis by Dr. Reid Ewing and Dr. Arthur C. Nelson which shows that these reductions are achievable with policies California is already contemplating.

By setting a higher target, CARB can signal that the land use/transportation sector is a priority. The higher target will ensure that regional agencies, cities and counties will aim high in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gases from vehicle emissions. Coupled with the essential financial resources, technical assistance and other support from federal, state and private resources, these local governments will be positioned for success and continued leadership in this global fight against climate change. On the other hand, a low target below what scientific analysis shows can be achieved, will send the opposite signal, indicating that land use/transportation is not a priority and will not receive a commensurate share of resources.

While we feel that every local government should address the dire circumstances we are facing today, we are not asking that you support a mandate for local governments to act. SB 375 very clearly exempts our cities and counties from any regulatory requirements.

As you know, the world is watching California and it's local governments: expecting us to provide inspiration and a model for others to follow. This is an opportunity and a responsibility of monumental importance. Please help us by assigning state and regional Governments a significant role in achieving the goals of AB 32. My colleague and I will not let you down.

Respectfully yours,



Gayle McLaughlin, Mayor, City of Richmond
Jim Rogers, Councilmember, City of Richmond