

Linda Weiner
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**Scoping Plan Comments: Linda Weiner
Director of Air Quality Advocacy, American Lung Association
Sacramento, CA, November 20, 2008**

My name is Linda Weiner, representing the American Lung Association of California.

We do want to thank the CARB staff for the long hours in developing the scoping plan, which is an excellent start in the right direction to reduce greenhouse gases. My comments today are directed at strengthening the plan to provide a higher level of protection and public health involvement for local communities.

The reason I focus on this issue is because, at the American Lung Association, we receive the calls when people can't breathe – when there are wildfires, with particle pollution floating in the air – when there are hot stagnant days, with high levels of smog – folks call us for advice. And we know that with the increase of hotter days -and wildfires - caused by global warming, and with more air conditioners in use (for those people who have them), the situation will worsen and more people will have trouble breathing. We are particularly concerned about vulnerable individuals – children- whose lungs are still developing - the elderly, those with existing heart and lung disease and vulnerable communities.

This is an even more urgent situation for those low-income communities, and often communities of color, that are exposed to multiple sources of

pollution- (communities that are surrounded by refineries, power plants, bus or rail yards, ports, large and small industrial facilities, distribution centers, and airports.) Currently, lung and heart disease in these communities is higher than average, and again, will only get worse as global warming increases.

And the cost is high, not only in human suffering, but in economic costs. The recent study at al State Fullerton indicates an economic loss of \$28 billion a year, from the pollution and subsequent illness and death in the areas of California most polluted, L.A Basin and Central Valley. (We believe that we can reduce these costs by significantly strengthening the plan and focusing on measures with large air quality co-benefits, particularly for impacted communities.)

We join with other public health organizations today in recommending that CARB formalize the commitment to establish a cumulative impacts screening protocol within a year to identify communities most impacted by air pollution. We also ask that CARB establish a process to identify and analyze any potential negative air quality or health impacts of proposed AB 32 regulations or measures in vulnerable communities.

And we ask that CARB direct staff to design market-based compliance mechanisms to achieve maximum emissions reductions and

public health co-benefits. Finally, we ask CARB to initiate a public process within 3 months to recommend how resources generated through AB 32 implementation can be directed to assist in adaptation and emission reduction measures in the most vulnerable communities.

(We must take the long-term view, not only for the planet, but also for the very real human pain and distress that will indeed occur.) The bottom line is that when you can't breathe, nothing else matters. We respectfully ask that CARB strengthen the public health protections in the proposed scoping plan.

Thank you.