



**City of Sonora**

*"Queen of the Southern Mines"*

94 North Washington Street  
Sonora, California 95370

**Area Code 209**

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Administration . . . . . 532-4541  
Finance . . . . . 532-4541  
Building/Planning . . 532-3508  
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Public Works . . . . . 532-2922  
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Opera Hall . . . . . 532-7725  
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*Call 86*

November 18, 2008

OR: Board Clerk  
Copies: Executive Officer  
Chair

Mary Nichols  
Chair, California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: City of Sonora Comments on Air Resources Board Proposed Scoping Plan**

Dear Chair Nichols:

On behalf of the City of Sonora, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the California Air Resources Board's (ARB) Proposed Scoping Plan (Scoping Plan).

We are proud of the work we have done already on reducing our City's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG emissions). We have implemented energy savings throughout our city, such as replacing our downtown street lights and traffic signal lights with more energy efficiency, purchasing more gas efficient vehicles, purchasing energy saving appliances and city equipment are examples of how Sonora is reducing its GHG emissions.

Our City opposes any increase to higher taxes and fees, higher electricity costs, higher fuel costs, more expensive housing costs and increases to vehicle costs. With the current fiscal crisis, we do not need to add insult to injury by adding additional costs to our tax payers.

While the City of Sonora is generally supportive of some of the programs and policies outlined in the Scoping Plan, it is crucial for state policymakers take account for the means that will be needed to achieve the goals. AB 32 requires that reductions in GHG emissions must achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost effective reductions and for the ARB to "consider the cost-effectiveness of these regulations." (HSC §38560) In addition, we believe that the Scoping Plan appropriately allow the SB 375 process to develop regional transportation-related GHG targets. Implementation of the regional planning processes in SB 375 are new and largely untested. The 5 MMT figure, while a place holder, nevertheless sets an appropriate benchmark that helps assure that the state can achieve its overall 2020 goal."

As both the state and local governments are faced with critical budget shortages, additional costs to heavily invest in GHG emission technologies in the next 2 to 3 years will become more burdensome for local governments. While local governments can influence development design to a certain extent, the reality is that developers will only build projects that will be purchased by willing customers and that are profitable. In order to effect the desired change, incentives must be provided to the development community and local agencies in order to encourage more development in areas where the reductions in

GHG emissions will be the greatest. The City of Sonora strongly encourages the ARB to consider these limitations as it moves forward with the Scoping Plan

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. The City of Sonora looks forward to working with the ARB in the future.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Stearn  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald E. Stearn".

Cc: League of California Cities, 1400 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95864