

CO-8-81



Spectacular Design, Inc.  
445 W. Garfield Ave. #8  
Glendale, CA 91204

---

August 11, 2008

Ms. Mary Nichols, Chair  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 "I" Street  
P.O. Box 2815 Sacramento, CA 95812  
Re: AB 32 Implementation

Dear Ms. Nichols,

I am writing to express my concerns about the Draft AB 32 Scoping Plan and Appendices recently published by the Air Resources Board.

While I support the goals of AB 32, we need to closely examine the actual costs of this legislation and its overall impact on our small businesses and families. Nowhere will these costs and impacts be more severely felt than by minority-owned and small businesses, low income neighborhoods and communities of color.

It is already difficult for small businesses to stay in business. We are facing higher personal and corporate income taxes to make up the budget deficit, proposals for multiple increases in sales tax, gas taxes and vehicle registration fees at the state, regional and local level.

We are feeling the strain of rapidly rising fuel and utility costs, that will no doubt continue to increase. Both the Scoping Plan and the appendices place a disproportionate emphasis on the vision of California leading the world in climate change policy, and not nearly enough honest analysis of what this leadership will cost us. Throughout the appendices it was noted time and again that the true costs of AB 32 programs won't be known until the policies are actually adopted or the technologies actually placed in use.

But the Draft Scoping Plan did mention billions of dollars in annual costs for public goods service charges and carbon fees alone. It acknowledged that utility and fuel costs would go up. Clearly, there is unlimited potential for a multi-billion dollar drain on the budgets of all Californians, with those least able to afford it having the most to lose.

CO-8-81

The Plan does project that there will be long-term energy savings from these policies, but it doesn't explain how our businesses and families will be able to cover the costs up front in the first years of the program.

While I support the goals of AB 32, it is difficult for me to support the Scoping Plan and Appendices. Without a fiscally responsible approach, the goals will not be achieved and many small and minority-owned business, low income families and minority communities will face economic ruin. Please take a more realistic look at the consequences you will be imposing on us, and give us a plan that will get us the needed emissions reductions without inflicting unreasonable and unsustainable financial burdens on our businesses and communities.

Respectfully,



Liza Tran  
\*Member of Pasadena Chamber