



County of Fresno
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
EDWARD L. MORENO, M.D., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR-HEALTH OFFICER

July 14, 2008

Chuck Shulock
California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

This letter includes the verbal comments I provided in person at the July 14, 2008 Scoping Plan Workshop in Fresno.

I am pleased that the Air Resources Board (ARB) has identified as its primary mandate the protection of the public's health. I am also pleased to see that the ARB draft scoping plan to implement the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, also known as AB 32, includes an evaluation of public health impacts and benefits. The scoping plan recognizes that unmitigated global warming will have an adverse impact on public health. An increase in the frequency of extreme heat events will lead to more morbidity and mortality in California. Furthermore, reduced availability of water will impact agriculture by reducing food production locally and globally and may increase concern over food security. The scoping plan provides mitigation strategies that will lead to reductions in nitrous oxides and pm 2.5 emissions, which will generate public health benefits that are included on page 61 of the draft scoping plan. The plan also anticipates health savings of approximately \$2 billion per year.

The scoping plan also recommends local leadership strategies to reduce greenhouse gases. Several of the strategies are already underway at the local level. For example, local health departments in numerous counties are working with local elected officials, planners and developers to increase community awareness of the health impacts associated with local land use and built environment decisions. Many health departments have also worked to introduce public health language into county and city general plans and ordinances. Also, the siting of green buildings is critical in order to increase public transit infrastructure and decrease vehicle miles traveled, which will reduce emissions, improve physical activity and promote public health. Transportation planning at the regional level is also important. Blueprint planning throughout California is currently underway with public health input to address the health impact of long-term land use and transportation decisions that will connect communities, facilitate transportation, reduce fuel consumption and improve air quality and health. Public outreach is another strategy that

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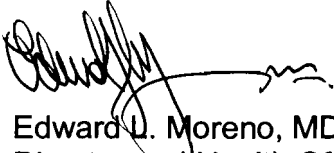
Chuck Shulock
July 14, 2008
Page 2 of 2

local agencies have implemented and hope to continue to implement in closer coordination with ARB public outreach. Finally, State government is encouraged to lead by example by improving fleet fuel efficiency and reduce government vehicle emissions. Local government should likewise lead by example.

These draft scoping plan strategies clearly generate public health benefits. However, there are additional public health co-benefits that will be achieved that have not been identified in the scoping plan. For example, the strategies listed here will also increase physical activity, improve access to nutrition and improve the overall health of Californians. This in turn will reduce individual risk for chronic diseases including overweight, diabetes, cerebral vascular disease and certain cancers.

I respectfully submit the following recommendations and requests. First, that the ARB include State or local public health officials in the evaluation of public health impacts now, and throughout the planning and implementation process. Second, that the ARB recognize that the implementation AB 32 will yield additional public health co-benefits that should be identified in the plan. Finally, that the ARB and the State work closely with local government and local agencies to implement the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 with an emphasis on land use, regional transportation and public outreach to maximize public health benefits and co-benefits for all Californians.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward U. Moreno', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Edward U. Moreno, MD, MPH
Director and Health Officer

ELP:rgm