



August 11, 2008

Mary D. Nichols, Chairman
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812
(916) 445-5025 (Fax)

RE: Draft Scoping Plan Comments – High Global Warming Potential Pollutants

Dear Chairman Nichols,

Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) applauds the California Air Resources Board (CARB) on the release of the *Climate Change Draft Scoping Plan: A Framework for Change*. The draft Scoping Plan represents an important milestone in California's implementation of the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32), the first state-level cap on the greenhouse gas pollution that causes global warming.

EDF respectfully submits the following comments in response to the draft Scoping Plan, and looks forward to collaborating with CARB and other stakeholders in the coming months as further materials, including the evaluation supplements, are made available.

Sincerely,

Derek Walker
Director, California Climate Initiative
Environmental Defense Fund

High GWP Pollutant Sector

Reduction of emissions from high GWP gases represents a significant source of emissions reductions for the state, with the bulk of reductions achieved from newly proposed reductions in mobile sources (3.3 MMTCO₂e) and stationary sources (11.6 MMTCO₂e). Furthermore, since the use of transportation vehicles and durable goods using cooling equipment shows an increasing amount of both potential banks of high-GWP pollutants and corresponding emissions of high GWP pollutants, it is important to enact measures now.

As identified in workgroup meetings and materials released from staff, a large amount of the reductions envisioned under this measure will be achieved from measure H-6, reductions in stationary sources. Within this measure, a majority of reductions will be achieved through improved air conditioning and refrigeration leak repair, reporting, servicing and control, as well as through measures aimed at sales of material such as a recycling and deposit program. In addition, a large component (approx. 35%) of the reduction package is contingent on the development of new specifications for commercial and industrial refrigeration. Environmental Defense Fund is very supportive of CARB implementing these measures through cooperation with other state agencies, and we view each as an important tool to prevent both intentional and unintentional releases of high GWP gases.

CARB has identified the air conditioning and refrigeration leak detection and repair measure as cost-effective, and it will likely save regulated entities considerable amounts of money in avoided refrigeration costs. For the recycling and deposit program, CARB has also found that improved refrigeration reclamation and avoided emissions will likely result, and the measure will save the industry money overall. However, for establishing new specifications for refrigeration and A/C units, CARB has decided it is too soon to set performance specification standards for using high GWP materials. Rather, such standards will be developed once an industry-wide baseline can be determined. While Environmental Defense Fund supports the decisions to improve high GWP material leak rates and start a deposit program, we encourage CARB to take faster and more specific steps to push the industry away from high-GWP materials sooner than 2015 as currently proposed.

Use of high-GWP materials in refrigeration and air-conditioning units arose from the need to shift away from ozone-depleting substances. Now that it is apparent that these new chemicals are harmful to our environment by way of their climate-forcing characteristics, it is also apparent that we must move with deliberate speed to shift the industry to truly safe alternatives. While we recognize that technological and economic barriers exist that may prevent widespread adoption of new refrigeration systems (e.g. CO₂-based systems, low GWP refrigerant systems, etc.), we also recognize that these systems have tremendous potential. Further, the faster we transition away from installing and maintaining systems that use high GWP materials, the less remediation will be needed through leak detection and repair and the less opportunity we will have for uncontrolled releases. Therefore, Environmental Defense Fund recommends CARB take steps as soon as possible to identify and promote low emissions refrigeration systems and start the process of transforming stationary refrigeration before 2015 as proposed. Such steps should

include rewarding early action for entities that transition to low GWP materials in the near term and speeding up the development of an industry inventory to determine the extent and form of proposed new specification standards.