



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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July 31, 2008

Ms. Mary Nichols
Chair, California Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Local Governments Role in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Dear Ms. Nichols:

I am writing to commend the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and its staff on the development of the AB 32 Draft Scoping Plan. Los Angeles County will be submitting a comprehensive analysis and recommendations, however, I write today to urge CARB to begin the discussion regarding local government actions, including land use decisions, to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as a key strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Rising gas prices are already causing many Californians to rethink their attitudes towards car use and the locations of their homes and jobs. As a short term goal, the Scoping Plan could be improved by including feasible solutions, such as supporting expansion of existing transit service, car-pooling, and other alternatives to single-passenger car use, which could result in immediate emissions reductions.

While I commend CARB for putting forth alternatives to meet the objectives of AB32, I also urge CARB to begin ascertaining long term strategies for reducing the greenhouse gases caused by land-use and transportation policies. Since transportation is California's single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, and since a large part of the transportation-related carbon emissions is caused by long-distance commuting patterns based on local land use decisions, CARB should place serious consideration on incentives and resources that can assist local governments in reducing vehicle miles traveled and shaping land-use and transportation policies and projects in order to meet our long term emission reduction goals.

Please note, my office has been working with the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability, a recent initiative designed to bring together regional leadership from government, business, academia, labor, environmental and community advocacy groups – crossing over the routine jurisdictional boundaries, conflicts, and rivalries – to jointly address the shared problem of climate change.

I look forward to a continued partnership with CARB to implement constructive and progressive policies designed to reduce our greenhouse gases - an issue that is paramount to the health and wellbeing of our constituents and our planet.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Yvonne B. Burke".

YVONNE B. BURKE
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, Second District

cc: Each Member of the California Air Resources Board
ClimatePlan

YBB:kk