



CITY OF  
SANTA ROSA

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Mary Nichols  
Chair, California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: AB 32 Draft Scoping Plan Comments

Dear Chair Nichols:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Air Resources Board's AB32 Draft Scoping Plan. On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, this letter makes the following comments on the Draft Scoping Plan for your consideration.

JOHN SAWYER  
Mayor

SUSAN GORIN  
Vice Mayor

JANE BENDER  
CAROL DEAN  
VERONICA JACOBI  
LEE PIERCE  
Councilmembers

The City of Santa Rosa feels that while much of the longer term solutions that are proposed in the Scoping Plan inherently rely on mass transit as a significant tool in order to succeed, the document itself contains relatively little discussion of the specifics needed to make those transit systems successful. Specifically, the Scoping Plan does not mention the general need to sustain funding for existing transit service, the need to enhance mass transit capacity or increase mass transit coverage, or the need for coordination of transit service with local land use decisions. The Scoping Plan also does not mention how local transit operators might increase fares in a constrained market, or that there is a need to improve marketing efforts and increase access infrastructure to the transit system.

Several times the document implies or explicitly says "public transit will improve", with hardly any reference as to how or with what money. There are also several references in the Scoping Plan to efforts to local government actions that will be required to implement the Scoping Plan, including one asking for local governments to influence the local transportation planning processes to increase the use of transit.

The City of Santa Rosa, being a municipality with land use authority as well as a transit operator, is striving to reduce its own carbon footprint, modify land uses to encourage multi-modal travel, and is struggling to find funding to maintain existing transit service levels while planning for future service enhancements.



We request that the Scoping Plan include more robust descriptions of the role of urban bus transit systems in helping the State reach AB32 greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, including the kind of information described above. Emphasis should be placed on the funding of mass transit service and ideas should be explored for all financing opportunities. Included in that should be an exploration of whether the State can incorporate transit in the Western States Climate Initiative or any carbon credit/offset markets. Some of the largest transit operators in the nation, such as New York MTA, have begun to document their carbon footprint in preparation for entering into the carbon credit market to capitalize on the funding opportunity. The State of California should begin to explore such activities on behalf of all the State's transit agencies, large and small.

The City of Santa Rosa is working alongside the State of California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and we thank you for any tools created to aid us in our collective efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Sawyer", with a stylized, looping initial "J".

JOHN SAWYER  
Mayor