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Breathe California Applauds Adoption of AB 32 Scoping Plan

Sacramento, Calif. – As the California Air Resources Board (CARB) voted to adopt a historic plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California, Breathe California joined environment and public health advocates in applauding the state for their milestone effort to combat climate change.

“Adoption of this strong Scoping Plan for AB 32 will protect public health and improve air quality in California,” said Andy Katz, Government Relations Director for Breathe California. “Scoping Plan programs such as the 33 percent Renewable Portfolio Standard and industrial sector measures will also help protect communities impacted by toxic pollution sources.”

Breathe California hailed adoption of the plan as a key step to improving existing air pollution clean-up programs and protecting public health. According to a CARB public health analysis, the programs included in the Scoping Plan will prevent approximately 300 premature deaths statewide, 9,000 incidences of asthma, and 53,000 lost work days in the state by 2020.

The Scoping Plan also calls for specific regulations to be developed over the next two years, and Breathe California joined other health advocates in cautioning CARB that public health agencies must be involved in developing new regulations to ensure public health is protected. The organization also called for any cap and trade regulations to include a tight cap with strong enforcement to provide real emissions reductions and to require polluters to pay for pollution permits, with revenues invested for further emissions reductions and consumer protection.

Increases in temperature not only harm our environment, but also result in a significant increase in unhealthy air quality days. Hot weather can help facilitate a 30 – 65 percent increase in ambient ozone levels, which can cause asthma attacks and respiratory disease and irritation.

Breathe California is a lung health organization fighting lung disease in California communities through advocacy for clean air, helping kids manage their asthma, tobacco prevention and cessation services, and support to lung disease patients. To learn more, please call 1-877-3-BREATHE or visit www.breathecalifornia.org.

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