

December 11, 2008

## Environmental and Public Health Group Statement Upon Air Resources Board's Adoption of AB 32 Scoping Plan

Today is an historic moment along a path-breaking process.

A representative sample of the 50 or so groups that have been active in this process is here today to mark this important vote. While there may be things we each would have done differently (after all, we *are* environmentalists) – we speak with one voice when we acknowledge that this plan is the best in the country and possibly the world in its comprehensive approach, its focus on real reductions from across the economy, its determination to deliver co-benefits to California and to stimulate investment in a new energy economy. If the rest of the world had a plan more like this, we'd be further down the road to climate stability.

This is a critical moment – the world is in the worst financial crisis anyone under 80 has ever seen – at the same time recent data shows that global warming emissions are accelerating at rates faster than the IPCC's worst-case scenarios. The impacts to California are enormous – loss of snowpack threatens our clean water supply and loss of our beaches is a real possibility over the next few decades. We will see more wildfires and mudslides, loss of forests and other habitat, and our already bad air quality gets worse. Californians are not about to stand by and watch that happen. To these organizations, this battle is personal.

The world has a choice – continue business as usual and face an economic fate far worse than today's, or change course. California's history shows that we can grow the economy and cut greenhouse gas emissions at the same time. Recent analysis shows that the very policies adopted today have saved California consumers \$56 billion over the last 35 years, created 1.5 million fulltime jobs and generated \$45 billion in payroll. We believe the action taken today by the Air Resources Board will lead California and help lead the world to a healthier, safer and more prosperous future.

The groups assembled here, and many others, look forward to working with ARB in the coming two years to improve this plan through the regulatory process – because we believe it can and will be improved – but today we salute the board and the staff for an amazing achievement.

American Lung Association of California

Breathe California

Californians Against Waste

ClimatePlan

Coalition for Clean Air

Environment California

Environmental Defense Fund

Natural Resources Defense Council

Pacific Forest Trust

Planning and Conservation League

Sierra Club California

The Nature Conservancy  
The Wilderness Society  
Trust for Public Land  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Wilderness Society