



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 9, 2021

Liane Randolph  
Chair  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I St., #2828  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Randolph,

California is a global leader in setting ambitious goals to combat climate change and implementing innovative policies and programs that limit greenhouse gas emissions while driving economic growth. Our approach to combating the climate crisis is an international model that builds on a long history of environmental protection and innovation that can only happen here, in California, where the future happens first.

We have shown the world that we can grow our economy while reducing its carbon intensity and shrinking emissions - leading the nation in clean economy jobs and meeting our 2020 climate goal four years early. Moving forward, we now must focus on meeting our 2030 greenhouse gas reduction target – and ultimately to reach carbon neutrality as soon as possible. We are advancing this work by doubling down on unprecedented climate investments that advance equity, affordability, opportunity, and public health – especially in our most disadvantaged communities. The California Comeback Plan proposes critical investments of over \$14 billion to address climate change and build resiliency in our state.


While we can be proud of our sustained progress in California combatting climate change, science demands we do more. Californians are directly

threatened by worsening impacts of climate change. Presently this summer, residents face catastrophic wildfire risks, an intensifying drought, and dangerous, record breaking heat storms. These threats are accelerating and becoming more dangerous—decades before science predicted only a few years ago. Given this emerging climate reality, we must do everything possible to accelerate our climate targets and increase the pace of action to transition to a low-carbon future.

Today, I am requesting that the Air Resources Board evaluate how to achieve carbon neutrality no later than 2035 as part of its 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan. The work should include analysis of how to reduce or eliminate demand for fossil fuel in California and end oil extraction in our state. This work can identify a pathway for achieving carbon neutrality a full decade earlier than the existing target of 2045, which is also being assessed in the Scoping Plan. The pathway to carbon neutrality should prioritize strategies that: reduce emissions of greenhouse gases as well as provide public health co-benefits, include an evaluation of cost effectiveness, and protect against leakage of greenhouse gas emissions to other states as mandated by law. This analysis will ensure California continues to rise to the challenge of setting ambitious climate targets paired with enforceable and comprehensive measures to achieve those targets.

I appreciate your efforts to ensure that California's leadership advances at the urgent pace that the climate crisis demands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California