



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 22, 2022

Liane Randolph  
Chair, California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Randolph:

California is in the midst of a climate crisis. Drought, wildfire, and extreme heat have become everyday realities. We are compelled to do more. That's why we are investing \$54 billion in California's Climate Commitment. With this historic funding, and a laser focus on implementation and acceleration of California's climate goals, we can meet the urgency of the moment.

My Administration's unprecedented all-of-government approach has resulted in a draft of the world's first large-economy plan for carbon neutrality. Through the excellent facilitation and work of the California Air Resources Board and staff, and after significant public comment, the draft 2022 Scoping Plan calls for emissions cuts in every sector of the economy while prioritizing community health and equitable economic growth. Now, because of the severity of the impacts California faces, we need to up our game.

Time and time again, California has shown the world that climate action and economic growth can work hand in hand. The final Scoping Plan must lay out a clear path to achieve both our 2030 climate goal and statewide carbon neutrality no later than 2045. We now need to take even bolder action than outlined in the draft plan. In that spirit, I am establishing the following goals and actions, and ask that they be incorporated into the final Scoping Plan:

## Deploying Offshore Wind

California is home to one of the world's best offshore wind resources in the world and I am confident that this clean, domestic source of electricity can play an important role in meeting our state's growing need for clean energy. The challenges of our time demand bold action today and rigorous and inclusive planning to maximize our potential over the long-term. **That is why I am asking the California Energy Commission to establish a planning goal of at least 20 GW by 2045** in the AB 525 process and to work with our federal partners to accelerate the deployment of offshore wind and account for the needs of all those who use and care about California's precious coastal resources. Together we can build a vibrant offshore wind industry in California that will help reduce air pollution, increase energy independence, and provide new economic opportunities to Californians while protecting the natural legacy of our coastline.

## Clean and Healthy Homes

Buildings are a large source of carbon pollution, and decarbonization of California's buildings must be accelerated to achieve our climate targets. This will also help us reduce harmful air pollution both inside and outside of people's homes. Transforming the market for climate solutions in buildings will lower costs for consumers in California and across the nation while spurring increased domestic manufacturing and installation jobs. **That is why I am establishing a goal of 3 million climate-ready and climate-friendly homes by 2030 and 7 million homes by 2035, which shall be supplemented through the deployment of 6 million heat pumps statewide by 2030. At least fifty percent of the funding to achieve these goals shall be directed toward disadvantaged communities.**

## Moving Away from Fossil Fuels

We must look for greater opportunities to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels to achieve our air quality and climate targets, including in our electricity and transportation sectors. To urgently move away from fossil fuels, and accounting for actions that are underway to preserve reliability and accelerate deployment of clean energy, **I am requesting that state agencies plan for an energy transition that avoids the need for new natural gas plants to meet our long-term energy goals while ensuring reliability and meeting growing demand for electricity.**

California's leadership on zero-emission vehicles, including the forthcoming rule moving to all ZEV sales by 2035, will drastically cut our petroleum demand. Further reducing our dependence on oil will require greater action in sectors directly regulated by the federal government, such as the aviation sector. **I am requesting**

**CARB to adopt an aggressive 20% clean fuels target for the aviation sector.** To meet this demand and continue to diversify fuels away from petroleum in the transportation sector, **I am requesting that CARB evaluate and consider an increase in the stringency of the Low Carbon Fuel Standard and to work with relevant agencies to accelerate refinery transitions away from petroleum to the production of clean fuels.**

### **Drastically Reducing Methane**

**I am requesting that CARB and CalGEM form a Task Force to identify and address methane leaks from oil infrastructure near communities, recognizing the threats these leaks can pose to community health and safety.** Short-lived climate pollutants, such as methane, can also have an outsized impact on climate change in the near term given their potent warming power. This year's budget includes \$100 million to support a network of methane detection satellites and \$100 million for CalGEM to plug orphan oil wells, including wells that are leaking methane. The Task Force should seek the input of community members, air districts and local government entities to take action to address these leaks.

### **Advancing Carbon Removal**

Achieving carbon neutrality will require us to continue to reduce our carbon emissions and ultimately eliminate most of these emissions, while also removing existing carbon from the atmosphere.

Simply put, it will not be possible to eliminate all emissions across our economy, so achieving carbon neutrality will rely on carbon sequestration. Science tells us that removing enough carbon to achieve carbon neutrality relies on both natural and engineered carbon removal. Our lands are currently a source of carbon emissions, and we must prioritize sustainable management of these lands as nature-based solutions to sequester carbon over the long-term. At the same time, engineered carbon removal is clearly needed to achieve the scale of carbon removal required to reach carbon neutrality. State agencies will facilitate safe and equitable engineered carbon removal and capture solutions that help achieve our climate goals while avoiding environmental or community impacts.

Given the need to accelerate development of natural and engineered carbon removal projects across the state, **I request that CARB set a 20 MMT carbon removal target for 2030 and 100 MMT carbon removal target for 2045.**

## **Increasing our Ambition**

The Legislature has been a leader in establishing California's ambitious climate goals and is our indispensable partner in increasing the ambition of those goals and making them a reality in our state. I am committed to working with the Legislature in the coming weeks to make carbon neutrality state law and to increase our ambition towards our 2030 climate goals. To achieve carbon neutrality we need to produce and utilize more zero-carbon, clean energy from sources such as wind, solar, geothermal and hydrogen than ever before. I will ask the Legislature to bring new ambition to the state's clean energy goals.

We know from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that there is no path to carbon neutrality without carbon capture and sequestration. I look forward to partnering with the Legislature to develop policy to support sequestering carbon in natural and working lands, but industrial carbon capture must be included in any complete legislative strategy with careful consideration to its application in the oil and gas industry.

Finally, I look forward to working with the Legislature to finalize our historic \$54 billion climate budget, which embeds equity and economic opportunity throughout our climate agenda. I will continue to prioritize investments in equity and community resilience, while expanding opportunities for climate innovation and manufacturing here in California.

I thank you for your leadership and dedication to addressing California's climate crisis and to centering equity in all our work. I look forward to working with you to finalize the 2022 Scoping Plan later this year. The plan will be an incredibly ambitious and actionable blueprint for climate action in our state.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California

CC: Climate Cabinet