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Photos of the rally and meeting available [here](#).

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Over Two Hundred Californians rally at CARB board meeting to protest oil subsidies and gas expansion in the state's controversial draft Climate Change Scoping Plan

Working families, advocates say state draft plan is grossly out of touch with lived reality in communities that experience suffocating pollution and doubles down on fossil fuels at a time when California needs real climate solutions

Sacramento, CA - June 24, 2022 - Over two hundred residents from across California rallied in Sacramento on Thursday at the first of two scheduled California Air Resources Board (CARB) Board meetings on the controversial draft of the 2022 AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan. At the rally, environmental justice speakers called on the CARB to reject the draft plan which expands production of fossil fuels and instead, direct agency staff to plan for a clean grid; an oil and gas phaseout; and scale up accessible, zero-emissions transit in the final scoping plan in November.

"The state's draft 20 year climate policy blueprint is a huge step backward for California," said Martha Dina Arguello, Co-Chair of CARB's Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. "The plan on the table is grossly out of touch with the lived reality of communities that experience suffocating pollution and doubles down on fossil fuels at a time when California needs real climate solutions. The Board and Governor can and must plan for a full coordinated phaseout of fossil fuels and ensure that the workers and communities most impacted by the fossil fuel industry benefit from the transition. "

Inside the board meeting, residents from Wilmington, South Fontana, Richmond, and Tulare testified to the asthma, cancer, and cardiovascular disease endured by their families as the result of CARB's failure to regulate pollution from transportation corridors, industrial agriculture, refineries, gas power plants, and oil and gas fields across the state. They called on CARB to phase out oil and gas drilling by 2035 and urged state officials to plan for a refinery phaseout so as to equitably transition industry workers and communities by 2045.



“Living near 5 Bay Area refineries, I’ve experienced refinery incidents my whole life,” said Ashley Phuthama, a 17 year old Richmond high school student and youth intern with Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN). In her comment, she described coming home from school during the Phillips 66 refinery explosion. “We saw smoke everywhere. We couldn’t breathe. We were stuck in traffic and couldn’t see the road. The smoke got even worse when I went home because I live closer to the refinery. I was angry and sad and afraid to breathe because every time I did, I felt nauseous and tired. I don’t ever want to feel this way again and I don’t want anyone else to have this experience. I’m here today to call on you to protect our future and plan for a full phaseout of fossil fuels by 2045. I’ve lived in the Bay Area my whole life. It’s my home, my community, my family. I want to stop Chevron, Phillips 66 and other corporations from polluting my safe place.”

Despite the fact that frontline residents traveled hundreds of miles through the night to testify, speakers from fossil fuel front groups and chambers of commerce were allowed to speak first. Many residents from the communities most impacted by industrial pollution did not get an opportunity to speak. Before boarding their buses home, youth and residents streamed into the meeting room to make their voices heard, singing, “people gonna rise like the waters, we gonna calm this crisis down. I hear the voice of my great granddaughter, saying keep it in the ground.” Many of those assembled joined youth and advocates in song and chants.

Other environmental justice advocates and residents testified to the draft plan’s failures to meet the state’s own climate targets. Several speakers referenced the 10 gigawatt expansion of gas power plants and overreliance on carbon capture, usage and sequestration (CCUS) in the plan, despite the 80% failure rate of attempted CCUS projects nationwide. Advocates have pointed out that the projected billions to be spent on polluting power plants, CCUS, and carbon dioxide removal - CDR - is a disastrous, puzzling investment for the state of California given the need for increased investments in clean, renewable energy and mass transit.

“CARB’s draft plan fails on all fronts. It flies in the face of the scientific consensus that we can and must phase out fossil fuels and rapidly transition to clean renewable energy in order to avert the worst case climate scenarios. CARB’s draft plan calls for a massive expansion of polluting gas power plants and extends the life of toxic oil refineries that poison the lungs of local families and fuel the flames of climate change,” said Amparo Miramontes, a mother of two from Fontana and community leader who lodged her public comment at yesterday’s CARB board meeting. “Instead of investing billions in clean renewable energy generation, mass transit and real climate solutions that benefit all Californians, CARB is paving the way for billions in subsidies for oil executives’ unsubstantiated, costly carbon capture projects.”

The rally comes after a month of highly public criticism for CARB and the Governor from environmental justice advocates, members of the scientific community and the press. In the first quarter of 2022 alone, fossil fuel lobbying groups spent \$6 million to influence California climate policy, including support for the use of polluting carbon capture, usage and sequestration (CCUS) in the plan.



During the Board discussion Friday morning, Board members expressed strong support for stronger goals to increase mass transit and reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), and for developing an inter-agency plan to phase out oil production in California. While members expressed concerns about carbon capture and storage and the expansion of gas-fired power plants, the Board has not yet officially directed staff to make these changes to the Scoping Plan.

In September, CARB will hold a joint meeting between the Board and the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee where agency staff will present a sensitivity analysis, including Board-requested adjustments. That analysis will reflect changes to the draft 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update based on Board direction and input from planned listening sessions over the summer.

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The #OurClimateFuture campaign is a collaboration between 10 grassroots and environmental justice organizations that form the [California Environmental Justice Alliance \(CEJA\)](#) and [Regenerate California](#). CEJA members include the [Asian Pacific Environmental Network \(APEN\)](#); [Communities for a Better Environment \(CBE\)](#); [Environmental Health Coalition \(EHC\)](#), [Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Design \(SCOPE\)](#), [Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice \(CCA EJ\)](#), [Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles \(PSR-LA\)](#), the [Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy \(CAUSE\)](#),

Find more quotes from testifying residents [here](#).

Read more at the [campaign website here](#).