

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Contact:**

Alexandra Nagy, 818-633-0865, [alexandra@sunstonestrategies.org](mailto:alexandra@sunstonestrategies.org)

**Quotes: California's Climate Blueprint reflected positive changes after an all day meeting, but advocates warn against over reliance on carbon capture schemes**

*Environmental justice, environmental groups praise new direction from California Air Resources Board while urging the Newsom administration to curb outsized targets for carbon capture in the draft plan*

**Sacramento** – Yesterday, California Air Resources Board held a seven hour meeting with CARB Board members and the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC) on the Scoping Plan, a climate blueprint for how California will reach carbon neutrality by 2045. Following an intense legislative session and months of advocacy from environmental justice and climate organizations, the CARB Scoping Plan Board confirmed important wins in the planning effort 1) to develop an interagency process to phase out oil refining and extraction in California 2) to ensure the plan does not require the build out of 10 GW of new gas plants 3) doubled vehicle miles traveled (VMT) goals in the draft plan.

Despite these important gains, advocates warn that Governor Newsom's insistence on flawed carbon capture schemes will threaten the health of environmental justice communities while enriching fossil fuel companies. After the passage of SB905 to put "guardrails" on carbon capture while fast tracking permitting, the Scoping Plan is an important backstop to ensure communities are not sacrificed for a failed, costly technology that will allow the continued burning of fossil fuels.

Yesterday, [56 groups submitted a letter](#) to the Department of Energy Inspector General to demand an investigation into dark money ties between DTE Energy and Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL) to promote carbon capture schemes in the Scoping Plan, at the legislature, and in schools and community groups. DTE Energy stands to benefit from increased carbon capture use in California, and CARB cites carbon capture research from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to justify mythic levels of carbon capture in the Scoping Plan.

Engineered carbon removal would put tremendous strain on California's electric grid. The California Air Resources Board's Achieving Carbon Neutrality Report's high carbon dioxide removal scenario projected that 80 million metric tons of carbon dioxide removal by 2045 would require 100 Terrawatt hours of energy. That's more than one third of the total electricity produced by California's grid in 2021.

The current draft scoping plan, guided by the Governor's targets, far exceeds that. In a letter to the California Air Resources Board at the end of July, Governor Newsom requested that CARB set a 20 MMT carbon removal target for 2030 and 100 MMT carbon removal target for 2045.

## **STATEMENTS:**

### **Faraz Rizvi, Campaign and Policy Manager, Asian Pacific Environmental Network**

"Yesterday, the Air Resources Board showed real leadership. The Board affirmed their commitment to an interagency working group to plan a petroleum phaseout for refineries and oil extraction, address the growing issue of California's oil exports, and facilitate a just transition for frontline communities and workers. Unfortunately, the draft plan's inclusion of carbon capture on oil refineries undermines California's ability to plan a coordinated phaseout by locking in fossil fuel infrastructure for another 100 years. We urge Governor Newsom to reject climate dead ends like carbon capture and ensure that California can move toward a future beyond oil and gas."

### **Brandon Dawson, Director, Sierra Club California**

"Yesterday, CARB affirmed their commitment to an interagency working group to plan for petroleum phaseout, for refineries and fossil fuel extraction. This step, along with many of the Scoping Plan changes CARB staff presented, are welcome improvements from the Draft Plan and were the result of tireless advocacy from a broad coalition of environmental and environmental justice organizations. But the Board and staff must continue working to take seriously the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee's other concerns and recommendations presented yesterday and take further steps to slow the climate crisis and prioritize frontline communities."

### **Martha Dina Arguello, Co-Chair, Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility**

"California cannot simultaneously phase out fossil fuels and at the same time facilitate costly carbon capture projects that lock in fossil fuel infrastructure. Carbon capture brings more burdens and dangers to already overburdened frontline communities, including risks of carbon dioxide leaks, groundwater contamination, and increased air pollution. We must reduce our reliance on carbon capture in the California Climate Change Scoping Plan. With the passage of AB 905, the legislature left it to the California Air Resources Board to develop the permitting infrastructure for carbon capture projects. The environmental justice movement exists because guardrails have always failed us. We are counting on Governor Newsom and the California Air Resources Board to minimize our dependence on dead end carbon capture technologies, prevent further harm, and protect public health."

### **Mabel Tsang, Political Director of the California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA)**

"Yesterday's Board meeting shows us that our state climate and air regulators may deliver the strongest Climate Change Scoping Plan yet. We applaud CARB Members' support for an interagency fossil fuel phaseout taskforce, no new gas plants, and doubled transportation targets. With real solutions on the table, we urge the Governor's office and CARB leadership to revise their standing targets for carbon capture in the draft plan. Carbon capture, usage and storage is not California's climate silver bullet -- it's Big Oil's lucrative greenwashing scheme that will keep us hooked on industrial pollution for the next century. We look forward to working with the Governor and CARB leadership to protect the health and clean air of all Californians."

**Baani Behniwal, Natural Sequestration Initiative Manager, The Climate Center:**

"We are encouraged by the Newsom administration and CARB's continued focus on natural climate solutions in the Scoping Plan. Natural carbon sequestration is the only way to draw down past climate pollution from the atmosphere this decade while making California more resilient to drought, heat, and wildfires. We urge CARB to re-evaluate their modeling on natural carbon sequestration and avoid investing in expensive, failed carbon capture and storage experiments that perpetuate pollution in frontline communities."

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