



June 5, 2013

Mary Nichols, Chairperson
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Transportation Coalition Proposal in Cap and Trade Investment Plan

Dear Chairperson Nichols:

Over 60 organizations from across the state -- ranging from transportation and rail agencies to business and environmental groups – are writing in support of the proposal submitted by the Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities. This proposal would allocate funds equitably to regional governments to establish a competitive grant process for local entities, under state criteria, to incentivize integrated strategies that combine land use changes with infrastructure investments at the neighborhood scale to achieve greatest long term greenhouse gas emission (GHG) benefits.

Unique from other funding proposals, the Transportation Coalition's proposal would stimulate local innovation and flexibility to get the greatest GHG reductions and best overall benefits for communities – while cost effectively meeting the goals of AB 32 and supporting co-benefits including: air quality, public health, resource protection, equity, affordable housing, agriculture, and safety.

This proposal integrates livable community infrastructure, maintenance, and operations of the transportation system to maximize GHG reductions from combinations of strategies – rather than single purpose investments. It also would leverage investments in rail modernization, interregional plans, and other funding mechanisms to encourage more sustainable growth and transportation infrastructure.

California faces a significant shortage in funds to maintain our existing transportation system, and lacks adequate funding to build an active transportation network. This proposal would provide funding for livable community investments to meet the challenges of increasing development in existing urban and developed areas to meet the requirements of SB 375. This proposal would fund GHG-reducing investments at the local level that implement regional Sustainable Communities Strategies within existing urbanized or developed areas – while also helping local governments meet critical sustainable transportation infrastructure and maintenance needs.

We support the Transportation Coalition's proposal for combinations of transportation investments, including: transit service, operating, and maintenance costs; road and bridge maintenance; retrofits for complete streets and urban greening; and clean technology infrastructure – all integrated with land use changes to achieve the maximum greenhouse gas emission reductions from the transportation sector.

This proposal is consistent with AB 32, SB 375, and the provisions of AB 1532 and SB 535 --- and most equitably and effectively meets the transportation and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals of the state and local communities. We request that this proposal be considered in the Investment Plan.

Cap and trade revenue is public money resulting from the administration of AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act. It must be spent to implement that law. We believe the Transportation Coalition's proposal provides the most public and local community benefits while achieving the most cost effective implementation of AB 32.

Thank you for your consideration to include funding for this proposal in the AB 32 Investment Plan.

Sincerely,

Southern California Agencies

County of San Bernardino
Western Riverside Council of Governments
San Diego Council of Governments*
Southern California Association of Governments*

Central Coast Agencies

County of Monterey
Transportation Agency for Monterey County
Central Coast Coalition:
– Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
– Council of San Benito County Governments
– Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
– Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
– San Luis Obispo Council of Governments

San Joaquin Valley Agencies

Kern Council of Governments
Merced County Association of Governments
Madera County Transportation Commission
County of Stanislaus
San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council*

Northern California Agencies

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Humboldt County Association of Governments
Placer County Transportation Planning Agency
Shasta Regional Transportation Agency
El Dorado County Transportation Commission
City of Sacramento
City of Davis
County of Marin
County of Santa Clara
County of Sacramento
County of Napa
Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency
Napa Valley Transportation Authority
Sonoma County Transportation Authority /
Regional Climate Protection Authority
Alameda County Transportation Commission
Sacramento Area Council of Governments*
Metropolitan Transportation Commission*
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District*

Transit Agencies

Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority
San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority
Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority
San Mateo County Transit District
Victor Valley Transit Authority
OmniTrans - San Bernardino Valley
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
Santa Monica Big Blue Bus
California Transit Association*

Business & Group Associations

United Contractors
Bay Area Council
Urban Counties Caucus
Teichert
California Alliance for Jobs*
Transportation California*
California State Association of Counties*
League of California Cities*
Self-Help Counties Coalition*
California Association of Councils of Governments*
American Planning Association – California Chapter*
American Council of Engineering Companies of California

Non-Profits & Individual Support

Local Government Commission
WALKS Sacramento
Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
Richmond SPOKES
California Urban Forests Council
Sacramento Tree Foundation
Sustainable Napa County
Sacramento 350
Met Sacramento High School
Cobblestone Placemaking
Marlon Boarnet, Director of Graduate Programs in
Planning and Development, USC
Natural Resources Defense Council*
Environmental Defense Fund*
California Center for Sustainable Energy*
American Lung Association in California*