



CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

June 3, 2013

Honorable Darrell Steinberg
Senate President pro Tem
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable John A. Pérez
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Invest AB 32 Auction Revenues in Disadvantaged Communities

Dear President pro Tem Steinberg and Speaker Pérez,

We are writing to express the Latino Caucus' opposition to the Governor's proposal to loan \$500 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to the General Fund. Our districts, whether urban or rural, are ground zero for the adverse impacts of humanity's climate crisis. Our constituents have waited far too long to be included in statewide efforts to combat climate change, improve public health, and promote a vibrant green economy. This is not simply a budget matter - it is a matter of justice - of right and wrong. The Governor's proposal thwarts the purpose of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and breaks the promise of AB 32 (Nuñez-Pavley, 2006), AB 1532 (Pérez, 2012), and SB 535 (de León, 2012) to invest in and protect neighborhoods disproportionately suffering from pollution and poverty. To the extent that funds are available in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, we request that they be dedicated to those communities identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) as most impacted by poor air quality.

Our constituents exceedingly suffer from pollution-related illnesses and have yet to realize the benefits of our slow recovering economy. Voters of color turned out in force to protect AB 32 when it was under attack by Proposition 23 and turned the tide that swept our country in that election. These same voters represented Governor Brown's victory margin in 2010. They showed up at the polls in force in part because of the promise that California's leadership would bring clean energy investments to polluted and struggling communities. At a time when we are perilously close to exceeding the emissions threshold that many scientists consider irreversible, this is simply the wrong time to betray the public's expectations of a brighter, cleaner tomorrow.

The CalEPA has identified the neighborhoods with the most pollution and poverty. These are areas that are not only impacted by greenhouse gas emissions, but by short-lived climate pollutants such as soot and methane. These pollutants can have greater negative health impacts and can cause the Earth to warm more quickly. Direct reductions that reverse these impacts must also be a priority in all discussions related to improving air quality. The health of millions of Californians depends on it.

Chair: Sen. Ricardo Lara

Vice Chair: Asm. V. Manuel Pérez

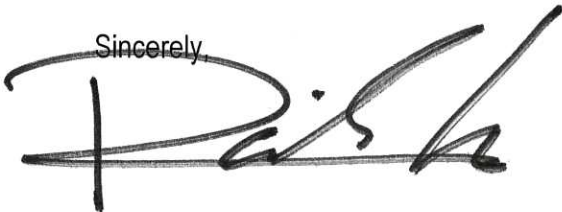
Senators: Ron Calderon, Lou Correa, Kevin De León, Ed Hernández, Alex Padilla, Michael J. Rubio *Assembly Members:* Luis Alejo, Raul Bocanegra, Ian Calderon, Nora Campos, Cristina Garcia, Jimmy Gomez, Roger Hernández, Ben Hueso, Jose Medina, Henry T. Perea, Speaker John A. Pérez, Sharon Quirk-Silva, Anthony Rendon, Rudy Salas, Susan Talamantes Eggman, Norma J. Torres

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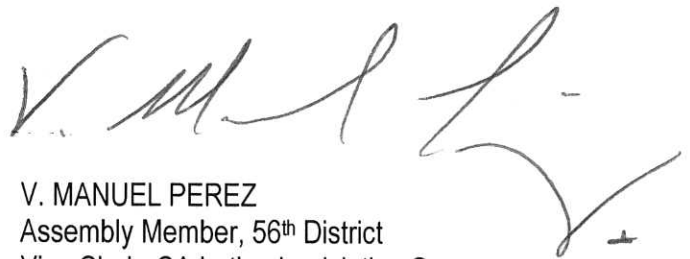
The Air Resources Board, through an extensive community stakeholder process, has identified the existing, shovel-ready, near-term greenhouse gas reduction programs that will generate immediate improvements to public health and job creation. All of these programs address critical needs in our underserved communities. We must not wait another year before beginning to meet those needs. The 3-year Investment Plan was developed with extensive public process and input. Let us honor that process and ensure that this hard work bears fruit in the form of meaningful change for the communities that need it the most.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or would like additional information do not hesitate to contact us or Willie Guerrero, the Latino Caucus' consultant, at (916) 651-1535.

Sincerely,



RICARDO LARA
Senator, 33rd District
Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus



V. MANUEL PEREZ
Assembly Member, 56th District
Vice Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus



LUIS A. ALEJO
Assembly Member, 30th District
Chair, CLLC Budget & Policy Committee

cc: Budget Conference Committee Members