

December 17, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

As our state reels under the interlinked climate, COVID-19, and racial and economic justice crises, you and your Air Resources Board (ARB) have before you critical decisions that promise to shape one of the most crucial components of our state's response to all of these issues: the next California clean vehicles rule. As conservation, environmental justice, community, health, youth, and civic organizations representing millions of Californians, we ask you to clean up the California passenger-vehicle fleet at the speed and in the manner that science and justice demand. To do so, we ask you to direct the Air Resources Board to:

- Adopt standards that will require 100% zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) sales for all passenger vehicles by no later than 2030, and significant pollution reductions from all other cars and light trucks sold over the next decade — including a minimum 7% annual decrease in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Accelerate rulemaking efforts to allow new standards to take effect no later than model year 2024.
- Pursue measures that promote equity and a just, green economic recovery by creating good, family-supporting jobs, ensuring that low-income communities of color have greater and more equitable access to zero emission vehicles and their associated benefits, and collaborating with other state and local agencies to improve public transportation and ensure safety and accessibility of our streets for non-motorized transit.

The Next Clean Cars Rule Must Require 100% ZEV Sales by 2030 and Minimum 7% Annual Reductions in GHG Emissions Until 2030

Research shows that achieving 100% ZEV sales by 2035 is insufficient for California to reach carbon neutrality by 2045. Waiting until 2035 to phase out combustion vehicles means that those vehicles could remain on California roads until 2055 or later. California can only meet its climate targets if all new cars and light-duty trucks sold in the state in 2030 and beyond produce zero emissions.¹ In addition to requiring 100% ZEV sales by 2030, the next car standards must ensure that the remaining fossil-fuel vehicles sold over the next decade are cleaner. Mandating a 7% annual emissions reduction, increased from the roughly 5% annual improvement of the California-Obama standards, will help California meet its climate goals and air quality standards.

¹ Fleming, John, All-Electric Drive: How California's Climate Success Depends on Zero-emission Vehicles, Center for Biological Diversity (2020).

The Rule Must Take Effect by MY 2024

The key to accelerating ZEV mandates and emission standards is to accelerate the rulemaking and the effective date of these new standards. There is no legal or technical argument for delaying new standards until model year 2027 vehicles. Delaying the effective date of the rule is incompatible with achieving the acceleration that, as noted above, is undeniably necessary to meet our climate and air quality targets. Moreover, making the rule effective beginning in model year 2024 means that achieving 100% ZEV sales within six years by 2030 is only slightly more ambitious than waiting until 2027 and taking eight years to achieve 100% by 2035. We ask you to direct ARB to accelerate work on the rule now, complete it expeditiously in 2021, and have it take effect beginning with model year 2024 vehicles.

The Rule Should Prioritize Equity and Advance a Just, Green Economic Recovery

The transition to 100% clean vehicles is a tremendous opportunity to create family-supporting, high-road jobs. ARB should work with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and other agencies to expand opportunities for communities of color and low-income communities, including increased access to high-quality jobs with benefits in the clean transportation sector. Measures should also be taken to promote increased domestic production along the supply chain while helping to ensure that new jobs created in electric vehicle manufacturing and charging installation are good union jobs.

In speeding ZEV adoption, ARB must also ensure low-income communities and communities of color have greater access to zero-emission vehicles. These communities have been worst hit by on-road, drilling, and refinery pollution and emphasis should be placed on ensuring that these same communities can benefit from new zero emission technology first and foremost. ARB must expand its clean mobility equity pilot programs by prioritizing funding and resources that will result in early access to clean mobility options in environmental justice communities. For example, the Clean Vehicle Rebate Project should be set aside for low- and moderate-income consumers exclusively and the Clean Vehicle Assistance Program's grants and affordable-financing programs should be expanded for lower-income buyers.

With the climate emergency worsening each day, there is no time for delays. This new rulemaking will be critical locally, nationally, and globally. As the world's fifth-largest economy, California must continue to lead the way to decarbonize the passenger-vehicle fleet at the speed required by science and justice. We can and must accelerate the transition to a zero-emission fleet of vehicles, and mandate cleaner petroleum vehicles in the interim, but such an effort will require strong leadership from you.

Sincerely,

1. Laura Neish, 350 Bay Area
2. Alan Weiner, 350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley
3. Laurie Litman, 350 Sacramento

4. Nicole Kemeny, 350 Silicon Valley
5. Sherry Lear, 350 South Bay Los Angeles
6. Barbara Sattler, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
7. Linda Seeley, Biodiversity First!
8. Marj Plumb, Breast Cancer Action
9. Katherine Hoff, Center for Biological Diversity
10. Linda Rudolph, Center for Climate Change and Health
11. Michael Green, Center for Environmental Health
12. Ingrid Brostrom, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment
13. Kevin Hamilton, Central California Asthma Collaborative
14. Nayamin Martinez, Central California Environmental Justice Network
15. Catherine Garoupa White, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
16. Daniel O'Connell, Central Valley Partnership
17. Matthew Vasilakis, Climate Action Campaign
18. Liz Beall, Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas
19. RL Miller, Climate Hawks Vote
20. Ashley McClure, Climate Health Now
21. Michael Zelniker, Climate Reality Project Los Angeles Chapter
22. Karen Bowers, Coast Democratic Club
23. Bahram Fazeli, Communities for a Better Environment
24. Michael Marx, Corporate Ethics International
25. Dori Smith, Democrats of the Desert, Board of Directors
26. Paul Cort, Earthjustice
27. Lisa Fredrikson, Eastern Plumas Indivisible
28. Sherry Drobner, El Cerrito Progressives
29. Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League
30. Bill Allayaud, Environmental Working Group
31. Alexandra Nagy, Food & Water Watch
32. Ben Gould, Fossil Free California
33. Ronald Martin, Fresnans against Fracking
34. Jim Lindburg, Friends Committee on Legislation of California
35. Nicole Ghio, Friends of the Earth
36. Triana Arnold James, Georgia NOW
37. Caroline Henderson, Greenpeace USA
38. Isabella Zizi, Idle No More SF Bay
39. Ellen Gorbunoff, Indivisible Beach Cities
40. Kathy Lass, Indivisible San Francisco
41. Rebecca Elliot, Indivisible San Jose
42. Doug Bender, Indivisible South Bay LA
43. Indivisible Ventura
44. Ann Kennedy, La Jolla Democratic Club
45. Joe Uehlein, Labor Network for Sustainability

46. Alice Stevens, Long Beach 350
47. Dave Shukla, Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
48. Karen Reside, Long Beach Gray Panthers
49. Susan Hopp, Marin Water Coalition
50. Mariquita Anderson, Minnesota NOW
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60. David Braun, Rootskeeper
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62. Rebecca August, Safe Energy Now, North County
63. Robert Gould, San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
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66. Grace Feldmann, Santa Barbara Standing Rock Coalition
67. Pauline Seales, Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
68. Ara Marderosian, Sequoia ForestKeeper®
69. Jack Eidt, SoCal 350 Climate Action
70. Wilder Zeiser, Stand.earth
71. Steve Nadel, Sunflower Alliance
72. Danielle Platt, Sunrise Movement Bay Area
73. Alexander Han, Sunrise San Diego
74. Jennifer Savage, Surfrider Foundation
75. Ellie Cohen, The Climate Center
76. Ranwa Hammamy, Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California
77. Monica Bond, Wild Nature Institute
78. Mati Waiya, Wishtoyo Foundation
79. Dulce Arias, Youth Vs Apocalypse
80. Doug Linney, ZEV2030

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