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May 19, 2021

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The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Speaker of the California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: 2021-22 State Budget May Revision Air Quality Funding**

Dear Governor Newsom, President Pro Tempore Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

On behalf of the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), representing the Executive Officers from all 35 local air districts, I am writing to express support for air quality funding provided in the 2021-2022 State Budget May Revision. Given the enormous challenges California is facing to meet health-based air quality attainment standards and in reducing air pollution and toxics in disproportionately affected communities, we appreciate that air quality and public health are prioritized for funding.

As you know, the local air districts play a pivotal role in ensuring the state's air quality goals are met. At a statewide and regional level these goals include attaining the health-protective national and state ambient air quality standards, reducing air toxics, and working closely with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to implement AB 617 and the state's climate change programs. At a local level, ensuring community health is protected from the effects of air pollution is also paramount.

## **Carl Moyer/AB 923 Incentive Programs Reauthorization & AB 8 Clean Air Programs Funding Extension**

We support extension of clean air program funding that was reauthorized in 2013 by AB 8 (Perea and Skinner). These programs, which include the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program (Carl Moyer program) and AB 923 local incentives program, are critical to meeting California's clean air goals and we sincerely appreciate that recognition and commitment. In cooperation with CARB, air districts administer the highly successful Carl Moyer program, which provides incentives to private businesses and public agencies to voluntarily clean up older, dirtier vehicles and mobile off-road engines. Since its inception in 1998, the Carl Moyer program has enabled the replacement, scrapping or repower of over 68,000 engines resulting in reduction of more than 194,000 tons of Nitrogen Oxides and Reactive Organic Gases, which contribute to smog formation and reduction of over 7,100 tons of particulate matter – an air toxic<sup>1</sup>. The local AB 923 incentives program provides funding for school bus replacements, agricultural equipment, light duty vehicle scrapping programs and Carl Moyer qualifying projects. This critical funding is essential for reaching our federal and state health protective air quality attainment standards. Reauthorizing these two programs, which are primarily locally operated, efficient, effective and address local conditions and priorities, is essential to meeting California's clean air goals. We strongly support approving the proposal in this legislative year which will allow for programs to continue seamlessly, help inform State Implementation Plan development, provide business certainty and a clear signal for continued private investment in California's clean air future.

## **Assembly Bill 617 Community Air Protection Program Funding**

The air districts have been working diligently and will continue efforts with communities to implement this worthy community-focused program that will improve the lives of people in communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution. We are pleased that the May Revision provides \$265 million for incentives to clean up pollution in AB 617 communities. However, considering the budget surplus and the enormous need, we urge you to increase funding for this important air quality program. Additionally, we appreciate the May Revision retains the \$50 million in funding for AB 617 implementation proposed in the January Budget. Unfortunately, this amount continues to be insufficient to cover air district costs incurred implementing this state mandated program, nor does it account for communities that have been added to the program. It is critical that both implementation and incentive funding be sufficient and ongoing in order to achieve program success.

## **Agricultural Diesel Replacement and Upgrades**

The Funding for Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) program provides funding through local air districts to reduce emissions from agricultural harvesting equipment, heavy-duty trucks, agricultural pump engines, tractors and other equipment used in agricultural and forestry operations. Incentives for purchasing the cleanest

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<sup>1</sup> 2019 CARB Carl Moyer Program Statistics Report

available vehicles and equipment are crucial to achieving emission reductions of criteria air pollutants, toxic air contaminants and greenhouse gases from the agricultural and forestry sectors necessary to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards in nonattainment areas and fulfill California's climate change goals. We appreciate that the FARMER program has been prioritized for funding, with \$213 million in the 2021-22 budget year and \$150 million in 2022-23. With the significant budget surplus and enormous need, however, we urge you to further increase funding for this important air quality program.

### **Wildfire Prevention and Smoke Response**

Prescribed fire is a highly effective tool in reducing wildfire risk. Recognizing this, SB 1260 (Jackson; Chapter 624, Statutes of 2018) created a program to expand opportunities to implement prescribed burning as a land management tool by increasing monitoring, public outreach, and other related work. CAPCOA supports the \$2 million provided in the proposed budget for continuance of this program, and advocates for its expansion to include increased smoke monitoring, training for Air Resources Advisors to coordinate smoke activities, better coordination and activity tracking across agencies that regulate prescribed burning, and public outreach, all of which will be critical for meeting the goal of treating one million acres of vegetation annually beginning 2025 as identified in the recently signed U.S. Forest Service/California Memorandum of Understanding. While the initial investment has been modest, activities implemented under this program have and will continue to result in significant public health and safety benefits. Additional and continued investment will go a long way to preventing future devastating wildfires.

### **Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Program**

CARB data shows that without significant reductions in emissions from residential wood combustion, it is forecast to be the largest individual man made or anthropogenic source of black carbon in 2030, accounting for a quarter of anthropogenic black carbon emissions. Residents throughout California would benefit from a well-funded voluntary incentive program to replace inefficient and uncertified wood heating devices with cleaner certified heating devices. Replacing an uncertified device with a cleaner, certified device can cost-effectively provide quantifiable reductions of greenhouse gases and short-lived climate pollutants, as well as PM2.5 emissions, which has serious negative health effects, providing long-term climate and localized public health benefits. We would like to take this opportunity to express our support for the funding for this program proposed by the Senate.

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
The Honorable Toni Atkins  
The Honorable Anthony Rendon

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CAPCOA is committed to reducing air pollution in California and ensuring that every one of the state's 40 million residents can breathe clean, healthful air. Thank you for your commitment to clean air and for considering our perspective. Should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (530) 274-9360, extension 502, or our Legislative Advocate, Brendan Twohig at (916) 492-9363.

Sincerely,



Gretchen Bennitt  
President

Cc: The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review  
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget  
The Honorable Jim Nielsen, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review  
The Honorable Vince Fong, Vice Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget  
The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection and Energy  
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation  
Members of Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2  
Members of Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3  
Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary for Environmental Protection  
Liane M. Randolph, Chair, California Air Resources Board  
Christine Hironaka, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom  
Kate Gordon, Director, Office of Planning and Research and Climate Advisor to Governor Newsom  
Matt Almy, Program Budget Manager, Natural Resources, Environment and Capital Outlay