



AB 32 Implementation Group



Working Toward Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions
And Enhancing California's Competitiveness

For Immediate Release
May 21, 2008

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BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PROPOSAL WILL MAKE BAY AREA BUSINESSES LESS COMPETITIVE

SAN FRANCISCO -- The AB 32 Implementation Group, a coalition of over 150 organizations representing companies that provide millions of jobs throughout the state, today opposed a new climate change fee proposed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) because it duplicates the state's global warming law (AB 32), puts local businesses at a competitive disadvantage and does nothing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Shelly Sullivan, AB 32 Implementation Group, Executive Director stated, "Governor Schwarzenegger signed the most aggressive global warming law in the country which gives the California Air Resources Board the authority to develop a statewide plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The BAAQMD approach is a patchwork effort that duplicates, and so far, has been inconsistent with the state's efforts. The bottom line is this BAAQMD plan will not reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but it will create new and onerous regulations on Bay Area companies. Further, it will make Bay Area businesses less competitive because businesses outside the region will not face similar costs."

CARB has been charged with the overall development and implementation of AB 32 in order to reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions. It is in the process of creating a draft scoping plan that will ultimately be the blueprint for California to reach the greenhouse gas emission reductions goals by 2050. Attempts to pre-empt CARB's implementation efforts are shortsighted, at best.

Efforts by the district would ultimately impose climate change regulations that create duplication and contradiction. For example, the district proposes to create its own separate inventory and reporting system for greenhouse gases which is different and inconsistent with the mandatory reporting system CARB approved in December 2007. This means Bay Area companies will have to report their greenhouse gas emissions to CARB, the US-EPA and to the BAAQMD – each with its own different and conflicting set of forms, procedures and each with its own fee schedule.

"Our organization, respectfully suggests BAAQMD, gives CARB the time it needs to produce a plan that will work for all California. Implementing AB 32 is too important to get wrong, this is an undertaking all cities and counties in California must work together in order to achieve greenhouse gas emission reduction goals," Sullivan concluded.