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Business Leaders: California Still Headed in Right Direction *Updated AB 32 Scoping Plan keeps state on track beyond 2020*

Sacramento, Calif. – Oct. 1, 2013 – Business leaders representing thousands of small- to medium-sized companies across California gave a nod today to a proposal designed to kick off discussions around how the state will cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions beyond the year 2020. Today’s release of the [AB 32 Scoping Plan Discussion Draft](#) – a roadmap to reach the goals of the state’s landmark clean energy and climate law – marks a first step toward cutting GHG emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050 in California. The Discussion Draft also shows that the state is on track to meet its 2020 emissions reductions goals.

“The Scoping Plan is not unlike a strategic plan that businesses across California develop and operate under on a daily basis. In fact, business knows best that industries must adapt and evolve in order to stay relevant and competitive. We wouldn’t survive unless we were constantly looking for ways to reduce operating costs, increase sales, and turn a profit – in the short- and long-term,” said **Susan Frank, director of the California Business Alliance for a Green Economy**.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) first released the original [AB 32 Scoping Plan in 2008](#). That plan acts as a blueprint for the state to meet its GHG emissions goals out to the year 2020. The state is required to update the plan every five years. The Board is anticipated to consider approval of the new draft update to the Scoping Plan in the spring of 2014 following a series of public workshops and CARB meetings in October and December.

Longtime opponents of AB 32, most associated with outmoded forms of energy, who launched several unsuccessful efforts to derail the state’s groundbreaking clean energy standards - [including the failed Proposition 23 effort in 2010](#) - are expected to use this process to recycle the same old “sky is falling” talking points about AB 32. California voters soundly defeated Prop. 23, with 61.6 percent voting against it. Prop. 23 received more “no” votes than any other measure in the 2010 election.

“Despite how some well-funded groups may disparage the bold thinking in the plan, there are dozens of business groups – local chambers of commerce, small business organizations and cleantech investors and businesses – that are steadfast supporters of AB 32 and the long-term vision for beyond 2020,” said **Tom Bowman, president and founder of Bowman Design Group** and founding member of the Business Alliance.

“California is making enormous progress to increase building and appliance efficiency, add more electricity from renewable sources, require carmakers to build cleaner cars, require fuel makers to sell cleaner fuels, and help regional governments plan smarter, healthier communities,” said **Hank Ryan, board member and former executive director of Small Business California**, and a founding member of the Business Alliance. “These are all smart

economic choices and business owners and entrepreneurs who are invested in their local communities support these efforts.”

“Right now, we’re facing extraordinary challenges and we need extraordinary innovation. Thankfully, California has thus far been more than up to the task due to strong leadership and strategic vision to transform our economy to one that runs on clean and renewable energy. Silicon Valley’s entrepreneurs, inventors and investors are taking advantage of this – moving rapidly to bring new ideas to the marketplace to solve today’s challenges of poor air quality, water insecurity, changing weather and rising seas. We must do all that we can to support a strong economy and job growth while also helping business owners address real world problems,” said **Mike Mielke, vice president with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group.**

“In five years, for example, smart phones and tablets have gone from imagination to mainstream. Electric vehicles – once fodder for Hollywood movies – have exceeded sales expectations, driven mainly by consumers who want freedom from gasoline price spikes and high carbon emissions. Technology is thriving because the marketplace and the regulatory environment are moving in harmony together toward efficiency, convenience, performance, affordability, and reliability,” said **Nancy Pfund, managing partner, DBL Investors.**

“We consider California a great place to live, work, and raise a family. It’s also a great place to build a business. There’s a common misnomer that all business despises regulations. We don’t relish in new demands, but this is the point at which industry rises to the challenge – and has been doing so successfully for many years,” said **Holly Smithson, president and COO of CleanTECH San Diego.**

“As business leaders, at the end of the day, our main commitment is to ensure that we can service our customers, manufacture our products, keep our staff employed, and bring home a profit. Like our strategic plans are helping us meet our goals, the state’s Scoping Plan keeps our state on the right track to meeting its goals as well,” said **Ruben Guerra, chairman and CEO of the Latin Business Association.**

Editor’s Note: Please contact BreAnda Northcutt or Roxanna Smith to schedule an interview with any of the above quoted individuals.

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About the California Business Alliance:

The California Business Alliance for a Green Economy (www.ca-greenbusinessalliance.com) is a network of more than 1,260 mostly small and mainstream businesses that support California’s efforts to promote clean energy, fossil fuel independence, and energy efficiency, which spur investment, innovation, and economic growth in our state while protecting our economy from the volatility of fossil fuel prices and the hidden costs of climate change.