



February 6th, 2018

To: All Legislators

From: Sustainable Communities for All Coalition

RE: Cap-and-Trade Expenditure Proposal

On Friday, January 26th, Governor Brown unveiled his annual greenhouse gas cap and trade expenditure proposal. As a coalition of ten housing, transportation, and conservation organizations dedicated to equitable and integrated investments that benefit all Californians, we are pleased with much of the Governor’s proposal. However, crucial pieces are missing and there remains a lack of continuity and integration within the programs.

We applaud Governor Brown’s continued support for integrated investments in green affordable housing and public transportation. These investments provide a large part of what many Californians need to sustain themselves in a changing climate.

These continuous appropriations programs highlighted by the governor — Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities, Transit and Intercity Rail Capital, and the Low Carbon Transit Operations — are highly successful and vital, especially for resource-poor households and communities throughout California. They directly address the climate change impacts of California’s transportation system, which is responsible for half of the state’s GHG emissions and some of the worst air pollution levels in the country.

However, the Governor’s proposal falls short in helping those who suffer most directly and significantly from the impacts of climate change: Californians struggling to make ends meet.

We urge the Legislature to continue its history of investing in a fully-integrated suite of GHG reduction programs that prioritize our most disadvantaged communities and households throughout California. Though the Governor’s plan highlights integration, it leaves out key programs that are vital to a truly community-focused portfolio, in particular:

- Low Income Weatherization
- Urban Forestry
- Urban Greening
- Active Transportation
- Student Transit Passes

Rather than strong GGRF investment in these programs, the Governor relies on smaller, short-term revenues from other sources. However, maximizing investments in successful programs through the GGRF along with other resources is a smarter strategy. For instance, the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) is slated to receive hundreds of millions in transportation dollars, as well as substantial GGRF investment. Like the TIRCP, the aforementioned programs successfully provide vital services to millions of Californians; they need additional GGRF support to achieve their full pollution-reducing potential.

Bottom line: The Legislature and Administration should reinvest climate funds in sustainable communities for all Californians. Sustainable communities connect residents with each other and to opportunities to work, learn and play locally. Sustainable communities integrate affordable transportation and housing options with green infrastructure while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with state goals. Sustainable communities should be available to all Californians, including low-income families and people in disadvantaged communities who need assistance to access their benefits without facing displacement.

See our recommended investments to achieve this vision on page 3, and contact information on page 4.

Sustainable Communities for All is a coalition of nonprofit transportation, conservation, housing, and social justice organizations dedicated to ensuring that cap and trade proceeds are invested in ways that benefit all Californians, particularly our most disadvantaged communities and people.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR ALL COALITION

Recommended California Climate Investments for 2018-19 Budget

Sustainable Housing and Transportation

California's car-centered transportation is the single largest greenhouse gas emissions source in the state — half of our total emissions, according to the Governor. In addition to greenhouse gas emissions, California's transportation infrastructure disproportionately impacts disadvantaged communities and communities of color throughout the state, by causing and exacerbating dangerous levels of localized air pollution, creating unsafe corridors for people trying to get where they need to go, causing nearly impenetrable traffic congestion, and preventing people from accessing opportunities for school and work. And our state's skyrocketing housing prices continue to lock people out of places where transit, biking and walking are most accessible.

Luckily, we have developed programs that can effectively address these interconnected problems. Public transportation and active transportation investments provide affordable alternatives to driving, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, improve the health, safety, and quality of life for our most vulnerable neighbors and neighborhoods, and open up opportunities for all Californians. Weatherization and solar power are essential for lowering household utility bills, especially as Californians prepare for another summer of extreme heat waves. Green, affordable housing allows more people the chance to improve their living conditions, save money, and access real transportation choices. California's GGRF investments should continue through:

- **Low-Income Weatherization Program**
- *Transformative network projects in the **Active Transportation Program (ATP)***
- *Free or reduced fare **Student Transit Passes** for K-12 and public college and university students*
- *A sustainable minimum amount for the **Low Carbon Transit Operations Program***
- **Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities**
- **Transit and Intercity Rail Capital**

Natural Resources

California's natural and working lands — its forests, urban forests and green space, wetlands, rangelands and farms — provide critical greenhouse gas reductions and other public benefits. These resources remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it in their vegetation and soil. It is estimated that up to 17% of the state's 2030 greenhouse gas reduction goal could be met through the management and conservation of these resources. In addition to GHG reductions, they provide a host of other essential public and environmental benefits in rural and urban communities, including enhanced water and air quality, protection against sea level rise and urban heat island impacts, and food security, among others. These resources also provide the critical elements needed to address climate adaptation and resiliency across communities throughout California. Investments in these resources should be meaningful and sustained and should include:

- **Urban Forestry and Urban Greening**

Thank you for considering our recommended investments. For more information, please contact:

Active Transportation Program

Linda Khamoushian: linda@calbike.org

Low Income Weatherization Program

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Urban and Community Forestry Program

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Student Transit Passes

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Low Carbon Transit Operations Program

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Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities

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Urban Greening Program

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Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program

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