



July 24, 2014

The Honorable Henry Perea
California State Capitol
Room 3120
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via Electronic Mail: Minnie.Santillan@asm.ca.gov, Evan.corder@asm.ca.gov

Re: AB 69 – OPPOSE

On behalf of thousands of our members and supporters we are writing to express our great concern about your legislation, AB 69, which proposes to delay the implementation of AB 32 for fuels. We need to work together to strengthen AB 32 not to weaken it or delay it.

Transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in California. Emissions from combustion of fossil fuel also account for one of the most significant public health threats facing low-income communities of color. Pollutants from fossil fuel combustion in vehicles cause cancer, asthma, cardiovascular disease, and birth defects among other adverse health impacts. Vulnerable residents such as children, pregnant women, elderly, and people with existing medical conditions will suffer more severely from impacts of pollution. Pollution significantly lowers people's quality of life and creates additional stress in communities that are already overburdened.

We appreciate that your office has raised equity issues related to implementation of AB32. In fact, we have raised equity issues since the inception of AB 32, and we believe that AB 32 implementation needs to be strengthened to deliver on its original promise of equity. Throughout the implementation phase, we have proposed various regulatory mechanisms to the California Air Resources Board to address the needs of environmental justice communities. The oil industry has vehemently opposed our recommendations and has lobbied heavily against even the most modest of our proposals. We believe that the oil industry opposes our initiatives because they do not care about the welfare of our communities, and they are only interested in one thing: delay.

As a leading environmental justice organization in California working closely with our community members, allies and experts, we have spent many years identifying pollution prevention strategies in our neighborhoods. In every effort to promote cleaner air and more health-protective policies, we have faced strong opposition from the oil industry. The oil industry at the national, state, regional and even at the smallest of local levels has invested heavily in undermining our efforts to promote safer and cleaner refineries; cleaner vehicles; more precautionary drilling/fracking policies; and safer crude-transport practices. Fortunately, we live in times that information, innovation and demand for environmental health and justice have

Southern California Office:
6325 Pacific Blvd, Suite 300
Huntington Park, CA 90255
323.826.9771

Wilmington Field Office:
116 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 200
Wilmington, CA 90744
310-952-9097

Northern California Office:
1904 Franklin Street, Suite 600
Oakland, CA 94612
510-302-0430

created a more informed California. We now know that we can have policies that both reduce pollution and create savings and income for vulnerable communities. We know that we can have an economy that places job creation, clean communities and equity as central axioms of its model of growth.

The stakes are high for oil industry as we propose to aggressively eliminate burning of fossil fuels from our communities and provide a just transition to cleaner communities and cleaner alternatives. We need to move forward aggressively and strengthen AB32 implementation; there is no time for delay. We need to eliminate loopholes from AB 32, and we need to unite in promoting clean energy policies, projects, and programs that directly benefit environmental justice communities.

We hope that you will join us in working toward these innovative solutions that will create healthy environments, green economies, and more resilient communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Byron Gudiel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Byron Gudiel
Executive Director
Communities for a Better Environment