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## **California Air Resources Board Issues Updated Climate Change Plan**

On January 20, 2017, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) issued "The 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update" (the 2017 Plan). The 2017 Plan establishes a proposed framework of action for California to meet the most aggressive climate target in North America: a 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gases (GHG) by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. The first Scoping Plan was required by AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008. The 2017 Plan builds on the earlier implemented programs and takes aim at the 2030 target established by SB 32, adopted in 2016. The key programs that the 2017 Plan strengthens include the Cap-and-Trade Regulation, the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, significantly cleaner cars, trucks and freight movement, powering California off of cleaner renewable energy, and strategies to reduce methane emissions from agricultural and other wastes. It also addresses for the first time the GHG emissions from natural and working lands in California including the agricultural and forestry sectors.

CARB is developing new regulations to extend the Cap-and-Trade program to 2030, ten years beyond its current expiration date of 2020. In addition to lowering the statewide emission limits as required by SB 32, CARB is considering reducing the free allocation of allowances and reducing the extent to which offset credits may be used to achieve compliance. The 2017 Plan singles out the refinery sector for new direct regulation with a proposal to implement a 20 percent reduction in GHG emissions from California refineries by 2030. CARB proposes to reduce emissions associated with transportation fuels, while dramatically expanding the use of zero-emission vehicles and low-emission vehicles in California. CARB also proposes to reduce the total carbon intensity of California's transportation fuels by 18 percent by 2030, replacing the current goal of 10 percent by 2020. CARB's proposals for forests, rangelands, farms, wetlands and soils are to protect land from conversion to more intensified uses by increasing conservation opportunities, enhancing the resilience of and potential for carbon sequestration on those lands and to develop innovative biomass utilization.

CARB recently announced that it anticipates making the final draft 2017 Plan publically available in late May and holding a hearing to adopt the 2017 Plan at the end of June.

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