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Sierra Club California Statement on Governor Brown's Executive Order Establishing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Targets for 2030

SACRAMENTO—Governor Jerry Brown today signed an executive order setting a greenhouse gas reduction target for 2030 of 40% below 1990 levels.

The order also calls on state agencies, in their planning and investments, to be guided by a series of principles, giving priority to “actions that both build climate preparedness and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

An existing executive order signed by Brown's predecessor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, set a target of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. The new order will keep California on a path to meet that earlier goal.

In 2006, the legislature passed, and then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law, Assembly Bill 32, which set a 2020 target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the state to 1990 levels.

Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips released the following statement in response to the new executive order:

“Governor Brown has sent another strong and welcome signal that California remains committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

“California is a state of innovative, intelligent and determined residents and businesses. We have consistently shown in the past that we can exceed ambitious goals. And given the seriousness of the climate change threat, we need to do that again.

“Californians know how to meet these goals, and that is by cutting our dependence on carbon-based fuels—natural gas, oil, and coal—to produce electricity and move vehicles. In the last decade, we have made strong strides toward transitioning to a clean energy economy, and have cut pollution and created good, sustainable jobs along the way.

“Now it is up to the legislature to help put policies in place this year that will further advance renewable energy, zero-emission vehicles, and greater energy efficiency to make sure we can more than meet the 2030 goals.”

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Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the Sierra Club's 13 chapters and more than 150,000 members in California.