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Governor Signs Key Climate Bills into Law
Strong Signal that California Remains Determined to Address Critical Issue

Sacramento, Calif.—Governor Jerry Brown signed two linked bills in Los Angeles today that are designed to ensure that California continues moving forward on its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

One of the bills, Senate Bill 32, by Senator Fran Pavley, codifies California’s goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. That bill follows on Pavley’s 2006 legislation, Assembly Bill 32, which established California’s commitment to addressing climate change.

A second bill, Assembly Bill 197, by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, double joined to SB 32, establishes greater opportunities for the legislature to be part of the California Air Resources Board’s decision making on climate regulations. It also ensures more--and more transparent--reporting about emissions around the state, and requires the agency to consider the social costs of climate pollution when adopting rules. (Double-joined bills require that both bills pass and get signed into law before either bill becomes effective.)

Statement by Kathryn Phillips, Director of Sierra Club California:

“Today’s signing lays to rest the claim by the oil industry and other regulated entities that California’s commitment to climate action is ephemeral, an artifact of a former legislative body.

“California is fully committed for the long term to reducing the greenhouse gas pollution that is creating climate disruption worldwide. Nearly every legislative district in the state is feeling climate disruption’s effects already.

“Senate Pro Tem Kevin de Leon, Speaker Anthony Rendon, Senator Fran Pavley, Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, plus all the legislators who, with their votes, passed the legislation, and Governor Brown, who signed these bills, will be among those listed in history books as the heroes who bucked special interests and acted when action was most needed.”

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Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the Sierra Club’s 13 local chapters in California, representing nearly 380,000 members and supporters statewide.