



June 26, 2020

Mayor Darrell Steinberg
City of Sacramento
915 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mayor Christopher Cabaldon
City of West Sacramento
1110 West Capitol Avenue
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Chair Anne Stausboll
Mayors' Commission on Climate Change

Re: Support for Mayors' Commission on Climate Change Recommendations

Dear Mayor Steinberg, Mayor Cabaldon, and Chair Stausboll:

On behalf of 350 Sacramento, a local grassroots nonprofit organization committed to the just transition to a fossil-fuel-free future and safe climate, I am writing to **strongly support** the strategies and recommendations put forward by the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change.

These recommendations call for action at all levels and in all sectors in our community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve public health, and create a more equitable and resilient future for all. This is the **minimum** necessary for addressing the greatest challenge of our time. We are already seeing the effects of the climate crisis throughout the world and in our own region, effects that are projected to worsen drastically over time and disproportionately harm underserved communities, people of color, those with disabilities and health vulnerabilities, the young, elderly, poor, and marginalized peoples.

350 Sacramento is very supportive of the report and recommendations, which are realistic and achievable. They recognize the need to prioritize equity, protect the most vulnerable among us, and use this transition to address current and historical injustices, as well as to create jobs and rebuild our economy in a way that puts us in better balance with the natural world. This is a project that all residents can proudly participate in—our cities will be stronger, healthier, and happier as a result.

We especially urge you to act quickly to electrify the built environment. The first step is an easy one: pass an ordinance mandating all-electric buildings, which has many co-benefits including lower housing prices, reduced monthly costs, cleaner air, protection against stranded assets, and healthier homes. We also support the first year recommendations, and ask that you immediately hire a senior level position to oversee climate action in city departments and establish an Environmental Justice Governance Committee to help shape

equitable climate solutions. All the first-year actions are critical to demonstrate the benefits of reducing emissions and build momentum for the full suite of strategies.

We very much appreciate your leadership in convening the Climate Commission and engaging hundreds of residents in the process. We also want to applaud the emphasis on equity, which is absolutely vital if we are to succeed. You have put our cities in the forefront of climate awareness and action.

Now we must pivot from ideas to implementation. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that we have fewer than 10 years to drastically cut emissions if we are to avoid runaway climate change. As the Sacramento City Council has recognized, we are in a Climate Emergency and need to act without delay. Therefore, 350 Sacramento calls for accelerating the timeline to implement as many of these recommendations as possible before 2030, and to explore new actions that have the potential to rapidly cut greenhouse gas emissions and create a more equitable region.

To accomplish all this, 350 Sacramento pledges to:

- Participate in community efforts to make the updated Climate Action Plans as robust as possible, incorporating the Commission's recommendations as a baseline and going beyond them wherever possible.
- Advocate for an accelerated timeline for implementation, with the majority of actions completed by 2030.
- Offer the expertise of our diverse and knowledgeable membership to bring new ideas to the table.
- Organize events to inform the public and decision-makers about the importance of climate action and climate justice, and encourage public engagement in the transition to carbon zero.
- Hold decision-makers responsible for creating a rapid and just transition to carbon zero, focused on the 2030 target recognized in Sacramento's Climate Emergency Declaration.

Together, Sacramento and West Sacramento can lead California and the world in demonstrating how cities can take bold local action to build a better, more equitable and healthier world. We are proud to be part of this exciting effort.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me at info@350sacramento.org if you would like to discuss any of this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Litman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Laurie Litman,
President, 350 Sacramento