

Honorable Mayor Steinberg  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Mayor Cabaldon  
1110 West Capitol Avenue  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Anne Stausboll  
Chairwoman, Mayors' Commission on Climate Change

June 26, 2020

Honorable Mayors Cabaldon and Steinberg, and Chairwoman Stausboll,

We are writing to voice our support of the draft report of the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change and the measures as they have been developed by the Technical Advisory Committees (TACs). **The adoption of these recommendations is a minimum measure that must be taken and any intention of weakening, halting, or postponing them would be a direct disservice to our community and this entire process of public engagement.**

As you are aware, the Climate Commission's work has spanned countless hours of discussion from the TACs, city and local government staff, and most importantly volunteer participation from members of the community to ensure that equity and climate justice are centered. As pointed out in the Commission's own draft report, systemic and institutional barriers to participation prevent the very voices that are most adversely impacted by climate change from being heard. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color face the worst impacts of institutionalized racial injustice and environmental racism, yet are too often excluded. At the same time this historically allows voices with systemic and institutionally accumulated power, and financial interest at stake, to control the conversation.

However, the true power of government is derived from the people it represents, and we will not allow this conversation to be co-opted by business interests under the guise of concerns for equity and safety in the future. **It is time to imagine a future in which the communities historically marginalized by our societal systems, the people who are *currently* disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of every facet of our fossil fuel-based society, are finally invested in through a just transition.**

It is *not* the task of the Climate Commissioners to halt the progress we are envisioning out of fear of the unknown, or uncertainty in our ability to address the many crises we face. The climate crisis is a known challenge that we need you to fear as we do. It *is* your task to imagine a path to a better future. It *is* the task of the Mayors to lead their City Councils in setting a budget that serves the residents of our cities.

**We have said it before and we will continue to say it until it is acted upon.**

**2045 is too late.** Regarding the content of the draft report, our biggest concern is that the timeline is not aggressive enough and does not adequately respond to the crisis we are in. Top climate scientists around the world agree that **we have a closing ten-year window** to make rapid reductions in our carbon pollution to avoid permanently destabilizing the global climate, leading to extreme weather, droughts, floods, and sea-level rise. The City of Sacramento has already acknowledged this urgency in the Climate

Emergency Resolution of December 2019, which appropriately has a 2030 target date. Though the state has committed to carbon neutrality by 2045, we need to go further. We need to be more aggressive in our plan and commit to reaching carbon zero by 2030. Our cities can be a role model for other jurisdictions around the state, but we need to have the courage to enact more aggressive goals that rise to the level of the crisis we are facing. **If we act now and invest in a green future, we will create local jobs and support the Sacramento economy as we recover from COVID-19.**

**The year one plans outlined in the draft report must be implemented immediately, integrated into our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.** Importantly, the plans include establishing senior level positions within each city that report directly to the mayor and city council to oversee all aspects of climate-change planning and implementation. This is a necessary step to ensure that the cities are held accountable for meeting the goals outlined in the draft report. Without accountability and effective implementation, the targets in the report are empty promises. As steps are taken by the cities to recover from the economic devastation of COVID-19, the climate impact of all decisions needs to be a key determining factor in which policies to enact. Corporate interests cannot take priority over reducing our carbon emissions and minimizing the devastating impact that the climate crisis will have on our community if we don't act.

We demand you take the minimal first step towards a just transition to carbon neutrality and climate justice. **Adopt the draft recommendations as developed by the Technical Advisory Committees.**

Signed,

Moiz Mir  
Coordinator, Sunrise Movement Sacramento