# SB 582 (STERN)
# CLIMATE EMERGENCY MITIGATION, SAFE RESTORATION AND JUST RESILIENCE

Updated: 05/08//21

## SUMMARY

SB 582 strengthens state climate policy by increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets from 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 to a higher threshold for 2030 and beyond. The bill requires state environmental agencies to develop a climate restoration plan and requires the Office of Public Research to lead a multi-state agency effort to develop a Just Resilience Plan by June 1, 2022 to drive resilience investments in the most vulnerable communities in California.

## THE PROBLEM

In 2018, California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment warned the state is more susceptible to the growing effects of climate change then other parts of the country because of its vulnerable climate regions. For example, higher sea level rise means more coastal erosion and encroachment on densely populated areas. Less precipitation leads to a drier state with fewer water resources for both agricultural interests and urban centers.

The earth is heating up from the accumulation of pre-industrial levels of carbon dioxide and from GHG emissions added every year by industrialized nations. Absent significant changes, the atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide will prolong the duration of global warming, thereby prolonging the harsh effects of climate change already facing California in the form of deadly and frequent wildfires, extreme weather patterns, rising sea levels and adverse health impacts, all of which disproportionately affect vulnerable and low-income communities

## BACKGROUND

The 2006 Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32, Nunez & Pavley, Chp. 488) required the California Air Resources Board to establish GHG emission limits and market based mechanisms to give California's economic sectors an incentive to participate. This was followed a decade later by SB 32 (Pavley, Chp 249) that increased California GHG emission reduction target to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.

These and subsequent climate policies helped the state lower its GHG emissions in 2018 below 1990 levels. This was the equivalent of removing 12 million cars off the road or saving 6 billion gallons of gasoline a year.

However, even with this achievement, California's transportation sector accounts for almost 50% of state's GHG emissions and the cap-and-trade program wasn't designed for aggressive GHG emission reductions.

Additionally, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), 19 of the warmest years have occurred since 2000 with 2016 and 202 being the warmest years on record. The earth's current average temperature is just over 1.0° Celsius, an increase of approximately 10% since 2015, and is projected to increase if efforts at accelerating GHG emissions and climate restoration are not successful.

Without accelerated GHG emission targets and new climate restoration policies, the state will



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likely suffer added decades more from the harsh effects of climate change.

## THE SOLUTION

SB 582 will strengthen California's climate policies by requiring:

- A significant increase above the current GHG emissions reduction limit of 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.
- The Natural Resources Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Air Resources Board to develop a 2035 climate restoration plan that includes carbon removal targets, achieving and maintaining net-negative emissions, and how to position the state as a global leader in restoring atmospheric and oceanic concentration of GHG emissions to preindustrial levels.
- The Office of Public Research in collaboration with the Energy Commission, the State Building Standards Commission, the Infrastructure and Development Bank, the State Treasurer, the Labor & Workforce Development Agency and the Department of Technology, to develop a Just Resilience Plan, by June 1, 2022, to drive resilience investments in the most vulnerable communities in California.

## SUPPORT



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