



*Help for Today...
Hope for Tomorrow*

Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton

SB 32: Climate Pollution Reduction Beyond 2020 (Pavley) – SUPPORT

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History & Background

California's 2006 climate law, *AB 32* (Nunez-Pavley), requires a reduction in greenhouse gas pollution to 1990 levels by 2020. The state is over halfway toward meeting this goal. Due to this improvement in air quality, California is on-track to cut pollution-related health costs by \$8.3 billion in the next decade. This is protecting our most vulnerable communities from pollution and illness. Funds generated under *AB 32* by the largest polluters are being successfully re-invested in local communities, and additional laws have ensured funds go to poor communities.

However, *AB 32* did not set reduction targets for greenhouse gas pollution after 2020. Current legislation, **SB 32**, calls for reducing greenhouse gas pollution to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. This legislation is necessary to continue improving air quality, public health, and protecting poor communities from greenhouse gas pollution.

Church Teaching

As Catholics, we are called to be good stewards of God's creation and have a reverence for life. This includes protecting our air, on which all life depends, and caring for those who are suffering from environmental injustices. We are also called to care for the poor and the vulnerable, and it is the poorest communities who breathe the most polluted air and suffer the health consequences.

Talking Points

- We need to continue what is already working. *AB 32* is improving air quality, protecting public health, saving money, and creating jobs. But it will end in 2020 if we don't act now.
- California has some of the worst air pollution in the country which contributes to asthma, heart & lung disease, and premature deaths. Reducing pollution protects public health.
- The counties in our Diocese have received failing grades for air quality from the American Lung Association. This is making us sick, especially children and the elderly.
- Poor neighborhoods are more likely to be near sources of pollution (highways, factories, etc.), and therefore have worse air quality and more illnesses. Millions of dollars generated annually by large polluters are being reinvested in these communities.

"Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude." Pope Francis, May 21, 2014

"Our tradition calls us to protect the life and dignity of the human person, and it is increasingly clear that this task cannot be separated from the care and defense of all creation." United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Renewing the Earth*, 1991.



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