

## Notice of Preparation

**To:** California Office of Planning and Research, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Other Interested Parties

**Subject:** Notice of Preparation of a Draft Substitute Environmental Document

**Project Title:** Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program

**Lead Agency:** California Air Resources Board

**Date:** February 13, 2023

**Review Period:** February 13, 2023 to March 15, 2023

As the Lead Agency, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will prepare a substitute environmental document (referred to as an "Environmental Analysis" or "EA") as part of the Staff Report prepared for the proposed project identified above. CARB would like to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. If the proposed project has no relevance to you or your organization, no action on your part is necessary.

Information on the project description, location, and potential environmental effects, as currently known, are contained in the attached materials, including the notice for public workshop to be held on February 22, 2023. In addition to soliciting input on the proposed project, this workshop will also serve as a CEQA scoping meeting to solicit input on scope and content of the EA to be prepared for the proposed project. Additional information on this proposed project is available for review on the Program webpage at the following link: [Low Carbon Fuel Standard | California Air Resources Board](#)

The NOP is available for review and comment for 30 days, per CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15082(b)). The comment period for this NOP begins February 13, 2023 and ends on March 15, 2023. Due to the limits mandated by State law, responses should be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than 5:00 PM on March 15, 2023.

Please submit your written comments to [ceqa.unit@arb.ca.gov](mailto:ceqa.unit@arb.ca.gov) or via mail to Rebecca Fancher, Air Resources Board Legal Office/CEQA Unit, P.O. Box 2815 Sacramento, CA 95812-2815. In your response, please indicate the public agency or other entity you represent, and the name and phone number of a contact person.

**Date:** 2/13/2023

**Signature:** *Rebecca Fancher*

Rebecca Fancher  
Staff Air Pollution Specialist  
California Air Resources Board  
Legal Office/CEQA Unit  
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[ceqa.unit@arb.ca.gov](mailto:ceqa.unit@arb.ca.gov)

### List of Agencies to Review

*Distributed to agencies marked with an "X" below:*

STATE AGENCIES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Boating &amp; Waterways, Department of</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> CalRecycle</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of -- Oil, Gas Geothermal Resources</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish &amp; Wildlife, Department of</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Food &amp; Agriculture, Department of</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing &amp; Community Development</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Waste Management Board</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Department of General Services</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Growth Council</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> California High Speed Rail Authority</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Conservation – Division of Land Resource Protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OEHHA</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Office of Emergency Services</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Parks &amp; Recreation, Department of</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Regional Water Quality Control Board #____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SF Bay Conservation &amp; Development Commission</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> State Water Resources Control Board</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University of California</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Building Standards Commission</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Public Health</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Nature Conservancy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Nevada Nature Conservancy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Delta Conservancy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development</u></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>California State Transportations Authority</u></li> </ul>
AIR DISTRICTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amador County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antelope Valley AQMD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bay Area AQMD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Butte County AQMD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calaveras County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colusa County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County of El Dorado AQMD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kern APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feather River AQMD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glenn County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Great Basin Unified APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Imperial County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lake County AQMD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lassen County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mariposa County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mendocino County AQMD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modoc County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mojave Desert AQMD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monterey Bay Unified APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> North Coast Unified AQMD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Sierra AQMD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Sonoma County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Placer County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> San Diego County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin Valley APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> San Luis Obispo County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Santa Barbara County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shasta County AQMD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Siskiyou County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South Coast AQMD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tehama County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuolumne County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ventura County APCD</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yolo-Solano AQMD</li> </ul>
OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES	

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

A copy of an Initial Study is not attached because CARB complies with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) through its regulatory program certified by the California Secretary for Natural Resources under Public Resources Code section 21080.5 (14 CCR 15251(d)). Public agencies with certified regulatory programs are exempt from certain CEQA requirements, including but not limited to, preparing environmental impact reports, negative declarations, and initial studies (14 CCR 15250).

The Environmental Analysis (EA) will evaluate the potential for impacts to the environment as a result of the proposed project: Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program. The project and the nature of potential impacts that could result from the project are described below.

- **PROJECT TITLE:**

Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program

- **PROJECT LOCATION:**

The project has statewide applicability.

- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) is designed to decrease the carbon intensity (CI) of California's transportation fuel pool and provide an increasing range of low-carbon and renewable alternatives.

In 2009, the Board approved the LCFS regulation to reduce the CI of transportation fuel used in California by at least 10 percent from a 2010 baseline. In 2011, the Board approved amendments to the LCFS regulation to clarify, streamline, and enhance certain provisions. In 2015, the Board re-adopted the LCFS regulation to comply with a court order arising from a challenge to the original adoption. In 2018, the Board approved amendments to the regulation, which included strengthening and smoothing the carbon intensity benchmarks through 2030 in-line with California's 2030 GHG emission reduction target enacted through SB 32, adding new crediting opportunities to promote zero emission vehicle adoption, alternative jet fuel, carbon capture and sequestration, and advanced technologies to achieve deep decarbonization in the transportation sector. In 2019, the Board approved amendments to strengthen the cost containment mechanism.

CARB staff are developing amendments to update the LCFS to align with state goals and the 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan, including: strengthening the carbon intensity reduction requirements, post pre-and-post 2030, adding fossil jet fuel as a required fuel, updating crediting requirements for different fuels and projects, and expanding the current Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) infrastructure crediting provision to the medium- and heavy-duty sector.

- **PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:**

The EA will evaluate the potential for impacts on the environmental resource areas found in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The proposed project would have beneficial impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, including direct combustion emissions from vehicles in the State, and emissions from fuel production activities occurring both in and out of California. Potential adverse impacts would be associated with the reasonably foreseeable compliance responses related to the proposed project, which may include but are not limited to: increased biofuel production; reductions

# Notice of Preparation for the Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program

February 13, 2023

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in short-lived climate pollutants; construction of new facilities; modifications to existing facilities; and new charging, fueling, and electrical infrastructure.

The reasonably foreseeable compliance responses associated with the proposed Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program could potentially adversely or beneficially affect several resource areas, including but not limited to the following, which will be further evaluated in the EA:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural and Forest Resources
- Air Quality and Odors
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology, Seismicity, and Soils
- Greenhouse Gases
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

Potential cumulative impacts and potential for growth inducement will be evaluated in the EA, as well as alternatives, including the No Project Alternative.

# Public Workshop: Potential Changes to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program

California Air Resources Board sent this bulletin at 02/08/2023 11:17 AM PST

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



February 8, 2023

## Public Workshop: Potential Changes to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) invites you to participate in a public workshop to provide input on potential changes to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) program. This workshop will consist of a morning and afternoon session. In the morning, staff will present additional information on the potential credit generation opportunities that may affect carbon intensity targets, including stakeholder feedback from previous workshops. Staff will also present preliminary fuel mix and cost outputs from the California Transportation Supply (CATS) model presented at the November 2022 workshop. In the afternoon, staff will present concepts related to streamlining implementation. Staff will present concepts and take verbal feedback during both sessions of the workshop. Staff will request stakeholder feedback following the workshop through 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on March 15, 2023.

Along with the presentation, staff will release preliminary regulatory text for stakeholder feedback. The preliminary text may include some narrative of staff concepts where actual text is yet to be developed. Workshop materials will be posted to the [LCFS Meetings and Workshops](#) webpage by 9:00 a.m. on February 21, 2023, and a link to submit written feedback will be posted to the same page on the day of the workshop.

Date: February 22, 2023  
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (morning session)  
12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (afternoon session)  
Location: GoToWebinar

[Register](#)

### Background

CARB first adopted the LCFS regulation in 2009 and began implementation in 2011. The Board adopted amendments in 2011, readopted the regulation in 2015, and adopted amendments in 2018 and 2019. The regulation requires the reduction of the carbon intensity of California's transportation fuels by 20 percent from 2010 levels by 2030. The regulation is one of the measures adopted by CARB, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 38500-38599 (AB 32) to reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions and advance the State's climate goals. It is designed to help clean the air, protect the environment, and drive the development of clean, low-carbon fuels.

[More Information](#)

### Environmental Analysis

At the workshop staff will provide an overview of CARB's process for preparing the Environmental Analysis (EA) and its content required under the California Environmental Quality Act. Staff welcome public input at the workshop on the

appropriate scope and content of the EA at the beginning of our process, including the reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance with the proposal, the potential significant adverse impacts associated with the methods of compliance, potential feasible mitigation measures, and feasible alternatives to the proposal that could reduce or eliminate any significant adverse impacts. A draft of the EA will be released for public review and comment later in 2023.

#### Clearing California Skies for Over 50 Years

CARB is the lead agency for California's fight against climate change, and oversees all air pollution control efforts in the state to attain and maintain health-based air quality standards.

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