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de la Guerra, Sheila **Public Comment**

From: Michael Chiacos <mchiacos@cecmail.org>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 3:59 PM
To: sbcob; Williams, Das; Hartmann, Joan; Laura Capps; Lavagnino, Steve; Nelson, Bob
Cc: Farah Stack
Subject: Agenda Item 6 - CEC Urges the County to Retain the 50% GHG Reduction Target

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Dear Honorable Supervisors,

The Community Environmental Council urges the County of Santa Barbara to retain the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50%. At the last public Climate Action Plan meeting in March, there was discussion of how the CAP's plan to achieve 40% reductions did not reflect the board approved 50% target. The community requested for staff and Rincon to develop additional scenarios for achieving the 50% target and lead a community discussion about these scenarios and the trade-offs.

At tomorrow's hearing, CEC requests that the Board affirm the 50% target. If the target is proposed to be lowered, more community discussion needs to occur along with release of more detailed analysis of the various scenarios. For example, what are the calculations that detail the GHG emission reductions from the natural gas appliance burnout ordinance, increased electric vehicle mode share, and reduced vehicle miles traveled efforts?

Similarly, a more detailed discussion of the potential contributions of the county's vast natural and working lands should be considered. The CAP envisions planting 3,000 trees on the County's properties. There are no other natural sequestration strategies proposed, even though dozens of local farmers and ranchers are developing climate-smart agricultural solutions on their lands. How could ranchers, farmers, and companies be engaged in a local voluntary offset market to set a more ambitious natural and working lands carbon sequestration goal?

CEC urges the County to retain our environmental leadership and continue to work to aggressively reduce emissions. Climate change is threatening our region more and more each year and strong action is needed.

Sincerely,

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