

Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment



From: Andy Caldwell <andy@colabsbc.org>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 10:59 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Would you please load this up for general public comment 6 10 2025
Attachments: bos6102025fireandgas.pptx

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Santa Barbara County Fire History Dashboard

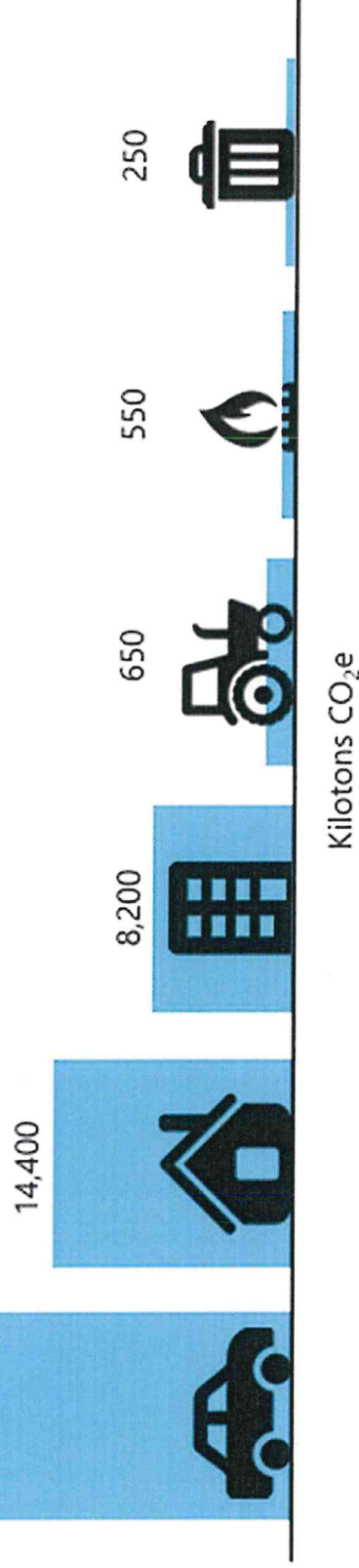
1912-2025



A research paper, [published in the journal Environmental Pollution](#), finds that California's wildfires in 2020 caused twice the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that the state reduced between 2003 and 2019. In other words, 2020's wildfire season, which set a record for the number of acres burned in the state, essentially wiped out 18 years of California's efforts to reduce emissions through such policies as replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy and providing incentives for electric vehicles.

Santa Barbara County GHG Emissions (2015-2040)

GHG emissions for select emission sources in the transportation, residential, commercial, agricultural, oil and gas, and waste sectors were quantified from 2015 to 2040. These sources are projected to emit more than 59,000 kilotons of CO₂e over the next 25 years.



California lawmakers, regulators clash over clean air push and upcoming closure of oil refineries



Updated: 7:36 PM PDT May 28, 2025

California Air Resources Board Chair Liane Randolph, California Energy Commission Vice Chairman Siva Gunda and Division of Petroleum Market Oversight Director Tai Milder were summoned to testify in front of the Assembly's Utilities and Energy Committee. The panel faced a barrage of questions and criticism as lawmakers expressed concern the regulators have treated consumers, drivers, workers and Californians overall as an afterthought in the state's clean energy transition and affordability problems.

“We have a crisis on our hand that may have been self-created by the actions perhaps taken by the state, by regulators,” Democratic Assemblyman David Alvarez of San Diego said on Wednesday at the hearing, according to KCRA.

I know what climate leadership does NOT look like, and that is \$10 gas," Democratic Assemblyman Cottie Petrie-Norris told regulators at the hearing.

Regulators told lawmakers they're in the process of figuring out the state's plan of action when it loses the two refiners. Gunda confirmed the closures will require the state to import oil from other countries that don't have the same environmental and labor standards as California. The oil would be delivered by ships.

"Increase in imports meaning we have more vessels, which means more emissions, is that correct?" asked Asm. Mike Gipson, D-Los Angeles.

"You are correct that additional marine traffic would implicate air quality issues beyond state waters that we do not regulate," Randolph replied.