

City of Santa Rosa (Ethan Nagler)

Please see attached for the comment letter I am submitting on behalf of the City of Santa Rosa.



May 26th, 2026

Honorable Lauren Sanchez, Chair

California Air Resources Board

1001 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Proposed Amendments to the Cap-and-Invest Program—Significant Concerns

Dear Chair Sanchez:

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I write to express our significant concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Cap-and-Invest Program scheduled for consideration by the California Air Resources Board on May 28. If adopted, the amendments would reduce Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) revenues by approximately \$2 billion annually and eliminate funding for several critical transit and housing programs, including the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP), the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), and the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC). In the City of Santa Rosa, the specific impacts include:

- Loss of LCTOP funding that is used in conjunction with local sales tax revenue from Go Sonoma to fund the Santa Rosa CityBus fare-free program for youth. Established in 2021, this program provides free transit access to all children and youth through 12th grade. Since its implementation, youth ridership has increased by 125 percent, growing from approximately 200,000 rides annually to more than 450,000. The program has also helped reduce family automobile trips and improve school attendance. In a transit system where more than 80 percent of riders are low-income, the program delivers significant affordability benefits by lowering household transportation costs. Notably, LCTOP is unique among state and federal transit funding programs in its ability to support fare-free transit initiatives.
- Potential loss of \$1.7 million in TIRCP Cycle 5 funds for expansion of the City's electric bus charging station, due to lack of funds in the program to keep commitments to grantees. The project is fully designed, about to be put out to bid, and critical to the successful operation of the City's 12 new electric buses.

We recognize that the proposed amendments are intended to address affordability concerns for consumers. However, as currently drafted, they would significantly undermine GGRF-funded programs that support good-paying jobs, affordable transportation, and California's climate goals.



We therefore respectfully request consideration of delaying the planned May 28 vote to allow additional time to develop a path forward that protects these critical programs and the projects they support in Sonoma County and across the state.

Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Stapp".

Mark Stapp

Mayor, City of Santa Rosa

A handwritten note in blue ink that says "Thank you, Char Sander!" followed by a signature that appears to be "W. Sander".

CC: The Honorable Mike McGuire, Senate District 2

The Honorable Damon Connolly, Assembly District 12

The Honorable Chris Rogers, Assembly District 2