

Stockton Environmental Justice Education and Advocacy

California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via Clerk of the Board: cotb@arb.ca.gov

May 27, 2026

Re: CARB 26-3-2: Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Regulation for the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

26-3-3: Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Regulation for the California Cap on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Market-Based Compliance Mechanisms

Greetings,

I submitted some comments on these items previously because I have run into difficulties with trying to figure out greenhouse gas emissions for some large industrial facilities with involvement with renewable energy. I think this is wrong. Standard measures can be employed over all emission generating activities which can be updated as measures are refined. We have DTE Energy in Stockton CA and Tracy Renewable Energy. Tracy CA both combusting biomass that are polluting our air. The amendments for California Cap on Greenhouse Gas Emissions allow for further subsidies to the same petroleum companies that have advanced misinformation regarding their responsibilities and deceptive marketing strategies.

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The CARB Staff has included the following statements: “CARB staff has proposed amendments to MRR to align with and support California’s Cap-and-Invest Regulation, including provisions related to allowance allocation and the calculation of compliance obligations, and to ensure that reported GHG emissions and product data are accurate and complete to support California’s GHG emissions reduction programs, including the statewide GHG emissions inventory.”

This alignment is of concern to me because of the very recently proposed changes to the Cap-and-Invest Regulations that allow for “MDI” which in my mind stands for more darn incentives for petroleum-based activities and those false climate solutions which petroleum-based companies have proposed as solutions to keep business as usual.

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Actually, MDI is characterized by CARB Staff as follows:

\$4 billion Manufacturing Decarbonization Incentive (MDI)

- Backfills lost federal funds without borrowing from GGRF
- Supports near-term emissions reductions under the cap toward the 2030 target – one allowance delivers reductions in many future years
- Eligible entities: food processors, cement plants, metal processors, and refiners, among others

- Reduces compliance costs
- Funded by no more than 118 million incentive allowances
- Eligible projects align with existing state policy and need to scale:
 - Replacing fossil fuel equipment with clean alternatives, low-carbon hydrogen use, renewable energy generation, carbon capture and sequestration, and more.”

Public Notices for low carbon fuel standards applications coming from overseas, across the country by truck are also perplexing as to how all those fossil fuels can be expended to transport a fuel, processed or to be processed, can really have any net benefit on carbon dioxide emissions. Carbon capture and sequestration is extraordinarily when the focus in the 2022 Scoping Plan is “on strategies for reducing California’s dependency on petroleum to provide consumers with clean energy options that address climate change, improve air quality, and support economic growth and clean sector jobs.” Reducing energy use, being more efficient is a clear pathway rather than continuing on with incentives for refiners to fund their carbon capture and sequestration stalling efforts.

This 15-day quick turnaround created a sense of unfounded urgency that not only detracts from emission reduction strategies for polluting activities but undermines transparency and fairness towards community investments relating to local clean air initiatives that improve public health and reduce medical costs, transportation improvements, and true forest resilience around home hardening and forest community ecosystem benefits. Further, I understand that these amendments are not necessary to enable the California Public Utilities Commission to complete its current phase of the California Climate Credit procedures, anticipated in winter 2026. If the MDI is eliminated then there will be a higher, more uniform Climate Credit which benefits all.

CARB Members are tasked with delivering cost-effective emissions reductions programs that are aligned with California’s climate targets. These changes do not do this. Instead stop and give time for the whirlwinds to die down so that long-lasting strategies can be included rather than running after promised short-term gains.

Please:

- Reject the 15-day changes proposed by the staff and ask staff to create a revised proposal that keeps the integrity of the program intact; and
- Postpone the decision on this important environmental and social justice issue to a later Board Hearing to allow for full engagement of the public and various stakeholders.

This requested delay in adopting programmatic changes will not hinder CARB’s ability to continue the program under current regulations, including exploring more sustainable amendments that leads to real greenhouse gas reductions. You may contact me at melizabeth.sierra@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth M.S., R.E.H.S.