

State of California
Air Resources Board

BOARD ITEM SUMMARY

**ITEM # 20-12-5: Public Meeting to Hear an Informational Update on
California's Greenhouse Gas Goals and Deep Decarbonization**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational item only; no Board action is necessary.

DISCUSSION:

Staff will present a verbal report on key findings for achieving statewide carbon neutrality by 2045 based on modeling, public engagement, and ongoing interagency collaboration over the past two years. These findings will serve as a starting point for developing the 2022 Scoping Plan, which will begin in early 2021.

SUMMARY AND IMPACTS:

California achieved the Assembly Bill 32 (Health and Safety Code section 38550) goal of reaching 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2020 four years early, and is following the path established through the 2017 Scoping Plan update to achieve a reduction of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, pursuant to Senate Bill 32 (Health and Safety Code section 38566). In response to Executive Order B-55-18, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report – Global Warming of 1.5° C, and Board direction to “continue to evaluate and explore opportunities to achieve significant cuts in GHGs from all sources,”¹ staff began a two year public process on exploring potential policy paths to carbon neutrality in early 2019, commissioned economy-wide modeling to explore technological options to achieve deep decarbonization, and engaged with other State agencies on complimentary efforts to reduce emissions in the energy and transportation sectors by 2045. These efforts show that achieving carbon neutrality will require a complete and rapid transformation of the way we supply and use energy and will increase reliance on our natural and working lands as carbon sinks, and other carbon dioxide removal technologies. Importantly, it became clear that the next decade is critical for the rapid transformation in clean fuels and technology to achieve the 2045 goal and avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

¹ Board Resolution 17-46, December, 2017. <https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/board/res/2017/res17-46.pdf>