



Global Warming Action Campaign

News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAYORS UNITE TO FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING

Strong voices speak out in Sacramento
“Lawmakers must pass Assembly Bill 32”

(Sacramento, August 23, 2006) New laws to curb global warming are ‘*critical to California,*’ according to city leaders from across the state who converged on the Capitol today. Nearly a dozen mayors and local elected officials traveled to Sacramento to take the podium with Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez and Assembly Member Fran Pavley in a show of municipal solidarity behind what many believe is the most vital bill facing lawmakers this session. The Global Warming Solutions Act, AB 32, which sets a limit on greenhouse gas emissions, faces a Senate vote in the coming days.

Community leaders from Burbank, Santa Monica, Sacramento, Sunnyvale and Petaluma are among the influential voices speaking out at the Capitol.

“As Mayors, we have been doing everything we can to save our cities’ precious resources by using energy more efficiently, investing in clean transportation options and improving the quality of our homes and office buildings,” said Mayor Heather Fargo of Sacramento. “But there are practical limits as to what cities can accomplish on our own.”

That is why local government representatives traveled to Sacramento – to urge the Legislature to pass AB 32 and for the Governor to sign it when it reaches his desk. The officials voiced the need for both technology and good state and local government policy to solve global warming. Forty-five cities and five local government entities – air, water, and utility districts – have endorsed AB 32 to date.

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Dozens of California cities participate in the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives' (ICLEI) Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. In 2005, campaign participants reported a collective savings of over \$600 million from simple measures such as improvements in energy efficiency, investments in efficient transportation and development of cleaner energy sources. For example, the city of Oakland cut more than twenty tons of air pollutants a year through municipal building and traffic signal upgrades.

When it comes to global warming, California cities know the importance of thinking globally, but acting locally. Under the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, more than 50 California cities have joined nearly 400 cities nationwide in working to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets for greenhouse gas reductions in their communities.

Mayors also stress that it is their municipalities on the front line with police, fire and emergency services. For example, the health crisis stemming from this summer's heat wave, which took the lives of more than 130 victims in California, alone, fell squarely on the shoulders of already overburdened local governments. It comes as scientists are projecting more heat waves, resulting in increased incidents of heat stress and heat mortality.

As international attention focuses on the fate of AB 32 during the crucial days ahead, representatives of local government are urging state lawmakers to set an example for other regions to follow.

LOCAL OFFICIALS REPRESENTED

- Mayor Heather Fargo (Sacramento)
- Mayor Todd Campbell (Burbank)
- Mayor Gary Silbiger (Culver City)
- Mayor Sue Greenwald (Davis)
- Mayor David Glass (Petaluma)
- Mayor Tim Smith (Rohnert Park)
- Mayor Robert Holbrook (Santa Monica)
- Mayor Pro Tem Sam Pierce (Sebastopol)
- Mayor Susan McSweeney (Westlake Village)
- City Councilman Steve Veres (San Fernando)
- City Councilman Chris Moylan (Sunnyvale)
- Commissioner Jim Lammers, City of San Anselmo