Background Information: UN and CA Statements Related to the Climate Emergency

In 2005 Governor Schwarzenegger's Executive Order S-3-05 set a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions target of 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, which currently serves as a goal for the guiding plans and commitments of many local governments and agencies; and

In 2016 California passed SB 32, which mandated California's GHG emissions be 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030,

In 2018 California Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-55-18 requiring that California "*achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and no later than 2045 and maintain net negative emissions thereafter*";

In 2015 the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) reached the "Paris Agreement", which established a goal to hold global average temperature increase to "*well below 2°C above preindustrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels*";

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune commented on the October 8, 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report [1] on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C as follows: *"Humanity cannot afford to sleep through the blaring alarm of this wake-up call. This report is clear: the catastrophic effects of climate change like famine and droughts could shape the world for those of us alive today and for generations to come if we do not act immediately";*

California and the world are already experiencing drastic impacts of global warming with 1 ºC increase, which will worsen as global temperatures continue to rise, and virtually all of the Sierra Club priorities would be negatively impacted by global warming at 1.5 °C. Global warming beyond 1.5 °C risks irreversible impacts to human populations, biodiversity, habitat, and ecosystem health; and

In 2018, the California Air Resources Board found that California is not meeting its goals[2]: *"California — at the state, regional and local levels — has not yet gone far enough in making the systemic and structural changes to how we build and invest in communities that are needed to meet state climate goals. To meet the potential of SB 375 will require state, regional, and local agency staff and elected officials to make more significant changes across multiple systems that address the interconnected relationship of land use, housing, economic and workforce development, transportation investments, and travel choices."*

References

1. The October 8, 2018 IPCC special report (Summary for Policymakers) states, in part (**emphasis added**):

   "A.1 Human activities are estimated to have [already] caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C. **Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate** (high confidence)".

   "C1. In model pathways with no or limited overshoot of 1.5°C, global net anthropogenic CO2 emissions decline by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 (40–60% interquartile range), **reaching net zero around 2050** (2045–2055 interquartile range)".

"C.2 **Pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems** (high confidence). These systems transitions are unprecedented in terms of scale, but not necessarily in terms of speed, and imply deep emissions reductions in all sectors, a wide portfolio of mitigation options and a significant upscaling of investments in those options (medium confidence)".

"D1. Estimates of the global emissions outcome of current nationally stated mitigation ambitions as submitted under the Paris Agreement would lead to global greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 of 52–58 $GtCO2eq\ yr^{-1}$ (medium confidence). Pathways reflecting these ambitions would not limit global warming to 1.5°C, even if supplemented by very challenging increases in the scale and ambition of emissions reductions after 2030 (high confidence). **Avoiding overshoot and reliance on future largescale deployment of carbon dioxide removal (CDR) can only be achieved if global CO2 emissions start to decline well before 2030** (high confidence)".

2. "2018 Progress Report: California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act," California Air Resources Board, (Nov. 2018), page 6, https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/Final2018Report_SB150_112618_02_Report.pdf