



Date: August 15, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell, Fourth District *POD*
Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District *TRU*

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM: Request a Resolution in Support of AB 32 – Greenhouse Gases**

California has a long history of national leadership on environmental policy. Unfortunate, the State is also the world's twelfth largest emitter of global warming pollution. Unless action is taken soon, experts say global warming is expected to threaten California's economy and environment.

The California Legislature seeks to address this issue by instituting a mandatory limit (cap) on greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution – reducing emissions in California to 1990 levels by the year 2020, or 25% below forecasted levels. This legislation (AB 32) would transfer all responsibilities (except for a 5-year inventory) for GHG from the California Energy Commission to the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The bill also directs CARB to establish a mandatory reporting system to track and monitor emission levels and requires CARB to develop various compliance options and enforcement mechanisms. Additionally, it would designate CARB as the official recipient of emissions report, as well as the agency responsible for setting limits monitoring compliance.

It would be prudent for the City of Long Beach to support the approach to regulate rather than rely on an Executive Order to reduce GHG. However, while CARB is the appropriate agency to set these standards, emission reporting, permitting and compliance should remain within the jurisdiction of local air districts, such as the South Coast AQMD, since they are best handled at the regional and local level. Local agencies have an existing infrastructure for emissions reporting that could incorporate the GHG reporting requirements with minimal costs to districts and to the regulated facilities. Local districts also have robust compliance programs and field inspectors that could monitor progress in meeting emissions limits through permit conditions and inspections.

I am requesting that the City of Long Beach adopt a resolution of support for AB 32 with amendments to allow local air quality management districts to be the agencies responsible for the emissions reporting, permitting and compliance.

Recommendation: Request the City Attorney to draft a resolution supporting AB 32 (Nunez) with amendments.