



December 20, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
California State Capitol
Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support Healthy, Sustainable Transportation through California Budget

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the undersigned California health and medical organizations, we write to request that you place a high priority on reducing harmful transportation pollution through your January budget. A significant investment and shift in transportation spending priorities is critically important to reducing the air pollution and climate change health risks facing Californians today and into the future.

Despite decades of leadership, our ability to achieve clean air and climate standards is hampered by pollution from fossil-fueled transportation sources. The American Lung Association's *State of the Air* 2019 report shows California continues to dominate the lists of the most polluted communities in the United States.¹ Transportation pollution impacts Californians' health through increased risk of asthma attacks, emergency room visits and hospitalizations, lung cancer, heart attacks, strokes and premature death. These impacts are too often concentrated in communities near major diesel hot-spots and in lower income communities most at risk to transportation decisions that negatively affect health.

Transportation also represents the primary source of climate pollution in California. Unfortunately, climate change impacts such as extreme heat events, drought and wildfires add to our air pollution challenges along with exacerbating a wide range of other health risks. The latest data show that California's transportation carbon pollution actually *increased* in the latest inventory review, despite

¹ American Lung Association. *State of the Air* 2019. www.stateoftheair.org. Seven of the top ten most ozone-polluted cities in the United States are in California, as are six of the most particle-polluted cities in the nation; Living Near Highways and Air Pollution. <https://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/outdoor/air-pollution/highways.html>; Disparities in Disparities in the Impact of Air Pollution. <https://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/outdoor/air-pollution/disparities.html>

overall carbon pollution reductions.² We must do more, and more quickly, to transition to a zero emission transportation system to support clean air and healthy communities in California in the face of climate change.

As you consider your January budget, we urge you to place a higher priority on transitioning California's transportation sector to zero emission technologies as rapidly as possible. Stable and consistent investments in zero emission cars, transit and school buses, trucks and freight equipment — along with the associated infrastructure needs — are critical to achieving our clean air and climate standards. Recent years have seen fluctuations in these investments, waiting lists and overextended rebate programs. Consistent, adequate funding for zero emission transportation is critical to improving and protecting public health.

As health organizations committed to improving public health, we urge you to ensure transportation investments improve health while cutting harmful pollution. As outlined in your Executive Order N-19-19 on Climate Change, we must align California's transportation funding priorities with meeting our clean air and climate standards. We must shift transportation decisions toward reducing vehicle miles traveled and support "transportation options that contribute to the overall health of Californians and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as transit, walking, biking and other active modes..." as expressed in N-19-19.³ California must shift transportation investments to reduce traffic pollution and advance public health goals through healthier, more active transportation modes, complete streets and alternatives to sprawl development.

We urge you to focus on the rapid transition to zero emission vehicles and infrastructure in your budget proposal and look forward to working with you to ensure transportation dollars are aligned with a healthier California for all.

Sincerely,

Will Barrett, Clean Air Advocacy Director
American Lung Association

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² CA Air Resources Board. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory/CARB Staff presentation, February 21, 2019. https://www.arb.ca.gov/board/books/2019/022119/19-2-8pres.pdf?_ga=2.233735132.310266654.1551731620-161321336.1440783070

³ Governor Gavin Newsom, Executive Order N-19-19. September 2019. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/9.20.19-Climate-EO-N-19-19.pdf>