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### AB 9 (Muratsuchi) – Accelerating the 2030 GHG Target

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#### **SUMMARY**

The impacts of global warming are increasing at a faster clip than previously anticipated and poses major threats to human health, security, wildlife, biodiversity, water supply and economic growth. To help California better defend itself against these impacts, AB 9 would increase California's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction target for 2030 from 40% below the 1990 level to 55% below that level.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Global warming is a result of the increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The impacts of global warming is catastrophic and far-reaching and includes occurrences such as sea level rise, erosion, wildfires, extended periods of drought, and many others.

Landmark legislation at the time, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (the Act) required California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions below the levels in 1990 by 2020.

Ten years after the passage of the Act, California extended and strengthened the limit on greenhouse gas emissions with the passage of SB 32 in 2016. SB 32 raised its goal for greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.

#### **ISSUE**

While these goals were ambitious when first introduced, the latest science tells us it is not enough. A special report on the impacts of global warming from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius would reduce the probability, intensity, and frequency of such climate-related events. The IPCC report also notes that in order to limit warming to 1.5°C, we must reach net zero carbon dioxide emissions around 2050 with concurrent deep reductions in other greenhouse gas emissions such as methane.

#### **SOLUTION**

In order to place California on the trajectory to reach net-zero emissions by midcentury and limit the most catastrophic impacts of global warming, it would require California to increase ambition for its 2030 target.

AB 9 places California on the right trajectory and accelerates the existing 2030 GHG emission reduction target from 40% to 55% below 1990 levels.

#### **STAFF CONTACT**

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