

DATE SUBMITTED 08/12/2025
 SUBMITTED BY City Manager
 DATE ACTION REQUIRED 8/20/25

COUNCIL ACTION
 PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED
 RESOLUTION
 ORDINANCE 1ST READING
 ORDINANCE 2ND READING
 CITY CLERK'S INITIALS

**IMPERIAL CITY COUNCIL
 AGENDA ITEM**

SUBJECT:	DISCUSSION/ACTION: Authorize the City Council to submit a letter of support on the reauthorization of the Cap-and-Trade program with focused investments in climate-resilient, job-creating, and community-benefiting infrastructure.		
DEPARTMENT INVOLVED:			
BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:	The City of Imperial urges state legislators to prioritize climate-safe infrastructure investments during the reauthorization of the Cap-and-Trade program. The city supports targeted funding that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, enhances climate resilience, and creates well-paying jobs while maintaining affordability for consumers. Imperial emphasizes that these investments align with its goals of sustainable development, agricultural support, wildfire mitigation, transit-oriented growth, and flood resilience. The city urges that Cap-and-Trade reauthorization prioritize effectiveness, accountability, and affordability.		
FISCAL IMPACT: No fiscal impact.	FINANCE INITIALS	<u>JMS</u>	
STAFF RECOMMENDATION:	DEPT. INITIALS	_____	
MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: <i>approve</i>	CITY MANAGER'S INITIALS	<u>OTM</u>	
MOTION:			
SECONDED:	APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/>	REJECTED <input type="checkbox"/>	
AYES:	DISAPPROVED <input type="checkbox"/>	DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/>	
NAYES:			
ABSENT:	REFERRED TO:		



CITY COUNCIL
James Tucker – Mayor
Ida Obeso-Martinez – Mayor Pro-Tem
Stacy Mendoza – Councilmember
Katie Burnworth – Councilmember
Robert Amparano – Councilmember

CITY CLERK
Kristina M. Shields

CITY MANAGER
Dennis H. Morita

CITY ATTORNEY
Katherine Turner

August 20, 2025

The Honorable Steve C. Padilla
1021 O Street, Suite 7630
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jeff Gonzalez
1021 O Street, Suite 4230
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0036

RE: Support Cap & Trade Reauthorization By Prioritizing Investments in Climate Safe Infrastructure

Dear Senator Padilla and Assemblymember Gonzalez,

On behalf of the City of Imperial, we write to you today to encourage legislators to prioritize climate safe infrastructure improvements as you reauthorize and improve the Cap-and-Trade program.

We support investments in physical and natural infrastructure proven to reduce the greatest amount of greenhouse gas emissions, make California safer and more resilient to the impacts of climate change, while supporting good-paying middle-class jobs. We also encourage you to keep affordability in mind and ensure that reauthorization does not increase taxes or fees that are ultimately paid by consumers in the form of higher cost of living.

Climate change and extreme weather are here already. We need an improved Cap-and-Trade program that prioritizes effectiveness and accountability while preserving affordability.

While there are many programs that the current program funds that are deserving of consideration, we believe that continuous investments in the following priorities will deliver the most benefits to California achieving its greenhouse gas reduction goals while also delivering tangible benefits to Californians that improve their day-to-day lives.

State and Regional Clean Transit Infrastructure

- Fund capital projects of regional significance with funds to be used to support the buildout of an integrated rail network
- Invest in local and regional transit agencies to support the recovery, stabilization, and growth of transit and rail service statewide, including capital expansions, ZEV transition, and operations and maintenance.

Clean Local Transportation Infrastructure

- Prioritize new funding for local governments to safely implement green transportation infrastructure, including:
 - Hydrogen and EV charging infrastructure
 - Support for local Active Transportation Infrastructure
 - Funding for local government and transit clean fleet compliance
 - Develop network of regional VMT mitigation banks to offset local transportation project costs

State Wildfire Resilience Infrastructure

- Dedicate funding for high wildfire risk counties, including:
 - Firefighting capital infrastructure, fire engine procurement and training for local fire agencies, and mobile equipment management
 - Statewide wildfire fuel mitigation projects, including landscape-scale reforestation, fuels reduction, pest management, prescribed fire, and forest biomass utilization
 - Public safety emergency water supply infrastructure
 - Wood Products and Bioenergy grants and workforce development, including using GGRF funds to cover above-market cost of producing bioenergy
 - Expansion of local fire evacuation routes including community fire planning and preparedness and wildfire response and readiness

Local Land Use Infrastructure to Support High Density and Infill Development

- Invest in local, rural and regional governments to support projects consistent with a sustainable communities strategy, including:
 - Funding for local infrastructure around Transit Oriented Development
 - Conversion of underutilized urban office and commercial into housing
 - Continued funding for state and regional affordable housing, sustainable communities programs and transformative climate communities efforts and programs like Local and Regional Early Action Planning Grants (LEAP & REAP)

Climate Adaptation for Sea Level Rise Infrastructure

- Fund annually projects related to climate adaptation, including:
 - Levee improvements and catastrophic flooding prevention
 - Relocate or replace existing transportation, coastal airports, and other critical infrastructure threatened by sea level rise
 - Municipal waste and recycling infrastructure and local assistance for organic waste collection and processing including facility siting and permitting

The City of Imperial, with its focus on economic development and sustainable growth, stands to benefit significantly from reauthorizing the Cap-and-Trade program. As a city with a rich agricultural history, investments in clean transportation infrastructure, such as hydrogen fueling stations and EV charging networks, would not only reduce emissions but also support the region's farmers and local businesses in adopting greener technologies. Funding could also enhance wildfire resilience in the high-risk agricultural areas surrounding the city, improving

emergency water supplies and providing critical resources for local fire agencies. Additionally, Imperial's efforts to promote transit-oriented development near Imperial Valley Transit stations would reduce emissions. Finally, investing in flood mitigation and sustainable waste management systems would help the city adapt to climate impacts, ensuring that Imperial remains resilient in the face of extreme weather events and future challenges.

With the dual crisis of affordability and climate change knocking at our door, the City of Imperial respectfully asks that you prioritize the above investments as you reauthorize the Cap & Trade Program.

Sincerely,

James Tucker
Mayor
City of Imperial

cc Senator Steve Padilla, District 18
Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, Assembly District 36
Catherine Hill, League of California Cities, Regional Public Affairs Manager
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org