March 18, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State Capital, Sacramento, California

Dear Governor Newsom,

We are heading into an extremely dangerous period. If we do not take action now, the planet will overshoot 2 degree C warming by a wide margin with consequences that are projected to be devastating to California, our country, and the entire world.

The world will build a breathtaking 260 billion m² over the next four decades, or an area equal to the current worldwide building stock. About 40% of this construction is expected to take place between now and 2030. That’s an area greater than the total building area existing today in North America, South America, the Caribbean, the entire European Union, and Australia and New Zealand combined, all adding to the emissions problem.

Most of this new construction will take place in China, India, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Africa, where there are either no mandatory building energy or emissions standards, or inadequate standards at best. If these buildings are designed and built to current standards, it will dwarf all other emissions reduction actions.

Unfortunately, there is a dearth of political leadership on this issue at the national level, yet California has always been the first to take action addressing climate change.

However, according to the CPUC’s “Commercial Zero Net Energy Action Plan”, California’s new commercial building construction is not scheduled to “achieve zero net energy performance” incorporating “on-site or off-site renewable energy” until 2030, too late to influence significant carbon reductions in California and building construction worldwide.

Renewable energy has been demonstrated to be cost effective in California today and industry tools have been developed that incorporate on-site or off-site renewable energy in new commercial building construction and supports grid optimization.

California is positioned to take the global leadership role in reducing carbon emissions in the building sector by accelerating the timeline to reach zero net energy performance, incorporating on-site or off-site renewable energy in all new commercial construction, to 2020. This would send an urgent and powerful call-to-action worldwide.

The world looks to – and expects – California to lead the way.

Sincerely,

Architecture 2030
Contact: Edward Mazria FAIA, CEO
(505) 988 5309
mazria@architecture2030.org
Signatories to the Letter:

City of Berkeley
Contact: Billi Romain, Manager, Office of Energy and Sustainable Development

City of Santa Monica
Contact: Stephanie Reich AIA, LEED AP, Planning and Community Development

City of Fremont
Contact: Mayor Lily Mei

City of San Luis Obispo
Contact: Robert Hill, Interim Deputy Director

Mayor of Culver City
Contact: Mayor Thomas Aujero Small

American Institute of Architects California
Contact: Nicki Dennis Stephens, Hon. AIA CA, LEED Green Associate

American Institute of Architects – San Francisco
Contact: Stan Lew, AIA SF President; Jennifer Jones, AIA SF Executive Director

American Institute of Architects – Los Angeles
Contact: Will Wright, Hon. AIA|LA, Director, Government & Public Affairs

American Institute of Architects – Silicon Valley
Contact: Sharon Refvem FAIA, AIA Silicon Valley President

American Institute of Architects – East Bay
Contact: Henry Siegel FAIA, LEED AP

American Institute of Architects – Santa Barbara
Contact: Robert L. Ooley FAIA, County Architect, County of Santa Barbara; Tara Rizzi, Hon. AIASB, Executive Director

American Institute of Architects – Pasadena & Foothills
Contact: Zelda Wong, Executive Director

AIA San Francisco Committee on the Environment
Contact: Mark Kelly AIA, LEED AP; Charlie Stott, AIA, LEED AP

Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects
Contact: William Leddy FAIA, Principal

ZGF Architects
Contact: Ted Hyman FAIA, LEED AP BD+C, Partner

EHDD Architecture, Interiors, Planning
Contact: Brad Jacobson AIA, LEED® AP BD+C, Principal
Brooks + Scarpa Architects Inc
Contact: Angela Brooks FAIA, Principal

The Miller Hull Partnership Architects
Contact: Ron Rochon, Partner

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)
Contact: Keith Boswell FAIA, Partner

Calthorpe Associates
Contact: Peter Calthorpe, Principal

HKS Architects
Contact: Scott B. Hunter FAIA, LEED AP, Principal, Pacific Regional Director

Atelier Ten
Contact: Claire Maxfield, LEED Fellow, Director

DLR Group
Contact: Premnath Sundharam, Principal, Global Sustainability Leader

Moore Ruble Yudell architects & planners
Contact: Simone Barth - Auster, Senior Associate

Perkins + Will
Contact: Daniel Watch FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP, Principal

Smith Group
Contact: Greg Mella FAIA, LEED AP BD+C, Vice President | Director of Sustainable Design

CallisonRTKL
Contact: Tim Neal MBA FRICS, President and CEO

Siegel & Strain Architects
Contact: Larry Strain FAIA, LEED AP; Henry Siegel FAIA, LEED AP

LPA Design Studios
Contact: Wendy Rogers FAIA, LEED BD+C, CEO

WRNS Studio
Contact: Pauline Souza AIA, LEED Fellow, Partner

Arkin Tilt Architects
Contact: Anni Tilt AIA and David Arkin AIA, Principals

Cuningham Group Architecture, Inc.
Timothy Dufault FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP, President/CEO

SVA Architects
Contact: Ernesto M. Vasquez FAIA, NCARB, Partner & CEO
Stott Architects  
Contact: Charlie Stott, Principal

Laurel Architecture  
Contact: Daphne Cothren, Architect

Rockefeller Kempel Architects  
Contact: D. Rocky Rockefeller AIA | Senior Partner

CO Architects  
Contact: Scott P. Kelsey FAIA, Managing Principal

Cannon Design  
Contact: Michael P. Cavanaugh AIA, LEED AP, WELL AP, Vice President

Paul Poirier + Associates Architects  
Contact: Paul Poirier AIA, LEED AP

Hawley Peterson Snyder, Architecture/Interiors/Planning  
Contact: Alan E. Turner AIA, Principal

KFA Architecture / For Los Angeles  
Contact: John Arnold AIA, Partner

HGA  
Contact: Lisa Fay Matthiessen FAIA, LEED Fellow, Director of Sustainable Design

JFAK Architects  
Contact: Alice Kimm FAIA, Principal

RRM Design Group  
Contact: Erik P. Justesen ASLA, LEED AP, CEO/President

Thompson Naylor Architects  
Contact: Dennis Thompson FAIA, LEED AP

Green Building Architects  
Contact: William B. Wolpert, Architect

Blackbird Architects  
Contact: Ken Radtkey FAIA, LEED AP, President and Founder

Ivonne L. Ibarra Architect  
Contact: Ivonne L. Ibarra AIA, Principal

Bildsten Architecture and Planning, Inc.  
Contact: Ellen Bildsten AIA, LEED AP

Dwight Gregory and Associates  
Contact: Dwight Gregory AIA
JDK Architect
Contact: John D. Kelley AIA

Leger Wanaselja Architecture
Contact: Cate Leger, Principal

Integral Group
Contact: Kevin Hydes, CEO & Founder

USGBC Redwood Empire Chapter
Contact: Claudia Cleaver, Board Member

Ecological Building Network
Contact: Bruce King PE, Director

Net Zero Energy Coalition
Contact: Ann Edminster, Board member

California Straw Building Association (CASBA)
Contact: David Arkin AIA, Director

Peralta Energy LLC
Contact: Ben Thompson, President

Redwood Energy
Contact: Sean Armstrong, Managing Principal

C-Change Labs, Inc.
Contact: Phil Northcott, CEO

Impact Energy, Inc.
Contact: Bruce Greenstein, M.Ed., Founder & President

Stone Energy Associates
Contact: Nehemiah Stone, Principal

Off The Grid Design / Sol Lux Alpha
Contact: John Sarter, CEO / Chief Technologist

Brummitt Energy Associates
Contact: Tim Hreha, Building Performance Specialist

Project Green Home
Contact: Sven Thesen, Founder

COVO
Contact: Rebecca Brian Pan, CEO

Kollar EcoCreative
Contact: Candice Kollar, LEED® AP
Urban Fabrick Inc
Contact: Kyle Pickett, MSOD, Co-Founder & COO

The William J. Worthen Foundation
Contact: Kyle Pickett, Co-Founder & Executive Director

Guttmann & Blaevoet Consulting Engineers
Contact: Ted M. Tiffany, Director of Sustainability

Balance Green Consulting
Contact: Andrea R. Pease AIA, LEED AP BD+C

O’Driscott Consulting
Contact: Margie O’Driscoll, Consultant and Catalyst for Consensus

Interface
Contact: Lisa Conway, LEED®AP ID+C, VP, Sustainability – Americas

Design AVEnues LLC
Contact: Ann Edminster, Founder & Principal

Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies at Cal Poly Pomona
Contact: Pablo La Roche, Director

Endeavour Centre
Contact: Chris Magwood, Director

Verdical Group
Contact: Drew Shula, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Founder & Principal

Environment California
Contact: Dan Jacobson, Director

Menlo Spark
Contact: Diane Bailey, Executive Director

Sustainable Silicon Valley
Contact: Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director

Community Corporation of Santa Monica
Contact: Tara Barauskas, LEED AP, Executive Director

Santa Monica Spoke / Santa Monica Safe Streets Alliance
Contact: Cynthia Rose, Director / Chair

Environment America
Contact: Rob Sargent, Energy Program Director

Carbon Free Palo Alto
Contact: Bret Andersen, Board Member