

## DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Carol Zabin*

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**SB350 Barriers Study: The Need to Focus on Job Quality and Access**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



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September 29, 2016

Alana Mathews  
California Energy Commission  
Commission Dockets Office, MS-4  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Via e-mail**

**Re: Comments on the draft SB 350 Barriers Report, 16-OIR-02**

Dear Ms. Mathews,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SB 350 Barriers Report draft. While the report contains many good ideas, it contains a fundamental oversight: its emphasis on the promotion of small business opportunities as the primary motor of economic diversity. Increased diversity in the ownership of firms in disadvantaged communities certainly can play a key role in local economic development. However, an even more critical role can be played by maximizing the employment co-benefits of SB 350 and its resulting investments in clean energy and low-carbon projects. In the California economy, there are many more workers than entrepreneurs, especially in disadvantaged areas. For that reason, questions of how to improve job quality and job access should be considered as a critical element and the main focus of efforts to improve the economic co-benefits of SB 350.

I recently published a research report, co-written with Manuel Pastor, Abigail Martin, Rachel Morello-Frosch, and Jim Sadd, that analyzes the issue of social equity in California climate policy. Our study identified many opportunities to ensure that emissions reductions and job benefits actually occur in less advantaged neighborhoods. It analyzes the ways in which these steps could build public support for the many steps to implement SB 350 and future climate legislation. The report can be viewed at this link: <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/advancing-equity/>

I thank you for the opportunity to comment, and I look forward to continued engagement on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carol Zabin'.

Carol Zabin, Ph.D  
UC Berkeley Labor Center