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California's Climate Emergency Demands Our State Achieve 100% Clean Energy No Later Than 2030

Thermometers spiked into triple digits in August, breaking historic records and kicking off a week-long Excessive Heat Warning, as millions stayed indoors & cranked up air conditioners to escape oppressive heat.

As I write, with more than three months still remaining in this year's traditional fire season, over 17,000 firefighters are battling 25 massive fires across the state. So far this year hundreds of wildfires have charred 3.4 million acres, killed 25 people (including children), forced 38,114 evacuations and destroyed more than 4,200 structures. Meanwhile, millions of California residents are trapped in our homes by thick, toxic smoke that has blocked the sun for weeks and rendered our air dangerous to breathe as smoke plumes spread across whole oceans, reaching cities, and populations, as far away as Europe.

Seven of the 10 most destructive fires in state history have burned in the last five years; yet as frightening and destructive as wildfires are, the most deadly of all unnatural disasters, by far, are actually extreme heat waves. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment reveals the tragic losses that can result from higher temperatures, especially for seniors, young children, outdoor workers, and the poor: A July 2006 heat wave cost our state over \$5,000,000,000; sent 16,000 people to Emergency Rooms; and resulted in 1,200 hospitalizations. Over 600 people died.

I live in Ventura County where our average temperature has already increased by 4.7 degrees Fahrenheit (2.6C) since 1895, making mine THE FASTEST WARMING COUNTY IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES. (The Washington Post, 12/2019, "2°C: Beyond The Limit - Fires, floods and free parking: California's unending fight against climate change" - https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/cfrog/pages/609/attachments/original/1581544066/California_climate_change__Fires__floods_and_a_fight_over_free_parking_-_Washington_Post.pdf?1581544066) That average is projected to climb by at least 3-5 degrees Fahrenheit MORE in the next 20 years in inland and elevated areas, such as Ojai, Thousand Oaks (where my family's home is located), and Simi Valley; while coastal areas such as Ventura and Oxnard will see average annual temperatures increase by at least 2-3 degrees, according to a Western Regional Climate Center "Overview Of Climate Change in Ventura County". (The VCReporter, 11/2019, "Into The Red | Climate Research Indicates 20 YEARS OF CONTINUOUSLY RISING TEMPERATURES IN VENTURA COUNTY" - <https://vcreporter.com/2019/11/into-the-red-climate-research-indicates-20-years-of-continuously-rising-temperatures-in-ventura-county/>) Those temperature increases translate to 27 extra days per year of 90-plus-degree heat and a 700% increase in days

topping 100 degrees, by mid-century, in California's 26th district, per estimates in "Killer Heat in the United States, Climate Choices and the Future of Dangerously Hot Days", a Union of Concerned Scientists report.

In short, California temperatures are hotter; wildfires are more destructive and are burning more populated areas; smoke is contributing to the most unhealthy air quality in decades; and firefighting costs are rising steadily – so much so that our state consistently has insufficient funds to devote to prevention.

Extreme heat is fueling our recurring wildfire nightmare and positions my community, and our state, on the frontlines of escalating Climate Catastrophe. Choices we make today determine how hot, dangerous and deadly California living will become within our lifetime. Our state government can and must immediately and aggressively cut carbon and methane pollution, and invest in clean, renewable energy right now.

As Governor Gavin Newsom remarked in Butte County last week, "Across the entire spectrum, our goals are INADEQUATE ... We have to step up our game."

As a biologist, Woolsey Fire survivor, and parent of a child who lives with and suffers from asthma triggered by oil and gas pollution, I wholeheartedly agree with our Governor. The time for courageous leadership is NOW; Californians desperately need CEC to be aggressive and take the BOLD steps necessary to ensure our state is powered by 100% clean energy NO LATER THAN 2030.

Californians are traumatized and exhausted by year after year of worsening wildfire losses and tragedies. Time is short. We can not afford to wait another day.

We're counting on you to lead us out of our state's unprecedented, cascading crises and into a just, green, sustainable recovery based on clean, renewable, fossil-free energy. Please act NOW; California hasn't a moment to lose.