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Governor's Inaugural Address Signals Strong Path for Addressing Climate Change

SACRAMENTO—In his inaugural address today, Governor Jerry Brown said that his administration would work to ensure that the state would continue an assertive effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate disruption. He said his administration would strive to ensure that over the next 15 years the renewable energy goal grows from one third to 50 percent, petroleum use in the transportation sector is cut by half, and energy efficiency in existing buildings is doubled.

Statement by Kathryn Phillips, Director of Sierra Club California, in response:

“The governor gave all of us a reason to feel optimistic today.

“The governor clearly signaled that he plans to use the next four years to actively help Californians reduce climate pollution. It remains to be seen exactly which policies will be employed, but the goals the governor set out for 2030 are a strong first step to getting us where we need to be to avoid a planet-scale catastrophe.

“If each of these goals are achieved—or exceeded—they will translate into cleaner air, cleaner water, and a more stable climate. They will also produce more job growth in the clean energy sector—good jobs that will help create a sustainable economy and a better environment.”

Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the 13 Sierra Club chapters in California, representing more than 380,000 members and supporters statewide.