

# NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Environment

## **B.C. APPLAUDS MOVE BY OBAMA ON CALIFORNIA STANDARDS**

VICTORIA – Premier Gordon Campbell is welcoming the Obama administration’s decision to grant California its waiver to regulate greenhouse gases from motor vehicles.

“We welcome this decision by President Obama. It represents a victory for California and like-minded jurisdictions such as British Columbia that have taken legislative actions to support cleaner vehicle emissions standards to combat climate change,” said Premier Campbell. “I would especially like to congratulate Governor Schwarzenegger for his ongoing leadership on this issue and other measures to fight global warming.”

In allowing California to pursue more stringent vehicle emission standards, the Obama administration has also committed to making that standard a national standard in the near future. B.C. got a head-start in 2008 when the provincial government passed the Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Vehicle Emissions Standards) Act that enables British Columbia to develop its own vehicle emissions regulation that will be based on the California regulations.

“We believe today’s announcement validates the early actions and leadership B.C. has taken on climate change, including our efforts on tailpipe standards,” said Environment Minister Barry Penner. “New B.C. vehicle emission standards mirroring California’s will significantly reduce GHG emissions and encourage more fuel-efficient vehicle choices by consumers.”

“B.C. looks forward to continuing efforts with our partners such as California and other jurisdictions to address climate change,” said John Yap, Minister of State for Climate Action. “By working with other states and provinces, B.C. is better able to influence public policy in the area of climate change.”

To date, 13 U.S. states and the District of Columbia have adopted California equivalent standards, and three others are poised to do so. The waiver by the Environmental Protection Agency will allow California to enforce its regulation while national emission standards are being developed.

The transportation sector is responsible for 38 per cent of B.C.’s total greenhouse gas emissions. The new standards will reduce these emissions by about 30 per cent in an average new car in 2016, relative to current models. When fully implemented in 2016, the standards will achieve a reduction of personal vehicle GHG emissions of approximately 600,000 tonnes annually in B.C., supporting the B.C. government’s commitment to reduce GHG emissions overall by 33 per cent by 2020.

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