



1107 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 901  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. These are uncharted waters we are traveling together and this pandemic has highlighted many strengths and weaknesses of our social, political, and medical systems. I only hope that as we fight our way back to a new normal, we will retain the positive lessons we have learned and fix the problems we have uncovered.

Even during these challenging times, there are some silver linings for us to contemplate. First, people that have never received the credit they deserve, like first responders, health care professionals, school teachers, and our supply chain workers are now being recognized as “essential”. Thank you! Second, as a society, we have surprisingly changed our daily patterns in a very short time to meet this novel threat. Now that we have started to realize the peril and calamity this pandemic has caused, we need to continue the necessary steps to protect ourselves, our families and friends, and our diverse communities in an equitable manner.

But let me pose a question to you for a moment. If we have been able to so drastically change our daily behaviors because of an imminent threat such as the Covid-19 pandemic, why are we not able to change our behaviors for an existential threat such as climate change? We all know why... it is not threatening our lives today, only tomorrow. Well, tomorrow is here and the data is undeniable. We are not doing enough to “flatten the curve” of the climate crisis. We see the inequity of the impacts of Covid-19 on the communities that have been hit hardest by this health and economic crisis. It is also the same as the impacts of climate change.

Although life-threatening and economic impacts of Covid-19 are significantly more immediate, they are not as devastating long-term as our climate crisis impacts and will

*Continued | page 2*



## Thank you for your support!

**YES**, I want to support PCL's efforts.

- I want to make a tax-deductible gift to PCL Foundation, 501(c)(3).
- Use my gift for advocacy. My check, payable to PCL, is not tax deductible.
- Please charge my credit card:  VISA  MasterCard  AmEx
- \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

in hindsight cost fractions compared to the widespread devastation to our food and water sources, habitable locations, and human lives. Although our air is cleaner and we have emitted less GHGs during this stay-at-home order, it is not sustainable and we need to plan and better execute our climate goals even during our current recovery process. Upon ramping back up, Milan, Italy is looking at implementing dramatic new transportation policies after their shutdown has drastically increased their air quality and reduced their GHG production (see April 23rd Forbes.com article). As a society, we will survive this pandemic but that cannot be said for a future where the planet may not be able to sustain human life as we know it. At PCL, planning and executing better climate policies is our number one priority.

Although it is hard to imagine things being completely back to normal anytime soon, the PCL staff have continued to work hard to keep our environmental planning and enforcement priorities front and center during these remote working times. We are still engaging stakeholders and officials on critical issues and continue working on projects that advance our climate goals such as VMT and equitable infill (see [PCL.org/Infill](https://www.pcl.org/Infill)), disaster recovery, and GHG mitigation. We also have heightened alertness on protecting California from the federal administration's roll-back on environmental protections and water, fossil-fuel, and air quality standards. This is currently happening during this global crisis despite demands to suspend any dismantling of environmental requirements. An example would be our current engagement in several legal water cases against federal and state agencies on contract agreements. We don't need to sacrifice our environmental health and natural resources for a short-term economic benefit.

We need your help during these challenging times to keep our important work moving forward. This is an opportunity to focus on climate change and other environmental priorities during the recovery process, and if we are going to invest in infrastructure and jobs in the state and across the country, let's focus on projects for the 21st century such as renewable energies, public transportation, water conservation and recycling, and climate adaptation and mitigation programs. Now is the time to invest in the infrastructure of tomorrow and help create jobs and opportunities for the future. We are interested in any feedback you may have on what these investments should be so please let us know at [PCLMail@pcl.org](mailto:PCLMail@pcl.org).

Your contribution during this time is even more critical than usual. Because many of you are financially strained as jobs disappear and financial reserves shrink, contributions to PCL are down. We understand these financial realities, but we hope those of you who can, will add something extra to your normal contribution. PCL has always done a lot with a little and you know your contributions will be well spent. And in times of crisis, there are always opportunities to make lasting systemic change.

Thank you for your commitment to building a better California and for your loyalty to PCL.

With great appreciation,



Howard Penn, Executive Director

P.S. There have been changes to tax law on charitable gifts in the coronavirus CARES act so please check with your advisors on the new tax benefits aimed at helping donors with tax deductions and charities weather this storm.



## COVID-19 News

Please visit [pcl.org/watchlist](https://www.pcl.org/watchlist) for information on critical environmental bills during this Covid-19 legislative year.

Please let us know at [PCLMail@pcl.org](mailto:PCLMail@pcl.org) if you have any suggestions on how California should invest in long-term environmentally sustainable projects for our economic recovery process. We are interested in your feedback.