SAN DIEGO, February 10, 2015 – A coalition of business, education and city leaders gathered at San Diego City College today to applaud $2 billion in new state funding for local projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and deliver a wide range of additional benefits. The new funds are made possible by California's groundbreaking clean energy and climate law, AB 32, and specifically through its cap and trade program.

Projects available for funding include low-carbon transit, improving efficiency in existing housing, and construction of affordable housing. Distributed by several state agencies, the funds from this program will be made available through competitive and other grants to local governments, school districts, and transit agencies, among other potential recipients.

“The fact that $2 billion will be available for local projects, without raising taxes, shows that California’s climate policies are delivering,” said David Alvarez, San Diego City Councilmember. “This funding will help support local economies, create good jobs, and save money through improved energy efficiency.”

“This money will help California’s kids,” said San Diego Unified School District Board Member Richard Barrera. “It will help renovate school campuses and clean up the pollution that affects so many working-class neighborhoods.” Also speaking at the press conference were Mary Salas, Mayor of Chula Vista and Shannon Casey of Cleantech San Diego. “Chula Vista has one of the most aggressive climate action plans in the state. These programs can help us meet our climate goals and put people to work,” said Salas.

“Cleantech San Diego applauds California state leaders for empowering our clean technology marketplace and providing new funding to drive innovation,” said Jason Anderson, President and CEO of Cleantech San Diego. “San Diego business innovators will prove the progressive goals of our state’s clean energy agenda achievable, and they will do so with solutions that not only help our environment, but ones that also boost our economy.”

The last phase of California's cap and trade program - inclusion of transportation fuels - took effect on January 1, 2015. In Sacramento today, legislative leaders are starting a dialogue around making future progress on clean energy, job creation, and clean air, through California's pioneering approach to climate change.

About California Delivers: California Delivers is a coalition of businesses, public health professionals, public officials, community and faith leaders, and individuals around the state, focused on protecting, implementing and extending the benefits of AB 32 beyond 2020. For more information, visit www.cadelivers.org.

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