California Green New Deal Framework Summary
Property of the Romero Institute

Summary of Objectives

- Achieve state-wide carbon neutrality within 10 years, and net-negative emissions thereafter;
- Work toward justice and equity for all Californians by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing the historic oppression of Indigenous, POC, frontline, and vulnerable communities;
- Ensure California's infrastructure, industry, and food supply is robust, sustainable, equitable, and resilient to current and future impacts of climate change;
- Enact a just transition for California's economy, prioritizing historically marginalized, vulnerable, and frontline workers, as well as workers currently employed in unsustainable industries;
- Harmonize current scientific knowledge with traditional Indigenous knowledge to maximize the responsible stewardship of California's natural and working lands and waters;
- Provide leadership to the rest of the nation and the world on how to achieve the above objectives quickly, responsibly, and compassionately.

Chapter Summaries

1. Emission Mandates
   Objectives: Establish mandatory GHG emission and sequestration targets; ensure accurate GHG reporting/tracking.
   Notable Policies: State to net-zero carbon by 2032; net-negative thereafter.

2. Governance
   Objectives: Ensure the instrumentalities of the state are fully operational for the purpose of enacting pro-social systemic change, and are free from racial bias.
   Notable Policies: Climate emergency declaration; centralized climate planning; confronting and addressing racial bias in policies; ending regulatory capture.

3. Green Financing
   Objectives: Create new, robust financing systems focused on public benefit, equity, and justice.
   Notable Policies: Public banking; expanded green bond market; achieving economic equity and a just transition; Cap-and-Trade revision.

4. Green Workforce
   Objectives: Ensure there is an adequate workforce to meet the target mandates and objectives that advances racial and economic equity.
   Notable Policies: California Green Corps; transition fossil fuel workers; right to unionize.

5. Education
   Objectives: Revise California’s public education system to prepare students for the reality of climate change; increase participation in climate- and equity-focused vocations.
   Notable Policies: Strengthen regional identities; increase quality and access to public education; community colleges as training centers; enhance academic participation in state climate action.
6. Transportation

Objectives: Achieve a zero-carbon transportation sector by 2032; reduce total vehicle miles traveled through equitable, accessible multimodal options.

Notable Policies: Fossil fuel vehicle phase-out; improve regional transportation planning and implementation; accelerate electric vehicle and zero-carbon fuels research.

7. Forestry Management & Ecosystem Stewardship

Objectives: Reduce the severity of wildfires and other climate impacts on state natural ecosystems; increase carbon sequestration potential of natural ecosystems.

Notable Policies: Implement California Forest Carbon Plan; regional ecosystem stewardship planning and implementation; blue carbon sink habitat restoration.

8. Community Planning

Objectives: Reach net-zero for the built environment by 2030; improve community resiliency to climate change; incorporate equity and environmental justice into community planning.

Notable Policies: Building electrification mandates and incentives; natural gas ban; increase urban sustainability and housing density; regional resilience networks and community resilience centers; community wildfire protection planning; urban forestry; public broadband.

9. Agriculture & Food Security

Objectives: Maintain California’s natural and working lands as a net sink of carbon; increase equitability and sustainability of state agriculture.

Notable Policies: Implement regenerative agriculture practices; align crop insurance policies with state sustainability goals; incentivize low-GHG diets; establish a public-benefit central seed supplier; preserve agricultural lands; prioritize small, mid-sized, and disadvantaged farmers; establish sustainable aquaculture practices and community fisheries.

10. Energy

Objectives: Transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030 with accompanying storage and resiliency goals; implement a bottom-up, decentralized, public benefit energy system for California.

Notable Policies: Prohibit the shareholder model for electric utilities; support California’s Community Choice Energy (CCE) agencies and municipal utilities; prioritize renewable energy over fossil power in daily energy service; increase energy storage capacity; nuclear decommissioning.

11. Industry

Objectives: Achieve a net-zero industrial sector by 2032 founded upon corporate accountability and green and community-based businesses.

Notable Policies: Fossil fuel industry phase out; increase corporate oversight; expand California Buy Clean program; mandate responsible advertising in line with state sustainability and equity goals; incentivize green and community-based businesses.

12. Waste Management

Objectives: Create a circular economy in California that achieves net-zero GHG emissions from the waste sector by 2030; ensure nuclear waste safety.

Notable Policies: Single-use plastic ban; responsible packaging requirements; mandatory municipal composting and recycling; incentivize community reuse centers; improved nuclear waste management.

13. Water

Objectives: Re-establish California water rights management upon established scientific principles and equitable access to ensure safe, sustainable, and resilient state water resources.

Notable Policies: Redefine “reasonable and beneficial” use of California water resources to be in line with state climate and equity goals; conjunctive management of surface and groundwater; implement central and regional water banks; implement regional water management planning; review commercial extraction of state water resources; improve resiliency of state water resources; water recycling requirements.