Abstract: AB 32 Scoping Plan: Reducing California’s Carbon Footprint...How Can You Be Part Of The Solution?

Assembly Bill (AB) 32 Scoping Plan: Reducing California’s Carbon Footprint How Are You Part of the Solution? Tabetha Willmon, California Air Resources Board AB 32 establishes a timetable for achieving a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. While many of the measures in the AB 32 Scoping Plan will be undertaken by large sources of emissions, such as power plants and industrial facilities, it is the voluntary commitment and involvement of millions of individuals and households throughout the state that will truly make this California’s Plan. We are all, ultimately, the real agents of change. Shifts in individual choices and attitudes drive changes in the economy and in institutions. This means that thinking about climate change in ways that will reduce our individual and household carbon footprint will become a part of our everyday decisions about travel, consumption, work, and recreation. Some individuals may choose to purchase a more efficient vehicle when it comes time to replace their current model. Others may choose to install solar water heaters now, or arrays of solar panels on their roofs to take advantage of renewable energy, and lower their household energy bills. What is crucial is that we all begin making these kinds of changes now. The Scoping Plan recommends measures to help support many of these individual decisions needed to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But it will still require changing individual habits to make those programs and policies rapidly effective. The Air Resources Board will focus on personal actions that are most crucial to the success of AB 32.

Bio: Willmon, Tabetha L. California Air Resources Board, Sacramento, CA twillmon@arb.ca.gov (916) 322-7467 Tabetha Willmon has been working to create positive change and benefit for our environment for over 17 years. Her career as an environmental specialist began shortly after receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Biology and Management, from U.C. Davis, in 1993. Since April 2008, Tabetha has worked for the California Air Resources Board’s Office of Climate Change, where she has contributed to the development of the AB 32 Scoping Plan, which is California’s plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. Tabetha has been working to outline the role local government plays in helping to achieve California’s greenhouse gas emission reductions, and to assist in coordinated education and outreach strategies for successful implementation of the Scoping Plan’s greenhouse gas emission reduction measures. For over 16 years, Tabetha worked for the California Integrated Waste Management Board’s Office of Local Assistance, providing regulatory oversight, technical assistance and guidance to California’s cities and counties on the development and implementation of solid waste management diversion and recycling plans and programs. This included identifying barriers to waste diversion and facilitating alternative solutions, as well as developing model reporting tools and templates. Tabetha
enjoys country living with her husband and two sons in Herald, California. She also enjoys outdoor activities such as golf, hiking and snow skiing, as well as reading novels.