

W

Mr. James R. Whitaker
1185 Huron Ln.
Hayward, CA 94545

1-28-09

Wayman Lee,

Please do not
issue a permit for
the Russell City
Energy Center.

40 CFR SECTION 124.11

my wife and I
have been a

Hayward resident

since 1958 we love
to walk the Hayward

shoreline, please

keep the air clear

and the shoreline

beautiful as it is

today.

Sincerely

Jim & Janet
Whitaker

Sam Francisco Chronicle

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THE FIGHT AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING

OBAMA PLUNGES IN ON WARMING

CALIFORNIA: Emissions law to be enforced when waiver is granted, likely this spring

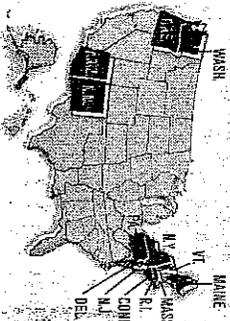
By Matthew Yi
and Wyatt Buchanan
CHRONICLE SACRAMENTO BUREAU

SACRAMENTO — California officials say they plan to enforce the state's regulation requiring the nation's most fuel-efficient vehicles as soon as the federal government grants the state a waiver from less-stringent national standards.

The move is expected this spring.

States with tough fuel standards
At least 14 states, including California, have tougher standards to increase fuel efficiency in new vehicles.

States that adopted California's fuel standards



Sources: Department of Energy; Department of Transportation

Associated Press

CHANGE IN CLIMATE: President backs state's rules, begins reversing course set by Bush

By Zachary Coile
CHRONICLE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — President Obama began the step-by-step dismantling of President Bush's climate change policies Monday by endorsing California's aggressive vehicle emissions standards and by naming a high-profile envoy to lead U.S. efforts to re-engage in international climate talks.

Obama has spent his first six days in office rolling back Bush's

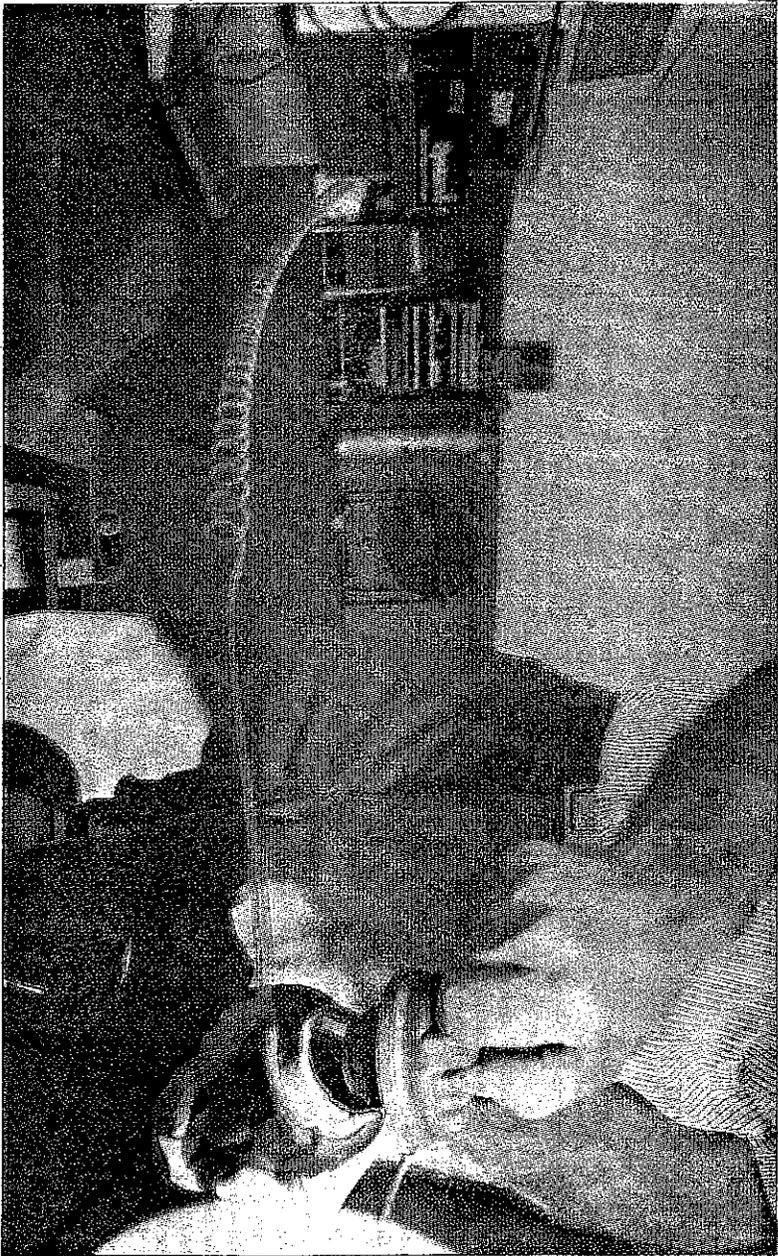
► **Too late:** Climate changes already triggered would take 1,000 years to reverse, even if drastic steps are taken now, scientists say.

policies on issues such as abortion and Guantanamo Bay. On Monday, he signaled he will use his executive powers to force automakers to raise fuel efficiency and abide by California's landmark law limiting greenhouse gases

► **CLIMATE CHANGE:** Page A6

THE FIGHT AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING

San Francisco Chronicle A7



DAVID HANBY / Getty Images
A gas cap is examined under state-required emissions testing in Pasadena. Tougher emissions rules are expected to be enforced soon.

Cutting state's vehicle emissions

How California would regulate automakers if federal officials allow it to enforce the nation's strictest emissions rules.

New vehicles sold in California would have to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2016, resulting in an average vehicle fuel efficiency of 35.7 miles per gallon. Federal fuel-efficiency standards are 27.5 mpg for cars and 22.3 mpg for light trucks.

Source: California Air Resources Board (California Resources)

It's too late to halt some of warming's effect, study says

By Thomas H. Maugh II
Los Angeles Times

Even if by some miracle of environmental activism global carbon dioxide levels reverted to pre-industrial levels, it still would take 1,000 years or longer for the climate changes already triggered to be reversed, scientists said Monday.

The gas that is already there and the heat that has been absorbed by the ocean will exert their effects for centuries, according to the analysis, published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

Over the long haul, the warming will melt the polar icecaps more than previously had been estimated, raising ocean levels substantially, the report said.

And changes in rainfall patterns will bring droughts comparable to those that caused the 1930s Dust Bowl to the American Southwest, southern Europe, northern Africa and western Australia.

"People have imagined that if we stopped emitting carbon dioxide, the climate would go back to normal in 100 years, 200 years," lead author Susan Solomon, a senior scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said in a telephone news conference. "That's not true."

The changes will persist until at least the year 3000, said Solomon, who conducted the study

with colleagues in Switzerland and France.

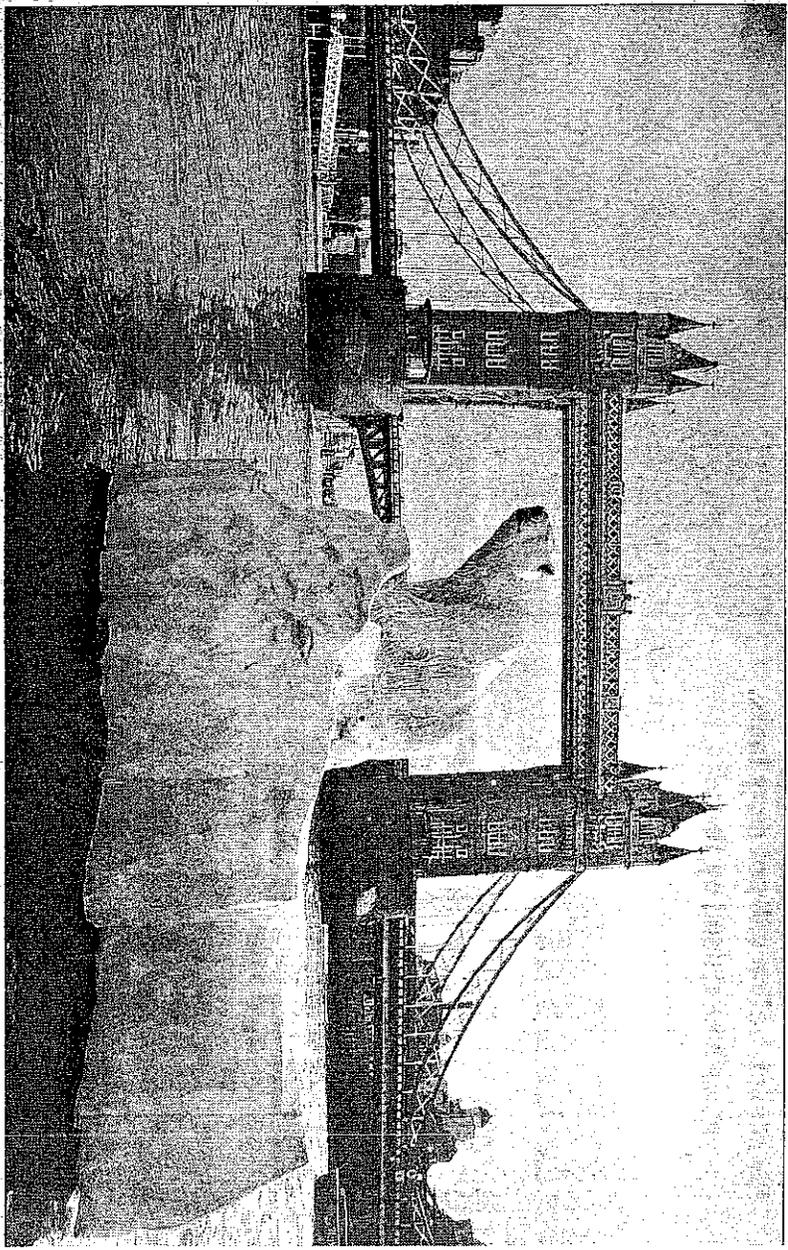
Scientists familiar with the report said it emphasizes the need for immediate action to control emissions.

"As a climate scientist, this was my intuition," said geoscientist Jonathan Overpeck of the University of Arizona. "But they have done a really good job of working through the details and ... make a case that the situation is more dire than we thought if we don't act quickly and aggressively to curb carbon dioxide emissions."

Kevin Trenberth, head of climate analysis at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., said that the persistence of climate change caused by global warming "is poorly appreciated by policymakers and the general public and it is real."

"The policy relevance is clear. We need to act sooner, even if there is some doubt about exactly what will happen, because of the time the public and policy makers really realize the changes are here, it is far too late to do anything about it," he added.

The new finding depends upon the fact that water in the ocean circulates very slowly. The primary way carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere is through absorption in the ocean, and that is an incredibly slow process, because it takes a long time for surface waters saturated



OLL SCARFF/ Getty Images

It might be time to stop for directions

A 16-foot-high sculpture of a polar bear and cub, afloat on a small iceberg on the River Thames, passes in front of Tower Bridge in London on Monday. The sculpture was launched to provide a warning to members of Parliament of the dangers of climate change.

with the gas to be replaced by deeper waters that can absorb more.

Carbon dioxide accounts for only about half the global warming caused by greenhouse gases, but the other gases are removed quickly. Thus, the long-term influence of carbon dioxide will have the greatest influence on climate change, according to the findings.

Moreover, heat absorbed by the ocean is released very slowly, contributing to global warming even if the concentration of greenhouse gases should decline, the authors said.

Solomon said in a statement that absorption of carbon dioxide by the oceans and release of heat from the oceans — the one process acting to cool the Earth and the other to warm it — will "work against each other to keep temperatures almost constant for more than 1,000 years."

Said geoscientist Jorge Sarmiento of Princeton University, "This is really a wake-up call about the seriousness of this issue."

The study looked particularly at ocean levels and rainfall. The team found that, just by thermal expansion of ocean water alone, sea levels will rise by 1.3 to 3.2 feet if carbon dioxide rises from the current level of 385 parts per million to 600 and twice that if carbon dioxide peaks at 1,000.

Reductions in rainfall also would last for centuries, according to the study, decreasing human water supplies, increasing fire frequency and devastating dry-season farming of wheat and maize.