September 1, 2021

To: CARB staff
From: Muriel Strand, P.E.
Re: Scoping Plan Modeling Scenario Concepts Workshop

The models clearly show a great deal of time and thought on the part of all involved.

Yet, given our situation, economic variables often describe phenomena that don't all follow the same rules, leading to muddy logic. Specifically, physical and metaphysical phenomena follow different operating principles yet are mathematically indistinguishable when included in measures such as GDP or the price of a restaurant dinner. Could analytical accuracy be improved by creating 2-part vectors for monetary quantities, such as one vector being embedded kwhr and the other vector being the qualitative net benefit? Mildly analogous to use value v. exchange value. I don't know, and I suspect this is beyond the scope of work. But I do know I'd start with simple cases.

Environmental justice calls for scenarios, infrastructure, that are both economically and ecologically affordable. Sustainable technologies should be as simple and accessible as possible. Energy that's not actually needed or used requires no supply and generates no emissions. Everybody would benefit from radically recalibrating what we are using energy for, and prioritizing needs over wants, rather than trying to maintain existing and extrapolated energy demand. What are the jobs that are sufficient for basic needs, and the simple tools required for the tasks involved in those jobs?

I mentioned a few specifics during the zoom workshop, like clotheslines and banning leafblowers. Going deeper, can the state develop a building code that includes requirements for passive solar and natural thermal design measures to be prioritized before any drafting is done? Including composting privies? How can state government coordinate with the commercial sectors to shorten supply chains? How effective would parallel pricing (kwhr, GHG *and* $$ labels) on retail goods and services be in raising awareness and reducing GHG emissions? And can such novel or basic measures of benefit be analyzed with the existing models?

Lastly, I predict excellent health effects can be expected from kicking our fossil fuel addiction, if planned and performed effectively. By doing the right things, not just doing things right. By living more in the ways we—and all our relations—were evolved to live.