

# Schwarzenegger urges valley CEOs to defend global warming act

**Pete Carey, Bay Area News Group, 4-19-10**

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger blasted "greedy Texas oil companies" Monday for backing a ballot initiative that would overturn a big part of his legacy — the Global Warming Solutions Act.

Speaking in Menlo Park at the annual summit of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, the governor urged the 200 or so valley chief executives and public figures attending the meeting to "push back on this effort to undo AB 32."

The bill, known as AB 32 for its origin in the state Assembly, was passed in 2006. It caps the state's greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels by 2020. It has been targeted for rollback by groups ranging from tea party activists to the Texas oil companies that are vexing the governor.

Opponents of AB 32 argue that it will cost the state jobs and increase energy costs for California residents.

The leadership group has been a staunch advocate of AB 32, which it says is helping Silicon Valley's greentech companies and thereby stimulating job growth. Around half the 153 valley CEOs surveyed by the leadership group reported they are already following the bill's directives by installing efficient lighting and data centers and employing green building practices.

The ballot initiative would suspend AB 32 until the state has four consecutive quarters of 5.5 percent or less unemployment, a standard proponents say will permanently kill the measure.

"I made a promise we will protect the economy and the environment,"

Schwarzenegger said, "We have proven you can do both." But "greedy oil companies, not even from here" but from Texas, are saying that AB 32 has cost jobs, he said. That, he said, "is crazy. The only job creation we see right now is in the green sector."

Two Texas oil companies, Valero and World Oil, have donated \$500,000 and \$100,000, respectively, to the anti-AB 32 initiative.

The governor urged the crowd to "raise the money" to combat the initiative. "Let's show the Texas oil companies we are not going to take that," he said.

Though the campaign has yet to turn in the signatures required to put it on the ballot, it is already one of the state's more contentious issues.

The money is rolling in from more than Texas oil companies, however. The latest filings with the California secretary of state show new contributions of \$498,000 from the Adam Smith Foundation of Smithville, Mo., a group whose website describes it as an "advocacy organization committed to promoting conservative principles and individual liberties in Missouri"; \$300,000 from Occidental Petroleum in Los Angeles; and an additional \$100,000 from oil refiner Tesoro in Long Beach.

Thomas Shupe Jr., of the Smith foundation, said he wasn't sure who had provided the funds, but that "we support any free-market initiative."

The initiative is also supported by Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

"The difference between greedy Texas oil companies and the greedy greentech industries is that the greentech industries are heavily subsidized by government," said Jon Coupal, president of the association. "When it comes to creating jobs, we would take the petroleum industry over greentech."

Schwarzenegger also pushed for Proposition 14, a June primary ballot measure that would create an open primary election with the top two vote-getters running in November, regardless of party. Opponents say it would lead to too few choices in the November election

Other panelists at the meeting included venture capitalist John Doerr; Matt Rogers, special adviser to the U.S. secretary of energy; former congressman and current U.S. Senate candidate Tom Campbell, and a number of valley corporate executives.