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ICYMI: The Modesto Bee: Cannella, Olsen: Hidden double-digit gas tax would affect Central Valley the most

Cost increases at the gas pump next year are coming, absent action from the state

(SACRAMENTO)—Senator Anthony Cannella and Assemblywoman Kristen Olsen write in today's *Modesto Bee* that a new "hidden tax" at the gas pump is going into effect next year, and it's going to hit Central Valley residents the hardest.

Modesto Bee: Cannella, Olsen: Hidden double-digit gas tax would affect Central Valley the most

Over the past month, we have seen an astronomical jump in prices at the pump. Unfortunately, we will see those prices rise higher unless state government takes action now.

The California Air Resources Board has been working to implement what amounts to a new "hidden" gas tax on unsuspecting Californians. If we don't stop this proposal, in just a few months, we're all going to be paying at least 12 cents more per gallon of gas.

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It is projected we'll be paying about 12 cents more per gallon, but because the carbon credit market is so volatile it could increase to as much as 40 cents per gallon. And that's on top of the 71 cents per gallon we already pay in state and federal taxes – already the highest in the nation.

While this hidden tax is going to hurt everyone, it's going to negatively impact our Central Valley region the most. Those in rural areas, people who typically have to commute farther from home to work are hit harder by gas price increases. According to a recent study by The [Next Generation](#), a nonprofit public policy organization based in San Francisco, people in rural areas spend 46 percent more on gas annually.

But it's not just rural residents. Increasing the cost of gas is extremely regressive – it hurts low-income residents more than others. In fact, according to the same Next Generation study, 19 percent of a low-income family's budget is spent on transportation

costs. Those who can least afford it end up paying the most.

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We are still struggling to get out of this recession, especially here in the Central Valley. A 12-cent or more per gallon increase on the cost of gas will devastate our region and do little to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Instead, it will force more and more low-income residents to hold onto their older, less fuel-efficient cars because they simply won't have the money to invest in new, fuel-efficient cars.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.