



Mike Mobley, President  
Victor Contreras, Secretary  
Doug Nelson, Director  
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Chris DeVan, Director  
Mike Richardson, Director  
Kevin Cannon, Director  
Mark Mooring, Director  
Steve Murata, Director  
Marty Melvin, Executive Officer

March 7, 2013

Chairman Mary Nichols  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Reference: AB 32 Revenue investments

Dear Chairman Nichols,

On behalf of the Ventura County Resource Conservation District Board of Directors and staff we are writing to lend our voice to the imperative that investments of AB 32 revenues are made in farmland preservation, watershed protection, and natural resource conservation. Three specific program recommendations are noted below that benefit job creation, greenhouse gas reduction, and the avoidance of future greenhouse gas creation. These programs will provide multiple benefits including habitat preservation and restoration, clean water, strong rural communities, Ag preservation and resilient food systems.

Resource Conservation Districts are viable local entities for implementing these programs. As the local lead agency for State and local level conservation programs, RCDs provide a critical link in connecting landowners and local stakeholders to the overarching goals identified in AB 32. We have the resources, expertise, and statutory authority under Division 9 – PRC that is necessary to create meaningful, quantifiable, accountable and lasting change.

Three program areas for AB 32 revenues investments:

**1) Conserve working landscapes including farmland, forests, and rangeland**

Conserving lands from urban development reduces the total vehicle miles traveled, creates lands that serve as sinks for carbon in plant and soils, and creates strong rural economies that serve as the backbone for California's economy.

**2) Conserve wildlands, parks and natural areas**

Conserving properly managed wildlands creates carbon sinks in plants and soils while providing for the natural heritage that makes California unique.

### **3) Provide stewardship of California's watersheds**

Watershed protection is vital to creating a resilient, healthy water supply, preserving carbon sinks in protecting wetland corridors and other natural features, building wide spread support and networks for GHG reduction, reducing agricultural and residential water use and thus energy use, avoiding soil loss (thus creating carbon sinks), providing habitat for California's wildlife and building the natural and rural character of California.

AB 32 marks a significant change in California's response to the collective challenges we face. We believe a thoughtful, holistic, well-rounded approach is in order to guide the future of our State. An emphasis on multiple benefits, thoughtful consideration of total impact, and a commitment to strong rural economies and the preservation of California's Agriculture and unique natural resources is the best investment strategy for AB 32 funds.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Executive Officer