State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Resolution 08-37

September 25, 2008

Agenda Item No.: 08-8-5

WHEREAS, the Legislature found in the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) that global warming poses a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and the environment of California;

WHEREAS, AB 32 creates a comprehensive multi-year program to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and designates the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) as the State agency changed with monitoring and regulating sources of GHG emissions that cause global warming;

WHEREAS, AB 32 directs ARB to identify opportunities for emission reduction measures from voluntary actions, including, but not limited to, carbon sequestration and best management practices;

WHEREAS, AB 32 directs ARB to adopt methodologies for the quantification of voluntary GHG emission reductions, and provides that the adoption of the methodologies is exempt from the rulemaking provisions of the California Administrative Procedure Act;

WHEREAS, the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) was earlier mandated by the California Legislature to develop and adopt procedures and protocols for monitoring, estimating, calculating, reporting, and certifying GHG emissions;

WHEREAS, local governments have significant GHG emissions from sources under their operational control and are interested in taking voluntary actions to identify and reduce GHG emissions;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Operations Protocol, developed by CCAR in partnership with ARB staff, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, and The Climate Registry (TCR), provides a method for the relevant, complete, consistent, transparent, and accurate accounting and reporting of GHG emissions from local government operations;

WHEREAS, California's urban areas contain over 177.3 million trees (1990 estimate), constitute a growing portion of "forest" cover in the state, and have been recognized by the Climate Action Team and ARB staff as playing a role in climate protection by removing atmospheric CO2;

WHEREAS, the Urban Forest Project Reporting Protocols developed by CCAR provide methods for the relevant, complete, consistent, transparent, and accurate accounting of GHG emissions reductions from carbon sequestration for voluntary urban forest projects;

WHEREAS, California is home to about 1,800 dairies with over 1.7 million dairy cows and the resulting manure is a significant source of the GHG methane emissions, which can be captured and used as a biogas through the operation of manure digesters;

WHEREAS, the Livestock Project Reporting Protocols developed by CCAR provide methods for the relevant, complete, consistent, transparent, and accurate accounting of methane GHG emission reductions for voluntary manure digester projects;

WHEREAS, ARB supports and encourages voluntary actions to account for and reduce GHGs emissions and the protocols developed by CCAR provide a mechanism to account for and reduce GHG emissions;

WHEREAS, AB 32 directs ARB to use CCAR protocols where appropriate and to the maximum extent feasible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby adopts the California Climate Action Registry's Local Government Operations Protocol, Urban Forest Project Reporting Protocols, and Livestock Project Reporting Protocols as non-regulatory quantification methodologies for the purposes of voluntary greenhouse gas accounting.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 08-37, as adopted by the Air Resources Board.

Monica Vejar

Monica Vejar, Clerk of the Board