State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Resolution 07-44

October 25, 2007

Agenda Item No : 07-10-3

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 verifiable and enforceable voluntary actions, including, but not limited to, carbon sequestration projects;

WHEREAS, California has nearly 40 million acres of forested land with the ability to sequester significant amounts of carbon, giving forests the potential to play a major role in reducing the State's GHG levels;

WHEREAS, the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) was mandated by Senate Bill 812 to develop and adopt procedures and protocols for the monitoring, estimating, calculating, reporting, and certifying of carbon forest stores and carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the conservation and conservation-based management of native forest reservoirs in California;

WHEREAS, the forestry protocols developed by CCAR provide a methodology for complete, consistent, transparent, accurate and conservative accounting of carbon emission and reductions including standardized eligibility rules, calculation methods, monitoring instructions, and procedures for reporting and verifying project information;

WHEREAS, the forest protocols were developed over a four-year multi-stakeholder public process, reviewed by 50 external experts representing the forest industry, government agencies, and academia, and were supported by the California Board of Forestry in 2004 and adopted by the CCAR Board in 2005;

WHEREAS, ARB supports and encourages voluntary actions to reduce GHGs and the CCAR forestry protocols provide a mechanism to recognize voluntary GHG reductions from potential forest projects;

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

WHEREAS, AB 32 directs ARB to adopt methodologies for the quantification of voluntary greenhouse gas emission reductions and specifies that the adoption of methodologies is exempt from the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Government Code section 11340 et seq.);

WHEREAS, after consideration of the staff report, written comments, and public testimony received before and at the hearing, the Board finds that:

1. GHG reductions resulting from forestry projects will play an important role in meeting California's greenhouse gas reduction goals;

2. The GHG emission CCAR forestry protocols provide a technically sound method for forest carbon accounting;

3. Additional forest carbon accounting methods or forest protocol project types are needed to encourage broader forest sector involvement and reduce potential barriers to participation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby adopts the California Climate Action Registry's forestry protocols as non-regulatory quantification methods for the purposes of voluntary greenhouse gas accounting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs ARB staff to initiate a stakeholder process working with government agencies, private and commercial land owners, and other interested parties, to develop additional approaches for forest carbon accounting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board directs ARB staff to return to the Board by June 2008 with a status report on the development of additional approaches for forest carbon accounting, and to return to the Board by the end of 2008 with the additional approaches that have been developed.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 07-44, as adopted by the Air Resources Board.

Lori Andreoni

Lori Andreoni, Clerk of the Board