

Dear Board Liaison Kersnar,

Environmental Services Inc. would like to submit a letter of endorsement for the California Tropical Forest Standard. We find the standard to be well suited for the jurisdictional and regional scale. Accounting for avoided emissions reductions in the standard was proposed in a reliable and conservative way. For instance, the way in which the jurisdictional baseline is developed is so conservative that any reporting jurisdiction that meets these requirements, is guaranteed to be additional (and likely underestimated). Further, we believe the proposed standard is fully verifiable. We believe the proposed Tropical Forest Standard exceeds the requirements of the International Standards Organization (ISO), for which most international carbon accounting methodologies are based when developed.

ESI is an accredited verification body accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) under ISO 14065:2013 for greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies including: ISO 14064-3:2006, ISO 14065:2013, validation/verification of assertions related to GHG emission reductions and removals at the project level for Land Use and Forestry (Group 3), and verification of assertions related to GHG emissions and removals at the organizational level (Group 1 – General, Group 2 – Manufacturing, Group 3 – Power Generation, Group 5 – Mining and Mineral Production, Group 6 – Metals Production, Group 7 chemical Production, Group 8 – Oil and Gas Extraction, production, and Refining including Petrochemicals, and Group 9 – Waste). ESI is also an accredited verification body by the California Air Resources Board as well.

The ESI team has guided project developers through assessments of numerous methodologies and completed offset project feasibility assessments to achieve the maximum GHG reduction, biologic and financial potentials. Our accreditation to ANSI has allowed us to complete 300+ AFOLU offset project validations and/or verification, 65+ organization-level verifications and 14 offset project methodology assessments around the world under a variety of GHG programs/standards and protocols/methodologies, including Afforestation, Reforestation, Revegetation (ARR), Improved Forest Management (IFM), Avoided Conversion, Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD), Agricultural Land Management (ALM), and Wetland Restoration and Conservation (WRC) project categories for GHG Programs such as Verified Carbon Standard (Verra – VCS), Climate Community and Biodiversity Standard (CCB), California Air Resourced Board (ARB), American Carbon Registry (ACR), Natural Forest Standards), Climate Action Reserve,(CAR) and British Columbia Carbon Offset Registry.

Again, our experience and expertise in the tropical regions with carbon offset projects gives us the understanding and knowledge necessary to endorse the Tropical Forest Standard. We believe this is not only a credible approach, but also believe that this scale of action is urgently needed given the current state of the climate crisis.

With all best regards,

Environmental Services, Inc.