Comments on AB 32 Scoping Plan: Carbon Sequestration:

To sequester more carbon, I am recommending the planting of Mesquite Trees in the grasslands and vacant land of Central Valley and Eastern CA. Mesquite trees can sequester up to 8 tons of carbon per hectare annually. They are drought resistant with roots 450 feet deep. They are most productive with decent rainfall or irrigation, but Mesquites can crop on as little as 4” of rainfall annually. Mesquites are Nitrogen-fixing, therefore they don’t require nitrogen fertilizer which requires an input of energy and the burning of fuel. (from Permaculture Activist, May 2011 issue,article: *Stabilizing the climate with permanent Agriculture* by Eric Toensmeier & Dave Jacke) Mesquite pods are edible and a good source of potassium, zinc, calcium, and magnesium and is a sweetener. Since it is a traditional staple food of Native Americans, they would be motivated to help plant it. This tree should not be planted over Aquifers that are polluted often with fracking wastewater. My Second choice for Central valley is the the Acacia tree because it loses its leaves in the rainy season so crops planted underneath can get sun

For Northern CA and the mountains, I would recommended planting sugar maple trees (Acer saccilarum) because it accumulates 1300 Kg/year/ha (from Jonathan Brooks of Hope College, Holland, MI.) Some trees sequester three times as much carbon as others. The Black Walnut can be used where people do not want a lot of weeds. Perenials like asparagus and bamboo are good.

Near the Southern Coast of CA, passion fruit trees would be best.