



Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Post Office Box 1450 • One Horseshoe Lane • Weaverville, CA 96093

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

March 7, 2013

Dear Chairman Nichols,

You already know much about the work Resource Conservation Districts are doing in every county throughout California to help landowners and land users care for our natural resources.

Trinity County Resource Conservation District urges that AB 32 revenues be invested in watershed protection, natural resource conservation and farmland preservation. These resources provide essential environmental services critical to the long-term reduction of greenhouse gases.

Listed below are recommendations of specific programs that would benefit job creation, reduce greenhouse gases, avoid future greenhouse gas creation, and will provide multiple other benefits including more and improved wildlife habitat, clean water, strong rural communities, and sustainable food systems. The programs enumerated in this letter will bring a greater net benefit to the State of California by providing both direct greenhouse gas reduction and secondary benefits for a cleaner, stronger, more livable California.

Resource Conservation Districts are the most appropriate entity for implementing many of these programs. As the local hub of State-level conservation programs and local communities, RCDs provide the critical link in connecting landowners and local actors to the overarching goals identified in AB 32. We have the resources, expertise, statutory authority under Division 9 of the Public Resources Code. Importantly, we have that positive, established connection with landowners that is necessary to create meaningful, quantifiable and lasting change. This local relationship is essential to creating a long term, effective response to California's pressing GHG reduction needs.

1) 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.

Programs to invest in include:

We make a strong recommendation to support the Statewide Watershed Program and the Resource Conservation District Assistance Program both housed in the Department of Conservation. The programs support natural resource conservation projects implemented in coordination with landowners within targeted watersheds in the state. The Statewide Watershed Program funds watershed coordinators and on-the-ground, conservation projects that provide tangible and significant natural resource conservation benefits. The Resource Conservation District Assistance Program offers technical and financial assistance to Resource Conservation Districts to support their land stewardship work with local landowners. Both programs can be scaled up to target projects statewide to reduce GHG emissions and to sequester carbon.

2) Conserve wild lands, parks and natural areas

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

Programs to invest in include:

The Wildlife Conservation Board

Department of Fish and Game easement programs

Resource Conservation Districts for *on-the-ground* conservation projects

3) Conserve working lands that provide environmental services, including farmland, forests, and range.

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

Programs to invest in include:

California Farmland Conservation Program housed in the Department of Conservation

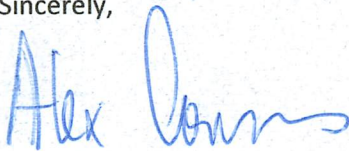
Williamson Act Subvention Funds

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program housed in the Department of Conservation

Resource Conservation Districts for *on-the-ground* conservation projects

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of how best to address the challenges facing California's environment and economy.

Sincerely,



Alex Cousins
District Manager

