Coastal Conservancy

March 8, 2013

Ms. Shelby Livingston
Chief, Climate Change Program Planning and Management Branch
California Air Resources Board
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Investment of AB 32 Auction Proceeds in Natural Resources and Working Lands to reduce GHG emissions

Dear Ms. Livingston:

We are writing to urge the California Air Resources Board and the Administration to include natural resource protection, wetland restoration, working land conservation and trail construction in the initial three year AB 32 cap and trade investment plan. Inclusion of funding for these natural and green infrastructure investments in the plan would help California effectively and efficiently meet the goals of AB 32 and other state climate polices, including AB 1532, SB 535, and SB 375.

Investments in the protection and restoration of resilient natural resources are among the most cost-effective actions that can be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while also providing other critical public benefits for Californians. Additional public benefits of these projects include job creation in California, improved public health and enhanced climate resilience. We urge you to include explicit recommendations for investments in forest conservation and restoration, sustainable agriculture and farmland protection, wetland management and restoration, urban forestry, and trail construction.

The Coastal Conservancy has many projects in the disadvantaged communities that are ready to be implemented; such as restoration of wetlands (such as Breuner Marsh in Richmond) and construction of multi-use trails (such as the San Francisco Bay Trail). Investment in these kinds of green infrastructure projects would help advance a climate readiness strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimize sprawl, provide multiple co-benefits, and serve multiple needs within California's disadvantaged communities.

Sincerely,

Sam Schuchat
Executive Officer