August 26, 2015

Mary D. Nichols, Chair  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Second Investment Plan Draft Concept

Dear Ms. Nichols:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Second Investment Plan Draft (Concept Paper). The City of Santa Clarita strives to provide the highest level of municipal services to the community while remaining mindful of the great need to protect our environment and natural resources.

The Concept Paper’s inclusion of Natural Resources and Waste Diversion as one of the three investment priorities identified within the draft investment concepts is of particular interest to the City of Santa Clarita. More specifically, the target goal of protecting and managing natural and working lands to store carbon and provide net greenhouse gas benefits is closely aligned with the priority of Santa Clarita to develop a greenbelt around the City for the purpose of preserving our natural lands for perpetuity and offering a permanent space to provide carbon sequestration. The City is appreciative that the Air Resources Board recognizes the significant role preservation of our natural lands plays in the ability to protect our natural environment and encourage that local governments be viewed as a primary recipient of these funds to fulfill this target goal.

The City of Santa Clarita holds the preservation of natural lands within and around the city in high regard. Since the City’s incorporation in 1987, we have worked diligently toward our goal of purchasing undeveloped open space parcels around Santa Clarita for the purpose of preservation and to form a greenbelt around the City to reduce overall carbon emissions and encourage infill growth within our community. This effort was greatly enhanced in 2007, when Santa Clarita’s residents voted to establish the Open Space Preservation District to preserve natural lands around the City. Thanks to this successful program, the City’s Open Space Preservation District properties, as well as jointly owned properties, total 8,745 acres.
Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Second Investment Plan Draft. If you have any questions regarding the City’s comments, please contact Michael Murphy, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, at (661) 255-4384 or by email at mmurphy@santa-clarita.com.

Sincerely,

Marsha McLean
Mayor

cc: Members of the City Council
    Senator Fran Pavley
    Senator Sharon Runner
    Assembly Member Scott Wilk
    Assembly Member Tom Lackey
    Kenneth W. Striplin, City Manager
    Frank Oviedo, Assistant City Manager
    Rick Gould, Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services
    Michael P. Murphy, Intergovernmental Relations Manager
    Matt Levesque, Administrative Analyst