The California Farm Bureau Federation would like to submit the following comments on the 2030 Target Scoping Plan as presented by power point on October 1, 2015. Farm Bureau is a non-profit, non-governmental, voluntary membership organization whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout California. Farm Bureau is California’s largest agricultural organization, comprised of 53 county Farm Bureaus currently representing 57,000 agricultural and associate members in 56 counties.

Farm Bureau has actively been involved in many aspects of the implementation of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. While not supportive of a California-only mandatory greenhouse program, we understand this is state law. We believe it is important to be engaged to insure we remain the number one agricultural state and can continue to grow 400 commodities that supply over a third of the country’s vegetables and two-thirds of the country’s fruits and nuts.

We note that natural and working lands are one of the five pillars of the 2030 Target Scoping Plan and the Healthy Soils Initiative is identified as an implementation tool. The Healthy Soils Initiative is based on the premise of building soil organic matter to sequester carbon, increase water retention, improve air and water quality, reduce sediment erosion and dust, improve biological diversity and improve plant health and yields. These are worthy goals that can be achieved if sufficient incentives are provided to members of the agricultural community who are willing to take the time and effort to make additional, voluntary operational changes to implement management practices that will achieve these objectives.

We ask that the ARB work closely with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to implement and fund the Healthy Soils Initiative. Farm Bureau has worked closely at the state and national level to support scientific research that has been instrumental in developing background data and methodologies that can quantify GHG reductions and sequestration potential from a range of agricultural practices. We support the extensive work that has been accomplished by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). We ask that ARB and CDFA utilize the work already initiated by USDA/NRCS that could provide a uniform approach that can be used in California, nationally and internationally to quantify irrigation efficiency, water conservation, wildlife habitat conservation and soil carbon sequestration enhancements. The Healthy Soils Initiative projects will allow CARB to recognize these voluntary agricultural sector GHG reductions as helping meet their statewide goals.