



# YUROK TRIBE

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Ms. Rajinder Sajota  
Assistant Division Chief  
Industrial Strategies Division  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2828

Re: Comments on the October 12, 2017 Workshop on Next Steps for the Post-2020 Cap-and-Trade Regulation

Dear Ms. Sajota,

Thank you for you and your colleagues continued leadership and commitment to develop a cap-and-trade program in California. As you well know, this program is a central element of California's climate leadership and covers major sources of GHG emissions in the State, such as refineries, power plants, industrial facilities, land use and transportation fuels. The Yurok Tribe is the largest Tribe in California and one of the first Tribes to engage in the cap-and-trade program in California.

We, the undersigned, represent a diverse array of California forest stakeholders—including conservation groups, Native American Tribes and industrial timberland managers—representing a significant amount of the total offsets in the California cap and trade program that have come together with a unified voice to support California's offset program.

First, we would like to thank ARB for the continued inclusion of a robust offset policy in California's efforts to reduce GHG emissions through 2030. California's offset program has substantially enhanced the conservation and sustainable management of California's forests, while providing cost-effective GHG reductions and a host of other environmental benefits to the state.

Since the adoption of the Global Solutions Warming Act (Assembly Bill 32), over 5.3 million acres of forest have been enrolled in the program, of which over 550,000 acres are in California. These forests have collectively reduced over 60 million metric tons of GHG emissions. In addition to the climate benefits, forest offset projects provide other direct benefits to Californians. The offset projects our groups have developed, among other things, have allowed tribes to reacquire ancestral territory, conserved forested watersheds that



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provide drinking water and critical salmon habitat, increased fire resiliency in rural communities, and created jobs in economically disadvantaged areas.

We look forward to working with ARB to expand and improve the offset program going forward. In particular, we applaud the creation of a Compliance Offsets Protocol Task Force to increase offset projects in the state. In addition to adopting new protocols, there is a significant opportunity to streamline and improve implementation of the existing forest offset protocol to increase participation and deliver more benefits to the state. We recommend that ARB include forestry experts with direct experience in offset project development on the Task Force. We also encourage ARB and the Task Force to draw on the expertise of the larger California forestry community for input throughout the process.

California's offset program is the only one of its kind that is encouraging investment in rural and working landscapes at scale. It has the potential to deliver even greater environmental benefits through expansion and improvement going forward. We look forward to working with ARB to build on this groundbreaking program that is a model for the rest of the country and the world.

Again, thank you again for the opportunity to provide you with our recommendations on this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Th P. O'Rourke, Sr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas P. O'Rourke, Sr.  
Chairman  
Yurok Tribe