**Comment 2nd California Climate Investment Assessment**

As stated in the Draft 4th Investment Plan (Plan); “the state has the opportunity to deploy climate incentive funding in ways that contribute towards an integrated set of environmental, economic, and social goals” The question is what does that look like in practice?

Cap-and-Trade funding could promote projects that integrate the environmental, economic and social goals that CARB aspires to by promoting citizen science related projects and elevating the importance of coastal blue carbon areas. Coastal and inland communities have different climate issues, however, for California to meet its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals both natural and mechanical carbon capture technology will be needed. The Plan should place value not only on pollution reduction methods associated with GHG reduction, but should equally recognize blue carbon nature based GHG reduction solutions. Also, funding GHG monitoring projects that support research, restoration and education should be integrated into the local Climate Action Plans (CAP) and then expanded regionally.

The EPA defines Environmental Justice (EJ) as “Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” Recognizing the economic value that coastal blue carbon areas bring to the Cap-and-Trade market; open up opportunities for governmental entities to fund climate action jobs, create affordable housing opportunities and help educate regulators and decisionmakers of local climate related environmental issues. There is an intrinsic value that stewards and citizen scientist bring to a community in the form of experience, education and a desire for a call to action in addressing the climate crisis. Cap-and Trade market funded grants could be used for projects that integrate environmental, economic and social aspects through a program. For example, creating local citizen scientist jobs and integrating affordable housing opportunities into a grant funded project fosters a practical EJ solution and encourages public participation and education The organic nature of such projects helps foster multijurisdictional collaboration that may sometimes be difficult to achieve for a structured governmental entity. Working as a catalyst with local climate action groups, Cap-and-Trade funds should facilitate in building a workforce through a learn by doing methodology and build infrastructure necessary to achieve California’s Climate Action goals. Integrating local CAP’s with Cap-and-Trade funded projects will help synthesize the state’s greenhouse gas reduction goals and bring attention to local climate change issues and concerns.

 With the latest data from Keeling Curve showing an accelerated rise in atmospheric CO2 levels, and evidence of climate change air quality issues with the recent fires throughout California, CARB’s population driven air quality monitoring requirements are lacking in today’s environment. Health issues such as elevated CO2 concentrations in buildings and homes are emerging EJ issues. Funding citizen scientist driven coastal air quality monitoring projects would help fill the data gaps and establish much needed local baseline air quality data to further research and understanding of the climate crisis facing us. Collaborating with local governmental entities, CARB funded programs could be laced into City and County CAP’s bringing an educational element into local policy.

Thank You for the opportunity to comment,

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