



April 25, 2013

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

**RE: Inclusion of Natural Resources and Working Lands in the draft AB 32 Cap and Trade Auction Proceeds Investment Plan**

Dear Ms. Livingston and members of the California Air Resources Board,

The undersigned organizations are writing to thank the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for including natural resource protection and working lands in the recently released draft AB 32 Cap and Trade Auction Proceed Investment Plan. By including funding for natural resources and working lands in the investment plan, CARB has taken an important step towards helping California effectively and efficiently meet the goals of AB 32 and other state climate policies, including AB 1532, SB 535, and SB 375.

Each of our organizations believes that investments in natural resources are key to a comprehensive and successful Auction Proceed Investment Plan. Investments in the protection and restoration of resilient natural resources and working lands are among the most cost-effective actions that can be taken to reduce harmful carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, while also providing other critical public benefits for Californians. Additional public benefits include but would not be limited to climate resilience, non-exportable jobs, and water and air quality protection. We are very pleased that the draft Auction Proceed Investment Plan includes recommendations for investments in forest conservation and restoration, sustainable agriculture and farmland protection, wetland management and restoration, urban forestry and integrated land use and conservation strategies.

The natural resource recommendations included in the draft Auction Proceed Investment Plan will play a key role in the state's efforts to reduce GHG emissions, while simultaneously minimizing sprawl, providing myriad co-benefits, and serving multiple needs within California's disadvantaged communities. The intrinsic value of our natural resources and working lands and their ability to meet multiple goals and objectives of AB 32 and other state climate policies are worthy of such investments, and will return dividends immediately back to our economy, environment, and communities. We thank you for your commitment to our State's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Walter T. Moore  
President  
**Peninsula Open Space Trust**

Terry Corwin  
Executive Director  
**Land Trust of Santa Cruz County**

Bill Keene  
General Manager  
**Sonoma County Agricultural  
Preservation and Open Space  
District**

Jean Watt  
President  
**Friends of Harbors, Beaches and  
Parks**

Jennifer Fox  
Executive Director  
**Bay Area Open Space Council**

Joe Shaw  
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**Bolsa Chica Land Trust**

Bill Leahy  
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**The Big Sur Land Trust**

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**Audubon California**

Joe Liszewski  
Executive Director  
**California ReLeaf**

Paul Mason  
Vice President  
**Pacific Forest Trust**

Joe Edmiston  
Executive Director  
**Mountains Recreation &  
Conservation Authority**