

STATE CERTIFIED  
COMMUNITY  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS



California's State-Certified Community Conservation Corps

CONSERVATION  
CORPS OF LONG  
BEACH

CIVICORPS (EAST  
BAY)

EOC / FRESNO  
LOCAL  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

LOS ANGELES  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

CONSERVATION  
CORPS NORTH BAY

ORANGE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

SACRAMENTO  
REGIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

SAN FRANCISCO  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

URBAN  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS OF THE  
INLAND EMPIRE

SAN JOAQUIN  
REGIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

SAN JOSE  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

SEQUOIA  
COMMUNITY CORPS  
(TULARE)

URBAN CORPS  
OF SAN DIEGO  
COUNTY

BUILDING STRONG  
CALIFORNIA  
COMMUNITIES  
THROUGH  
CONSERVATION  
WORK, EDUCATION,  
& SERVICE.

Ms. Mary Nichols  
Chair  
California State Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, California

**Re: Air Resources Board (ARB) Draft 2030 Target Scoping Plan Update Concept Paper (“Draft Scoping Plan”)**

Dear Chair Nichols and Air Resources Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Plan; we applaud your work and the progress California has made thus far to address climate change and grow the economy.

California’s state-certified community (“local”) conservation corps have for decades successfully partnered with the state to achieve important environmental targets while providing highest-quality job training, workforce development, education, and job placement opportunities to unemployed residents of disadvantaged and underserved communities.

We’ve attached additional information about our long-standing and proven programs and offer the following recommendations for strengthening the Draft Scoping Plan to benefit the California communities we serve:

1. *Integration* (page 7): We agree that integrating local, regional, and State priorities helps to efficiently achieve multiple objectives, stretch public dollars, and ensure collaboration between public, nonprofit and private stakeholders. Integration can also support local job creation and expand access to program benefits. **We recommend that the Scoping Plan include strategies to increase integration across programs in ways that directly assist Californians.** For example, ARB might consider consolidation of residential weatherization, energy efficiency, tree canopy, and drought-related programs so that California families can, in “one stop,” transform their homes to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions and cost savings. **We recommend that any**

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**concentrated local investment made through integrated projects include workforce development, job training, education and placement opportunities for unemployed residents of the communities in which projects occur.**

2. *Environmental and Economic Benefits for All Californians* (page 7): California has led the world in showing that the economy can be strengthened alongside the pursuit of critical environmental targets, and that programs can be thoughtfully engineered to support increased employment. **We recommend that the Scoping Plan articulate program-related local job creation and economic growth strategies for disadvantaged and low-employment communities**, including how recommended priorities provide opportunities for rapidly educating and training unemployed and undereducated individuals in those communities so that they are job-ready. **We recommend that ARB cite state-certified community conservation corps as a proven model that connects State agencies, local communities and California's unemployed to achieve emissions-reducing environmental projects that benefit families, underserved communities and the State.**
3. *Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment* (page 8): We agree that the Scoping Plan should include specific programs that enhance California's landscapes, including urban landscapes, in ways that reduce greenhouse gases and protect Californians and the state's resources from the effects of drought, fire, heat and other disastrous climate change impacts. **We recommend that ARB prioritize projects and investments that create local job training and placement benefits.**
4. *Improving Public Health* (page 10): We know first-hand that climate change is impacting the health of our communities, and is an especially urgent problem for low-income families, communities of color, and other vulnerable Californians. As ARB recognizes, addressing climate change presents a significant opportunity to improve public health and **we recommend that the Scoping Plan articulate how, alongside long-term statewide health benefits, strategies (such as urban greening) can ensure that Californians in need can locally access clean air, shade and cooling, and other health benefits.**

5. *Environmental Justice* (page 11): We agree that environmental justice communities must share in the benefits of the cleaner economy that California is building. **We recommend that ARB prioritize projects that not only benefit or occur in underserved communities, but that also ensure that job training, education, and job placement occurs in those communities as well.**

California's state-certified community conservation corps are committed to ensuring that the state's climate strategies provide strong environmental benefits to all communities *and* provide lasting job training and employment opportunities to the most vulnerable residents of our state.

Let's get to work.

Sincerely,



Alan Lessik  
President  
California Association of Local Conservation Corps