



Placer County Resource Conservation District

March 8, 2013

Chairman Mary Nichols
California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Investment Plan

Dear Chairman Nichols,

The Placer County Resource Conservation District (PCRCD) is pleased to submit comments on the California Air Resources Board (ARB) Draft Concept Paper for the Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Investment Plan. PCRCD is the local unit of government dedicated to the conservation of agriculture and natural resources in Placer County.

Investment of AB 32 Revenues

We strongly encourage ARB to invest AB 32 revenues in working lands preservation (farm, forests, and range), watershed protection, and natural resource conservation. Besides reducing greenhouse gas emissions, these investments will create jobs, enhance water quality and quantity, provide wildlife habitat, strengthen rural communities, and support dependable local food systems.

Local Conservation is Key

Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) are the entities best-suited to effectively implement the greenhouse gas reduction goals of AB 32. RCDs provide a critical link between landowners, local government, and the state and federal agencies who are tasked with natural resource conservation. We have the resources, expertise, and statutory authority under Division 9 of the Public Resources Code to effectively realize the conservation goals identified in AB 32.

California's Forest Resources

We also support the comments submitted jointly by The Placer County Air Pollution Control District, Northern California Society of American Foresters, and the California Licensed Foresters Association. The importance of California's forest resources - and the need to manage them appropriately - cannot be understated. California's forests provide much of the state's water supply, forest products, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, and recreation and open space. However, these forests are increasingly vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire, which destroys all of these valuable assets.



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Rural Forest Communities

We strongly encourage ARB to include rural forest communities as priority areas for investing auction proceeds. The draft concept paper appears to focus on urban and agriculture communities solely based on CalEnviroScreen scores; rural communities located in forested regions are conspicuously absent. These communities are some of the hardest hit economically and must not be overlooked as they represent significant opportunities for advancing renewable energy sources.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. You may contact us with any questions at 530-885-3046, ext. 118.

Kind Regards,

Elisa Noble

Elisa Noble
Executive Director
Placer County Resource Conservation District