



March 7, 2013

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

RE: Investment of AB 32 Auction Proceeds in Natural Resources and Working Lands to reduce GHG emissions

Dear Ms. Livingston:

We are writing to urge the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Administration to include natural resource protection and working lands in the initial three year AB 32 cap and trade investment plan. Inclusion of funding for natural resources and working lands in the investment plan would help California effectively and efficiently meet the goals of AB 32 and other state climate polices, including AB 1532, SB 535, and SB 375.

Our organizations have diverse missions and memberships yet we share a common vision for the role of natural resources and working lands in a comprehensive and successful AB 32 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, water and air quality protection. We therefore urge you to include explicit recommendations for investments in forest conservation and restoration, sustainable agriculture and farmland protection, wetland management and restoration, urban forestry, local parks, and integrated land use and conservation strategies.

All of these natural resource investment recommendations collectively represent a climate readiness strategy to reduce GHG emissions, minimize sprawl, provide myriad co-benefits, and serve multiple needs within California's disadvantaged communities. Investments in these resources are scalable, and can use existing state programs for immediate delivery. 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 urge you to continue California's legacy of leadership in reducing GHG emissions by investing in our state's natural resources and working lands.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Merrill
Policy Director
California Climate and
Agriculture Network

Jay Ziegler
Director of External Affairs
The Nature Conservancy

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