

From: Luan Marks
To: [ARB Clerk of the Board](#)
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October 29, 2018

Mary Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 94814

Dear Madam Chair:

I am responding in opposition to the Tropical Forest Standard now before the Air Resources Board. I am an independent researcher and academic, and this is one of my areas of significant research. I study historic and contemporary relationships of Indigenous peoples to the Earth.

Numerous successful arguments can be made against cap-and-trade and carbon offset projects. These are a salient few:

You are using an unproven system, and it is not possible to prove that it works effectively. It is also flawed, corrupt, fraudulent, and contributes to continued environmental degradation and carbon violence.

Cap-and-trade has never been proven to work effectively. Even the academics Thomas D. Crocker and John Dales who originally developed tradable emissions permits theories have stated that they are skeptical that their theories—that's all they were—are practically applicable to global carbon reduction efforts.

Carbon offset project accounting is rife with fraud, and attempts at accurate, standardized, carbon accounting have also failed. *Carbon emissions accounting fraud* is now a formal term; it is an acknowledged problem that fraud exists in carbon accounting. Accurate carbon accounting is impossible. It is pretense, a self-serving, profiteering mechanism, with an inherent conflict of interest.

You are ignoring the recommendations of your own Environmental Justice Advisory Committee in continuing to promote carbon offset projects. Carbon offsets do little to actually stop pollution in California, which impacts communities of color disproportionately, confines environmental poisoning, and affects quality of life and property values for the people of California.

Carbon offset projects are destroying the Earth in the name of profit.

Environmental integrity, Indigenous rights, and the rights of nature have been violated by carbon offset projects to date. The phrase *carbon violence* was coined to describe applications of carbon offset programs, as they contribute significantly to violence against environments and to the peoples who lived and continue to live in them.

Please heed the feedback you are getting now and back out of this failed program.

Sincerely,

Lou-Anne Fauteck Make-Marks, Ph.D.
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