



STATE CERTIFIED
COMMUNITY
CONSERVATION
CORPS

California's State-Certified Community Conservation Corps

CONSERVATION
CORPS OF LONG
BEACH

August 14, 2015

CIVICORPS (EAST
BAY)

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

EOC / FRESNO
LOCAL
CONSERVATION
CORPS

LOS ANGELES
CONSERVATION
CORPS

Re: Draft Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments

CONSERVATION
CORPS NORTH BAY

Dear Chair Nichols and Air Resources Board Members,

ORANGE COUNTY
CONSERVATION
CORPS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments.

SACRAMENTO
REGIONAL
CONSERVATION
CORPS

California's state-certified community ("local") conservation corps provide job training and workforce development opportunities to residents of disadvantaged communities and others, such as at-risk youth and veterans, who face barriers to employment. We've attached additional information on our program and offer the following suggestions for strengthening the guidelines to benefit the populations we serve:

SAN FRANCISCO
CONSERVATION
CORPS

URBAN
CONSERVATION
CORPS OF THE
INLAND EMPIRE

Require programs and projects to demonstrate job training and workforce development benefits.

SAN JOAQUIN
REGIONAL
CONSERVATION
CORPS

1. The state's climate laws seek to maximize jobs and job training opportunities. The guidelines are an opportunity to require that "the services of state-certified community conservation corps or other nonprofit workforce development program that serves residents of disadvantaged communities and those facing barriers to employment shall be used whenever feasible."
2. For grant programs, ARB should direct administering agencies to prioritize projects that "use the services of state-certified community conservation corps or other nonprofit workforce development program that serves residents of disadvantaged communities or those facing barriers to employment."

SAN JOSE
CONSERVATION
CORPS

SEQUOIA
COMMUNITY CORPS
(TULARE)

URBAN CORPS
OF SAN DIEGO
COUNTY

3. At Table 2-2, "Illustrative Examples of Common Needs

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

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of Disadvantaged Communities (as Identified by Community Advocates),” Page 13, we suggest the following edit:

Increase job readiness and career opportunities (e.g., state-certified community conservation corps or other workforce development programs that serve residents of disadvantaged communities or those facing barriers to employment, on-the-job training, industry-recognized certifications).

California’s state-certified community conservation corps are ready to help ensure that funds provide strong environmental benefits to all communities and provide lasting job training and employment opportunities to the most vulnerable residents of our state.

Editing the guidelines to reflect a more robust job training and workforce development component would better uphold the state’s climate laws and would ensure that those facing obstacles to employment don’t miss a needed opportunity.

Let’s get to work.

Sincerely,



Alan Lessik
President
California Association of Local Conservation Corps