



NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

August 30, 2007

Mary Nichols
Chair of the Board
California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Support for Adoption of the California Climate Action Registry Forest Protocols

Dear Chair Nichols and members of the Air Resources Board:

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) supports the California Air Resources Board's adoption of the California Climate Action Registry Forest Protocols. Authorized by statute and developed through extensive public review, the Registry's Forest Protocols provide a strong initial greenhouse gas accounting platform from which to engage forests in helping to mitigate global warming and meet the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals pursuant to Assembly Bill 32.

In addition to climate benefits, the Forest Protocols can also help ensure that forest projects promote other valuable public benefits for California by providing guidance on reporting, monitoring and verification for three types of forest activities that will protect and enhance water quality, wildlife habitat, and biodiversity. Specifically, these activities include: conservation (avoided conversion), conservation-based forest management practices that focus on increasing rotation length and stream buffers, and reforestation.

The Board's adoption of the forest protocols will maintain California's leadership in forest and climate policy and provide critical momentum for greenhouse gas reductions from the forest sector to meet the AB 32 mandated emissions level. The Forest Protocols are a significant first step, and will only improve with time and implementation by the Board. We therefore urge the Board to take advantage of this opportunity by adopting the Forest Protocols, and commend the Board and staff for its initiative on this issue.

Sincerely,

Debbie Hammel
Senior Resource Specialist, NRDC

cc:

Daniel Sperling, Air Resources Board
Jerry Hill, Air Resources Board
Dorene D'Adamo, Air Resources Board
Barbara Riordan, Air Resources Board
Lydia Kennard, Air Resources Board
Sandra Berg, Air Resources Board
Ron Roberts, Air Resources Board
Judy Case, Air Resources Board
Ronald Loveridge, Air Resources Board
Secretary Linda Adams, California Environmental Protection Agency
Secretary Chrisman, California Resources Agency
Crawford Tuttle, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Jackalyne Pfannenstiel, California Energy Commission
Jim Boyd, California Energy Commission
Lynn Terry, California Air Resources Board
Eileen Tutt, California Environmental Protection Agency
Jeanne Panek, California Air Resources Board