

**Pacific Forest Trust • The Nature Conservancy • Sierra Club California
California Council of Land Trusts • Environmental Defense • California Trout
Trust for Public Land • The Conservation Fund • The Wilderness Society
Trout Unlimited • Defenders of Wildlife • Save the Redwoods League • Sierra Forest
Legacy • Greenbelt Alliance • California Oaks Foundation • Californians Against Waste**

September 6, 2007

California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812
Fax: (916) 445-5025

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

Dear Chair Nichols and members of the Air Resources Board:

The organizations listed above support the California Air Resources Board's timely adoption of the California Climate Action Registry Forest Protocols. Authorized by statute and developed through extensive public review, the Registry's Forest Protocols (Forest Protocols) provide a strong greenhouse gas accounting platform to engage the forest sector in voluntary early action measures to help mitigate global warming and meet the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals pursuant to Assembly Bill 32.

The Registry's Forest Protocols are the first set of greenhouse gas protocols in the world to recognize a suite of forest activities that can help address global warming. Based on broadly accepted greenhouse gas reduction principles reflected in AB 32, the Kyoto protocol, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and many other climate programs, the Forest Protocols provide guidance on reporting, monitoring and verification for three types of forest projects: conservation (avoided conversion), conservation-based forest management, and reforestation. They were developed through an extensive four-year multi-stakeholder process, including a public workshop and comment period sponsored by the California Energy Commission and substantial public and scientific review from the private and public sectors, state, federal and international interests, and climate, forestry and policy experts.

In addition to climate benefits, the Forest Protocols promote other valuable and much-needed public benefits for California. These co-benefits include the protection and enhancement of water quality, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and local timber economies. The Protocols are designed to promote and maintain native tree species and natural forest conditions, so forest projects that create climate benefits also lead to other co-benefits, and are not carried out at their expense.

The Board's adoption of the Forest Protocols will maintain California's leadership in forest and climate policy. It will provide critical momentum for greenhouse gas reductions from the forest sector and help the state 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 and commend the Board and staff for its initiative on this issue.

Sincerely,

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Pacific Forest Trust

Louis Blumberg
The Nature Conservancy

Paul Mason
Sierra Club California

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