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Law & policy innovation for the common good.



CONSERVING LAND
FOR PEOPLE

Mary Nichols
Chairwoman, State Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

June 20, 2012

Re: AB 32 Investments in Sustainability

Dear Chairwoman Nichols,

We are writing to express our interest in working with the California Air Resources Board to craft an AB 32 auction revenues investment plan that achieves significant GHG reductions with key co-benefits by investing in sustainability and natural resource programs that can easily and quickly implement projects on the ground.

Long before the passage of AB 32, most of the organizations represented herein have been working to develop and implement projects throughout the state that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester those emissions. These investments in sustainability and natural resource projects provide for clean water and air, revitalize communities, improve public health, conserve energy and water, promote business, improve efficiencies, and help communities mitigate impacts of climate change including reduction of harmful greenhouse gas emissions. These investments create jobs that cannot be outsourced, and also grow the state's housing, transportation, small business, tourism, recycling, and construction sectors.

For some time now, our groups have been thinking about how to invest funds derived from AB 32 auction revenues in conservation and urban sustainability projects that maximize greenhouse gas emission reductions, greenhouse gas sequestration, and maximize environmental and public health benefits. Given the tangible benefits of the projects we have invested in to date, and the tremendous existing need to do more with increasingly limited funds,

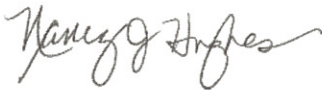
We believe investments in existing and new sustainability and natural resource programs that promote the goals of AB 32 should include:

- Parks and Open Spaces
- Urban Greening, Urban Forestry, and Green Infrastructure
- River Parkways and Urban Streams
- Infill Development and Sustainable Communities
- Water Quality, Stormwater, and Water Supply

By targeting investments from AB 32 auction revenues to sustainability and natural resource investments, especially through agencies such as the Natural Resources Agency and its departments, and the Strategic Growth Council; CARB can assist the state in reaching its greenhouse gas reduction goals, while building and promoting the vital services these resources provide to communities throughout the state.

These investments would create real, visible benefits for all Californians. We thank you for your leadership on this issue and respectfully urge you to continue work to ensure that sustainability and natural resources initiatives and solutions and other proven programs are prioritized.

Sincerely,



Nancy J. Hughes
California Urban Forests Council



Joe Liszewski
California ReLeaf



Rico Mastrodonato
Trust for Public Land



Marilee Eckert
CA Assoc. of Local Cons. Corps



Meea Kang
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