

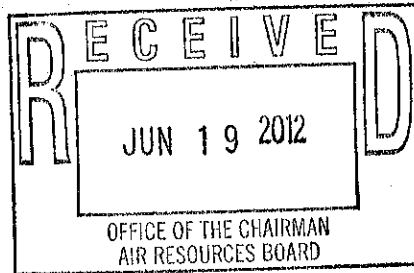


Santa Clara County
Open Space Authority

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June 12, 2012

Mary D. Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: AB 32 Cap and Trade Program Auction Proceeds Investment Plan

Dear Chair Nichols and members of the California Air Resources Board:

Thank you for hosting the public consultation on the investment of AB 32 cap and trade auction proceeds on May 24, 2012. On behalf of Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, we are writing to encourage the California Air Resources Board to design an investment plan that includes funds for greenhouse gas reductions achieved through natural resource protection and to permit counties, and their special districts, to be eligible to receive such funds.

Counties play a critical and much needed role in land use, conservation and climate change. Through local land use decisions, programs, and land acquisitions counties can conserve and restore natural and working lands and promote the removal of additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and minimize greenhouse gases. These actions not only help protect the climate, but help clean our air and water, protect communities from against severe weather events, and provide fish and wildlife habitat, as well as resource-related jobs in our community. Directing investments in natural resource protection through counties and special districts like ours can play a powerful and complementary role to help the state meet its greenhouse gas target for forests and promote effective sustainable communities strategies pursuant to Senate Bill 375. The provision of auction revenue to counties and special districts will help ensure that we can play a key role in addressing climate change and achieving these public benefits.

We support a clear role for counties and special districts in natural resource protection as eligible categories for receipt of allowance revenue pursuant to AB32, and thank you for your consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

cc: Board of Directors, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority