



September 18, 2008

California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812
Fax: 916-445-5025

Re: Support for Adoption of the California Climate Action Registry Urban Forest Project Reporting Protocol

Dear Chair Nichols and members of the Air Resources Board:

We are writing to strongly encourage you to endorse the Urban Forest Project Reporting Protocol at your September 25, 2008 meeting, as an important step in meeting the implementation guidelines set forth in AB 32. We feel that urban forestry is a very valuable tool in the fight against global warming and we are encouraged that the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) approved the Protocol at its board meeting in August.

The Urban Forest Protocol establishes eligibility guidelines for urban tree planting projects that can be registered with CCAR. The Protocol spells out the necessary calculations and standards that a tree planting project must meet to be registered. The performance-based standard applies rigorous limits to projects to ensure that only “real, additional and credible” projects are eligible.

According to the Center for Urban Forest Research, the US Forest Service unit in Davis, CA that led the charge to establish the protocol, for every 1,000 tree sites planted under this protocol, 50-80 metric tonnes of CO₂ emissions could be reduced annually. A large-scale tree planting and stewardship effort is estimated to reduce statewide CO₂ by about 6 Mt annually, or 3-4% of California’s goal. Moreover, communities will reap multiple benefits from these tree projects, and collect on financial rewards through selling carbon offset credits. Adoption of the Protocol provides communities with a unique opportunity to confront climate change in their own backyard.

In closing, on behalf of the below members of California ReLeaf and the California Urban Forests Council, we strongly encourage the Air Resources Board to endorse the Urban Forest Project Reporting Protocol. Thank you for your leadership in this matter.

Sincerely,

Martha Ozonoff
California ReLeaf

Nancy Hughes
California Urban Forests Council

Ray Tretheway
Sacramento Tree Foundation

Rose Epperson
Western Chpt, Int'l Society of Arboriculture

Urban Corps of San Diego County, Inc.
Erwin Sanvictores

Canopy
Catherine Martineau

David Wilkinson
Woodland Tree Foundation

Tom McCoy
West Oakland Commerce Association

Rhonda Berry
Our City Forest

Ken Knight
Goleta Valley Beautiful

Ken Knight
Central Coast Regional Urban Forest Council

Ruth Williams
TREE Davis

Jean Nagy
Huntington Beach Tree Society, Inc.

Gail Church
TreeMusketeers

Sandra Sellinger
Marin ReLeaf

Cindy McCall
Santa Barbara County Releaf

Jim Williamson
Tree Partners Foundation

David Kirkwood
Kirkagro

Deborah Day
Inland Empire Urban Forest Council

Kemba Shakur
Urban Releaf

Stephen Lamprides
CaUFC, Member

Michele McKeegan
Keep Eureka Beautiful

Kerry Elms
Greater Modesto Tree Foundation, Inc.

Jack McCabe
Urban Forester & Certified Arborist