



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

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October 1, 2008

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

RE: Climate Change Scoping Plan, June 2008 Discussion Draft

Dear Chair Nichols:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the June 2008 Discussion Draft of the Climate Change Scoping Plan; ARB's outreach to local government during this process is appreciated. I write because I am very concerned that the draft document does not adequately address the serious issue of catastrophic wildfire, and I believe that wildfire mitigation and prevention are vital to ARB's success in meeting the goals set forth in AB 32.

I am currently the co-chair (with Trinity County Supervisor Jeff Morris) of CSAC's Climate Change Policy Committee. Supervisor Morris and I were responsible for guiding the CSAC organization towards its successful adoption last November of an initial set of policies related to climate change.

As you are aware, in May 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-03-08, which specifically directed CalEPA and the California Resources Agency to oversee the Climate Action Team's development of measures for wildfire fuels reduction and biomass utilization. In light of the Executive Order, the current wildfire situation throughout the state, and the Governor's emergency declarations, I am troubled that no such measures (as described in S-03-08) have been outlined in the discussion draft of the Scoping Plan.

Recent wildfires statewide have had major impacts on air quality, contributing significantly to California's carbon and particulate emissions. As the wildfire season progresses, thousands of acres of forest lands will needlessly burn, releasing even more carbon and further contributing to our poor air quality. Catastrophic wildfires are typically on United States Forest Service (USFS) lands; many of those fires, together with the corresponding emissions, could be prevented if USFS lands were more efficiently managed. I am concerned that the Draft Scoping Plan makes only a vague mention of fuels reduction and fails to address emissions from fires on forest lands.

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I urge ARB to include in the Final Draft Scoping Plan a firm commitment by the state to join with local government to advocate at the federal level for enhanced management on USFS lands, as well as an extensive program to quantify wildfire emissions that could be avoided through better forest management practices. This is vital not only to meet the goals of AB 32, but more importantly to improving the quality of the air and public health. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,



Diane Dillon
Board of Supervisors, District 3

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Members, California Air Resources Board