

February 26, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor of California
California State Capitol
Sacramento, Calif. 95814



AND

Mary D. Nichols
Chairman, California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
P.O. Box No. 2815
Sacramento, Calif. 95812

Re: CARB and California Dept. of Finance Investment Plans for Revenue from Carbon Cap and Trade Auctions

Dear Governor Brown and Chairman Nichols:

The Marin Conservation League is a 79-year-old non-profit and volunteer-led organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of the natural resource values and assets of Marin. As such, we have been following the actions of CARB's Cap and Trade program closely. In this connection, we understand that, among other things, the revenues from the Cap and Trade Auctions may be applied to investments in natural resource conservation and restoration projects that will provide for increased carbon sequestration, thereby helping to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions regionally.

Marin County has been a leader for many years in careful land-use planning measures that have limited urban sprawl, but will have to do more to help meet the challenges of impending climate change. We still have significant opportunities for natural resource conservation and restoration projects in Marin that will promote carbon sequestration if Cap and Trade Auction funding is made available for that purpose. Suggested projects that will promote carbon sequestration could include:

- Restoration of 27 acres of Tidal Marsh in the 616 acre Corte Madera Ecological Reserve that would improve wildlife habitat, improve water quality, accommodate more flood water, sequester additional CO₂, and provide buffering from rising sea level.
- Removal, disposal and re-planting of oak trees lost in park and open space lands throughout the county due to Sudden Oak Death Syndrome (SODS). A good example is at China Camp State Park which has been especially hard hit by SODS.
- Continued funding of the Marin Carbon Research Project being undertaken by the U.C.

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Berkeley Ecosystems Sciences Division, which is developing effective composting strategies to improve the carbon sequestration of grasslands used for grazing in California.

- Riparian Corridor Restoration projects in the Miller Creek and Corte Madera Creek watersheds along with USDA Resource Conservation District Riparian Restoration projects on agricultural lands of West Marin.
- Completing the Hamilton Marsh Restoration project on San Pablo Bay, a joint project of the California Coastal Conservancy and the Army Corps of Engineers. To date 950 acres of former Bay wetlands that were diked and drained 100 years ago are being restored by beneficial reuse of dredge material. An adjacent 1600 acres, Bel Marin Keys V, has been acquired by the Coastal Conservancy and is also scheduled for restoration, but funding has not been secured.
- Funding assistance for the permanent acquisition of easements on identified Priority Conservation Areas and Agricultural lands in the County to maintain them as agricultural and open space lands.

We believe that natural resource protection and restoration measures should be an essential part of the investment strategy for Cap and Trade Auction revenues and we recommend that CARB and the California Department of Finance set aside monies for this purpose. We look forward to helping to bring some qualifying local carbon sequestration projects forward in due course.

Sincerely yours,



Susan Stompe
President

Cc: Noreen Evans, State Senator, 2nd Senate District
Marc Levine, Assemblyman, 10th Assembly District