

June 4, 2015

The Honorable Mike McGuire
California State Senate
1303 10th Street, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814



Protecting Marin Since 1934

Dear Senator McGuire,

For over 81 years the Marin Conservation League has been working to protect the natural resources and the environment of Marin County for generations to come. The existential threat of climate change led us to be an early supporter of AB 32 and, later on, the establishment of an effective Cap and Trade Program for the State of California. We now learn that there will be approximately \$2.5 billion of additional funds available from the Cap and Trade Program this year to fund programs that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We urge that the Legislature take appropriate action to ensure that a significant portion of those Cap and Trade funds be dedicated to Energy Efficiency programs, Renewable Energy programs, and Improved Land Management Practices, including Soil Carbon Sequestration programs.

These programs are good public policy because they have a strong nexus with reducing carbon emissions and are essential to meeting the State's 2030 and 2050 greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Grant programs to this end, funded by Cap and Trade, could include the following:

1. Providing truly low cost comprehensive energy audits.
2. Offering low cost financing assistance for the installation of measurably effective energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.
3. Weatherization of public and private sector buildings.
4. Increasing the funding base and availability of PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) financing.
5. Lowering the cost of PACE financing through interest rate buy-downs.
6. Assisting qualified program providers with funding to cover the manpower costs of delivering these and other related programs.
7. Supporting Resource Conservation districts, UC Extension, California Dept. of Food and Agriculture, and Dept. of Conservation in the roll out of programs, like the Marin Carbon Project, to significantly enhance soil carbon on working lands across the state and on the Bay-Delta shore lands.

We thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Powers".

Kate Powers
President

cc: Assemblymember Marc Levine
Dawn Weisz, Marin Clean Energy

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