



Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority



State Park Partners Coalition (SPPC)

April 24, 2014

The Honorable Jim Beall, Chair
Senate Budget Subcommittee 2
Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Richard Bloom, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3
Resources and Transportation
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Cap & Trade Investment Plan: Allocations

Dear Chairman Beall and Chairman Bloom:

On behalf of the California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS), the California State Parks Foundation, the State Parks Partners Coalition, and the East Bay Regional Park District, we are

writing to respectfully urge your favorable consideration to expand the scope of the subject investment plan. Specifically, we are seeking a separate allocation for park and urban greening improvements consistent with the Governor's goal of reducing greenhouse gases (GHG). It is our understanding that this year's budget enumerates a number of very important "natural resource related" provisions including investments in "Sustainable Communities," wetland and watershed restoration, and urban forestry projects.

Our coalition applauds this effort as these investments acknowledge the importance of protecting natural resources which help reduce GHG. Similarly, investments in local/regional/state parks and urban greening projects yield critical benefits by sequestering carbon, creating natural growth boundaries to limit sprawl and foster infill development, and provide ecosystem services which help communities adapt to climate change. Perhaps most important, is the health and quality of life benefits that parks and access to nature provide to disadvantaged communities. Access to urban parks and open space provide important free fitness opportunities resulting in reductions in incidences of obesity and diabetes. Park improvements and urban greening projects reduce carbon (a 2008 Jones and Stokes survey for EBRPD quantifies that park lands represent an important permanent carbon stock of 2.8 million metric tons). Other carbon GHG reduction measures supported by parks and open space include:

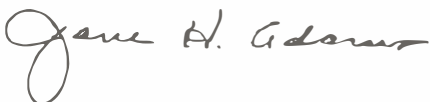
- Conversion of urban-based hardscapes and impervious settings to natural landscapes.
- Energy efficiency investments at local and state parks facilities.
- Trail (natural surface and paved) connectivity projects utilizing parklands as alternative transportation routes, integrating communities and activity centers within a given community.
- Land acquisitions and open-space preservation investments that lead to strategically designed and directed residential and commercial growth patterns per SB 375.

In closing, the coalition believes these projects should be eligible for cap and trade revenues in the 2014-15 Budget. The Governor's "Five Year Investment Plan" calls for investment in natural resource related projects. We support this goal and believe natural resource related investments should be coupled with an equal investment in the health of the citizens of this state through the creation, maintenance, and enhancement of urban green spaces and open-space landscapes in California.

Sincerely,

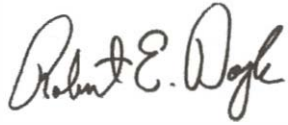


Traci Verardo-Torres
Vice President, Government Affairs, California State Parks Foundation



Jane H. Adams
Executive Director, California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS)

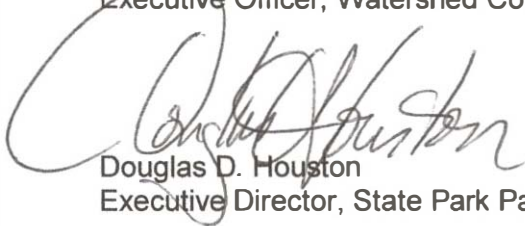
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Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer,
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

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cc: Honorable Members of Senate Budget Subcommittee 2
Honorable Members of Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3
Ms. Catherine Freeman, Consultant, Senate Budget Subcommittee 2
Ms. Gabrielle Meindl, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3
Mr. Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Mr. Chris Holtz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus