



May 8, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair
Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: \$400 Million GGRF Natural and Working Land Programs Request -- SUPPORT

Dear Senator Mitchell and Assembly member Ting:

We the undersigned organizations stand united with 30 members of the State Legislature (see attached letter) in urging the support of a \$400 million investment in natural and working land programs from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. This investment, coupled with the ongoing commitment of \$200 million for Forest Health and Fire Prevention is critical to preparing California's communities for climate change and meeting our GHG reduction goals.

Further, we believe the most effective way to ensure all key programs are funded at a modest but equitable level is to delineate the proposed allocation as follows:

\$70 million – Urban Greening Program administered by CNRA

\$50 million – Urban and Community Forestry Program administered by CalFIRE

Urban forests and green infrastructure are the primary carbon sequestration mechanism in our state's densely-populated communities, and are critical to improving health and combatting the increasing urban heat island effect. These programs also help provide urban communities with access to recreation and produce additional benefits, such as flood protection, wildlife habitat, and improved air and water quality.

\$50 million -- Healthy Soils Program administered by CDFA

\$40 million – State Water Energy Efficiency Program administered by CDFA

Climate smart agriculture is critical to transforming traditional on-farm management practices into energy and water-saving solutions. These programs fund projects that allow farms to switch to solar-powered pumps and soil moisture monitoring, and help turn the state's farms and ranches from carbon emitters into carbon sinks.

\$50 million – Wetland and Mountain Meadow Restoration Program administered by DFW

\$40 million – Climate Adaptation Program administered by WCB

Supporting programs designed to manage and restore California's natural and working lands to be more resilient to climate change is key to the State's adaptation goals. Restoring wetlands and wet meadows can sequester huge amounts of carbon, re-establish crucial habitat for fish and wildlife, help buffer extreme storm events and sea level rise, and integrate with forest health efforts to achieve more holistic watershed restoration to protect our water sources.

\$20 million – Climate Ready Program administered by Coastal Conservancy

\$70 million – Other Regional Conservancies

The State Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Program supports multi-benefit projects that use natural systems to assist communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change through local action and engagement. Other regional Conservancies can also use existing programs to support and catalyze local action for climate adaptation.

\$10 million for other priorities that could include investments in farmer adaptation incentives, the Ocean Protection Council, the San Francisco Bay Development Commission, and the Coastal Commission.

Combined, these investments are vital to meet our climate goals, and be prepared for the inevitable increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

We urge the Senate and Assembly to support this \$400 million proposal as the Budget Committees contemplate their GGRF Expenditure Plan priorities in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Jay Ziegler
Nature Conservancy

Pablo Garza
Environmental Defense Fund

Kim Delfino
Defenders of Wildlife

Paul Mason
Pacific Forest Trust

Katie Patterson
American Farmland Trust

Chuck Mills
California ReLeaf

Rico Mastrodonato
Trust for Public Land

Juan Altamirano
Audubon California

Luis Villa
Latino Outdoors

Ane Deister
California Council of Land Trusts

Nancy Hughes
California Urban Forests Council

Jennifer Clary
Clean Water Action

Torri Estrada
Carbon Cycle Institute

Greg Suba
California Native Plant Society

Alix Murdoch
American Forests

Melissa Romero
California League of
Conservation Voters

Karen Buhr
California Association of
Resource Conservation Districts

Jeanne Merrill
California Climate and
Agriculture Network

Neil Edgar
California Compost Coalition

Anne Fenkner
Davey Resource Group

Curtis Knight
California Trout

Elizabeth Lanham
Bay Area Urban Forest
Ecosystem Council

Sharon Weaver
San Joaquin River Parkway
and Conservation Trust, Inc.

Michael Wellborn
Friends of Harbors,
Beaches and Parks

Jeff Reimer
Central Coast Urban
Forests Council

Mike Palat
San Diego Regional
Urban Forests Council

John Bushoven
San Joaquin Urban
Forest Council

Nancy Sappington
Inland Urban Forest Council

Natalie Carter
Butte Environmental Council

Claire Robinson
Amigos de los Rios

Bryan Tassey
Tree Partners Foundation

Ken Knight
Your Children's Trees

Deborah Bloome
TreePeople

Ray Tretheway
Sacramento Tree Foundation

Markos Major
Climate Action Now!

Catherine Martineau
Canopy

Fatima T. Malik
Green Technical
Education and Employment

Wesley Moy
Madera Coalition for
Community Justice

Angee Beckett
West Hollywood Tree
Preservation Society

Anne Fenkner
Sacramento Urban Forest Council

David Wilkinson
Woodland Tree Foundation

Erin Donley Marineau
Tree Davis

Richard Hawley
Greenspace -- Cambria Land Trust

Dan Flanagan
Friends of the Urban Forest

Kelaine Vargas Ravdin
Urban Ecos

Isabel Wade
Just One Tree

Darleen DeMason
Victoria Avenue Forever

Jan Mignone
Richmond Trees

Gavin Raders
Planting Justice

Maria DeLeon
From Lot to Spot

Manuel Alonso
Earth Team

Michele McKeegan
Keep Eureka Beautiful

Alison Fleck
Benecia Tree Foundation

Claire Schlotterbeck
Hills for Everyone

Katie Palatinus
Roseville Urban Forest Foundation

Rey Leon
The LEAP Institute

Chris Conlee
ArborPro

Maria Sutherland
Friends of Carmel Forest

Suzanne Remien
Santa Clara Valley Water District

Drew Ready
Sustainable Claremont

Michael Flynn
Common Vision

Gabrielle Newmark
Industrial District Green

Theresa Rossoff
North East Trees

Jackie Heyneman
Save Our Forest

Tomas Herrera-Mishler
Balboa Park Conservancy

Elena Karoulina
Sustainable Solano

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Sonoma Land Trust

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Grey Kolevzon
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Mario J. Becerra
A Cleaner, Greener East LA, Inc

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Brian Kempf
Urban Tree Foundation

Antony V. López
Avenal Historical Society

Adrienne Thomas
Sisters We

Christine Viterelli
City of Arvin

Meg Prier
West Oakland Environmental
Indicators Project

Eminy Darakjy
Los Angeles/Orange County
Regional Urban Forest Council

Baldeo Singh
Sacramento Regional
Conservation Corps

Rose Epperson, CAE
International Society of
Arboriculture – Western Chapter

Shelli Lamb
Riverside-Corona Resource
Conservation District

Rachel Malarich
Koreatown Youth and
Community Center

Bo Savage
Los Angeles Conservation Corps

Jean Nagy
Huntington Beach Tree Society

Rosa Rivera Furumoto
Parent Pioneers

Marce Gutierrez-Graudins
Azul

Rick Matthews
Madrone Landscapes

Steve Dutra
Tree Lodi

Monona Heaviland
Sonoma Ecology Center

Rhonda Berry
Our City Forest

Elizabeth Skrzat
City Plants

Jan Derecho
Ecological Farm Association

Sharyn Romano
Los Angeles Beautification Team

Kemba Shakur
Urban ReLeaf

Tori Kjer
Los Angeles
Neighborhood Land Trust

Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH
Center for Climate
Change & Health

Dave Henson
Occidental Arts &
Ecology Center

Adam Livingston
Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Kenda Templeton
PUENTES

Lee Ayres
Tree Fresno

David Runsten
Community Alliance with
Family Farmers

Stephen Slade
Land Trust of
Santa Cruz County

Kisha Collier
Community Health
Action Network

Cc: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California
The Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly
The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #2
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3