



Our mission

Deliver rapid greenhouse gas reductions at scale, starting in California.

Board of Directors

Susan Thomas, Chair
Efren Carrillo, Immediate Past Chair
Venise Curry, MD, Vice Chair
Larry Robinson, Secretary
Jonathan Weintraub, CPA, Treasurer
Lokelani Devone, Attorney
Tim Holmes, P.E.
Mary Luévano
Terea Macomber, MBA
Jim McGreen
Carl Mears, PhD
Aaron Schreiber-Stainthorpe

Executive Staff

Ellie Cohen, Chief Executive Officer
Lois Downy, Chief Financial Officer
Ann Hancock, Chief Strategist
Jeri Howland, Director of Philanthropy
Barry Vesser, Chief Operations Officer

Strategic Advisors

Peter Barnes, Co-founder, Working Assets
Rick Brown, TerraVerde Renewable Partners
Jeff Byron, CA Energy Commissioner (Retired)
Ernie Carpenter, County Supervisor (Retired)
Kimberly Clement, Attorney
Joe Como, Former Director, CA Office of
Ratepayer Advocates
John Garn, Business Consultant
Elizabeth C. Herron, PhD, Writer
Hunter Lovins, President,
Natural Capitalism Solutions
Alan Strachan, Developer

Science & Technical Advisors

Fred Euphrat, PhD
Dorothy Freidel, PhD
Daniel M. Kammen, PhD
Lorenzo Kristov, PhD
Edward C. Myers, M.S.Ch.E.
Edwin Orrett, P.E.
John Rosenblum, PhD
Alexandra von Meier, PhD
Mathis Wackernagel, PhD
Ken Wells, E.I.T.
Ai-Chu Wu, PhD

Contact

www.theclimatecenter.org

P.O. Box 3785
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
707-525-1665

March 8, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Member of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 27 (Skinner)

Dear Senator Skinner,

The Climate Center is pleased to support, with recommendations for your consideration, SB 27 (Skinner). The Climate Center, a climate and energy policy nonprofit, works for rapid greenhouse gas reductions, starting in California.

SB 27 advances the state's efforts to combat climate change by directing state agencies to set goals for carbon sequestration from the atmosphere, the California Air Resource Board (CARB) to add carbon sequestration to the state's climate protection planning efforts, and the state to partner with private entities to identify and fund California-based carbon sequestration projects.

The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded in 2018 that preventing dangerous impacts of climate change globally will require not only cutting greenhouse gas emissions essentially in half by 2030 but also scaling up the removal of emissions already put in the atmosphere from human activity by deploying enhanced land use practices. New studies since then show that we will pass the 1.5C threshold of dangerous warming within the next decade, at least 10 years earlier than the IPCC expected, requiring accelerated emission reductions as well as accelerated investments in nature-based sequestration.

Fortunately, effective carbon sequestration solutions exist today. A 2020 report by Lawrence Livermore National Labs concluded that carbon sequestration on natural and working lands can be among the least expensive ways to mitigate climate change. Land-based carbon sequestration projects like healthy soils agricultural practices including compost application and silviculture as well as habitat restoration (e.g., riparian, coastal wetland and montane meadows), and sustainable forestry management, use nature's own processes to pull carbon out of the atmosphere and store it for extended periods of time. These natural systems also help communities be more

resilient to drought, wildfire, and other extremes, critically important as California is currently in the early stages of a severe multi-decadal drought.

- **The Climate Center strongly supports scaled up sequestration on natural and working lands, and establishing bold near term state targets, as a key approach to both climate mitigation and adaptation in California. Sequestration on natural and working lands provides numerous co-benefits including increased sequestration, soil water holding capacity, aquifer replenishment, air quality, biodiversity, food security, job creation, and resilience.**

Nascent direct air capture (DAC) technology that removes heat-trapping carbon dioxide from the atmosphere has the potential to be a contributor to climate stability in the future. The Climate Center supports the further testing and development of DAC technologies only if they are ecologically-friendly and only if they are beneficial to the climate as well as communities surrounding these facilities. We, however, oppose the use of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technologies that allow the continued development, production and use of fossil fuels, with disproportionate deleterious impacts on lower income communities and many communities of color, as well as on the climate and environment.

- **The Climate Center recommends including language in SB 27 that distinguishes between these different forms of carbon capture, and requires no negative health and environmental impacts on surrounding communities from potential DAC facilities.**
- **We also support establishing workforce development goals for good, high road jobs in both nature-based and technological sequestration in SB 27.**

SB 27 establishes a registry of carbon sequestration projects at the Office of Planning and Research for potential public and private investment and requires CARB to track carbon benefits of these projects. The Climate Center supports initiatives such as this that have the potential to catalyze innovation and channel market forces resulting in climate-friendly choices available to everyone, from farmers to consumers.

- **The Climate Center recommends including additional language in SB 27 to ensure that this registry of sequestration projects does not unduly burden ranchers and farmers with unintended barriers or complexity in all aspects of the program from initial registry enrollment to implementation, monitoring and reporting. These programs must be as accessible as possible for as many producers as possible and offer them some level of confidentiality.**
- **We urge adding language that the state will provide technical assistance to ensure the greatest participation so the program can successfully scale.**
- **We also recommend that SB 27 includes language to prevent this registry from becoming an emissions offset program.**

As the Los Angeles Times banner headline read on September 13, 2020: *California's Climate Apocalypse: Fires, heat, air pollution. The calamity is no longer in the future. It's here. Now.* To lessen the crisis and its deadly, costly impacts, every tool available must be put to use — both to reduce emissions and to capture the carbon that has already been released. In addition,

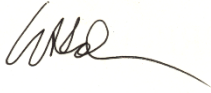
healthier natural and working lands will reduce the impacts of climate change on our communities, our economy and our health.

For these reasons, The Climate Center supports SB 27 (Skinner) and respectfully requests your “AYE” vote, with consideration of the recommendations above.

The Climate Center’s [Climate Safe California](#) campaign outlines the need for and a path toward such urgently required goals. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if we might provide additional helpful information.

Thank you for your urgently needed climate leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'EMC', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ellie M. Cohen
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Senator Ben Allen, Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee