



CLIMATE  
ACTION  
RESERVE

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May 4, 2026

Chair Lauren Sanchez and Members of the Board  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Climate Action Reserve Comments on the 15-Day and 45-Day Proposed Amendments to the Cap-and-Invest Regulation**

Dear Chair Sanchez and Members of the Board,

The Climate Action Reserve (the Reserve) appreciates the opportunity to provide public comments on the 15-Day Amendments to the California Cap-and-Invest Regulation. As an approved Offset Project Registry (OPR) with deep roots in California's carbon market, we remain dedicated to supporting regulatory changes that enhance program integrity while ensuring the practical viability of project development and management.

We offer the following considerations regarding the proposed regulatory updates:

**Support for Program Strengthening and Market Signals**

The Reserve strongly supports CARB's efforts to strengthen the Cap-and-Invest Program in line with the state's 2045 emissions reduction targets. We appreciate the program's focus on consumer affordability and believe that a robust offset market is essential to maintaining cost-effectiveness. Moreover, we support CARB's efforts to complete the amendments ahead of the May 28th board meeting. Timely finalization is necessary to allow for potential linkage with the State of Washington in 2026, which will enhance market efficiencies and regional collaboration needed to meet collective climate goals.

We further support CARB in establishing rigorous monitoring and effectiveness criteria for the allocation of allowances under the Build Up California Reserve Account to ensure the long-term climate impact of the program.

**Enhancing Operational Flexibility and Program Clarity**

The Reserve supports the suite of proposed modifications that provide necessary flexibility for project proponents and registries, reducing

administrative burdens without compromising environmental integrity. Specifically, we support the following refinements:

- **Registry Review of Documentation:** We support the clarification that the requirement for registries to make project documentation public does not apply if a registry reaches a negative determination.
- **Verification and Reporting Grace Periods:** The Reserve supports the modification to Section 95977(d), allowing sequestration projects in their post-crediting monitoring period to extend their verification cycle to twelve reporting periods if carbon stocks remain at least 10% above end-of-crediting levels. We also support the new 45-day grace period introduced in the 15-Day Amendments for monitored projects to provide a missing report after notification before facing termination. Finally, we support the added flexibility for scheduling a site visit verification after an unintentional reversal or after allowing CARB and the registry 10 days to advise of intent to audit.
- **Verifiability Petition Deadline:** The Reserve supports the added clarification and intent behind the 8-month limit to verification petitions.
- **Wildfire Containment Dates:** We support the flexibility for developers to use official state wildfire databases to identify containment dates rather than relying solely on fire agency letters. Furthermore, we support the removal of the requirement to provide specific “Response to Wildfire” documentation, which is often impractical to obtain.
- **Stratification Flexibility:** The Reserve supports the new option for project operators to move affected onsite carbon stocks into an existing stratum following an unintentional reversal, rather than being required to create a new one.
- **DEBS Verification:** We support limiting the requirement for verification bodies to document the completion of planned activities for the “Direct Environmental Benefits in the State” (DEBS) designation specifically to sequestration projects located outside of California.
- **Correctable Errors Definition:** While we support the inclusion of the definition for correctable errors, we encourage CARB to clarify that errors below 3% in a given Reporting Period may optionally be addressed to avoid errors accumulating across Reporting Periods even when remaining under 3% in any given Reporting Period.

### **Forest Protocol Considerations**

The Reserve supports efforts to provide greater clarity and flexibility to landowners participating under the U.S. Forest Compliance Offset Protocol. However, the Reserve notes that some changes may cause increased confusion and/or administrative burden for

landowners and encourages CARB to consider withholding these technically challenging changes until the forthcoming review of the Compliance Offset Protocols (mandated for completion by January 1, 2029) to allow for further targeted consultation.

- **Changes to Reversal Management and Salvage Harvests:** The Reserve supports the proposed inclusion of salvage harvests in reversal accounting in theory, as recognizing long-term carbon storage in wood products ensures accurate reversal estimates. We further support the 15-Day Amendment extending the deadline to account for salvage logs and submit the associated Offset Project Data Report to 24 months from the discovery date.

However, we maintain our recommendation that further guidance is required regarding how verifiers are to determine whether pre-salvage onsite stocks can be verified with “reasonable assurance”. Without clearer technical parameters, verifiers may struggle to confirm these stocks, risking the punitive classification of salvaged areas as intentional reversals due to the inherent difficulties of post-disturbance quantification. Thus, without further guidance, we recommend withholding this change until the forthcoming review of the Compliance Offset Protocols to allow for further consultation and sufficient clarity to ensure robust accounting and verification is practically feasible.

- **Ownership Transfer Disclosures and Program Integrity:** The Reserve supports the new requirements in Section 95975.1 for sellers to disclose issued credits and 100-year permanence obligations to buyers prior to title transfer. We further support the extended notification timelines in the 15-day amendment for notifying CARB of a transfer to be within 60 days after the transfer; however, while noting that this is an improvement compared to the 45-day amendment, this may still present administrative challenges for new landowners and encourage ongoing review and flexibility to work with new landowners.

The Reserve remains committed to supporting CARB in maintaining a robust, high-integrity offset market that provides cost-effective emission reductions for California.

Sincerely,

/s/ Amy Kessler

Amy Kessler

Director, Market Development