



December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown  
Governor of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Kevin de Leon  
Senate President Pro Tem  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Remaining 2015-16 GGRF Expenditure Plan**

Dear Governor Brown, Senate President de Leon and Speaker Atkins:

We are writing to request your immediate attention to completing the 2015-16 GGRF Expenditure Plan in the State Budget when the Legislature reconvenes in January, 2016. Revenue estimates from the Administration and Legislature suggest up to \$1.7 billion in cap-and-trade auction revenues were left unallocated when the Legislature adjourned in September, leaving a number of greenhouse gas reducing opportunities unfunded. The Governor's Executive Order establishing 2030 GHG reduction goals and AB 32 further underscore the immediate need to invest these funds.

We have made several positive strides towards reducing emissions in 2015, including the passage of SB 350 and the allocation of GGRF monies to those programs that receive continuous appropriations from this revenue source. However, there is still unfinished work to be done so that no program that can reduce GHG emissions and benefit California communities is left behind. We urge you to do the following in January:

**1. Approve proposed GGRF expenditures identified by the Administration for 2015-16.**

The majority of the Administration's GGRF investment priorities are supported by numerous stakeholders identified in this letter and across California. That portion of the proposal that addresses the "discretionary" GGRF pot (40% of the total revenues) encourages continued funding of several successful programs that were first supported in 2014, while also highlighting some new investment priorities. Of particular note are:

- Low carbon transportation and low-income weatherization. Both programs received some interim funding in September, but will require additional immediate investments if they are to continue to help meet public demand for these programs.
- CAL FIRE's Urban Forestry Program and CalRecycle's Waste Reduction Programs, which were both oversubscribed in 2014 by nearly 600% and 800%, respectively. Despite overwhelming demand, CalRecycle and CAL FIRE have been forced to suspend their respective grant programs because all GGRF money has been expended or encumbered.
- Forest health and conservation, wetlands restoration and healthy soils. The administration's Executive Order to reduce emissions 40% below 1990 Levels by 2030 states that "[p]riority should be given to actions that both build climate preparedness and reduce greenhouse gas emissions" and "natural infrastructure solutions should be prioritized". Investments that increase sequestration and avoid emissions while improving the resilience of our natural and working lands are essential to meeting our dual goals of reducing emissions while preparing for the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

**2. Introduce new investment opportunities into the Expenditure Plan as proposed by the Assembly.**

The State Assembly included numerous additional investment possibilities in their response to the May Revise that warrant Administration support for inclusion in the 2015-16 Expenditure Plan. Priorities identified by the large coalition of stakeholders attached to this letter focus on Active Transportation Program and transit pass

investments, both of which would continue state efforts to curb VMTs and offer Californians alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle usage. Transit passes are a proven and critical strategy for significantly reducing GHGs while also enhancing access to education and economic opportunity and encouraging mode shifts. Similarly, research shows that investments in well-connected, safe active transportation infrastructure will lead to mode shifts, thereby reducing GHG emissions and improving human health.

**3. Fully Invest \$1.7 Billion in Auction Revenues as proposed by the Senate for the 2015-16 Budget.**

In addition to prioritizing the aforementioned investment opportunities for immediate consideration in January, we strongly encourage the Legislature and Administration to fully invest the auction revenues, including an additional \$500 million as proposed by the State Senate. These funds could be programmed to reduce pollution and address pressing needs in disadvantaged communities, either through locally-determined processes or through existing programs that meet the goals and objectives of SB 535 and AB 32.

Both the Administration and Legislature recognize the pressing need to complete the 2015-16 GGRF Expenditure Plan and retain public confidence in the validity of this program and the investments supported by it. The signatories to this letter represent a unified voice from multiple coalitions and causes that are committed to working with the Governor, Senate and Assembly to ensure our 2030 reduction goals are met through progressive public policy, visionary administrative action and sustained, strategic investment of GGRF revenues to support GHG reductions through innovative solutions – both statewide and local – in transit, active transportation, affordable housing, energy efficiency, natural resources and waste reduction.

We urge your immediate consideration of this important action item upon your return in 2016.

Sincerely,

Kula Koenig  
American Heart Association

Bonnie Holmes-Gen  
American Lung Association in California

Claire Robinson  
Amigos de los Rios

Babette Jee, LEED AP BD+C  
Asian Neighborhood Design

Miya Yoshitani  
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Dan Noble  
Association of Compost Producers

Brigid McCormack  
Audubon California

Christian Bonner  
Bay Area Urban Forest Ecosystem Council

Tina Marchetti  
Benicia Tree Foundation

Matt Read  
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Eileen Tutt  
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Karen Buhr  
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

Steve Lautze  
California Association of RMDZs

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California Bicycle Coalition

Kelly Damewood  
California Certified Organic Farmers

Neil Edgar  
California Compost Coalition

Jena Price  
California League of Conservation Voters

Kimberly Chen  
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Chuck Mills  
California ReLeaf

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California Safe Soil, LLC+

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California Urban Forests Council

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Californians Against Waste

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Doug Wildman  
Friends of the Urban Forest

Jeanne Merrill  
California Climate and Agriculture Network

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California Housing Partnership Corporation

Will Bakx  
California Organics Recycling Council

Stephanie Stephens  
California Park and Recreation Society

John Dane  
California Resource Recovery Association

Curtis Knight  
California Trout

Wendy Alfsen  
California Walks

Catherine Martineau  
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Nathan Higgins  
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Kim Delfino  
Defenders of Wildlife

Michelle Kinman  
Environment California

Rich Costa  
Green Fiber Co., EcoPET Plastics Inc.

Connie Gannon  
Greenspace – The Cambria Land Trust

Sam Monaco  
Harvest Power

Lisa Hershey  
Housing California

Jean Nagy  
Huntington Beach Tree Society, Inc.

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Inland Urban Forest Council

Isabel Wade  
Just One Tree

Finian Makepeace  
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Los Angeles Conservation Corps

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Occidental Arts and Ecology Center

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Richmond Trees

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Roseville Urban Forest Foundation

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