



February 20, 2015

Ken Pimlott
Forest Climate Action Team Lead
Director, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
1416 9th Street
PO Box 944246
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Re: Comments for the State of California's Forest Climate Action Team Public Meeting

Thank you, and good afternoon. I am Carlin Starrs, Policy Analyst for the University of California, Berkeley Center for Forestry and Center for Fire Research and Outreach. I am here to comment on behalf of Dr. William Stewart, co-Director of the Centers and Forestry Specialist for the University of California Cooperative Extension.

Part of our mandate at the Center is to learn how different forest practices affect carbon, rigorously document the processes, and disseminate what are "best practices." We are very interested in working with the Board and CALFIRE's staff to "enhance carbon storage through forest health."

As Bill's recent presentation to the Board laid out, meeting AB 1504's goals will require taking a systems or life cycle perspective to avoid playing a shell game. In practice, a systems perspective or life cycle approach will consider all carbon pools—live trees in the forest; live tree carbon that goes to dead trees and into soils; wood products; and the "saved" carbon when wood is substituted for cement, steel, and gasoline.

As the Board of Forestry moves forward with the AB 1504 process, there are significant opportunities to take advantage of both work in California as well as interesting innovations elsewhere. Bill Stewart is currently in British Columbia, working with colleagues in another subnational entity. They are currently exploring innovative ways to mitigate climate change with a major focus on forests. For example, as the executive officer of the British Columbia Climate Action Secretariat described to Bill, their ministers and senior staff meet and collaborate with California's representatives at international meetings on climate change. British Columbia's forests are essentially a larger, wetter version of California's forests. Their forests also face increasing challenges from wildfires, insects, disease and severe weather. British Columbia's carbon offset program is closely tied with their forestry sector—both to achieve significant carbon advantages and to



provide significant co-benefits that are often targeted at rural or disadvantaged communities. Valuable descriptions of some of their strategies can be found at:

<http://www.toolkit.bc.ca/>

<http://www.livesmartbc.ca/learn/forests.html>

In conclusion, AB 1504 provides a legislative mandate for the Board of Forestry (BOF) to take a firm leadership role on ensuring that California's forests and forest products become a larger and larger part of California's overall strategy for climate change mitigation. We hope to work in partnership with the BOF and CALFIRE to make sure this happens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carlin Starrs'.

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