



February 19, 2019

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
California State Assemblymember
State Capitol, Room 4140
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 293 (E. Garcia): Direct Environmental Benefits – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Garcia:

On behalf of the Planning and Conservation League, I am writing to inform you of our support of AB 293 regarding direct environmental benefits.

For more than fifty years Planning and Conservation League has worked with partners across California to establish and defend policy that protects our environment and promotes the development of healthy, equitable communities.

When AB 398 (Chapter 135, Statutes of 2017) codified the role of a Cap-and-Trade program in California until 2030, it also refined the use of offset credits in the program to lower the overall percentage that could be used and to require that at least half of the credits used provide a direct environmental benefit to California. While some offset projects will meet the criteria adopted by ARB quite easily, there will likely be a need to explore additional protocols to ensure sufficient credits are available to meet this new requirement. There is a significant need and opportunity to invest in California's natural and working lands through conservation efforts and wetlands restoration – efforts currently not covered by existing protocols. This bill would direct ARB to work with the new Compliance Offset Protocol Taskforce to consider adding these protocols into the portfolio available for the purposes of Cap-and-Trade compliance.

Questions regarding this letter may be directed to Planning and Conservation League's Policy Director, Matthew Baker with the contact information below. We look forward to working with your office on the passage of AB 293.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Matthew R. Baker".

Matthew Baker, Policy Director
matthew@pcl.org
916 202-9093