

Draft Natural and Working Lands Resolution
AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC)
Amended by EJAC: June - July 2025

For EJAC Motion and Approval at the July 17, 2025, EJAC Public Meeting

Whereas meaningful climate action requires the immediate cessation of fossil fuel consumption to forestall the worst impacts of climate change such action also requires additional measures to sequester historic carbon emissions to mitigate the ongoing ecological contingencies driven by those historic emissions;

Whereas research confirms that restoring the ability of forests, soils and water systems to naturally, effectively and efficiently absorb and store carbon is an effective strategy for continuously addressing climate change;

Whereas Carbon Sequestration derived from urban and community forestry also provides life saving public health interventions in California Cities and Towns;

Whereas shifting management practices on a fraction of the State's private forestlands alone could absorb an additional 300 million metric tons of CO₂ within the next decade;

Whereas significant investment in forest management and targeted fuels reductions through the state's home hardening and wildlife biodiversity corridors programs will reduce fire risks and prevent the destruction of California communities;

Whereas the ecological restoration efforts that promote natural systems, preserve biodiversity and simultaneously enable the State's long-term conservation and planning goals are also proven measures sustainable practiced by indigenous communities for millennia;

Whereas organic and climate-beneficial agriculture and farmland conservation will sequester carbon while mitigating massive warming emissions resulting from vital reductions in the use of the fossil fuels-based pesticides that have historically polluted our communities will strengthen agricultural communities;

Whereas the State's carbon targets can ONLY be achieved by immediate investment at scale across all land types in the Natural and Working Lands scenario to delay these investments imperils our State's Climate Resilience Capacity and our communities.