

Oaks

California Oak Foundation

Our mission is to protect and perpetuate native oak woodlands

CO10-6

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September 27, 2007

Mary Nichols, Chairman
California Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Air Quality-Oak Woodlands

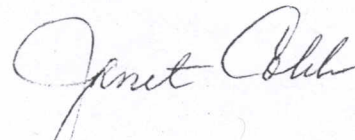
Dear Chairman Nichols:

Attorney General Brown's recent \$10 million mitigation settlement with ConocoPhillips, including \$2.8 million for reforestation to sequester greenhouse gases, affirms that California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reviews by cities and counties must consider long-term impacts due to emissions attributable to a change in land use, *including significant impacts to oak woodlands*.

A key goal in the early implementation of the AB 32 forest protocols is to immediately counter climate change before a crisis point has been reached. Under the emissions reduction timeline established by AB 32, the most important changes in land use affecting carbon dioxide transfers to and from the atmosphere are those that increase or reduce forest land.

The cutting and the burning of oak trees are separate carbon emissions, therefore both must be addressed in CEQA where significant impacts to oak woodlands occur. CEQA air quality questions include how much potential carbon sequestration will be lost due to oak seedling, sapling and tree impacts and how much sequestered carbon will be released if the impacted oaks are burned?

Sincerely,



Janet S. Cobb, President
California Oak Foundation

cc: Jeanne Panek, Forestry Lead

