

Appendix B. California Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resiliency Project Registry

This appendix provides guidance on minimum program requirements pursuant to Senate Bill SB 27 (Skinner, Chapter 237, Statutes of 2021). SB 27 directs the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to establish the California Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resiliency Project Registry (Registry) by July 1, 2023. SB 27 requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to establish minimum program requirements for projects that previously applied for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) or other State funding that ultimately did not receive funding but would like to list a project on the Registry.

The purpose of this appendix is to provide guidance for project proponents who wish to fund nature-based carbon sequestration projects and establish minimum program requirements to ensure projects provide carbon removal benefits for the purposes of the Registry.

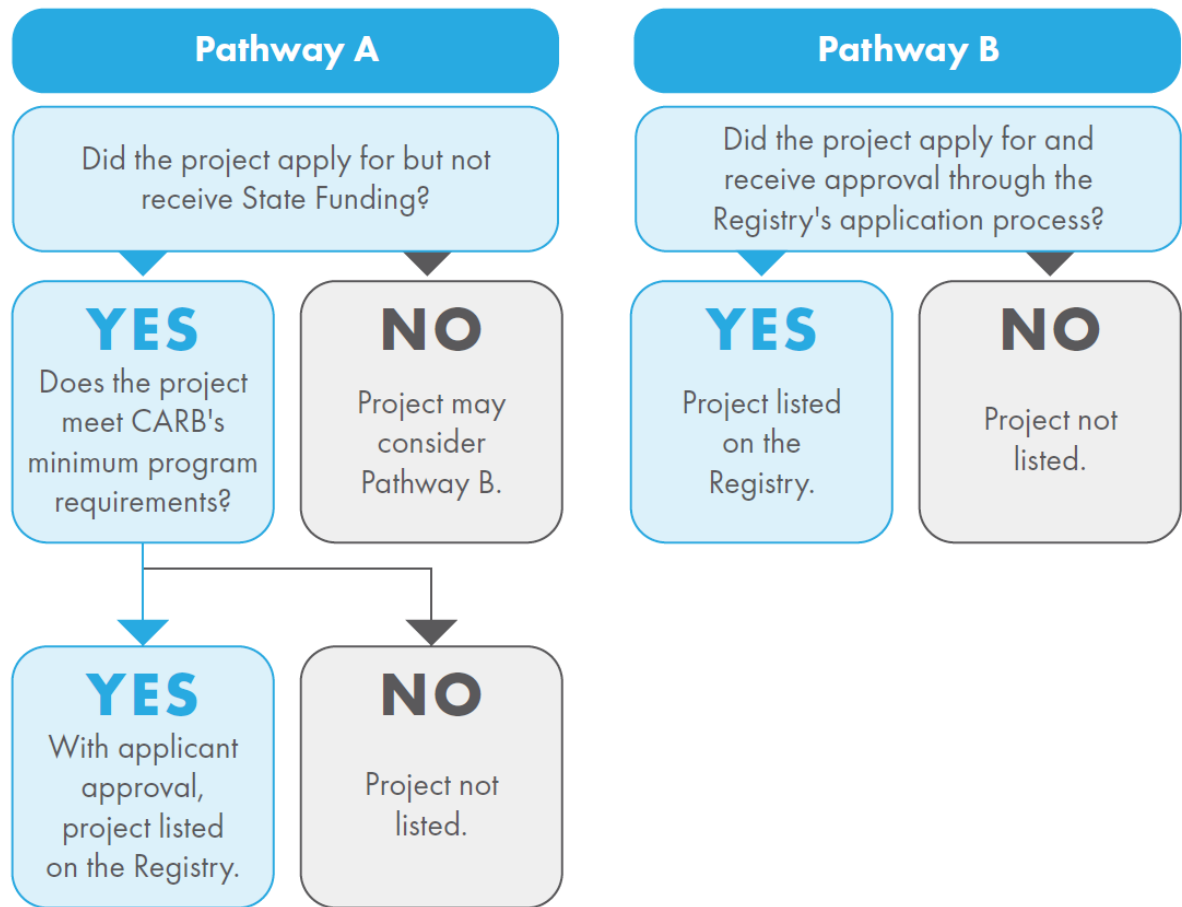
Registry Eligibility Pathways

Pursuant to SB 27, CNRA must establish the Registry, no later than July 1, 2023, to identify and list projects in the State that drive climate action on the State's natural and working lands and are seeking funding from State agencies or private entities. Direct air capture projects are also eligible project types. The legislation provides two pathways by which nature-based and direct air capture projects may be listed, as illustrated in Figure A-1. Full details about the Registry requirements can be found on the [Expanding Nature-Based Solutions webpage](#).

The first path (Pathway A) allows listing of projects that previously applied for funding from either a State program funded by the GGRF or any other State program that funds nature-based projects but that were ultimately not funded due to lack of sufficient funding. To be listed on the Registry, such projects must also meet minimum program requirements established by CARB as enumerated in this appendix to ensure they provide carbon removal benefits (Health & Safety Code § 39740.4).

The second path (Pathway B) allows proponents of projects in California to apply to CNRA directly to have their project listed on the Registry. SB 27 includes several minimum criteria for projects to be listed under this pathway, including quantification of expected greenhouse gas (GHG) benefits and monitoring and reporting (Health & Safety Code § 39740.5).

Figure A-1.Registry Pathways Flowchart



Minimum Program Requirements for Pathway A

For the purposes of Registry eligibility through Pathway A, projects that applied for funding from a State program that funds nature-based projects and were ultimately not funded due to lack of sufficient funding must meet the following minimum program requirements established by CARB to ensure they provide carbon removal benefits. At a minimum, project proponents must demonstrate that a project will achieve net GHG benefits by using CARB established quantification methodologies and benefits calculator tools available on the [California Climate Investments Quantification, Benefits, and Reporting Materials webpage](#).

CARB Quantification Methodologies and Benefit Calculator Tools

CARB is responsible for providing guidance on estimating the GHG emissions reductions and co-benefits from projects receiving GGRF funds. This guidance includes quantification methodologies, co-benefit assessment methodologies, and benefits calculator tools, which describe how GHG emissions are reduced or sequestered and estimate the benefits of an individual project. User guides are available within each benefits calculator tool to provide guidance for potential applicants on how to appropriately use the tool. CARB develops these methodologies and tools based on the project types eligible for funding by each administering agency. As such, CARB has developed numerous quantification methodologies that are available to the public to quantify the benefits of various types of carbon sequestration projects.

Existing quantification methodologies

CARB developed the existing quantification methodologies consistent with the guiding principles of California Climate Investments, including ensuring transparency and accountability. These quantification methodologies can be used to estimate the benefits of proposed projects, inform project selection, and track the results of funded projects. The implementing principles ensure that the quantification methodologies would:

- Apply at the project level;
- Provide uniform methods to be applied statewide and be accessible by all applicants;
- Use existing and proven methods;
- Use project-level data, where available and appropriate; and
- Result in GHG emissions reduction estimates that are conservative and supported by empirical literature.

CARB assessed peer-reviewed literature and tools and consulted with experts, as needed, to determine methods appropriate for the various project types. CARB also consulted with GGRF administering agencies to determine available project-level inputs. The quantification methods were developed to provide estimates that are as accurate as possible with data readily available at the project level.

CARB releases all quantification methodologies to the public for at least a two-week public comment period. CARB reviews and considers public comments received and makes updates to the quantification methodologies and benefits calculator tools to address comments where there is sufficient justification.

New quantification methodology requests

If a proposed project type does not have a CARB-developed quantification methodology, project proponents may suggest that CARB develop a new quantification methodology. CARB may develop new quantification methods, if feasible, in adherence with CARB's guiding principles. Project proponents can contact CARB via [the GGRF program](#) to discuss the potential development of additional quantification methodologies.