



# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

July, 2021

Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez, Chair Assembly Appropriations Committee  
California State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 27 (Skinner) Carbon sequestration: Natural and working lands – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez,

NCRA expresses our support for SB 27, which would establish the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy (NWL Strategy) to increase adoption of NWL-based carbon sequestration that advances the State's climate goals, and would add sequestration targets to the AB 32 scoping plan.

The Northern California Recycling Association (NCRA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1978, primarily to promote environmentally sound discards management practices, including waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. Our 350 members include recycling businesses, employees, entrepreneurs, and individuals supportive of various Bay Area and State Zero Waste initiatives.

SB 27 would require the Natural Resources Agency (NRA) in coordination with relevant state agencies, to accomplish the following:

- Create a framework to advance the State's climate goals and build climate resilience, and propose carbon sequestration goals for various natural and working lands.
- Consider how increasing fire risk, warming temperatures, decreasing precipitation, and other climate change impacts will affect the ability of the State to sequester carbon on natural and working lands.
- Support the economic and resource value of the lands and consider multiple benefits.
- Support pathways for sectors, such as agriculture and forestry, to participate in the transition to a carbon neutrality economy.
- Requires the ARB to establish carbon dioxide removal targets for 2030 and beyond, considering science-based data, cost-effectiveness, and technological feasibility.
- Requires the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), to maintain the Registry for listing carbon removal projects that are seeking funding, including for NWL-based carbon sequestration projects and direct air capture projects, having acceptable environmental and public health impacts.
- Requires projects to be listed on the Registry if they have applied for, but did not receive, funding from one of the State programs funded from the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Fund.

- Requires OPR to track carbon removal and GHG emission reduction benefits derived from projects funded through the Registry and report those benefits to ARB for inclusion, in calculations pertaining to the statewide GHG limits or other AB 32 emissions goals.

Proven low cost land-based carbon retention projects include healthy soils agricultural practices, rangeland improvements, wetlands restoration, and sustainable forestry management. These natural systems also help farmers and communities to be more resilient to drought, flood, and fire. A 2017 study by Stanford researchers found that aggressive implementation of conservation, restoration, and management activities on NWLs has the potential to contribute up to 17% of California’s GHG reduction goal.

Thus far, State actions to conserve, restore, and manage NWLs has been piecemeal, and various agencies have jurisdiction over different facets of the NWLs problem. Most efforts are done on a project-by-project basis, either by targeting a specific category of land, or aimed at promoting one type of emissions reduction or sequestration technique. The State does not yet have an official overarching plan or a designated agency to coordinate a cohesive strategy to protect NWLs, maximize their carbon benefits, and promote co-benefits.

The State 2017 Scoping Plan has directed the NRA, among other agencies, to complete an NWLs Climate Change Implementation Plan, to coordinate all NWLs programs under a united approach. The goal is to move the State towards maintaining resilient carbon sinks, while improving air and water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat and ecosystem health, recreation, food and fiber production, public health, and resilience to climate change. Towards these ends, SB 27 would play a key role, as California advances to a carbon-neutral future.

For reasons including the above, NCRA supports SB 27. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [ncrarecycles@gmail.com](mailto:ncrarecycles@gmail.com). Thank you.

Sincerely,

**K. D. Brooms**

K. Douglas Brooms

Both Co-Chairs of NCRA Zero Waste Advocacy Committee

**John Moore**

John Moore

**David Krueger**

David Krueger, NCRA President

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Cc: Senator Nancy Skinner

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