

December 2, 2009

Residents of the Greater-Arnold area, California
175 Signatories

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

We ask you to stand with us in opposition to the dangerous additions to the Climate Action Reserve (CAR) Forest Project Protocols that allow logging companies to collect carbon credits for clearcut logging. This policy legitimizes the logging industry's worst practice – a practice that many logging companies and the U.S. Forest Service have already abandoned in California. Allowing carbon credits for clearcutting Sierra Nevada forests is scientifically and morally bankrupt. We ask for your support in securing carbon-trading policies that cut carbon emissions while protecting the people and natural beauty of the Sierra Nevada.

Residents of the greater-Arnold area live in the shadow of Calaveras Big Trees State Park, whose giant sequoias made California world famous in the 1850s. The exploitation of those giant trees made forest protection a national priority and conservation a fundamental American value. But as residents, we also live among an ever-growing mosaic of Sierra forest clearcuts. Look behind highway “beauty strips” and you’ll find clearcuts that threaten our fire safety, water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat, natural forest diversity and beauty, and our recreation-based economy. Clearcutting is unnecessary and dangerous. Now, the Climate Action Reserve has bowed to the wishes of a few powerful logging companies, and changed their rules to allow clearcutting as an acceptable part of their forestry management protocols for carbon sequestration.

As the Governor of California you have provided important leadership in the effort to address climate change. But California's credibility on this issue is undermined when we allow corporations to compromise the carbon trading system. How can we preach to the rest of the world about the need to curtail deforestation in South America and Indonesia when our own approach encourages destructive logging practices that exacerbate climate change and destroy important forest benefits such as wildlife habitat and biodiversity?

We ask that you exercise your considerable influence and support our efforts to rollback the unfortunate and dangerous additions to the Climate Action Reserves Forest Protocols that introduced clearcutting as a means to offset carbon emissions from other sources.

Those of us living in the Sierra Nevada know first hand that climate change is real. We see its impacts happening all around us. Clearcut logging exacerbates these effects and has no place in any strategy to combat climate change. The science on forests and carbon corroborates this view. The thousands of acres of clearcut forest surrounding us are net carbon emitters for 20 or more years after replanting. The limited tree species in these tree plantations encourage insect infestation and, for up to 40 years, are conducive to catastrophic crown fires, which threaten our safety, water, and regional beauty. Clearcutting increases the early runoff of our diminishing snowpack, leaving less water during the dry summer months and creating greater water storage needs downstream since over 60 percent of California's water comes from our region.

We know you understand the long-term effects of clearcutting. In April of 2008 you so eloquently and accurately said that:

While it may be possible for an operator to harvest at elevated rates from a given forest for a short period of time, unsustainable forestry practices will devalue the large stock of remaining trees, degrade water quality in streams and tributaries and impair vital habitat for salmon and endangered species – all of which result in detrimental economic impact. Sustainable forestry, harvesting trees at a rate that can be maintained or grown over many decades in a way that keeps or improves the ecological values of the forest, is essential to maximize the long-term value of the forest.

As Governor you signed legislation creating the Sierra Nevada Conservancy that works to “improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities and the citizens of California.” Clearcutting works against that mission and destroys the beauty, diversity, and resource benefits of this special place.

As residents of this unique forest that John Muir called the “range of light,” we implore you to help reverse a misguided policy decision that financially rewards a few companies, but damages the Sierra, all Californians, and the world's climate. We, better than anyone, recognize the impacts of climate change and support immediate action. But that imperative for action will prove meaningless if it legitimizes clearcutting. Not only will we fail to adequately slash our carbon emissions, but worse, we are rejecting the fundamental values we learned 150 years ago from our giant sequoia. Those values should guide our response to the climate crisis.

We look forward to working with you to address this problem. Thank you for your serious consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully,

Carol Aardal, Teacher
Bonnie Acosta, Teacher
Ross Alford, Newspaper publisher
Warren Alford, Tourism Industry
Executive
Kelsey Alford-Jones, Property owner
Suzette Ariza, Eligibility Worker
Engracia Bailey, Registered Nurse
Jim Bannister, Maintenance
Brenda Bayers, Real Estate Broker
Anne Berner, Social Worker
R.B. Boulton, High-tech executive
(Retired)
Royce Bridges, Building Contractor
Tessa Bunge, AmeriCorps Volunteer
Gail Bunge, School Board Member
Bruce Calderwood, Attorney
Giannina Cantale, Jeweller
Lisa Carey, Landscaping Business
Owner
Dennis Carmona, MFT, Therapist
Joyce Carillo, Attorney (Retired), active
community member
Bruce Castle, NASA Budget Analyst
and Program Planner (Retired)
Rebecca Cheney, Teacher
Tami Chestnut, Registered Nurse
Alan Claassen, Teacher
Elizabeth Claassen, Minister
Marian Coahran, Public Health Nurse
(Retired), community volunteer
primarily with youth
Ross Cooper
Marnie Constantino, Library Circulation
Clerk
Claire Coykendall, Teacher
Briana Creekmore, California Valley
Miwok Tribe
Tina Croshaw
Randy Crutcher, Quantum Leap
Coaching; Arnold Rim Trail
Recreation Director
Therese Deane, Nurse
Jeff Deane, Project Director
Beth De Lima, National human resource
management consultant
Katherine Durgin, Businesswoman
(Retired)

John Ehret, Broker, Property Manager
Steven Elias
Caleb Emmons, PhD, Professor
Katherine K. Evatt, President, Foothill
Conservancy
Stephen Ewent, Teacher
Bunny Firebaugh, Calaveras Big Trees
State Park docent
Carol Fleming, Business Owner
Pamela Fox, Administrator, medical
industry
Veronica Frabasilio, FEMA Disaster
Assistance Employee
Mary M. Fuhs, Retired
Paige Galla, Wedding Planner
Arleen Garland, Parent education
coordinator
Mike Garland, General contractor &
business owner
Dominique Garnier, Software
Jeff Garrison
Judi Goglia, Psychologist
Lucia Gonzalez
Sheila Gradison
Maryann Gravitt, "Handy person," active
community volunteer
Barry Griffen
Virginia Griffen, Psychologist
Leslie Guillot, Business Owner
Victor Guillot, Business Owner
Mary Hallesey, Environmental
Education Teacher (Retired)
Kevin Hansen, P.E., Mechanical
Engineer
Sheryl Harris, Teacher
Wendy Harrison, State Park Interpreter
Jeannine Hebel, Business Owner
Tom Infusino, Attorney
Addie Jacobson, Project Consultant,
Conservation Advocate
Paul Jacobson, Physician
Brynna Jacobson, Graduate Student
Jens Jarvie
Patti Johnson, Middle School Teacher
Ken Jones, Film Producer
Barbara Kavanagh, (Retired)
Jim Kavanagh, Retired
River Klass, Restaurantauer

Kris Klerk
Dan Kreisberg, Building Contractor
(Retired)
Cynthia Kurby
Trudy Lackey, Small business dvlpmt
consultant, former school bd member
Catherine Lambie, Youth Center
Director
John Langeois, Property Manager
Robert Lehmann, Retired
Laurie Lemann, Graphic Designer
Robert Lyons, Contractor
Nichole Marble, Teacher
Dixie H. Marquis, Business Owner
(Retired), active community member
Leda Mast
Prabhu Mayo, Holistic medicine
practitioner
Nancy Ellen McCracker, Teacher
Zerrall McDaniel, School Board
Member, active community member
Amelia E. McKeen, Teacher
Merikay McLeod, TV Programmer
Susan McMorris, Business Owner
Gerald D. Mercer, Retired Director,
Biotech firm
Frank Meyer, Administrative manager,
Habitat for Humanity Calaveras
Ryan Miller, Guide
Chloe Miller
John S. Miller, Auto parts
Judy Miller, Retired
Grace Miller, Retired
Holly Mines, Social Worker (Retired);
community activist
Faye B. Morrison, Teacher (Retired)
Roger C. Mueller, Professor, Emeritus
Arlene Mueller, Teacher, Retired
Jackie Neill, Active community member
Holly Orman, Pharmacist
Rodger Orman, Physician
Zach Orman, Yosemite Search & Rescue
Janet Ostroff, Administrator
Larry Ostroff, General Contractor
Kris Osward, Musician, Artist, Teacher
Frank Oyung, USFS (Retired)
Thomas Paine, Software Engineer

Don Payne, Owner, Payne
Woodworking
Elena Pena, Bookkeeper
Jonathon Phillips, Business Owner
Shawna Phillips, Student
Colleen Platt, Community organizer
Betty Ann Prescott, Teacher (Retired)
Dawn Purcell, Nurse
Tami Rakstad, Retail manager
Lynn Reinecke, College teacher
David Richter, Software Engineer
Christa Rypins, Owner, Intelligent Body
Movement Studio
Susan Robinson, Chevron
Environmental Manager (Retired)
Erin Ross, Life Coach
Stephen Rovno, Physician
Lincoln Russin, Physician
Patricia Sarvis, Minister (Retired)
Danny Schaner, Student
Ron Schaner, Community organizer,
musician
Martin W. Schmidt, Mountain Guide
Kristen Schott, Registered Nurse
Jeff Schwartz, DPM
Lisa Schwartz, Planner
Mary Seim
Mark Sessoms, Chiropractor
Tillman Sherman, Elected Director
Sanitary District, State governmental
auditor (Retired)
Susan Shoaff, Bookstore Owner
Rich Shuey, Chiropractor
Mary Jo Siders, Ordained Minister
Lori Sievers, Business Owner
David Simons, Psychologist
Sunny Sorenson, Painter/writer
Patricia Sowby, Community organizer
Bob Spencer, Civil Engineer (Retired)
Judith Spencer, Registered Nurse
(Retired)
Nancy Stehura
Staria Stine, Artist
Merlyn Storm, Retired
Josette Summersett, Teacher
Pauline Swain
Ron Szymanski, Aerospace Industry
(Retired)

Dianne Szymanski, Human Resources,
Moffett Field (Retired)
Joan Taylor, Artist
Stephanie Taylor, Environmentalist
Joyce Techel, Business Owner
Daryl Tettinov, Student
Jami Tolpin, Activist
Alice Trinkl, University news director
(Retired)
John Trinkl, High tech sector (Retired)
Charlene Vine, Graphic Designer
Rosemary R. Voorhees, Active
community member
Jeffery M. Voorhees, self-employed
Karen Waldear
Ron Waldear

Bill Welles, Business Owner
Tanner Welsh, Student
Colleen West, MFT, Therapist
Mary Wetzal, Business Owner
Bob Wetzal, Forester, Retired
Velma WhiteBear, California Valley
Miwok Tribe, Executive Director
Steve Wilensky, Farmer and Calaveras
County Supervisor
Mickey Williamson, Minister, (Retired)
Barranca Wren, Assistant Manager,
recycling center
Helen Yost, College Instructor
Muriel Zeller, Poet, writer, community
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