



**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
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October 15, 2015

Mary D. Nichols, Chair  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Comments on AB 32 Scoping Plan Update**

Dear Chair Nichols:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is grateful for this opportunity to provide comments to the California Air Resources Board with regard to the 2030 Target Scoping Plan, held October 1, 2015 in Sacramento, CA.

The MRCA is a local government public entity established in 1985 pursuant to the Joint Powers Act. The MRCA is a local partnership between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy), which is a state agency established by the Legislature, and the Conejo Recreation and Park District and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, both of which are local park agencies established by the vote of the people in those communities.

The MRCA is dedicated to the preservation and management of local open space and parkland, watershed lands, trails, and wildlife habitat. The MRCA manages and provides ranger services for almost 72,000 acres of public lands and parks that it owns and that are owned by the Conservancy or other agencies and provides comprehensive education and interpretation programs for the public. The MRCA works in cooperation with the Conservancy and other local government partners to acquire parkland, participate in vital planning processes, and complete major park improvement projects.

The MRCA provides natural resources and scientific expertise, critical regional planning services, park construction services, park operations, fire prevention, ranger services, educational and leadership programs for thousands of youth each year, and is one of the lead agencies providing for the revitalization of the Los Angeles River.

Because of MRCA's dedication and long history of preservation and management of local open space, natural resources and parkland, the MRCA takes the threats climate change presents seriously and seeks proactively to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. MRCA protects some of California's most at risk species and biodiversity from human encroachment, drought, pollution and climate change. The lands we own and manage for all Californians provide important local air

quality, water quality and heat island mitigation for the local population, including many disadvantaged and environmental justice communities.

Looking towards climate change's future and existing threats and uncertainties, the MRCA has embarked on a research and planning program to investigate how parks, local planning, development and open space efforts can mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and implement cost-effective climate change adaptation measures. MRCA has worked closely on this program with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Based on these efforts and seeking to maximize the benefits from the State's cap-and-trade program, MRCA urges the California Air Resources Board and the Administration to provide incentives and resources that

- promote urban infill development;
- protect open space and natural lands;
- invest in programs that harvest the ecosystem services capabilities of natural and open space for recharge, storm water capture, water quantity and water quality projects as a means of accomplishing cost-effective energy savings for the State;
- encourage the establishment of greenbelts; and
- provide the open-air recreational and active transportation amenities necessary for making infill developments attractive and public transportation accessible.

We regularly discuss climate change challenges with the Conservancy and fully endorse the Conservancy's recommendations for the 2030 Target Scoping Plan. MRCA incorporates the Conservancy's comments by reference.

While climate change presents many problems, the MRCA believes that it, working with State Conservancies, can make a significant, efficient and lasting contribution to California's climate change adaptation and mitigation portfolio. The MRCA has the opportunity to engage climate change problems effectively while navigating local challenges, providing co-benefits and working with disadvantaged communities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Lange". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George Lange, Chair  
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority