



invest  
from the   
ground up

Growing Trees Make Great Neighborhoods

*Nancy Hughes, Executive Director*

Sadly, I am not Dr. E. Gregory McPherson, Urban Forest Researcher from the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, **BUT** I should get lots of points for stepping in to fill his spot at the last minute and to talk about something for the most part entirely different. He is a rock star!

- Who we are
- What we do
- How you can help





## California Urban Forests Council

### *Seven Regional Councils across CA*

- Bay Area
- Central Coast
- Inland
- Los Angeles/Orange County
- Sacramento
- San Diego
- San Joaquin Valley



# CaUFC Programs

- California Urban Forester Certification
- Urban Forest Management Plan Toolkit
- Workshops & Annual Conference
- CA EnerTrees
- Seven Regional Councils
- “Direction, Connection – Leading in Your Community” advocacy skills training
- Invest From the Ground Up Education & Outreach Campaign
- Invest From the Ground Up Regional Tree Planting Program
- Policy & Advocacy Efforts



# Policy and Advocacy

- In-house Policy Staff
- Professional Political Consulting and Lobbying Firm
- Partnerships with Statewide Organizations
- Membership and Regional Councils



# Advocacy Priorities



## AB 32 Implementation

- Scoping Plan Revision/Update
- [http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/2013\\_update/discussion\\_draft.pdf](http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/2013_update/discussion_draft.pdf)
- Cap and Trade Auction Revenue
- Urban Forestry Protocols Update
- <http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/urban-forest/>



**The Urban Forest Project Protocol (UFPP)** provides requirements and guidance for quantifying the net climate benefits of activities that sequester carbon within an urban environment. The protocol provides project eligibility rules; methods to calculate a project’s net effects on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere (“removals”); procedures for assessing the risk that carbon sequestered by a project may be reversed (i.e. released back to the atmosphere); and approaches for long term project monitoring and reporting. The goal of this protocol is to ensure that the net GHG reductions and removals caused by a project are accounted for in a complete, consistent, transparent, accurate, and conservative manner and may therefore be reported to the Climate Action Reserve (Reserve) as the basis for issuing carbon offset credits (called Climate Reserve Tonnes, or CRTs). Additionally, it is the goal of the Reserve to ensure the protocol is as efficient and practical as possible for project developers.

The Reserve is a national offsets program working to ensure integrity, transparency and financial value in the North American carbon market. It does this by establishing regulatory-quality standards for the development, quantification and verification of GHG emissions reduction projects in North America; issuing carbon offset credits known as CRTs generated from such projects; and tracking the transaction of credits over time in a transparent, publicly-accessible system. Adherence to the Reserve’s high standards ensures that emissions reductions associated with projects are real, permanent and additional, thereby instilling confidence in the environmental benefit, credibility and efficiency of the U.S. carbon market.

Only those Urban Forest Projects that are eligible under and comply with the UFPP may be registered with the Reserve. Section 9 of this protocol provides requirements and guidance for verifying the performance of project activities and their associated GHG reductions and removals reported to the Reserve.

#### **About Urban Forests, Carbon Dioxide and Climate Change**

Urban forests have the capacity to both emit and sequester carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), a leading greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Trees, through the process of photosynthesis, naturally absorb CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and store the gas as carbon in their biomass, i.e. trunk (bole), leaves, branches, and roots. Carbon may also be stored in the soils that support the urban forest, as well as the understory plants and litter on the urban forest floor. Carbon may continue to be sequestered for a substantial amount of time in wood products and in landfills. Carbon from urban forests may also be used to provide fuel for biomass energy as a renewable form of energy.

When trees are disturbed, through events like fire, disease, pests or harvest, some of their stored carbon may oxidize or decay over time releasing CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. The quantity and rate of CO<sub>2</sub> that is emitted may vary, depending on the particular circumstances of the disturbance. Depending on how urban forests are managed or impacted by natural events, they can be a net source of emissions, resulting in a decrease to the reservoir, or a net sink, resulting in an increase of CO<sub>2</sub> to the reservoir. In other words, forests may have a net negative or net positive impact on the climate.

Through activities that increase and sustain urban forest, urban forests can also play a positive and significant role to help address global climate change. The Reserve’s UFPP is designed to address the urban forest sector’s unique capacity to sequester, store, and emit CO<sub>2</sub> and to facilitate the positive role that forests can play to address climate change.

#### **Urban Forest Project Definitions and Requirements**

For the purposes of the UFPP, an Urban Forest Project is a planned set of activities designed to increase removals of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, or reduce or prevent emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere, through increasing and/or conserving forest carbon stocks.

A glossary of terms related to Urban Forest Projects is provided in Section 10 of this protocol. Throughout the protocol, important defined terms are capitalized (e.g. “Tree Planting Project”).

**Project Types** The Reserve will register the following types of Forest Project activities.

## **Tree Planting and Urban Forest Management**



# Advocacy Priorities

## Water Bond

- Water Quality Improvement
- Stormwater Management - Local Water Supply
- Flood attenuation



# Advocacy Priorities



## Proposition 39 Implementation

- Energy Conservation at Schools
- Shade trees
- Reduce Urban Heat Island
- Green infrastructure



# More Funding for Urban Forestry & Greening

We could use your help!

- Talk to your local elected officials
- Call or visit your State Legislator(s)
- Tell them the importance of urban forestry and greening in our communities
- Ask them to support funding for greening from AB 32, Water Bond, and Proposition 39



*Thank You!*



*Nancy Hughes, Executive Director*

[njhughes@caufc.org](mailto:njhughes@caufc.org)

[www.caufc.org](http://www.caufc.org)

[www.investfromthegroundup.org](http://www.investfromthegroundup.org)