

California Urban Forests Council

Call to Action!

June 6, 2014



Are you in Oakland, Santa Monica, Thousand Oaks, San Diego, San Francisco, Long Beach, or Roseville/Chico?



If so, we need YOU to reach out to your State Senators and Assemblymembers! Your representatives are members of the Budget Conference Committee, currently negotiating the cap and trade revenue expenditure plan for 2014/15 and beyond.

Call them and share your support for **\$18 million proposed for the Urban Forestry program at CalFire** as part of the Governor's May Revise Budget and the Senate proposal for cap and trade revenue allocation.

Our targets:

- Assemblymembers Skinner, Bloom, Gorrell, and Weber
- Senators Leno, Hancock, Lara, and Nielsen

They are busy this time of year and mostly in Sacramento, so if you ask for a meeting be sure to plan on it occurring on a Friday when they are in district.

- Step 1 - Find legislator contact information – [Senators](#) and [Assemblymembers](#)
- Step 2 - Call their district office or Sacramento office
- Step 3 - Prepare ahead of time ** This is critical, as your time will be limited. **

Tips for your call

- **Tell them your name and organization/agency** you represent
- **Share your support** for \$18 million from cap and trade auction revenues to CalFire for the Urban Forestry Program as proposed in the Governor's May Revise Budget and Senate Proposal.
- **Ask them to support this** in Budget Conference Committee
- **Offer to have a meeting** where you share the work you are doing locally that could be supported by this funding in the future.

If you have a meeting (this time of year, typically they are in district on Fridays)

- **Share projects** you are doing in their districts that showcase urban forests, urban greening, and green infrastructure. Pictures and maps are always helpful!
- **Talk about the greenhouse gas emission reduction benefits** of urban forestry. Examples of talking points:
 - Urban forests play a significant role in achieving the State's goals for reducing GHG emissions through carbon sequestration and other methods, such as energy savings from shade, reduced heat island effect, and more.

Contact: Connie Gallippi CaUFC Program Director with questions - cmgallippi@caufc.org

- Currently urban trees in California:
 - sequester 4.5 million metric tons of CO₂ annually
 - cut energy use for cooling by 30% from shade and up to 10% for heating by blocking wind
 - save ~6,400 GWh per year, equivalent to seven 100 megawatt power plants
 - reduce urban heat island effect and ambient air temperatures
- These myriad co-benefits are especially important for improving the quality of life in California's disadvantaged communities, where tree canopies are generally far below average, and where the majority of these funds will likely be spent for targeted projects that meet and exceed the SB 535 requirements.
- **Talk about the multiple benefits of these projects** to their constituents and their
 - Examples of multiple benefits are: air quality improvement, water quality improvement, carbon sequestrations, energy savings, public health, community pride and involvement, improved real estate values and business activity, etc. Visit <http://www.investfromthegroundup.org> for helpful resources.
- **Especially focus on disadvantaged communities in their districts:**
 - State statute, SB 535, requires a significant portion of the cap and trade funds go to disadvantaged communities - <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/auctionproceeds.htm>
 - You can identify disadvantaged communities in their districts through this website - <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/ces11.html>
- **Ask for their support in Sacramento** to continue funding for these kinds of projects through the budget process for cap and trade revenue to CalFire.