

Clesi Bennett
Sr. Environmental Scientist | Climate Change Programs
California Natural Resources Agency

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Dear Board of Forestry and Fire Protection members,

Thank you for your consideration of my appointment to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC). My team at the Natural Resources Agency works to elevate the role that our natural and working lands play in meeting the State's carbon neutrality and climate resilience goals. We do this by increasing the scale and pace of the adoption of nature-based climate solutions through strategy and policy development; program administration; and research. Several of the State's priority nature-based climate solutions relate the purview of the Board, such as forest thinning, prescribed and cultural fire, managed grazing, reforestation, riparian restoration, and more.

Effectiveness monitoring is a critical component to driving our work forward in an adaptive and effective manner. Now that our team has set policy and strategic direction with the 2022 Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, the 2022 California Climate Adaptation Strategy, and the 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan, we are establishing implementation pathways and monitoring frameworks (as was recently called for in AB 1757, C. Garcia, 2022).

I believe I am a good fit for the EMC as I serve as the technical and scientific lead for the Agency's climate program and see several synergies between our work and the work of the EMC. In this role, I manage an interagency science team on natural and working lands and facilitate their recommendations into policy development. Upcoming topics this groups will tackle for the next 1-2 years include monitoring and evaluation to understand the outcomes and efficacy of our natural and working lands policies and actions. I am also standing up a \$6M funding program under the 5th California Climate Change Assessment to fund critical research that fill demonstrable gaps in the scientific literature related to understanding and adapting to climate impacts. Additionally, I am working to deliver an interoperable scientific data system to improve the State's use of remotely-sensed data to help better understand the impacts of climate change, inform actions, and track progress toward our climate goals. Lastly, as mentioned above, our team now has a mandate regarding effectiveness monitoring under AB 1757. In the 2025 update to the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, we will include an evaluation of the efficacy of the State's priority nature-based climate solutions.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, I can be reached at

Thank you for your consideration,

Clesi Bennett