

Letter 18

Stephen W. Ela
Public

August 19, 2009

Comment 18-1

The commenter urges the adoption of amendments made to Appendix G, Section II to include forestry resources in the Initial Study Checklist.

Response 18-1

The Natural Resources Agency notes the commenter's support of amendments to Appendix G, Section II. As this comment is not seeking any change to the proposed language, no further response is required.

Comment 18-2

Through his independent research as a retired PhD chemist, the commenter has reached the same conclusion to support forest resources naturally sequesterate more carbon than land converted to agricultural uses.

Response 18-2

The Natural Resources Agency notes the commenter's support of amendments to Appendix G, Section II. This section of the Environmental Checklist Form was amended to provide evaluation of impacts to forest resources, consider possible conflicts with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest lands, and consider the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. As explained in the Initial Statement of Reasons, "...conversion of forests to non-forest uses may result in direct emissions of GHG emissions. Such conversion would also remove existing carbon stock, as well as a significant carbon sink. Although some agricultural uses also provide carbon sequestration values, most agricultural uses do not provide as much sequestration as forest resources. Therefore, such a project could result in a net increase of GHG emissions, among other potential impacts." (Initial Statement of Reasons at pg. 64.)

As this comment is not seeking any change to the proposed language, no further response is required at this time.