

# The CAPCOA GHG Rx Registry

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**Board of Directors  
Santa Barbara County  
Air Pollution Control District**

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# Overview

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- What is the CAPCOA GHG Rx, and why do we need it?
- How does the GHG Rx differ from other carbon registries?
- District participation in the program

# Background and Need

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- Local projects reviewed under CEQA
- CEQA Lead Agency must analyze climate change impacts at time of land use permit issuance
- Mitigation of climate change impacts not required to be local
- Loss of co-benefits when CEQA mitigation occurs outside of local community:
  - Ozone precursors and other pollutant reductions
  - Economic benefits
  - Other community benefits

# California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA)

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- Formed to promote clean air, a nonprofit association of 35 Air Pollution Control Officers
- District is active in CAPCOA, numerous committees specific to issue areas; Director is on CAPCOA Board
- Recognize the need for statewide coordination on climate change issues, and specifically on planning and mitigation tools

# What is the GHG Rx?

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- Online tool or “registry” provides a low cost, secure platform for locally generated carbon “offsets” or “emission reduction credits”
- Credits are derived from voluntary projects in California
- Implemented by “Participating Districts”
- Ensures that credits are certified as high quality.

***“Made in California for Californians”***

# Similarities to Other Registries

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- Other registries: Climate Action Reserve, American Carbon Registry, Chicago Climate Exchange
- Registry provides platform and protocols for voluntary projects seeking to generate carbon offsets
- Offsets/credits are 3<sup>rd</sup> party verified, certified and listed in online registry
- Seller and buyer “meet” online, agree on price

# Differences from Other Registries

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- Only for projects and credits created in California
- Administered by Air Districts through an agreement with CAPCOA:
  - Utilize expertise of Air District staff and local knowledge base
  - Long-term validity of credits generated
  - Assurance that project adheres to protocol
- Offers expanded opportunities:
  - “Case-by-case” protocol with rigorous review requirements
  - Possible future protocol development

# Program Infrastructure

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- Administrative Guidelines and appendices
- Software Platform
- CAPCOA Board-approved Protocols
  - Placer Biomass to Energy
  - South Coast Boiler Efficiency
  - Methane Digesters (a.k.a. CARB Livestock)
  - Case-by-Case
  - Three Forest Management Protocols



# District Participation

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- MOU with CAPCOA
- APCO designates:
  - Agency Administrator(s)
  - GHG Rx Review Committee representative
- Identify/seek projects that generate GHG credits
- Establish Credit Project Review Team
- GHG banking rule or credit contract template
  - Issue legally binding instrument
- Funding for GHG Rx maintenance