Program Manual Summary of Changes
September 3, 2019

This document highlights and summarizes significant changes to the Climate Action Reserve Program Manual. Additional changes not highlighted below include the incorporation of previously issued Policy Memos and minor editorial changes. The revised Program Manual was released on September 3, 2019 and is available for public comment through Friday, October 4, 2019.

The Program Manual is available for download at http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/program/program-manual/.

Revised Sections

2.4.4 Project Crediting Period

Specification that non-forest projects may end their crediting periods early.
Updated timing requirements when applying for a renewed crediting period.

2.6.1 Global Warming Potentials for Quantifying GHG Reductions

New section added to explain the Reserve's policy around use of Global Warming Potential values.

2.6.6 Immediate Crediting for Future Avoided Emissions

Language added to differentiate between the "forward crediting" policies under the Reserve's offset program, and the Reserve's Climate Forward program.

2.8 Ensuring Permanence of GHG Reductions

Updated to reflect the option of "Tonne-Year Accounting" being implemented in certain protocols.

2.9 Avoiding Double Counting of Emission Reductions

New section added to define double counting and elucidate the various Reserve safeguards.

3.3.2.1 Types of Accounts

Updated to reflect the current list of account types, including the new option of "Project Owner (limited)."

3.4.4 Subsequent Verification and 3.4.5 Zero-Credit Reporting Period

Updated to allow project developers to use zero-credit reporting periods to cover lapsed reporting time, and to cover time spanning two crediting periods.

3.4.7 Verification Deadline Extension Request

Updated to allow for extension requests to be used for any verification period (rather than just initial verifications), and incorporated additional project types into the list of extension lengths.

3.5 Stakeholder Input for Individual Projects

New section detailing avenues for non-commercial stakeholders to interact with the Reserve in relation to individual projects (rather than project protocols). Includes subsections regarding local stakeholder consultations and the process for communicating feedback or grievances.

3.6.2 Over-Issuance of CRTs

Updated to clarify that over-issued CRTs will be cancelled, not retired.

3.6.6 Transferring Credits from the Reserve

Updated to include the process for cancelling Registry Offset Credits (ROCs) to be re-issued as ARB Offset Credits (ARBOCs).

3.10 Relationships to Other GHG Programs

Added new section (replacing previous Section 3.9, which focused only on VCS) to expand the discussion of how the Reserve interacts with other GHG programs. New additions include the California Compliance Offset Program, the California Low Carbon Fuel Standard, the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), and Green-e Climate.