The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) partnered with the Urban and Community Forestry Program and California Climate Investments in 2014 to remove and reuse logs from trees in Sacramento’s urban areas that would otherwise be considered waste and sent to landfills. Sacramento Tree Foundation uses these salvaged materials to create usable products, including post and beam timber, fence pickets, elegant banquet tables, chairs, and boutique wooden bowls. Over the three-year grant period, the project is expected to mill 1,820 logs from urban tree removals. This salvaged usable wood coupled with the milling of waste wood and bark that will be used in future tree planting projects will sequester an estimated 2870.14 tons of greenhouse gases in this three-year timeframe. The project aims to engage residents in understanding the lifecycle of the urban forests and the benefits of reclaiming urban wood. As milling operations reach their full potential, the project aims to create job opportunities for local residents in this disadvantaged community. Active maintenance of the urban forests in Sacramento is not only reducing waste, but it is also creating a healthier environment for the urban vegetation that will contribute to California’s resilience to climate change impacts.

Image provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

For more information about Safeguarding California and Climate Change Adaptation efforts in California, visit http://resources.ca.gov/climate/safeguarding/