February 8, 2019

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| The Honorable Richard Bloom, ChairAssembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3State Capitol, Room 2003Sacramento, CA 95814 | The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, ChairSenate Budget Subcommittee No. 2State Capitol, Room 4085Sacramento, CA 95814 |

RE: CDFA California Biodiversity Initiative BCP - SUPPORT

Chairs Bloom and Wieckowski,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our strong support for the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s California Biodiversity Initiative BCP request that $3 million be included in the state budget to accelerate and streamline the prevention, detection and management of invasive plant species.

This funding supports CDFA’s “Weed Management Area” program, enabling CDFA to partner with local organizations across the state to address the spread of invasive plants. Invasive plants are recognized in Governor Brown’s Biodiversity Initiative and the state’s Wildlife Action Plan as having a significant impact on native biodiversity. Actively addressing invasive plants not only protects biodiversity, it also promotes fire safety and protects water resources, agriculture, and recreation.

Given the recognized impacts of invasive plants on the state’s biodiversity, this $3 million investment is essential to implementing the new Biodiversity Initiative successfully. We respectfully ask for your support in protecting our environment, our economy and our safety by approving this funding as part of the 2019-20 budget.

Sincerely,

\*signatures\*

cc: The Honorable Members of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3

 The Honorable Members of the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2

 The Honorable Members of the Assembly Budget Committee

 The Honorable Members of the Senate Budget Committee

 The Honorable Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon

 The Honorable Speaker Pro Tempore Toni Atkins