

March 1, 2019

The Honorable Richard Bloom, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3
State Capitol, Room 2003
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, 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,

Doug Johnson, Executive Director
California Invasive Plant Council
www.cal-ipc.org

Bob Rynearson, Chair
California Forest Pest Council
caforestpestcouncil.org

Greg Suba, Conservation Program Director
California Native Plant Society
www.cnps.org

J. Stacey Sullivan, Policy Director
Sustainable Conservation (San Francisco)
www.suscon.org

Paul Robins, Executive Director
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
rcdmonterey.org

Jo Ellen Butler, Executive Director
Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (San Luis Obispo County)
www.ffrpcambria.org

Jeff Miller, Director
Alameda Creek Alliance
www.alamedacreek.org

Peter C. Ingram, President
Friends of Edgewood (San Mateo County)
friendsofedgewood.org

Dr. Richard Haskell, Board Chair
Sustainable Claremont
www.sustainableclaremont.org

Rabbi Elihu Gevirtz, Senior Ecologist & Operations Manager
Channel Island Restoration (Santa Barbara County)
www.cirweb.org

Susan Schwartz, President
Friends of Five Creeks (Contra Costa/Alameda Counties)
www.f5creeks.org

Tim Gibson, Agricultural Commissioner Sealer Weights & Measures
Plumas-Sierra Counties Department of Agriculture
www.countyofplumas.com

Tanya Chapple, Plants Program Director
Mid Klamath Watershed Council
www.mkwc.org

Anna Marie Schmidt, Executive Director
Friends of Sausal Creek (Alameda County)
www.sausalcreek.org

Dashiell Dunkell, Stewardship Director
Elkhorn Slough Foundation (Monterey County)
www.elkhornslough.org

Snowdy Dodson, Chapter Co-President

Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter of the Cal. Native Plant Society
lasmmcnps.org

Kitty Connolly, Executive Director

Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants (Los Angeles County)

Theodorepayne.org

Steven Goetz, President

Willis Linn Jepson Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (Solano County)

jepson.cnps.org

Cherie Topper, Executive Director

Santa Barbara Audubon Society

www.santabarbaraaudubon.org

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