March 13, 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 for WMA funding - 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](http://www.cal-ipc.org)

Jay Ziegler, Director of External Affairs and Policy, California
**The Nature Conservancy**
[https://www.nature.org/en-us/](https://www.nature.org/en-us/)

Kim Delfino, California Program Director
**Defenders of Wildlife**
[www.defenders.org/](http://www.defenders.org/)

Sandy Elles, Executive Director
**California Agricultural Commissioners & Sealers Association**
[www.cacasa.org](http://www.cacasa.org)

Bob Rynearson, Chair
**California Forest Pest Council**
[www.caforestpestcouncil.org](http://www.caforestpestcouncil.org)

J. Stacey Sullivan, Policy Director
**Sustainable Conservation**
[www.suscon.org](http://www.suscon.org)

Greg Suba, Conservation Program Director
**California Native Plant Society**
[www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)

Greg Andrew, President
**California Society for Ecological Restoration**
[www.sercal.org](http://www.sercal.org)
Andrea Williams, President
**California Native Grasslands Association**
www.cnga.org

Ana Ruiz, General Manager
**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District** (Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties)
www.openspace.org

Walter T. Moore, President
**Peninsula Open Space Trust**
www.openspacetrust.org

Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager
**Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority**
www.openspaceauthority.org

Sharon Farrell, Executive Vice President of Projects, Stewardship & Science
**Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy**
www.parksconservancy.org

Janet Cobb, Executive Director
**California Wildlife Foundation**
www.californiaoaks.org

Ben Horenstein, General Manager
**Marin Municipal Water District**
www.marinwater.org

Paul Robins, Executive Director
**Resource Conservation District of Monterey County**
www.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** (Alameda County)
www.alamedacreek.org

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

Dr. Richard Haskell, Board Chair
Sustainable Claremont (Los Angeles County)
www.sustainableclaremont.org

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

Dashiel 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
www.lasmmcnps.org

Kitty Connolly, Executive Director
Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants (Los Angeles County)
www.theodorepayne.org

Steven Goetz, President
Willis Linn Jepson Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (Solano County)
www.jepson.cnps.org

Cherie Topper, Executive Director
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
www.santabarbaraaudubon.org

Nancy Hamlett, Treasurer
Friends of Claremont Hills Wilderness Park (Los Angeles County)
www.friendsofthewildernesspark.org

Matt Freitas, Program Manager  
Truckee River Watershed Council  
www.truckeeriverwc.org

Karuna Greenberg, Restoration Director  
Salmon River Restoration Council  
www.srrc.org

Michael Gillogly, Preserve Manager  
Pepperwood Foundation  
www.pepperwoodpreserve.org

Lucas Patzek, Executive Director  
Napa County Resource Conservation District  
www.naparcd.org

Bobbi Simpson, Liaison  
National Park Service, California Exotic Plant Management Team  
www.nps.gov/orgs/1103/epmt.htm

Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair  
Orange County Chapter of the California Native Plant Society  
www.occnps.org

Hallie Jones, Executive Director  
Laguna Canyon Foundation  
www.lagunacanyon.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