



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

Jay Ziegler, Director of External Affairs and Policy, California
The Nature Conservancy
<https://www.nature.org/en-us/>

Kim Delfino, California Program Director
Defenders of Wildlife
www.defenders.org/

Sandy Elles, Executive Director
California Agricultural Commissioners & Sealers Association
www.cacasa.org

Bob Rynearson, Chair
California Forest Pest Council
www.caforestpestcouncil.org

J. Stacey Sullivan, Policy Director
Sustainable Conservation
www.suscon.org

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

Greg Andrew, President
California Society for Ecological Restoration
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

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

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