



January 23, 2019

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Landscape-Scale Stewardship's Ability to Achieve Policy Goals in "*Recommendations to Protect California's Parks, Public Lands and Waterways*"

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the California Landscape Stewardship Network (CA Network), a statewide network currently led by seven cross-boundary collaboratives comprised of 192 organizations and an additional 75-100 collaborators across the state, we are writing to illustrate how landscape-scale stewardship can be the solution to advancing some of the state's most important conservation policy priorities as described in "*Recommendations to Protect California's Parks, Public Lands and Waterways*" submitted to you by the Resources Legacy Fund and the Berkeley Institute for Parks, People, and Biodiversity. More information about the CA Network is available at <http://landscapeconservation.org/california-landscape-stewardship-network/>.

The following are excerpts from *Recommendations* and responses from the CA Network that speak to how landscape-scale inclusive partnerships can be the solution:

- "*California's leaders, policymakers, and residents will be environmentally literate and actively engaged in planning for the future of the state's natural resources.*" (*Recommendations*, page 3)

The approaches employed by landscape-scale stewardship practitioners unite California's leaders, policymakers, and residents around a common vision while building trust and connectivity. An example can be found in Marin County, where the One Tam collaborative recently released a 4-year partnership study illustrating the social impacts and demonstrated value of partnering at a landscape scale to accomplish collaborative land stewardship (http://onetam.org/sites/default/files/basic/Generating_Scaling_Up_and_Sustaining_Impact-One_Tam%27s_First_Four_Years.pdf).

- "*Advance restoration of damaged forest watersheds to benefit water supplies, fish and wildlife, and public access.*" (*Recommendations*, page 4) and "*Fund watershed restoration projects to increase climate resilience, improve water supply and quality, restore fish and wildlife habitat, sequester carbon, and provide additional benefits.*" (*Recommendations*, page 7)

CA Network members work together at a landscape scale to gather scientific data, plan projects, inspire community involvement, apply for funds, and implement projects that

care for the entire watershed. Working together across management boundaries results in greater efficiencies and impacts. Project examples include the salmonid habitat restoration, early detection weed mapping and treatment, and region-wide wayfinding signage installation work under the Redwood Creek Watershed Collaborative in Marin County (http://www.onetam.org/sites/default/files/basic/rcw_report_final_small.pdf); the 2016 *One Tam Measuring the Health of the Mountain Report* (<http://www.onetam.org/peak-health>); and the northern California Redwoods Rising collaborative, which is undertaking the landscape-scale visioning, planning, and project implementation necessary to increase the pace of redwood forest restoration through improving stream health, restoring critical wildlife habitat, and removing invasive species.

- *“Support meaningful public participation for all Californians, including Native American Tribes and communities of color, in federal land use planning, leasing, and permitting decisions on public lands and forests.” (Recommendations, page 4)*

With a focus on building trust, connectivity, and robust participation in stewardship, CA Network members prioritize creative, inclusive, and meaningful public and stakeholder participation. Creative examples illustrating robust inclusive participation include climate adaptation planning at Bothin Marsh in Marin County (<http://www.onetam.org/bothin-marsh-evolving-shorelines>) and the Santa Cruz Mountain Stewardship Network’s partnership with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to integrate traditional ecological knowledge into land stewardship practices and projects, including the restoration of Mount Umunhum (<http://amahmutsun.org/land-trust/land-trust-newsevents/return-to-mt-humunhum-place-of-the-hummingbird>).

- *“Build coalitions with other western governors to protect public lands and waterways in the West and defend environmental laws.” (Recommendations, page 5)*

The CA Network partners with the national Network for Landscape Conservation (<http://landscapeconservation.org/>) and is well networked among practitioners and professionals in conservation fields. We offer our support in facilitating conversations or offering models and strategies that advance landscape-scale stewardship and the ability of western states to address the many issues raised in *Recommendations*.

- *“Restore at least half of California’s redwood forests through partnerships between state, federal, and private land managers and nonprofit organizations to secure watershed protection, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration benefits.” (Recommendations, page 6)*

Members of the CA Network can share several examples of successful collaborations with land managers and community stakeholders working to restore redwood forests, including Redwoods Rising (<https://www.savetheredwoods.org/project/redwoods-rising/>), Roy’s Redwoods (<https://www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/divisions/open-space/roys-redwoods>), and juvenile Coho habitat restoration at Muir Woods (<http://www.onetam.org/programs-and-projects/redwood-creek-juvenile-coho-habitat-restoration>).

- *“Develop a community guide to climate adaptation that identifies risks to communities and natural resources and recommends environmentally sensitive adaptation and resilience strategies.” (Recommendations, page 7)*

Landscape scale stewardship is a resilience strategy that addresses the pace and scale of climate change-related challenges and other urgent resource issues through regional collaboration, planning, and resource sharing. Recognizing that human wellbeing and ecological health are intertwined, the CA Network believes in working across social and jurisdictional lines to encourage diverse perspectives and empower stakeholders from all backgrounds. At the foundation of this is trust and connectivity. By bringing people together to support a shared vision, landscape-scale stewardship becomes a living example of a community guide to climate adaptation and resilience tailored to the local knowledge and needs of landscapes and communities. An example of a collaborative work plan includes the *One Tam One Mountain, One Vision 5-Year Plan* (https://issuu.com/parks-conservancy/docs/tlc_vision_book_11_06_14_web_ready).

- *“Advance efficient multi-agency environmental review to speed implementation of restoration and adaptation projects that improve the health and climate adaptability of forest, wetland, meadow, dune, desert, and other ecosystems.” (Recommendations, page 7)*

The CA Network is working to identify and overcome barriers to stewarding lands and communities across boundaries. For example, a cross-section of conservation practitioners, under the auspices of the CA Network, has produced a detailed white paper supporting regulatory efficiencies for at-scale natural resource stewardship through documenting the problem and detailing a range of efforts and possible solutions. This white paper, *“Removing Barriers to Restoration, Stewardship and Conservation in California Landscapes: Reflections and Bright Spots,”* provides valuable recommendations as a starting point for next-generation efforts.

- *“Create new ongoing funding sources to support effective management and restoration of state park and wildlife areas and consider new bond funding to protect and increase public access, where appropriate.” (Recommendations, page 9)*

As part of our work to overcome barriers to collaboration and develop partnership resources, the CA Network commissioned a case study to explore the unique capacity building challenges and trends facing landscape stewardship networks. Based on interviews with practitioners, funders, subject matter experts, and policymakers, this case study outlines the five most significant financing challenges facing these cross-boundary partnership efforts, as well as strategies from different regions across the country that are effectively building capacity for collaboration (<http://landscapeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Key-CLSN-Case-Study-Findings.pdf>).

Stewarding lands across boundaries at a landscape scale has also proven to effectively leverage resources of all partners to achieve greater impact. Examples include the Marin County Landscape Database and Map, in which nine partners combined a total of \$1.3 million to gather LIDAR, vegetation, forest systems, and fuels data over approximately

800 square miles to inform regional fire fuel reduction, emergency response, and land management decisions.

- *“Encourage coalitions between regional park operators, Native American Tribes, nonprofit organizations, and California State Parks to increase co-management opportunities.” (Recommendations, page 9)*

The CA Network believes that the traditional approach to conservation must evolve. We can no longer afford to work in isolation, without leveraging the tremendous power of partnerships. The time is now to make collaborative, landscape-scale stewardship the new norm for California!

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring a sustainable future for our state. We would be honored to meet with your team at any time to discuss your Administration’s priorities and how the CA Network and its member organizations can best serve as resources and partners going forward.

Sincerely,



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Chair, Funding and Legislation Working Group of the CA Network; Executive Team member of the One Tam Initiative; and Government and External Affairs Manager of Marin County Parks

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Attachment: *Recommendations to Protect California’s Parks, Public Lands and Waterways*