

CA Network Funding and Legislation Working Group

2019 Work Plan

Philosophy of the Funding and Legislation Working Group

The Funding and Legislation Working Group seeks to support the CA Network by building funding and policy bridges through supportive and additive communications and policy analysis that include and build upon the work of others. This working group functions on the interest, dedication, and enthusiasm of talented professionals who volunteer their time, connections, talents, organizational resources, and knowledge to advance the goals and objectives of the CA Network as expressed in the working group annual work plan. Working group members leave personal agendas at the door to advance broad support for landscape-scale stewardship and use bold relationship-building strategies and essential interpersonal and professional skills to advance their work.

Goals of the Funding and Legislation Working Group

1. Become a trusted partner and resource for funders and legislators.
2. Support funders and legislators to problem-solve regarding policy and funding approaches to supporting landscape-scale work.
3. Explore ways to regionally prioritize or coordinate stewardship and restoration projects for competitive grant programs.
4. Be a resource for the CA Network and other networks and practitioners focused on landscape-scale stewardship practices.
5. Build collaborative relationships with partners within and outside the CA Network to promote awareness, tools, policies, and strategies that advance landscape-scale stewardship.
6. Integrate with work priorities of the entire CA Network.

2018 Accomplishments

- Developed Principles of Investment tool that acts as a lens to analyze policy and funding opportunities and inform funders and legislators about top capacity-building priorities
- Led organized trip to Sacramento in 2018 to introduce the CA Network to state agencies and explore Prop 68 funding opportunities
- Provided written input on the WCB strategic plan update and Prop 68 grant guidelines of several state agencies using the Principles of Investment tool as a foundation
- Enabled completion of the Capacity Building for Collaboration case study by connecting the researcher with interviewees, participating in interviews, editing the draft study, developing a summary of the research and comparison with national research, and sharing the study with a broad network of funding and legislation contacts
- Held regular organizing calls, led portions of CA Network convenings, introduced new members to the funding and legislation work, and supported other CA Network teams.

Work Planning from the 2018 Steering Committee Retreat

Three Year Milestone Categories

- POSITION / BRAND / BRIDGE BUILDING

- NETWORK REACH / MOVEMENT BUILDING
- CHANGE MAKING
- ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Funding and Legislation Milestones from 3-Year Roadmap Strategy

- Position the CA Network as a resource to funders and decision makers
 - Build and deepen relationships with funders and decision makers
 - Distribute and leverage capacity building case study
- Identify ongoing opportunities to respond to and influence relevant policies and grantmaking
- Promote and advance “principles of investment” to practitioners, funders, and decision makers
- Identify key actionable opportunities for the network from the case study research

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POSITION / BRAND / BRIDGE BUILDING

- Alignment and coalition-building with other policy and thought leaders: Develop companion letters, white papers, and other materials that draw connections between the policies or policy objectives of public, private, and non-profit organizations and the CA Network and place the landscape-scale stewardship approach and principles of the CA Network in the context of other professional fields and emerging ideas and strategies. Ask for collaboration and mutual support sharing and promoting common messages and policy objectives. Example: Resources Legacy Fund companion letter to their policy brief to Governor Newsom
- Governor Newsom: Introduce the CA Network to Governor Newsom and key appointees of state agencies. Coordinate among working group members and key allies to achieve multiple touches and seek to grow these new relationships over time.
- Build and support champions of stewardship and conservation in the CA legislature.
- Capacity Building Case Study: Broadly share the case study among working group member contacts in the funding, legislation, and practitioner communities. Seek opportunities to advance solutions to the barriers, and promote the strategies, found in the case study.
- Regional Tours: Coordinate with working group members on upcoming project tours with funders and/or legislators and join one or more tours to introduce the CA Network and underscore the impact of implementing projects using this approach.

NETWORK REACH / MOVEMENT BUILDING

- Working Group Philosophy: Explore and evolve a working group philosophical approach to our work that sets boundaries and expectations for how we work together.
- Deep Relationships: Seek opportunities to deepen relationships with those we have introduced the CA Network to. Look for opportunities to involve all working group members in relationship building and leverage their relationship building strengths.
- Playbook: Develop a playbook explaining how to include funders and legislators in collaborative work beyond their traditional roles or methods of being engaged. Interview funders, legislators, practitioners, and others to gain insights on how funders and legislators prefer to be included, and cultural or other barriers that limit their participation in collaborative activities.

- Monitor Adoption: Within existing relationships, look for evidence of adoption of CA Network research, recommendations, values, and other work. Note “third party champions” promoting CA Network information and other adoption, uses, or promotion of CA Network materials.
- Working Group Retreat: Seek an opportunity to gather working group members together to have fun, share bold ideas, and strengthen our working relationships.
- New Members and Opportunities to Participate: Seek to broaden and deepen participation in the work of this working group. See “Organizational Capacity” for related items.

CHANGE MAKING

- Prop 68: Continue to track and provide input on Prop 68 funding implementation. Share key funding opportunities that promote capacity building for landscape-scale stewardship activities among existing CA Network members and emerging collaboratives across the state.
- 2020 Parks and Resource Bond: Track development of SB45 (Allen) and promote language that addresses key capacity building barriers and strategies addressed in the Capacity Building for Collaboration Case Study as well as the working group Principles of Investment.
- Recommendations to Advance Ability for State Leaders to Collaborate: Develop a white paper, based on policy research and interviews, that will help guide state agencies and lawmakers beyond a desire for coordination to achieving deep collaboration and all the benefits
- Fire: Survey network members on key priorities and barriers and coordinate with the Permitting and Compliance working group to develop key statewide recommendations on fire and stewardship, regional collaboration, or similar topics.
- Principles of Investment: Continue to update the Principles of Investment and join with CA Network member priority projects that illustrate the principles. Use this as a tool to illustrate the types of investments funders can support if they align their funding with investment principles.
- Policy recommendations: In addition to the Principles of Investment, explore development of policy recommendations pertaining to key state issues that may include climate change, wildland fire, or other topics.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

- Monthly Calls: Host consistent monthly calls of the working group. Empower all participants to find meaningful roles in advancing work plan items.
- Annual Network Call: Host an annual network-wide call that invites broad participation and delivers significant policy and strategy updates from the working group. Increase the number of these calls if warranted.
- Funding Alert: Send occasional funding alerts notifying network members of funding opportunities that may address their regional work
- New Participants: Continue to identify and invite new participants to the working group that add value or express commitment and enthusiasm.
- On-line Information: Coordinate with Michela to make work products of the working group available on-line for CA Network members and others. Coordinate with Annie Burke and Michela on newsletter content reaching internal and external audiences.

- In-person Communications Tools: Coordinate with Michela and Annie to develop a simple 1-page update and folder to hand out CA Network information during in-person legislative visits, in funder meetings, and during regional site tours.
- Network Convenings: Coordinate with Steering Committee to develop and implement convenings.
- Letterhead Strategy: Develop a strategy for the use of a slate of logos representing the CA Network and additional partners that upholds the purpose and philosophical approach of this working group and the CA Network.
- Other Working Groups: Support other working groups as needed.