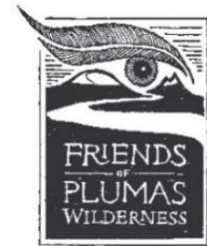
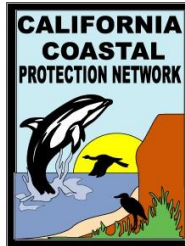




Carbon Cycle Institute





August 18, 2020

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2206  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: AB 3030 - Support**

Dear Chair Portantino and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our millions of members and supporters in California, we are writing to support Assembly Bill (AB) 3030 by Assemblymember Kalra. This bill would establish two important state policies in law:

- (1) A goal of the state to conserve at least 30 percent of California's land areas and waters, and to help advance the protection of 30 percent of the nation's oceans by 2030, known as "30 by 30."
- (2) A policy to improve access to nature for all people in the state, including for communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities.

AB 3030 would improve protection of California's unparalleled biodiversity, increase climate resilience, promote collaboration, increase opportunities to sequester carbon through natural measures, and enhance public access for all people in the state.

This bill comes at a critical time. Nature around the world is in a state of crisis, threatening our planet and humanity. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services found that approximately one million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction over the coming decades due to human impacts. As a globally significant biodiversity hotspot with an exceptional concentration of endemic species, California has much to lose. At least 686 California species are at risk of extinction, and two-thirds of the state's native plants will lose most of their range in the next 100 years.

AB 3030 is also intended to ensure that California's conservation efforts include a focus on increasing access to nature for all people in the state, benefitting communities currently experiencing serious impacts from COVID-19, but with little access to natural areas. A report released this month by the Hispanic Access Foundation shows new data on racial and economic disparities in nature loss and access to nature. The report found that because of discrimination, economic segregation, dispossession of lands, and other factors, communities of color in the U.S. are three times more likely than white communities to live in nature-deprived places. In California, 62% of people of color are more likely to reside in a

community that is nature-deprived. This report affirmed the need for an ambitious 30 by 30 conservation goal and to execute it in a way that ensures that benefits are more evenly and fairly distributed.

The adoption of AB 3030 would provide a significant economic benefit for California, including creating important new funding opportunities through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Great American Outdoors Act, and private support focused on implementation of a 30 by 30 policy. Without this state policy enacted into law, these funding opportunities would be diminished or non-existent. Further, in a recently released report, more than 100 economists and scientists found that the global economy would benefit from the establishment of far more protected areas on land and at sea than exist today. The report considered various scenarios of protecting at least 30% of the world's land and ocean to find that the benefits outweigh the costs by a ratio of at least 5-to-1. This report offers new evidence that the nature conservation sector drives economic growth, delivers key non-monetary benefits and is a net contributor to a resilient economy.

AB 3030 will be further amended to ensure that costs associated with implementing this bill are minimal and in line with existing available funding to state agencies. The California Natural Resources Agency (Resources Agency) would be identified as the lead agency for implementation and directed to establish a baseline of protected areas, if there is sufficient funding available. The Resources Agency currently has funding to do much of the work for implementing this bill through its Biodiversity Initiative.

With the passage of AB 3030, California can continue to lead the way towards meeting this important conservation goal and set an example for the rest of the country and the world.

For these reasons, we urge an "Aye" vote on AB 3030.

Sincerely,

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Senior Western Advocacy Director  
Natural Resources Defense Council

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