



**California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC)  
Interim Steering Committee (ISC) Meeting Notes  
May 12, 2011**

**Participants:**

Lora Barrett, Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP)  
Ellie Cohen, PRBO Conservation Science  
Diana Craig, US Forest Service  
Rebecca Fris, CA LCC  
Dave Graber, U.S. National Parks Service  
Brady Mattson, CA LCC  
Beth Huning, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture  
Debra Schlafmann, CA LCC  
Michelle Selmon, California Department of Water Resources  
Tom Suchanek, US Geological Service  
Mike Tansey, Bureau of Reclamation

**Action Items:**

- Dave will forward to ISC members an email that discusses a new Fire Science Consortium.
- Debra will make changes as listed in the meeting to the draft charter.
- Brady will send ISC members more materials on the Structured Decision Making training.
- Rebecca will send out more information on the Data Information training in June.
- Debra will send ISC members the final draft charter, incorporating changes that were discussed in this meeting. She will subsequently send out a proposal of NGO members.
- Deb will contact Beth regarding JV representation on the Steering Committee

**Agenda Review**

Debra opened the meeting, welcomed attendees, and led introductions.

**2011 Project Recommendations Review / Approval**

Rebecca thanked those who were part of the proposal review team. They included Matt Gerhart, Trish Chapman, Rick Kearney, Grant Ballard, Christina Sloop, Christy Brigham, Diana Craig, Armand Gonzales, and Tom Suchanek. Most team members reviewed all of the 39 submitted proposals. Nine projects were chosen to be funded, and four alternates were chosen to be funded if funds allow.

Dave asked if each of the chosen proposals will be fully funded. Rebecca said that they will. The proposals have also leveraged 200% or \$2.4 million additional funding.

Several ISC members complimented Rebecca on the organization of the proposal review process and described it as both fair and an excellent process. They thought it exceeded last year's review process.

Dave asked if any review was made regarding whether the chosen proposals had the capacity to be successful. Rebecca said this was a criteria that was discussed. The proposers were required to list work that they had done in the past and list their qualifications. The reviewers were asked to flag and later discuss any concerns they may have with a proposer's qualifications.

Debra announced that last year they received \$850,000 in funding. This year the CA LCC staff expect to receive \$969,000, although they don't have the entire amount of money in hand yet. CA LCC has also managed to save some money that had been set aside for staffing which has remained unused, so it can be applied toward new proposals as well. As a result, they hope to be able to fund the four alternates if funding is received at the 2010 levels. This will bring the total number of proposals to thirteen this year.

Diana, speaking on behalf of Don Yasuda, recommended that the project contact for proposal #29 include California Fire and Forest Service as a partner. At a minimum, they should include someone to speak to the management side of fire. Dave seconded that suggestion and mentioned that he recently received an email regarding a new Fire Science Consortium. He will forward the information to ISC members. Rebecca noted this and said that in the discussion of each proposal the reviewers also discussed partnerships that might make each proposal stronger.

Dave asked when the funding will arrive. Debra said that CA LCC needs to make the contracts within the next few weeks. They expect the funding soon.

The ISC voted unanimously to approve all thirteen projects for CA LCC funding, pending the entire \$1.2 million is received.

Rebecca said that the next step is to send out emails to each of the 39 project contacts over the next few days. CA LCC will also post the information on its website. She urged members not to make any public announcements regarding the selected proposals until at least Tuesday or Wednesday of the following week.

### **Review / Approval of the Steering Committee draft charter**

Debra thanked the ISC members for their work on the draft charter. A revised charter had been sent out for the ISC's review. Changes from the previous version include:

1. changing the titles to include CA LCC Steering Committee, Subcommittees, and CA LCC Alliance and

2. merging and rewording the text from the Purpose and Goals section.

***Comments regarding the Steering Committee (SC) structure:***

Tom suggested that in the chart there should be double-ended arrows between the CA LCC Alliance and Subcommittees, indicating communication in both directions.

Diana suggested it may be difficult for Alliance members to meet all six of the listed member criteria. Several ISC members agreed. A suggestion was made that Alliance members be required to meet the first three criteria and at least one of the following three.

Diana asked how Alliance members would be identified. Debra thought they should be able to 1) bring priorities to the Steering Committee, 2) use products developed by the science group, and 3) bring in-kind support. Debra suggested that the roles and responsibilities can be further flushed out.

Diana asked if there would be a limited membership for the Alliance. Debra said that was not her intention. She envisions about 40-50 members.

Tom suggested to write in the charter that the structure of the Alliance will be revised on an annual basis. Diana thought that potential members would want to see the details of membership expectations ahead of time. For example, would they meet one time per month? Ellie thought it would be too early to put those details into print.

***Comments regarding SC membership:***

Beth expressed concern that it would be impossible for each person to represent all of the geographic regions of the LCC. She thought representation of the entire LCC was a more appropriate goal as a conglomerate. Debra clarified that members will be asked to act within the interest of the whole landscape agency. Dave added that this may be tricky when members must also represent their individual agency's interest. After some discussion a consensus was made to change #2 of the section ***CA LCC Steering Committee*** (page 3, attachment A) to say "Have a substantial geographic and programmatic representation within the CA LCC".

Diana questioned what type of decision making power representatives were required to hold. She thought this requirement could be difficult to meet for state or federal agencies. Debra used the examples of making decisions on the CA LCC priorities and whether or not to fund proposals, etc. There was some discussion on how to incorporate this into the text. Debra suggested, and the members agreed, to include these examples as superscript.

A suggestion was made to stagger the years which the members are up for renewal, for the sake of continuity.

Diana asked if a member of a technical team must be part of the formal SC structure, and whether Subcommittee members need also to be part of the Alliance. Rebecca stated the

intent was to bring in experts at any point, so they do not need to belong to the SC. Debra noted that language regarding this could be more clearly stated in the charter.

***Comments regarding governance:***

Diana asked if nine people will be required at each meeting.

Deb referred ISC members to the meeting notes from the previous ISC meeting (Attachment B). She said that after the charter has been approved with its changes, she will send out a proposal of NGO member composition. She suggested that approval and further discussion can be either by email or in a subsequent conference call.

***Comments regarding the ISC meeting notes:***

Diana asked about membership representing universities. Deb said it was hard to find members from any university who could represent other educational institutions.

With regards to membership, Deb referred ISC members to a letter (Attachment C) which was authored by Beth Huning. She offered Beth the opportunity to expand more upon the content of the letter.

Beth said her issues arose from her Joint Venture (JV) partners' concerns about the ability of one JV representative to represent all JVs. The requirement to connect and represent other JVs would require a high degree of effort, as each JV addresses unique environmental challenges and issues.

Tom expressed his concern of setting a precedent and opening up the opportunity of other potential members to advocate that they need more seats on the SC to fully represent their own agency. As an example he said federal agencies have multiple departments that also represent a wide range of issues.

Beth suggested that JVs are different than agencies in that they have a wide diversity of partnerships. A member from the San Francisco JV would not be able to speak to partnerships that address a Sonoran habitat.

Debra suggested that members from all three JVs could exist within the science subcommittees. Beth expressed concern that decisions will stem from the Steering Committee. She believed the SC membership was heavy on agencies and had a limited number of NGOs.

Dave, Diana and Ellie expressed that although they are compelled by Beth's letter and arguments, ultimately the challenge of representing multiple habitats and environmental challenges is shared by other potential members alike. Ellie emphasized that there are multiple opportunities for participation within the CA LCC, and in addition there are members who represent multiple agencies. (For example she sits on the boards of the Sonoran JV and PRBO.)

Beth thanked the group for their consideration and discussion. Deb offered to contact Beth regarding this topic next week.

### **Structured Decision Making Training**

Brady announced the Structured Decision Making training would be the week of October 17 – 21. During the workshop 4-5 management problems would be addressed, spanning different jurisdictions, taxonomy, etc.

Four to five teams will be created to include a coordinator, decision maker, and some coaches. Throughout the week each team will develop a prototype and from that prototype create a structure of how to resolve a decision-making problem. Then the team will create a second or third prototype and get feedback on each. Coaches will give guidance on how to get to implementation. If people are unable to come the entire week, they could attend on Friday when the participants present the problem and solutions that arose from the week of training. Or, alternately, someone could be a silent observer for any or all of the first three days.

Brady asked ISC members to let him know if they have ideas for projects that they would like to see covered. Some ideas have also come from the set of grant proposals that CA LCC has been looking at. The project contacts for some proposals have been invited to this training. Two projects that seem appropriate for this training include one on habitat corridors (submitted by State Parks) and another on tidal marsh management.

Ellie said that she loves this training, although she cannot commit to five days. She offered that Gunther with BAECCC Coordinators might be a good match, or the Sea Level Rise project.

Dave commented that in his experience, this kind of training is designed for situations where there is a lot of transparency. There are other trainings that work better for situations where there is conflict. He asked if there was a course prospectus. Brady said he would send out more materials.

### **Data Workshop on June 8/9**

Rebecca stated that the informatics team has invited Margaret Beer from the to have a facilitated conversation at the scoping meeting on what the next steps are to move forward. Rebecca hopes to get some concrete tasks identified and some recommendations that will be brought to the Steering Committee for approval. Rebecca will send out more information, including a draft agenda.

### **Wrap-up / Check-in**

Debra reminded the group of the upcoming Open House and thanked the members for their participation. The meeting was adjourned.



## Attachment 1



### DRAFT Final California Landscape Conservation Cooperative Organizational Charter May 6, 2011

#### A. Need

To maximize conservation effectiveness, federal, state, tribal, and local governments, NGOs, and private landowner partners must work together to develop landscape-level strategies for understanding and responding to climate change and other large scale stressors across ecosystems. Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) are intended to inform management of land, water, fish, wildlife, and cultural heritage resources in response to climate change and other landscape-level challenges.

#### B. Purpose and Goals

The California (CA) LCC is a management-science partnership created to inform and promote integrated science, natural resource management and conservation to address impacts of climate change and other stressors within and across ecosystems. To achieve this purpose, the CA LCC:

- **Fosters collaboration and integration of science and management.** Brings together conservation science and management actions across ecosystems at a landscape scale, leveraging the capabilities of respective agencies/organizations/ partnerships, and provides a common picture of on-going conservation efforts.
- **Supports development of technical products for natural resource management.** Assists to identify landscape scale indicators, test scientific assumptions, and evaluate effectiveness of conservation actions to inform effective adaptive management strategies.
- **Facilitates information acquisition, interpretation, translation, exchange and availability.** Provides scientific information and decision support tools for natural resource management decisions and actions to support resource resilience.
- **Communicates information within and outside the LCC Community.** Communicates relevant science information and CA LCC activities and opportunities to partners and stakeholders. Advocates for collaborative conservation and seeks to leverage capabilities and support.

#### C. Geographic Scope

The geographic scope of the CA LCC extends from the San Francisco Bay coastline east through the Central Valley encompassing the Sierra Nevada. The northern boundary is defined by the foothills surrounding the Central Valley and the southern portion extends to lands between the Mojave Desert and the Pacific Ocean, including northern Baja California and numerous offshore islands.

## D. California LCC Guiding Principles

Within the CA LCC geographic scope and community, many existing natural resource conservation efforts are conducted by individual organizations and partnerships. In this context, the CA LCC:

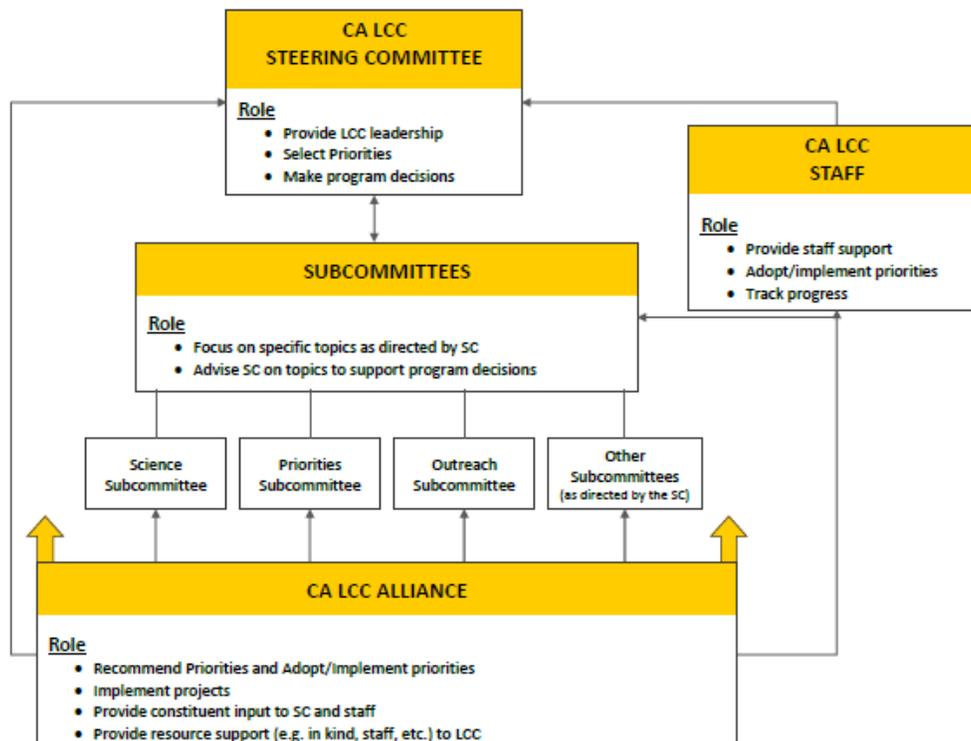
- Strengthens existing partnerships by providing new science capacity to help them address their priority conservation needs. The CA LCC does not replace or supplant existing conservation partnerships.
- Provides enhanced scientific capabilities to help conservation delivery in consideration of climate change and other environmental stressors. The CA LCC is not a vehicle for conservation delivery.
- Provides agencies with additional science information and tools to help them address issues impacting management of wildlife and associated ecosystems. The CA LCC does not supersede federal, state, local and tribal natural resource management authorities.
- Supports and enhances cooperation across ownership and management boundaries. The CA LCC does not own or manage property, nor seeks to influence ownership conditions.

## E. Organizational Structure

The CA LCC organizational structure includes the following elements (see Figure 2 and descriptions below for more information):

- Steering Committee,
- Alliance,
- Subcommittees, and
- Staff

Figure 2 – CA LCC Conceptual Organizational Structure



The CA LCC comprises two management levels, the Steering Committee and the Alliance. Membership at these levels is based on an organization's strong scientific mandate and/or resource legislative authority, level of commitment, authority to make decisions, and breadth of accepted responsibility in furthering CA LCC's conservation goals. Regardless of management level, it is acknowledged that the commitment of partner agencies/organizations to the LCC is voluntary and complementary to the organization's mission, authorities, and budgetary capabilities.

## **CA LCC Steering Committee and Alliance**

**CA LCC Alliance:** The Alliance will represent a majority of the interested partners, agencies and organizations in the CA LCC area. Its members will demonstrate the following characteristics:

1. Shares the purpose and/or mission of the CA LCC.
2. Actively commits by contributing resources and/or collaborative staff.
3. Acts as a champion for the CA LCC by furthering its cause, sharing its accomplishments and seeking new opportunities.
4. Represents an agency or organization that can make a significant change on the landscape.
5. Brings scientific expertise and/or science resources that promote the goals of the CA LCC.
6. Represents a suite of species or habitats

**Alliance Responsibilities:** The Alliance has a dual role of bringing priorities to the CA LCC Steering Committee for consideration and also utilizing or implementing the products and tools developed by the CA LCC. The Alliance will support the development and progress of the Subcommittees through staff and resources. It will promote cooperation, coordination, consolidation of information, and collaboration among partner organizations to support the purpose, goals, and priorities of the CA LCC. The Alliance will identify funding opportunities and other available resources (e.g., staff, in-kind services) to support priority projects and activities.

**CA LCC Steering Committee:** Members of the Steering Committee will possess all the required characteristics of the Alliance plus meet the following characteristics:

1. Possess authority to make decisions on behalf of entities they are representing.
2. Represents a majority of the CA LCC area either by geographic region or by defined priorities and/or expertise.
3. Have strong scientific expertise, significant resources, and/or mandate that aligns with the CA LCC.

**Steering Committee Responsibilities:** The Steering Committee will serve as the executive body for decision making. The Steering Committee will chart the vision, develop a strategic plan and guide the progress of the CA LCC. With input from the Alliance, it will promote cooperation,

coordination, consolidation of information, and collaboration among partner organizations to support the purpose, goals, and priorities of the CA LCC. As provided by the Alliance and Subcommittees, the Steering Committee will prioritize projects and make funding decisions. It will oversee and advise on communication within the CA LCC Alliance and LCC community, and solicit input and participation from their agency/organizations. It will develop and revise the organizational structure and charter as needed. See Attachment A for membership composition.

***Steering Committee Member Selection.*** The first SC is selected in June 2011. For the subsequent duration of the CA LCC, SC members will renew their positions every other year in June (e.g. 2013, 2015, etc).

SC positions held for individual agencies / organizations will be appointed by their respective organizations in June 2011 and every other year thereafter. The agency will provide a recommendations / commitment letter to the CA LCC Coordinator. The letter will identify the name of the representative member, and will include a commitment by the agency to have the member fully participate in the CA LCC process, describe how the organization meets the required criteria for serving on the Steering Committee (as listed above), and identify the decision-making authority the proposed member has vested to them from their organization.

Changes in SC membership will occur and will be consistent with adaptive management of the CA LCC as the organization matures and priorities and purpose potentially evolve. Members on the Steering Committee who represent more than one organization / agency, or partnership will annually rotate serving on the Steering Committee. For example, the one Joint Venture representative could rotate between the three Joint Ventures in CA LCC on an annual basis.

***Steering Committee Participation:*** SC members are expected to participate regularly and fully to advance the purpose, goals, and priorities of the CA LCC. Members will attend meetings in-person or via conference call, and web-conference meetings. Additional business may be conducted by e-mail.

All members are encouraged to identify a consistent alternate member (Alternate) that will serve and attend CA LCC functions if the member is unable to attend a meeting or other activity. An Alternate will have the full decision-making authority of the member organization and will be expected to attend meetings briefed and prepared to advance discussions / decisions rather than address / revise past conversations and decisions. An SC member cannot serve as the Alternate, or carry the proxy for an absent member from another organization.

Members, Alternates, or member designees may serve on Subcommittees (as described below) or the Alliance and fulfill other responsibilities as deemed appropriate by the SC as a whole.

***Steering Committee Structure:*** The SC will be served by a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The SC will elect these officers by simple majority vote of the members. The two members receiving the most votes will be elected Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. In the case of a tie in voting, the SC will conduct a runoff process until there is a selection made. The Chair will serve one year.

The Vice-Chair is a pro-tem position. After one year as Vice-Chair, the Vice-Chair is automatically promoted to Chair. If the Chair is not able to complete his/her annual term, the Vice-Chair will take over and a new election will be conducted to elect another Vice-Chair for the remainder of the term. At the end of the annual term when there has been a mid-term replacement, the serving Chair and Vice-Chair will be automatically reinstated for another annual term. If at the end of one year, the Vice-Chair cannot fulfill his/ her pro-tem duties, another election will be conducted to select a new Chair and Vice-Chair.

The Chairpersons will organize and conduct business at the SC meetings. They will review and modify SC meeting agendas, assess the status of SC work and assignments, and act as the formal external speakers on behalf of the SC (when warranted and after having vetted comments / perspectives with the SC in advance).

***Steering Committee Member Removal:*** SC members and/or organizations may be removed under the following conditions.

- Inability or unwillingness to fulfill minimum service requirements for the SC.
- Changes in organizational priorities such that membership has limited /minimized relevance and benefit to the CA LCC purpose, goals, and priorities.

Any SC member may initiate a discussion about changing the composition of the SC.

***Steering Committee Member Replacement/Addition:*** In the event a member must resign or be removed, the Chair will request the Member's organization to replace him/ her as per the methods described above under "SC Selection".

If the SC receives a request for new membership from an individual / organization not currently on the SC, the SC will require the prospective new member to submit a letter as per the methods described above under "SC Selection". The SC will review and deliberate the application and will decide if the requested position is warranted to be added to the SC.

## **Subcommittees**

The CA LCC will identify Subcommittees to conduct discussions on specific topics and prepare recommendations for SC consideration. Subcommittees will receive input from the Alliance and public, as necessary. They will carry out work as assigned by the SC. Subcommittee membership and structure will be directed by the following guidelines:

- A Subcommittee Chair will be appointed by the SC either by consensus or simple majority vote (if required).
- SC members will identify and appoint members of a Subcommittee. Subcommittee Members may be:
  - a. SC members,

- b. Alliance members,
  - c. CA LCC Coordinator and/or Science Coordinator , and/or
  - d. Other CA LCC staff
- All aspects of Subcommittee Member addition, removal, and/or resignation will be as described above for the SC.

Subcommittees (and at times the SC) will be periodically served by ad hoc “Technical Teams”. Technical Teams will be smaller groups of technical experts, convened to provide direct technical support to a Subcommittee or the SC. Technical Teams will not have a Chair, however each team will identify one “lead” member whose responsibilities will be to track and report the progress of the team in completing their assignments from the SC and/or Subcommittee. All other membership options will be identical to those applicable to Subcommittees.

## F. Governance

All elements of the CA LCC organizational structure will require periodic and consistent decision-making activities. As a voluntary partnership of diverse organizations, the CA LCC cannot be “*consensus based*”. Individuals participating on behalf of their organizations will not necessarily have the authority to make or implement binding decisions. Therefore, all elements of the CA LCC will be “*consensus-seeking*” wherein, each part of the organizational structure will take reasonable and appropriate steps to reach consensus. Should consensus not be achievable, a specific group will utilize a majority rule method to complete and memorialize a decision process.

A scheduled meeting of the SC will take place regardless of the number of SC members or Alternates that are present. However, the SC may not take an action (with the exception of general administrative decisions) in the absence of a quorum, regardless of whether an action has been included on the meeting agenda. For the purpose of the SC, a quorum is defined as a simple majority of all voting members.

Consensus decisions / recommendations will be made at each appropriate CA LCC meeting. All policy and/or technical decisions will be presented in advance of a meeting so that all participants are informed and ideally prepared for a decision milestone to take place.

All member organizations within the CA LCC organizational structure will have one vote per represented organization. All voting participants from any group within the CA LCC organizational structure are required to recuse themselves from voting on issues with potential conflict of interest. A group will not revisit previously agreed on decisions or recommendations, unless new information is brought to light that would likely affect the outcome of the group’s previous work.

## **Attachment A. CA LCC Steering Committee Composition**

May 5, 2011

### ***Steering Committee Composition***

At a minimum, the CA LCC Steering Committee will consist of one representative each from the following agencies:

- US Bureau of Reclamation
- National Park Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- US Geological Survey
- CA Department of Fish and Game
- CA Department of Water Resources
- CA Coastal Conservancy

In addition to these positions, the following targeted positions will also be held for SC members.

- Southwest Climate Science Center representative
- 1 California Joint Venture (JV) representative
- 1 Northern California Conservation-based Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
- 1 Southern California Conservation-based NGO
- 1 Science oriented NGO with state-wide authority
- 1 Tribal representative

## Attachment 2

## ISC Meeting Notes

LCC Structure Meeting

April 25, 2011

### 1. Steering Committee:

- **10-15 members**
  - **Essential**
    - **USFWS, USGS, CSU, UC**
    - **One state agency- CDFG**
  - **Size**
    - **Pros of larger group- engaging ppl from beginning**
      - **Cultivating broader range of possible participation**
      - **Participating at steering comm. Level could push a director in a certain direction**
      - **How define active participatoin?**
      - **Orgs that have interest/ practice in goals of LCC—geography, biological systems,**
      - **Steering Committee should have rep of this**
- **Criteria**
  - **Represent entire geography of the LCC**
  - **Bringing something to the table, active, resources**
- **CVJV**
  - **Steering committee**
  - **Board**
  - **Partners**
    - **Engaged on the ground, working on restoration, can come and go**
- **LCC- Deb**
  - **Members will be entire group of contributors**
  - **Others may be interested in but not necessarily participating**
- **SFBJV**
  - **Management board makes decisions**
  - **ExCom—interim issues, administrative issues, USFWS, Coastal Conservancy, PRBO- fiscal agent, heads of all active working committees, Chair, Vice Chair, Immediate Past Chair**
- **BOR- need to improve understanding of effects of CC on ecosystems; view LCCs as tying in with climate centers and our needs**
  - **See our participation – DOI policy- important**
  - **Without BOR whole set of physical questions might not be asked**
  - **BOR mandate – intimately associated with ecosystems**
  - **Salazar—LCCs should “of course” deal with CC impacts on people and ecosystems**
  - **Steering committee should include orgs that have a stake on CC impacts on ecosystems**
  - **Number of ppl on steering committee might err on larger size—will see over time who participates and not**

- **Originally LCCs very spp oriented**
- **JVs have been habitat focused not species only**
- **LCC- goal is science products to help all do more on the ground**
- **Steering committee focus-**
  - **Function**
  - **Criteria for participation at this level**
- **Some participation can happen outside clear boundaries of guidelines; some agencies will say we want to be there to influence where LCC goes**
- **BLM- see ability to participate as active member, finding linkage between BLM questions and resources to offer**
- **To be heard, choosing what to do and not to do—will be influenced by composition of steering committee**
- **What is it steering committee does?**
  - **Identify priorities**
  - **Make program decisions**
  - **Leadership**
  - **Hear from partners what priorities are – most commonly expressed goals will be what LCC prioritizes**
- **Impacts to spp and ecosystems—**
  - **Natl Marine Fisheries Service**
  - **Should broaden to NOAA—want to understand climate change science as it relates to ecosystem impacts**
  - **Climate science center representation could bring this**
  - **(NOAA climate service zero'd through Sept)**
- **Function and purpose critical in determining how we move forward**
  - **Membership criteria/responsibilities**

## **2. Membership criteria/responsibilities**

- a. **LCC Mission: the California (CA) LCC is a management-science partnership informing and promoting integrated science, natural resource management and conservation to address impacts of climate change and other stressors within and across ecosystems. To achieve this purpose, the CA LCC:**
  - i. **Fosters collaboration and integration of science and management**
  - ii. **Supports research, monitoring, and the development of technical products to inform and enhance conservation decisions and actions**
  - iii. **Facilitates information acquisition, interpretation, translation, exchange and availability**
  - iv. **Promotes adaptive management strategies**
  - v. **Communicates information, findings, activities, and opportunities within and outside the LCC community**
- b. **Membership**
  - i. **Criteria**
    - 1. **Represent entire geographic area or Scope-**
      - a. **Statewide or nationwide responsibility**
    - 2. **People who will benefit from the items above—**
    - 3. **Contributors rather than beneficiaries**

- 4. SFBJV
  - a. Mgmt board—
    - i. Represent diversity of wetland interests in region
- 5. Define different levels generally
  - a. Steering Committee
    - i. Member interests guide decision making
  - b. Member or PARTNER
    - i. Why couldn't local land trusts not be member? Not appropriate for steering committee but not here?
    - ii. Don't make more complicated
    - iii. Contributors of expertise, needs shared—conservation/science nexus
  - c. LCC FANS—public, interested parties- general interest
    - i. Anybody can sit at table—learn from LCC info, contribute ideas
    - ii. SFBJV- partner is contributing
    - iii. On email list
    - iv. Once a year—public forum—or regional, some regular forums in person and on line to gather input, ideas from broader interested FANS
    - v. Engage through social networking—
- ii. Responsibilities
- c. PARTNERS (general LCC members)
  - i. Criteria
    - 1. Sharing mission/purpose of LCC
    - 2. Active Contributors—
      - a. Use, influence, assist in development of products
    - 3. LCC Champion-- communicate to other entities purpose, accomplishments of LCC—be spokesperson
    - 4. Either actively involved in conservation, natural resource management or conservation science or climate/environmental change science
      - a. This includes Cattlemen's Assoc. and like organization
      - b. Ag community
      - c. Joint Ventures
      - d. Water agencies
        - i. Includes Army Corps of Engineers
      - e. Local land trusts, conservation organizations
      - f. Natural resource management NGOs
      - g. Research organizations- universities, NGOs
  - ii. Next Steps
    - 1. DRAFT Responsibilities
- d. Steering Committee (SC)
  - i. Criteria- for ORGANIZATIONS to be on SC, not individuals
    - 1. All of the above plus the 3 items highlighted:

- a. Deb- how make workable, fair across board so folks feel represented at SC level even if can't be on it
  - i. Throws out local groups
- 2. Have authority to make decisions on behalf of entities they are representing
- 3. Entity(ies) they represent has/have a scope covering most of the LCC geographic range
- 4. Entities represent LCC programmatic range
  - a. Example: SFBJV—geographic So Bay only but programmatically cover entire SF Bay region
- 5. Who has big dog and make things happen-beyond own agencies and programs
  - a. Subset that can strategically view climate change, prioritize on behalf of all
  - b. Have means to effect change on land and water
  - c. Orgs that can bring time, talent and dollars from own org.
- 6. Want SC members who can collaborate, representing organizations that have knowledge and capabilities
- 7. Would want Forest Service on SC b/c of Amount of land/resources controlled—eg, Forest Service can effect huge change on landscape
  - a. DOD, BLM
- 8. Could have all DOI agencies on SC or 1-2 and a rotating seat
  - a. Could go through all Departments
- 9. NGOs bring something other entities don't
- 10. SC members should have strong scientific expertise, resources, mandate
- 11. Represents a suite of species eg avian, fisheries
  - a. NOAA, JV group
  - b. Coordination with JV—direct experience on landscape and will be using products
  - c. This is redundant—fits under #10
- 12. Look at all these- which one fall under Partners/Members as well
- 13. SC will be making decisions, setting priorities based on feedback, communicate, ambassadors
- 14. Principle function to rep agency, but here to work as individual also
  - a. Not so much representing agency and working for LCC interests, representing LCC
  - b. Promoting LCC shared priorities, interests within parent agency
- e. Ask- would you like to participate
- f. Criteria- unique to SC
  - 1. Have authority to make decisions on behalf of entities they are representing

- 2. Entity(ies) they represent has/have a scope covering most of the LCC geographic range SC members should have strong scientific expertise, resources, mandate**
- 3. SC members should have strong scientific expertise, resources, and/or mandate**

**g. Composition**

**i. Diverse representation-**

**1. Feds**

- a. Pick a couple, have rotating seats**
- b. USFWS, USGS**
- c. NPS, BOR (but if only FWS and one other—BOR lower than GS)**
- d. NOAA, Forest Service, NRCS**
- e. In membership: others—BIA, DOD**

**2. State natural resources agency/departments**

- a. CDFG, DWR, Coastal Conservancy (includes ocean)**

**3. Mexico – as a partner**

**4. NGOs**

**5. Partnerships- e.g., JV, SCWRP, Fish Partnership**

**6. Science**

**7. Resource management**

**8. Private lands**

**9. Tribes**

**10. Policy**

**ii. Size**

**1. Smaller rather than bigger**

**2. 10-20**

**a. Cons of too big**

**i. Still in start up phase; need to get things moving pretty quickly**

**ii. If folks just watching, not constructive—getting them to come along, larger the group, harder to get accomplishments**

**1. Still at mercy of agencies to select reps**

**2. Send letter to provide rep—consider individuals with these characteristics, qualifications**

**iii. Incredibly important to have broad engagement but difficult to kick people off**

**b. Easier to start small and grow it out then the opposite**

**3. Revisit in one year**

**iii. Discussion**

**1. Northern and southern CA- but goes against criteria**

When inviting, make sure to ask if they'd like to be involved and give them options for involvement. Have interim Steering Committee send a letter. Be clear on expectations and time, commitment.

Composition of SC

FWS

USGS

BOR

NPS

NOAA/NMFS

USFS

NRCS

(NOT BLM, DOD, BIA - partners)

State

CDFG

CDWR

CA Coastal Conservancy

Southwest CSC (also UC)

(Mexico, CSU, tribes ACWA, Urban Water Users, CEC as partners)

NGOs/Partnerships –

JV rep

TNC

PRBO Conservation Science

So Cal NGO

NFWF?

Deb will develop a recommended list for the ISC on NGO's by going through the 3 highlighted criteria.

## **Attachment 3      May Memo to ISC Review Process**

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Date:            May 9, 2011  
To:              CA LCC Interim Steering Committee  
From:            Rebecca Fris, Science Coordinator  
Subject:        2011 Project Selection Process  
Action:         Approval of 2011 Project Recommendations

This memo is to request your approval to fund 2011 projects recommended by a CA LCC Review Team. USFWS has approximately \$850,000 for project funding in fiscal year 2011. In March, the Interim Steering Committee (ISC) approved moving forward with requesting full proposals from 41 pre-proposals (out of 170 pre-proposal submissions) as identified by a review team.

### Selection Process

The CA LCC received 39 full proposals. The proposals were evaluated against the 2011 priorities and criteria (Appendix A) by a review team of 9 individuals from state, federal and non-agency organizations (see Appendix B). Each reviewer scored the proposals against the 7 criteria and the scores were combined and averaged for a final score. Reviewers also recorded comments, justifications and questions associated with each project. The review team met in person to discuss which of the highest scored proposals should be recommended for funding. Additional considerations used in the ranking process included funding both continuing and new projects, projects throughout the CA LCC region, and those that address a diversity of habitats and resource issues. The review team identified 9 proposals for funding (totaling \$831,602.23) and 4 additional proposals as alternates should additional money become available. A summary table of the 13 proposals is attached as well as a short summary on each project.

### Follow up

As with the pre-proposals, there are projects that we are unable to fund that we would like to continue to pursue in the future or recommend to other funding programs. We want your help in identifying other resources available and to follow up on some of these potential projects.

### Next Steps

Once approved by the ISC, the project applicants will be notified and agreements will be developed for the successful applicants. Work on these projects should begin late summer. A requirement of funding includes posting project findings and/or products on the CA LCC website. In addition, over the next few months we will explore other mediums to share information produced from our projects such as workshops or webinars.

## Appendix A - CA LCC Proposal Review Panel

Grant Ballard	PRBO Conservation Science
Christy Brigham	National Park Service (Los Angeles)
Trish Chapman (reviewed half)	California Coastal Conservancy (central coast)
Diana Craig	US Forest Service
Matt Gerhart (reviewed half)	California Coastal Conservancy (Bay Area)
Armand Gonzales	CA Dept. of Fish and Game
Richard F Kearney	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Christina Sloop	San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Tom Suchanek	USGS

## Appendix B – Priorities and Criteria for 2011 CA LCC Projects

### **2011 CA LCC Priorities**

Projects should support decision-making and conservation delivery for natural resource managers while accounting for sources of uncertainty about system dynamics in a changing environment. Projects should address at least one of the following priority issues:

#### **Ecosystem Response/Species and Habitat Information**

- Developing relevant downscaled models clearly addressing resource manager needs and habitat/organism responses to projected change under alternative climate/economic/planning scenarios
- Identifying future biodiversity hotspots and connectivity needs
- Better understanding of demographic responses to climate change, including dispersal, survival, and productivity (e.g. why hotspots are hot)
- Modeling the frequency, intensity, and impacts of extreme climate-driven events (e.g. sea level rise, floods, wildfires, and droughts)

#### **Decision Support for Climate Adaptation**

- Future scenario planning at landscape and ecoregional scales
- Ecosystem impacts of adaptive land-use change – avoiding conflicts between human infrastructure changes and biodiversity/conservation
- Developing open access information retrieval (i.e. metadata commons) systems to inform managers, and decision-support systems/tools that help managers allocate limited resources on prioritization, scenario evaluation and adaptive management.
- Development/standardization of metrics of change, measurement protocols, indicator species, performance measures to assess resiliency
- Monitoring in the context of fully implemented adaptive management frameworks
- Long term monitoring programs designed to establish ecological baselines and trends, and track climate (or adaptation to climate change) effects

## Evaluation Criteria

### **1. Applicability to conservation, restoration, and adaptation decisions in a management context.**

Highly likely to aid conservation and adaptation decisions. Natural resource managers, policy makers or other decision makers are clearly asking for support.

### **2. Ecological or Ecosystem Response to System/Climate Change**

Will improve understanding or help address crucial sources of uncertainty about how species, ecosystems, habitats, and/or landscapes respond to management actions under alternative scenarios for system/climate change.

### **3. Scope/Breadth of Applicability**

Project is broad in scope and integrative. It addresses multi taxa or crosses trophic levels. It includes physical and biological data, enables comprehensive understanding, or considers several major climate system components (e.g.: water, carbon sequestration).

### **4. Accessibility**

Products and information generated will be available and easy to use preferably online, designed for resource managers.

### **5. Transferability**

Projected outcomes and/or products that are generated are clearly transferable within the CA LCC or to other LCCs.

### **6. Partnerships/Leveraging:**

Multi-partner project –includes 4 or more partners - scientists, habitat managers, and/or policy makers from multiple organizations (e.g. NGOs, state agencies, federal agencies, local agencies and universities). Builds new collaborations and has secured matching funds and/or in-kind support from multiple partners.

### **7. Timeliness and Urgency**

Information is urgently needed because of high risk or to avoid severe impact (e.g. addresses a clearly identified threat to a sensitive habitat or set of species). Products will inform urgent actions and provide important information for setting up the CA LCC for long term success (e.g. baseline information or a monitoring framework for a set of species).

**Continuing Projects** – Continuing projects were scored on these additional criteria.

**1. Performance**

The project deliverables were received in a timely manner, were high quality, and met the project's stated outcomes.

**2. Readiness**

The project has used existing project funding and is ready to continue to the next phase or the proposed project is an expansion of the existing project.

**3. Value added**

First year products would be greatly expanded and outcomes disproportionately improved by additional funding.

**Attachment**  
**2011 Proposals Recommended for Funding**  
**Project Summaries**

**Proposal #5 - Climate Adaptation Commons**

Deanne DiPietro, Research and Information Services Program Manager  
Sonoma Ecology Center

**Summary:** This project seeks to create an online environment in which land managers and their technical support staff can quickly find the information they need, communicate with each other and with the researchers producing the data, and then share lessons learned. The Climate Adaptation Commons will offer land managers a resource to which they can turn first to get started and then participate in a community of practice by communicating, learning, and contributing. This will result in a greater shared understanding about the use of climate change research data products, facilitate comparison of results among adaptation planning projects, and ultimately ensure that management decisions are well-informed. Improving access to meaningful, relevant information and the assistance needed to put it to use will empower land managers in their conservation planning process, resulting in more effective and coordinated conservation action.

**Partners:** Project Team: Sonoma Ecology Center, UC Davis Information Center for the Environment and PRBO Conservation Science. Project Collaborators: Climate change scientists from USGS (Lorrie and Alan Flint), UC Berkeley (the Ackerly Group), UC Davis, CalAcademy (Healy Hamilton), and EcoAdapt will contribute data and input on use and interpretation, and participate in communications with end-users. NBCAI, BAECCC, Cal-IPC, State Parks, DWR: will provide feedback and test cases as end-users, participate in communications with data originators, and contribute data from adaptation projects. CERES and CalDFG will ensure interoperability with state data cataloging efforts.

**Proposal #11 - How do we monitor the ecological consequences of environmental change? Developing an Environmental Change Network in the California LCC: PHASE II (Continuing Project)**

Tomas Gardali, Director, Pacific Coast and Central Valley Group, PRBO  
Conservation Science

**Summary:** This project proposes to establish an Environmental Change Network (ECN) for all of California. An ECN is an integrated, multidisciplinary network of long-term monitoring stations that gather and share information using standardized protocols. The ECN for the San Francisco Bay started in Phase I of this project can be viewed (<http://data.prbo.org/apps/ecn/>). The author has identified locations where the greatest changes in climate and bird communities are predicted to occur and will overlay locations of field stations, reserves, etc. in order to assess if existing infrastructure covers the spectrum of prioritized monitoring locations. Deliverables produced as part of this proposed work include a Business Plan that will 1) refine site selection by

developing a decision model in combination with analyses of sites (or clusters of sites) arrayed by climate space, 2) work with the LCC science committee, Joint Ventures, and other partners to choose a manageable number of core monitoring variables, 3) develop and/or adopting existing protocols for those variables, 4) providing cost estimates/variable/station, and 5) provide a cost estimate for an online data management system.

**Partners:** PRBO Conservation Science: Project lead, climate modeling/site selection, protocol recommendations, informatics, and final report (Business Plan); Dwight Center for Conservation Science – protocol development; Bay Area Early Detection Network – protocol development; Conservation Commons – online data management system; San Francisco Bay, Central Valley and Sonoran joint ventures – management issues and recommendations; Other – we anticipate engaging other partners to aid in protocol development

**Proposal #13 - Confronting uncertainty in species distribution projections: Increasing the applicability of an essential tool in climate change adaptation planning**

Healy Hamilton, Director, Center for Applied Biodiversity Informatics  
California Academy of Sciences

**Summary:** The CA Academy of Science & PRBO Conservation Science propose a systematic analysis of uncertainty in modeling the future distributions of ~50 California endemic plant species and ~50 California land birds, explicitly partitioning among 5 alternative sources of variation and testing for their respective contributions to overall variation among modeled outcomes. They will map the uncertainty from identified sources, which can guide decisions about monitoring, restoration, acquisition, infrastructure, etc., in relation to climate change. This project will: 1) investigate the effect of 5 different sources of uncertainty when characterizing plant and bird response to projected climate change; 2) develop metrics of the degree of projected change for 100 plant and bird species 3) quantitatively assess the statistical significance of the different sources of uncertainty; 4) produce maps of the proportion of variation in predictions from each of the sources of uncertainty, and 5) disseminate project results to the LCC environmental change network and beyond.

**Partners:** PRBO Conservation Science will contribute avian occurrence data, will participate substantially in all modeling and analyses, and will contribute to dissemination effort.

**Proposal #15 - Sustaining healthy ecosystems in the face of sea level rise: Ensuring the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report continues to inform acquisition, restoration, and management of the region's baylands. (Continuing Project)**

Nadine Hitchcock, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy

**Summary:** The main goal of this project is to ensure that the 2011-13 climate change update to the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report (Baylands Goals) and other

key, ongoing conservation activities in the San Francisco Bay region use the latest information about the current and future status of San Francisco Bay tidal marsh ecosystems, particularly in the context of sea-level rise. The main product of the project will be the improved Sea Level Rise (SLR) Tool, specifically upgraded to inform the Baylands Goals Report update. Upgrade requests will be solicited from the stakeholders most involved in the update, and those who will use the report to guide habitat management going forward. The tool will continue to be available online at [www.prbo.org/sfbayslr](http://www.prbo.org/sfbayslr). All data layers going into the tool are and will continue to be downloadable from the site.

**Partners:** 1) Coastal Conservancy and Bay Area Ecosystem Climate Change Consortium (BAECCC)– coordinate outreach to Baylands Goals Report update project and other Bay Area partners, gather feedback, prioritize requests for improvements. 2) PRBO Conservation Science – integrate new data and modify SLR Tool. 3) USGS - provide high resolution elevation data for model validation. 4) SF Bay NERR – provide input and incorporate SLR tool use in the Coastal Training Program. 5) USFWS SF Bay Refuge Complex, East Bay Regional Parks, and South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project – provide input.

**Proposal #17 - Developing an Online Invasive Species Risk-Mapping Tool: Climate Change Adaptation through Strategic Management of a Top Ecological Stressor**

Doug Johnson, Executive Director, California Invasive Plant Council

**Summary:** The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) developed a “risk mapping” approach that combines comprehensive distribution maps with maps of current and future suitable range to show where each (invasive) species is likely to spread. The distribution maps are based on a new dataset created through a major campaign to collect expert opinion data from local resource managers across the state. From this dataset, Cal-IPC recently completed risk maps and management recommendations for 43 invasive plant species in the Sierra Nevada. The proposed project will build an online tool for these data. The tool will allow natural resource managers to generate risk maps and summary statistics for areas they select, and to determine management priorities. It will also allow local experts to update data each year, helping to monitor trends over time. Restoration ecologists at National Park units will guide development of the tool. Cal-IPC will work with the CA Dept. of Fish & Game’s Biogeographic Data Branch to integrate conservation data layers into the tool. Dr. Nicole Heller of Climate Central will coordinate expert input to strengthen Cal-IPC’s suitability modeling and address the challenge of modeling suitable range in California using distribution data from other areas of the globe.

**Partners:** Project team: - California Invasive Plant Council - National Park Service, Pacific West Region - Cal. Dept. of Fish & Game, Biogeographic Data Branch - Climate Central Technical advisors: - Dr. David Ackerly, UC Berkeley - Dr. Healy Hamilton, Cal. Academy of Sciences - Dennis Jongsomjit, PRBO Science - Scott Loarie, Carnegie Institution Online tool design team: - GreenInfo Network - Terra GIS Online tool

reviewers: - NPS restoration ecologists from CA national parks - Weed Management Area (WMA) participants

**Proposal #23 - Effects of climate change on inland fishes of California: tools for adaptation**

Peter Moyle, Professor, University of California, Davis

**Summary:** The goal of this project is to synthesize information that has been systematically gathered since the release of the book *Inland Fishes of California* in 2002, on behalf of different agencies. The information includes status (75% of endemic fishes in decline, 25% in danger of extinction), population and distribution trends, life history traits, and impacts of climate change. The quantitative information will be synthesized and posted on an accessible website, and backed up by written summaries for each native species and many alien species. Analyses of status and trends of species with different vulnerabilities to climate change will be produced using the most recent models of climate change effects. Adaptation strategies for the major aquatic zoogeographic regions of California will be developed, through identification of key refuge streams for fish assemblages, including streams that could benefit from improved regulation by dams. This information will enable agencies to determine which species will be most strongly affected by climate change, positively or negatively, and to develop state and regional conservation strategies for these species.

**Partners:** US Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game, California Energy Commission, Trout Unlimited, California Trout, Resource Renewal Institute, Center for Watershed Sciences (UCD)

**Proposal #29 - Decision support for climate change adaptation and fire management strategies for at risk species in southern California**

Helen Regan, Associate Professor, Biology Dept., University of California Riverside

**Summary:** The applicant will integrate fire risk models, species distribution models (SDMs) and population models with scenarios of future climate and land cover to project how the effects of climate-induced changes to species distributions and land use change will impact threatened species in fire-prone ecosystems. The applicant will also identify and prioritize potential management responses to climate change (e.g. assisted colonization, fire management, land protection, dispersal corridors). Anticipated products include: 1) maps (digital and hard copy) of habitat suitability under current and future climate change, current and future projected urban growth and combinations of climate change and future projected urban growth, under the two most appropriate climate scenarios for southern California;

2) linked population models and dynamic bioclimate envelopes that will form the basis for testing climate change adaptation options and other management scenarios; 3) spatially/temporally explicit recommendations on the most suitable management option (in terms of population improvement under climate change and urban growth) for each species addressed; 4) spatially explicit recommendations for functional types, and habitat specialist types, on the most suitable management option; and 5) an adaptive

management framework for structured decision making that can be updated as new information becomes available.

**Partners:** Dr. Kurt E. Anderson, Assistant Professor, Biology Dept., University of California Riverside; Dr. Janet Franklin, Professor, School of Geographical Sciences, Arizona State University; Dr. Alexandra D. Syphard, Senior Ecologist, Conservation Biology Institute; Clark S. Winchell, Division Chief, Conservation Partnerships Program, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Carlsbad, CA; Keith Greer, Senior Environmental Planner, Land Use and Transportation Planning, San Diego Association of Governments

**Proposal #33 - Assessing climate change vulnerability and developing a climate change adaptation strategy for Sierra Nevada birds**

Rodney Siegel, Executive Director, The Institute for Bird Populations

**Summary:** The applicant will use the NatureServe Climate Change Vulnerability Index tool to assess vulnerability of 140 bird species that breed in the Sierra Nevada and will develop a peer-reviewed Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Sierra Nevada bird species that are most vulnerable to climate change. The Strategy will provide recommendations for actions that managers can take now and in the future to bolster resilience to climate change. They will conduct outreach efforts among Forest Service and National Park Service land managers, the California Partners in Flight community, and the general public to publicize the existence of the Strategy and the importance of proactive management to minimize negative consequence of climate change on Sierra Nevada birds.

**Partners:** Diana Craig, Regional Ecologist, US Forest Service; Sarah Stock, Wildlife Biologist, Yosemite National Park; Dr. James Thorne, Research Scientist, UC Davis

**Proposal #39 - Pacific Coastal Fog: Using data assimilation techniques to develop ecologically relevant fog data sets, phase 1**

Alicia Torregrosa, Physical Scientist, USGS

**Summary:** The goal of this project is to create needed coastal fog datasets. The specific products that will emerge from the collaboration we are envisioning between on-the-ground natural resource managers and a multidisciplinary coalition of physical scientists are: 1) a compilation of existing fog related data from multiple sources: satellite (AVHRR, GOES, Modis, Landsat), NOAA buoy, and airport and meteorological stations, 2) USGS Open File report documenting the results of a multiday working session with climatologists, remote sensing specialists, fog modelers, statisticians, and natural resource managers, convened to review the data, examine and assess the correlations between data streams and models, specify initial parameters to be extracted from the data fusion, and define the data assimilation framework for deriving interpolations and projections, 3) an internet-based collaboration platform to share the data, and 4) a second working session to review assimilated product, discuss a longer-term strategy for operational continuity and product refinement.

**Partners:** USGS; Gary Ellrod, Ellrod Consulting; Jim Johnstone, University of Washington; Travis O'Brien University of California Santa Cruz; Natalie Gates, National Park Service.

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**Alternates (in ranked order):**

**Proposal #37 - Sea-level rise modeling across the California salt marsh gradient for resource managers: evaluation of methodology**

John Takekawa, Research Wildlife Biologist, USGS Western Ecological Research Center

**Summary:** This project uses a bottom-up modeling at parcel scale to measure the effects of sea-level rise (SLR) on coastal ecosystems and tidal salt marshes. At selected tidal marshes, the project team will measure several parameters with methods developed under the USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center (FY08-FY11): 1) detailed (<3cm) elevation data (RTK GPS, echosounder); 2) inundation frequency (water level loggers) and microclimate including extreme events; 3) sediment supply (bottles, optical backscatter, cores); 4) plant; and 5) vertebrates surveys. These will be incorporated into ArcGIS models including intertidal and upland transition areas, creating comparable datasets across the Pacific coast tidal gradient with a focus on 2-4 sites in the California LCC (San Diego, SFB Refuges, NERR sites), coordinated with similar studies in the North Pacific LCC (Humboldt, Bandon, Willapa, Nisqually NWRs), and supported by the FWS Region 1 and 8 Inventory and Monitoring Program and both LCCs and submitted to the NERRs Science Collaborative. The studies also will allow USGS to integrate our databases with available regional datasets such as LiDAR coverages and plant or animal surveys and establish their utility for these analyses. The ultimate goal is to provide science support tools for local adaptation planning from the bottom-up that may be implemented under a structured decision-making framework.

**Partners:** FWS North Pacific LCC (proposal endorsed, in prep) FWS Inventory and Monitoring Program, R8 (equipment support \$20K) FWS Inventory and Monitoring Program, R1 (proposal endorsed, in prep); NOAA National Estuary Research Reserves -- Pacific coast (proposal in review, \$783K, 3yr) San Diego National Wildlife Refuges; San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuges; San Francisco Bay Joint Venture; South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project; University of California, Davis -- Center for Spatial Technology and Remote Sensing, Geography; USGS Western Ecological Research Center (USGS NCCWSC FY11 grant \$176K), Wetland Restoration Program (\$50K) USGS California Water Science Center

**Proposal #30 - A Broad-Scale, Multi-Species Monitoring Protocol to Assess Wintering Shorebird Population Trends in Response to Future Land Use and Climate Change – PHASE II (Continuing Project)**

Matt Reiter, Quantitative Avian Ecologist, PRBO Conservation Science

**Summary:** PRBO Conservation Science is developing a broad-scale monitoring program to detect trends and quantify habitat relationships for Pacific Flyway shorebird populations. To accomplish our goals for this monitoring program within the CA LCC,

they will complete three objectives in Phase II of this project: (1) Complete the shorebird monitoring plan for the CA LCC by developing a sampling design and monitoring protocol for wintering shorebirds in coastal southern California and northern Mexico. They will also integrate existing shorebird data collection efforts from the coastal southern California region and Mexico through new shorebird online data portal; also a product of LCC 2010. (2) Develop models to evaluate the influence of habitat factors from multiple spatial scales on shorebird use of San Francisco Bay and managed wetlands in the Sacramento Valley, as a model for the entire CA LCC. Their habitat association models serve as the basis to provide management recommendations to wetland habitat managers about how to allocate resources to maintain shorebird population objectives. (3) Develop an analytical framework to iteratively evaluate competing hypotheses about shorebird habitat associations and the impact of habitat changes as new monitoring data are available.

**Partners:** PRBO (Contribution / In-Kind): \$188,704 USFWS (In-Kind): \$8,700 US Navy (In-Kind): \$5,680 Sonoran Joint Venture (In-Kind): \$3,500 CICESE (In-Kind): \$7,000

**Proposal #36 - Maximizing evolutionary potential under climate change in southern California protected areas.**

Thomas B Smith, Professor, Center for Tropical Research, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, UCLA

**Summary:** The project objective is to transfer to California our previously developed prioritization framework that combines intraspecific genetic and morphological variation with traditionally used indices of biodiversity, and test its general utility for conservation prioritization. The applicant will integrate existing data on intraspecific variation of multiple species in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area with climate data and space-borne measurements of the environment to identify areas with high intraspecific variation. The deliverables will be: 1) a better understanding of the relationship between biodiversity and environmental variables, 2) maps identifying areas with high amounts of intraspecific variation, 3) an assessment of the general utility of our approach to other LCCs, 4) maps of the projected impacts of climate change on intraspecific variation, and 5) a toolbox of methods as well as environmental data layers that can be used by land managers throughout the California LCC and elsewhere.

**Partners:** The National Parks Service will provide existing morphological and genetic data collected in Santa Monica National Recreation Area, provide logistical support, and contribute in writing papers and reports. Team members: Christy A Brigham, Seth PD Riley, Kathleen Semple Delaney The Center for Tropical Research, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), will carry out all modeling and area prioritization efforts and spearhead the writing of papers and reports. Team members: Thomas B Smith, Wolfgang Buermann, Ryan J Harrigan, Henri A Thomassen

**Proposal #3 - Integrating Science into Decisions: Climate Change/Land Use Change Scenarios and Outreach for Habitat Threat Assessments on California Rangelands**

Kristin Byrd, Physical Scientist, USGS Western Geographic Science Center

**Summary:** Overall, this project will aid conservation of California rangelands by identifying future integrated threats of climate change and land use change, and will quantify two main co-benefits of rangeland conservation – water supply and carbon sequestration. Through a multi-stakeholder partnership, we propose to develop integrated climate change/land use change scenarios for the Central Valley and Chaparral and Oak Woodland eco-regions, and disseminate information about future potential threats to high priority conservation areas within the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition (CRCC) study area, which includes the foothills around the Central Valley and most of the southern Inner Coast Range. Products will include: three spatially-explicit integrated scenarios from years 2000 – 2100 consistent with three Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change greenhouse gas emission scenarios – A2, B1, and A1B, 2) an assessment of potential threats to three ecosystem services – wildlife habitat, water availability, and carbon sequestration – within CRCC high priority conservation areas under each scenario, 3) an economic analysis of these scenarios to quantify economic costs and benefits and identify where ecosystem services can be optimized, 4) a web-based visualization tool for resource managers to view and compare scenarios in a map format, and 5) an outreach program through the Defenders of Wildlife that will target the CRCC network of more than 100 partner organizations to communicate how results can be applied to conservation and land management decisions.

**Partners:** USGS Western Geographic Science Center (WGSC); Defenders of Wildlife; USGS Center for Science, Decisions, and Resource Management USGS California Water Science Center



## CA LCC 2011 Recommended Proposals (May 9, 2011)

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	PI Last Name	Affiliation	Title projects) (***) continuing	Requested funding	Geographic Scope	
5	DiPietro	Sonoma Ecology Center	Climate Adaptation Commons	\$100,000.00	CA LCC-Wide	
11	Gardali	PRBO Conservation Science	***How do we monitor the ecological consequences of environmental change? Developing an Environmental Change Network in the California LCC: PHASE II	\$100,000.00	CA LCC-Wide	
13	Hamilton	California Academy of Sciences	Confronting uncertainty in species distribution projections: Increasing the applicability of an essential tool in climate change adaptation planning	\$100,000.00	Across LCCs	
15	Hitchcock	State Coastal Conservancy	***Sustaining healthy ecosystems in the face of sea level rise: Ensuring the Baylands Goals can continue to inform good conservation practice.	\$60,374.00	Bay-Delta	
17	Johnson	California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC)	Online Risk-Mapping Tool for Setting Invasive Plant Management Priorities	\$96,523.00	Across LCCs	
23	Moyle	University of California, Davis	Effects of climate change on inland fishes of California	\$92,564.08	CA LCC-Wide	
29	Regan	University of California Riverside	Decision support for climate change adaptation and fire management strategies for at risk species in southern California	\$99,867.20	Southern California	
33	Siegel	The Institute for Bird Populations	Assessing climate change vulnerability and developing a climate change conservation plan for Sierra Nevada birds	\$82,390.00	Sierra Nevada	<b>Subtotal for 9:</b>
39	Torregrosa	US Geological Survey, WGSC	Pacific Coastal Fog: Using data assimilation techniques to develop ecologically relevant fog data sets	\$99,883.95	Across LCCs	<b>\$831,602.23</b>
<b>Alternates (in ranked order)</b>						
37	Takekawa	USGS Western Ecological Research Center	Effects of sea-level rise along a tidal range gradient: evaluating methods for planning adaptation at the parcel level	\$95,000.00	Across LCCs	
30	Reiter	PRBO Conservation Science	***A Broad-Scale, Multi-Species Monitoring Protocol to Assess Wintering Shorebird Population Trends in Response to Future Land Use and Climate Change – PHASE II	\$90,000.00	CA LCC-Wide	
36	Smith T	Center for Tropical Research, University of California, Los Angeles	Maximizing evolutionary potential under climate change in southern California protected areas	\$82,190.00	Southern California	
3	Byrd	U.S. Geological Survey, Western Geographic Science Center	Integrating Science into Decisions: Land Use Scenarios and Outreach for Habitat Threat Assessments on Central Valley Ranch Land	\$101,628.17	CA LCC-Wide	
<b>Total for all 13</b>				<b>\$1,200,420.40</b>		

## Attachement 5



735 B Center Blvd  
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**MANAGEMENT BOARD:**

*Bay Area Audubon Council*

*Bay Area Open Space Council*

*Bay Conservation &  
Development Commission*

*Bay Planning Coalition*

*California Department  
of Fish and Game*

*Citizens Committee to  
Complete the Refuge*

*Coastal Conservancy*

*Coastal Region, Mosquito &  
Vector Control Districts*

*Ducks Unlimited*

*National Audubon Society*

*National Fish and Wildlife  
Foundation*

*National Marine Fisheries  
Service*

*Natural Resources Conservation  
Service*

*PRBO Conservation Science*

*PG&E Corporation*

*Regional Water Quality Control  
Board, San Francisco Bay  
Region*

*San Francisco Estuary Project*

*Save San Francisco Bay  
Association*

*Sierra Club*

*The Bay Institute*

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

*U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency*

*U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

*US Geological Survey*

*Wildlife Conservation Board*

May 11, 2011

Debra Schlafmann  
California Landscape Conservation Cooperative Coordinator  
3020 State University Drive East  
Modoc Hall #2007  
Sacramento, CA 95819

Dear Deb,

I want to thank you for being part of the recent Management Board meeting of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV) and for updating us on the new directions of the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC). We appreciate your willingness to travel to San Francisco to keep us informed about the expansion of the LCC through California and northern Mexico.

We recognize that you have been charged to deliver and make accessible conservation and climate change science for a wide diversity of habitats and partners. The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture has made the commitment from the inception not only to engage but also to help participate in the guidance of the LCC. To that end, we hope our participation to date through our partners and staff has been helpful and productive.

Forming a new organization or partnership and ensuring engagement and buy-in is always a challenge. Maintaining relevancy and participation for the long term is an ongoing challenge. I want to share with you some comments and concerns that arose subsequent to your presentation and in discussions with our staff and partners. We hope that you will consider this feedback as recommendations to maintain efficiency and communication for both the LCC and the SFBJV participation.

Representatives of the JV's have met with Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Director Nominee, Dan Ashe, and with Acting Director, Rowen Gould, on several occasions over the past couple of years. The FWS leadership emphasized at every meeting that JV's are the models for the LCC's and that both programs were designed to work in tandem and support each other. We hope that the leadership in the California LCC is committed to implementing their vision as the SFBJV has demonstrated its willingness to support the LCC in implementing its vision.

The first Guiding Principle in the draft LCC charter reads, "Strengthens existing partnerships by providing new science capacity to help them address their priority conservation needs. The California LCC does not replace or supplant existing conservation partnerships."

## Attachement 5

If the concern is that other partners might feel that the LCC will be dominated by Joint Ventures, we want to provide a different perspective:

- No other federal program in the LCC region has the depth of partnerships, existing infrastructure, and direct link on the ground to the resource managers as JV's. JV's are a vehicle through which the LCC can communicate over its wide geographic scope and provide an asset to the LCC without redundancy.
- JV's have a track record of delivering habitat, planning, science and funding for conservation. They can be the major vehicle for the LCC to reach the land management and conservation community.
- In an era where funding is tight, it makes no sense to re-invent organizational structure where enhancing a mechanism for integration may be more efficient. Such duplication fuels public skepticism about funding government programs.
- Having only one combined seat on the Steering Committee for JV's is sending a message to their Management Boards who have committed resources to helping form the LCC, that JV importance is being marginalized. I do not believe that's a message that you want to be sending, but it is a message that we are hearing from SFBJV partners.
- While we recognize the desire to keep your steering committee to a small size, adding 2 more seats to cover the geographic range and integrate programs is not that many more.
- If LCC partners are concerned that each JV covers only a portion of the LCC region, I would like to point out that the same is true for many of the nominated agencies and non-governmental organizations.
- While the SFBJV may be geographically small, programmatically San Francisco Bay is a priority among California Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as well as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and our partnership already engages a range a partners from throughout LCC region.

We appreciate your willingness to incorporate suggestions by SFBJV Interim Steering Committee members Beth Huning, Fritz Reid, and Ellie Cohen into the LCC charter. The new proposed structure provides a more inclusive structure, and the SFBJV fully intends to maintain our participation on the Science Committee. We recognize that project recommendations will come from that committee. However, overall policy and direction of the LCC will be established by the Steering Committee, which, as currently proposed has limited NGO and partnership representation. Several SFBJV partner made this observation following your presentation at the Management Board meeting, and we understand that this concern was also expressed throughout the Charter development process.

Besides providing products that can be utilized by JV's, the most efficient and effective way to provide science capacity will be to ensure an organizational structure that maximizes communication between the JV's and the LCC. One seat among the 3 California Joint Ventures does not strengthen organizational capacity as noted in the first Guiding Principle. Unlike individual agencies and NGO's who represent their agency/organization and can coordinate internally, JV's are structured to communicate throughout a network of partners. This can be an asset to the LCC but also a financial liability to the JV's if they are required to have to expend resources to not only conduct their own coordination on behalf of the LCC with numerous partners but also be required to go through a similar process with each other. It is not efficient. In the case of the SFBJV, we want to maximize our staff and partner contributions to the LCC, not expend resources that could be devoted to our own partnership to try to adequately represent the other JV's, when inclusiveness by the LCC would more efficiently provide cross-communication. Christina Sloop's recent experience representing all of the California JV's on the project selection team as documented in her memo of May 5 verifies how challenging it was, and will be, to represent all of California JV partnerships with a wide geographic scope, variety of habitats, and variety of science needs.

## Attachement 5

Representation from the California JV's through the range of the LCC structure will improve efficiency for both the LCC and the JV's.

To ensure a streamlined, efficient structure that will truly integrate the JV's with the LCC's and address the first Guiding Principle, the SFBJV requests its own seat on the LCC Steering Committee, separate from that of the Central Valley Joint Venture and the Sonoran Joint Venture.

We recognize that the LCC has agreed to re-visit the structure in a year. However, it is always easier to enter the decision-making process at the onset. The SFBJV has made the commitment to help launch the LCC, has committed resources to helping ensure its success both on the Science Team and the Interim Steering Committee, and has contributed lessons learned to help the LCC build an organizational structure to maximize efficiency and success. The SFBJV encourages you to take the time to be inclusive rather than exclusive at the onset and only adopt your charter when key partners are comfortable and satisfied with the roles they are being asked to play.

If you would like to discuss our recommendations further, please feel free to call me or the SFBJV Coordinator, Beth Huning.

Sincerely,



Diane Ross-Leech  
Chair

Cc: Rick Kearney  
Ken Kriese, National Joint Venture Coordinator  
SFBJV Management Board Members  
Central Valley Joint Venture  
Sonoran Joint Venture