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**POWER IN NATURE COALITION CALLS FOR ACCELERATED ACTION,
FUNDING TO ACHIEVE CA'S 30x30 GOAL**

*Coalition Releases Map of 80 "Places to Protect" in Order to Conserve 30% of CA Land and Water
By 2030*

Sacramento, CA — Today, representatives of the [Power in Nature Coalition](#) called on the Governor and Legislature to accelerate the state's efforts to conserve 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 (30x30). This call to action comes one year after the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) released its [Pathways to 30x30](#) strategy document, which provides a roadmap for how the state plans to achieve this critical goal.

"In the last year, we have achieved important wins on the road to protecting 30% of our state's lands and coastal waters by 2030," said **Melanie Schlotterbeck**, who leads the coalition's **Southland regional group** and serves as the **Executive Director of the Banning Ranch Conservancy**. "This includes helping to secure funding for climate vulnerable communities, the conservation of lands like [Randall Preserve](#), and passing [legislation](#) to hold our state accountable to reach the 30x30 goal. But there is an incredible amount of work to do, and we are concerned that proposed budget cuts will hinder progress just as the effort is getting off the ground."

Scientists worldwide agree that in order to curb extinction rates and prevent the most severe impacts of climate change, we must protect at least 30% of the planet's lands and coastal waters by 2030. CNRA estimates that it will require California to conserve six million acres of land and 500,000 acres of coastal waters in less than seven years.

To make sure the state of California reaches the important 30x30 goal, the Power in Nature coalition called for three important actions at a rally and meetings with legislators today in Sacramento:

- **Accelerated Conservation of Priority Lands and Coastal Waters:** The Power in Nature coalition released [a new map](#) that identifies over 80 potential places to conserve in California as part of 30x30. These projects focus on four priority areas: biodiversity,

climate resilience, Tribal coordination, and equity/access.

- **Passage of [SB 337](#):** Senator Dave Min (SD-37) is championing legislation that would put into statute the state policy to conserve 30 percent of California's lands and waters by 2030. This bill is necessary to ensure that the commitment to the 30x30 goal will last beyond the current administration. The legislation was heard on April 18th in the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

"We are in the midst of a global extinction crisis, and it is time to double down before it's too late," said **Senator Dave Min**. "I am proud to author legislation that puts California on track to protect 30 percent of state lands and coastal waters by 2030. We must act swiftly and decisively to ensure that our iconic species, like California condors, monarch butterflies, tule elk, golden trout, sea otters, elephant seals, grey whales, redwood trees, giant sequoias, and California poppies, survive the threats posed by habitat loss. Through the strategic conservation efforts outlined in SB 337, we can protect the places we love and the species they support for this generation and the next. Thank you to the incredible partnership built by the Power in Nature Coalition, and for spearheading this legislation and codifying our statewide conservation goals into law."

- **[Reject Funding Cuts to Key Programs](#):** The Newsom Administration's proposed January budget included deep cuts to the very programs that are needed to meet the 30x30 goal. Specifically, the Governor's proposed budget eliminates nearly 25% - or \$1.5 billion - from multi-benefit nature-based climate solutions. This proposal takes a substantial step backwards in the commitment to ensure that the state, and its partners, can achieve its conservation, climate, and equity goals.

"California has taken major steps to protect our habitats, wildlife, air, and water but there is still a lot of work to do to accomplish our environmental goals," said **Assemblymember Kalra**, who **introduced the first bill to put forth a 30x30 policy** in 2020, and subsequently **authored AB 2278 to codify the EO and reporting requirements**. "While we face difficult budget decisions this year, we must continue to prioritize 30x30 conservation efforts to help fight climate change, species loss, and ecosystem destruction while promoting biodiversity and equitable access to nature."

California's 30x30 effort was launched in 2020 with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-82-20, which called for a plan to conserve 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030. The Biden Administration also set forth a 30x30 goal for the United States in 2021 with an executive order. These efforts align with a global 30x30 campaign to protect nature all around the world and avoid an extinction crisis. California's efforts are unique in that it centers this goal in equity, biodiversity, and climate.

"We must act with great urgency to reach the 30x30 goal," said ecologist **Dr. Jun Bando**, **Executive Director of the California Native Plant Society**. "Making the transition to clean energy

alone won't save us from the climate crisis. We need to protect our ecosystems as well. Protecting 30% of our land and coastal waters by 2030 is the bare minimum needed to avoid ecosystem collapse, safeguard biodiversity, and stabilize the planet's climate."

Research shows that [1 million species are at risk of extinction](#) and [wild vertebrate populations have dropped 69%](#) since 1970. California is in one of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots and the state has the [highest concentration of imperiled species in the U.S.](#)

"As a globally significant biodiversity hotspot with the highest concentration of species that can't be found anywhere else on Earth, California has much to lose," said **Pamela Flick, California Program Director for Defenders of Wildlife**. "More than 900 of the state's species are at risk of extinction and two-thirds of our native plants will lose most of their range within the next century. We must codify our state 30x30 goal to protect California's unparalleled natural treasures."

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About the Power in Nature Coalition

Power In Nature is a statewide coalition of over 100 community groups, environmental and conservation organizations, land trusts, indigenous organizations and tribal members dedicated to advancing California's 30x30 commitment. The Power In Nature coalition has identified nearly 100 potential 30x30 projects across the state and works on a broad range of issues including biodiversity protection, climate resilience, equity, recreation, outdoor access and social justice. For more information, visit powerinnature.org.