

## Help California Conserve SLO County's Special Places

State launches website and workshops on achieving climate and biodiversity goals by preserving natural and working lands



**Let us begin** California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot told April 27 workshop attendees the agency wanted to know "what are the opportunities for our state government to help you achieve equitable, sustainable environmental conservation in your region." California is one of the world's 36 biodiversity hot spots -- regions which make up about 2.3 percent of Earth's land surface but contain 44 percent of the world's plants and 35 percent of its vertebrate land animals, and have lost at least 70 percent of their original vegetation.

On April 15, the California Natural Resources Agency launched the [California Nature](#) website to engage Californians in advancing the state's commitment to conserving 30 percent of lands and coastal waters by 2030 (30 by 30) and enlisting nature-based solutions to combat climate change. The website and a new online questionnaire are aimed at gathering input from a broad cross-section of Californians.

The 30 by 30 goal is part of the state's strategy to enlist nature-based solutions to climate change – community greening, protection and restoration of wetlands and riparian areas, healthy forests, etc. --across the states 104 million acres.

“California can only be successful in conserving 30 percent of California’s lands and coastal waters by 2030 if we engage different voices, stakeholders, communities and individuals,” said Jennifer Norris, Deputy Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat. “Everyone has a voice, and our strategies must reflect all Californians.”

Because it is critical that the public help shape the vision for long-term climate smart land management in California, there are several ways to engage with the process.

The new website serves as a portal where visitors can learn more about and participate in the state’s efforts to deliver on two key strategies called for in Governor Gavin Newsom’s nature-based solutions executive order – a Pathways to 30x30 document and a Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy. Californians are encouraged to contribute to both through the [public input questionnaire](#) and/or by signing up for one of nine virtual regional workshops scheduled through May 11. Additional workshops will be held in the coming months to address statewide climate change, biodiversity, defining conservation, and considerations of equitable approaches to leading this work. The public will have an opportunity to provide input and submit comments during those workshops as well.