



The California Biodiversity Council (CBC) was formed in 1991 to improve coordination and cooperation between the various resource management and environmental protection organizations at federal, state, and local levels. Strengthening ties between local communities and governments has been a focus of the Council by way of promoting strong local leadership and encouraging comprehensive solutions to regional issues.

The Council was not created to independently establish new projects nor to become another bureaucracy. Rather, its purpose is to discuss, coordinate, and assist in developing strategies and complementary policies for conserving biodiversity. Members exchange information, resolve conflicts, and promote development of regional conservation practices.

The Council has 42 members, including 20 state agencies, 12 federal agencies, and 10 local governments. It is chaired by California Secretary for Natural Resources Mike Chrisman and Bureau of Land Management California State Director Mike Pool.

The Council meets 2-3 times a year on issues relating to natural resource conservation in California. The California Water Plan will be the featured topic at the Biodiversity Council meeting on March 10-11, 2010.

CALIFORNIA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

STATE GOVERNMENT

California Coastal Commission	California Environmental Protection Agency
California Coastal Conservancy	California Fish and Game Commission
California Conservation Corps	California Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Conservation	Native American Heritage Commission
California Department of Fish and Game	San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
California Department of Food and Agriculture	Sierra Nevada Conservancy
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	State Lands Commission
California Department of Parks and Recreation	State Water Resources Control Board
California Department of Transportation	University of California, Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources
California Department of Water Resources	Wildlife Conservation Board
California Energy Commission	

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	USDI Bureau of Reclamation
NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries	USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
US Environmental Protection Agency	USDI Geological Survey
US Marine Corps (Ex Officio Member)	USDI Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division
USDA Forest Service	USDI National Park Service
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	
USDI Bureau of Land Management	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts	North Coastal California Counties Association
California State Association of Counties	South Coast Regional Association of Counties
San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of California Counties	Northern California Counties Association
Sacramento Mother Lode Association of Counties	Regional Council of Rural Counties
	San Diego Association of Governments
	Southern California Association of Governments

Why is Biodiversity Important?

"When we try to pick anything out by itself, we find it hitched to everything else." - John Muir

Biological diversity, or the shorter "biodiversity," (bio-di-ver-si-ty) simply means the diversity, or variety, of plants, animals and other living things in a particular area or region. For instance, the species that inhabit Southern California are different from those in Northern California, and desert plants and animals have different characteristics and needs than those in the mountains, even though some of the same species can be found in all of those areas.

In practice, "biodiversity" suggests sustaining the diversity of species in each ecosystem as we plan human activities that affect the use of the land and natural resources.

Maintaining a wide diversity of species in each ecosystem is necessary to preserve the web of life that sustains all living things. In his 1992 best-seller, "The Diversity of Life," famed Harvard University biologist Edward O. Wilson -- known as the "father of biodiversity" -- said, "It is reckless to suppose that biodiversity can be diminished indefinitely without threatening humanity itself."

Water Plan Update 2013 will continue to evolve Integrated Regional Water Management concepts introduced in Update 2005 and refined in Update 2009. In tandem with this refinement, the Water Plan will more rigorously explore how to integrate sustainability and biodiversity concepts as part of the Integrated Regional Water Management framework.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Given the current Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Act direction to improve water management to protect and restore ecosystems and wildlife habitat, describe the sustainability and/or biodiversity concepts you believe should be explored in greater detail in Water Plan Update 2013?*
2. The Water Plan team will be presenting to the Biodiversity Council on March 10-11. What are the top 3 messages you believe the Biodiversity Council should hear about California Water Plan Update 2009?
3. What advice do you have to offer to policy makers about ways to better integrate sustainability and biodiversity concepts into day to day activities?