

Executive Department

State of California

EXECUTIVE ORDER B-54-18

WHEREAS California is home to more species of plants and animals than any other state in the United States; and

WHEREAS the deserts, forests, mountain ranges, valleys, wetlands, woodlands, rivers, estuaries, marine environments, rangelands and agricultural fields of California provide refuge for a vast array of species including approximately 650 species of birds, 220 mammals, 75 amphibians, 70 freshwater fish, over 100 marine fish and mammals and approximately 6,500 native plants – of which 2,000 or more are rare; and

WHEREAS the state's plants and animals co-exist to create the complex and beautiful ecosystems upon which so much of California's people and economy depend; and

WHEREAS the new reality of climate change requires a more thoughtful and systemic approach that considers the connections and the vast web of relationships that tie together the myriad elements of California's ecosystems; and

WHEREAS even after decades of economic and population growth, California has managed to maintain much of its biodiversity; nevertheless, to maintain this biodiversity into the future, the State of California, in partnership with others, must embark upon a far-reaching and synergized set of environmental initiatives; and

WHEREAS in December 2017, a group of 26 scientific experts from across the state's universities, herbaria and conservation organizations drafted and signed a historic "*Charter to Secure the Future of California's Native Biodiversity*," and presented it to the State of California, with a call to bold action; and

WHEREAS heeding the urgent call from our California scientists to protect biodiversity, I have today released the first-ever California Biodiversity Initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby issue the following orders to become effective immediately:

1. The Secretaries of Food and Agriculture and Natural Resources will implement this initiative to achieve the following goals, consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity: promote deeper understanding of current and future threats to California's biodiversity; protect native vegetation; manage and restore natural and working lands and waterways; and explore appropriate financing options to achieve these goals.
2. All state agencies will work together to achieve the goals of this initiative and embrace appropriate partnerships whenever possible.

3. Finally, from this day forward, September 7th shall be observed as California Biodiversity Day each year.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 7th day of September 2018.


EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor of California

ATTEST:


ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State