

**Collaborative Agreement to Develop a  
CA Nature Geographic Information System  
to Support Development of 30x30 Strategy**

**January 8, 2021**

This agreement establishes a shared effort to develop a publicly accessible Geographic Information System that can improve environmental conservation efforts across California.

**Overview**

Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-82-20 in October to elevate the role of nature-based solutions in addressing climate change and the biodiversity crisis. In this Executive Order, the Governor established a goal of conserving 30 percent of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030 (30X30) and called for agencies to establish a set of strategies to meet this goal by February 2022. The Executive Order also called for development of an associated Climate Smart Lands Strategy by October 2021.

The 30X30 goal provides a clear, mobilizing target to expand and improve conservation across California. It also represents a new, spatially-based conservation approach that requires a sophisticated understanding California's lands and waters, thoughtful planning, and inclusive input from a broad array of stakeholders.

State agencies will develop a set of strategies to meet 30x30 within a "Pathways to 30X30" document that will be completed and issued publicly by February 2022, as required by the Executive Order. Agencies will also develop a Climate Smart Lands Strategy by October 2021 that will complement and inform the 30x30 effort.

**CA Nature GIS**

Developing Pathways to 30X30 and the Climate Smart Lands Strategy will benefit from the development of a statewide geographic information system (CA Nature GIS) that synthesizes data and information on biodiversity, climate change, public access, and other key factors across the state. Myriad information currently exists within state agencies and non-state entities that can illuminate challenges and opportunities with conserving our land and water. However, CA Nature GIS is needed to aggregate and synthesize this broad array of information in a manner that can empower meaningful stakeholder input and ultimately inform decision-making by state agencies about the strategies that can best achieve 30X30.

CA Nature GIS will be a publicly available **decision-support system** that informs the 30X30 Pathways document, and the associated Climate Smart Lands Strategy. The

system will be designed to illuminate challenges and opportunities for environmental conservation in a manner that will inform decision-making. This GIS will provide a range of information on one platform, including but not limited to:

- where biodiversity is richest and most threatened
- how climate change will impact ecosystems
- where landscapes can accelerate natural carbon removal and protect climate vulnerable communities
- Where lands provide public access for recreation and where such access is restricted.

CA Nature GIS will help to improve our governmental decision-making to improve and expand environmental conservation. It will provide the following key functions:

1. Establish a baseline assessment of California's lands and waters according to a broad range of factors, including but not limited to: biodiversity; carbon sequestration value; climate vulnerability; and public access.
2. Understand where different types of land management are occurring, including lands that are managed for environmental conservation.
3. Empower informed public engagement and decision-making about how the state defines conservation for the purposes of the 30X30 goal, how much more conservation is needed to reach our 30X30 goal, and where we can expand and improve conservation across its land and coastal waters.
4. Illuminate lands and waters where improved conservation can provide high value contributions toward achieving the state's priorities of biodiversity, climate benefits, and access, while ensuring food security and continued economic prosperity.
5. Enable state agencies to track changing land use over time and the progress of our Pathways to 30X30 strategies to expand and improve conservation.
6. Enable a wide range of groups and members of the public who utilize this suite of tools to contribute to the state's 30X30 goal and environmental conservation efforts.

### **Partnership Roles and Responsibilities**

Developing an effective CA Nature GIS requires new working partnerships among state agencies and unique collaboration between state agencies and external contributors. This agreement describes a public-private partnership between the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and Esri. CNRA will serve as organizational hub for the development of this system and will collaborate with a variety of state agencies and

external entities. Esri will partner with the state to bring its considerable data, information and technical expertise to help state agencies build this system. This partnership will engage institutions that collect and utilize environmental data to help develop this open system.

**CNRA** will guide the development of CA Nature GIS as a publicly accessible, web-based system that will synthesize data and information to improve the state's environmental conservation efforts and provide decision-support tools for the development of strategies in the Pathway to 30X30. It will work closely with other state agencies, including the California Department of Technology, California Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and Esri to ensure timely data sharing and cross-agency collaboration in the development of this system. CNRA will:

1. Provide adequate and appropriate technical, policy and administrative staff to enable development of the CA Nature GIS.
2. Collaborate with departments and agencies across state government to provide relevant data, information, and analysis to develop CA Nature GIS.
3. Ensure effective use of CA Nature GIS in the robust stakeholder process that will be implemented to ensure inclusive, thoughtful input of interested stakeholders in the development of Pathways to 30X30.
4. Develop protocols and establish sustained staffing to accept, house and maintain CA Nature GIS at CNRA through 2030.
5. Provision infrastructure for hosting CA Nature GIS once the system is developed and migrated from Esri's hosting environment.

**Esri** will contribute its technology, expertise, and existing data and information sets to develop CA Nature GIS. Designated Esri staff will work closely with CNRA staff and the rest of the state agency team to develop the GIS. Esri will:

1. Donate professional services consulting and technical expertise to stand-up this integrated statewide geographic information system. This GIS will include a core platform, integrated data from State and external sources, analysis and modeling framework, focused applications to identify, prioritize and plan for conservation opportunities, and an open portal for data sharing and collaboration.
2. Train and build capacity within designated state agency staff to enable state agencies to use, manage and update this GIS in the coming years to support

the implementation of 30X30 and other environmental conservation programs.

3. Leverage existing technology and software that is already in place within CNRA and other state agencies for creation of CA Nature GIS.
4. At Esri's discretion, make additional software donations as necessary.
5. Provide five years of no-cost technical support for any donated software.

CNRA and Esri will together develop a workplan and schedule for the development of CA Nature GIS. This work will take place on a schedule so that an initial version of the system can be used during public engagement activities to inform Pathways to 30X30 and the Climate Smart Works Lands Strategy. This work plan will:

1. Identify roles, responsibilities, and dependencies of CNRA and its partners that are critical to the development of CA Nature GIS.
2. First prioritize incorporating climate-related data into CA Nature GIS, in order to inform the Climate Smart Lands Strategy that will be completed by October 2021 (an earlier deadline than the Pathways to 30X30 strategies).
3. Coordinate and where needed integrate with another potential projects OPR may undertake with Esri, CNRA and CalEPA to map climate vulnerable communities in California.
4. Enable the inclusive, sustained engagement of scientists and practitioners to provide input and inform the development of CA Nature GIS.

CNRA and state agency partners will retain all decision-making authority for the Pathways to 30X30 and the Climate Smart Working Lands Strategy. The development of CA Nature GIS will provide a valuable tool in this important decision-making process within state agencies.

The goals identified by this partnership agreement are not enforceable and do not constitute a contract. No liability is created by the terms of this agreement, which has not undergone the State process for contract, and merely reflects the Parties' mutual understandings and shared vision to achieve the goals identified by Governor Newsom and the California Resources Agency.

Any obligation of the State in this agreement is subject to existing law and is contingent upon sufficient funds and authority being made available by the Legislature and Governor in enacted legislation including subsequent enacted budget bills and associated trailer bills.

Signed:

  
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Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency

January 19, 2021

Date

  
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Jack Dangermond (or designee), Esri

January 19, 2021

Date