



California Landscape Stewardship Network

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**Green Stimulus Recommendations for
Governor Newsom's Economic Task Force
May 2020**





Green Stimulus Recommendations

The California Landscape Stewardship Network's participants – representing more than 200 organizations – span the state, and work on a variety of **green infrastructure, restoration and stewardship, and nature-based climate adaptation and mitigation** projects.

We can support the implementation of a Green Stimulus vision and statewide goals by advancing **shovel-ready, high-impact projects that will put people to work and move California towards economic and climatic stability.**

Investment in our business models, regional partnerships, and projects is needed to catalyze economic growth and climate adaptation.



What's Needed

1. **Prioritize an integrated climate adaptation and economic development approach** that supports vulnerable and chronically under-resourced community needs.
2. **Invest in a green workforce** – early data collection at the regional level* reveals that **economic stimulus and workforce development, focused on nature-based solutions** to climate change risks and green infrastructure projects, can address the layered crises we face today.
3. **Leverage and support strong regional collaboratives** which can amplify state resources and are working cross-boundary and at a landscape scale.

* [*Bay Area Lands, People, and Economy: A Snapshot Report of Green Stimulus Opportunities*](#)



What's Needed

4. **Advance innovative approaches** – in an era of dramatic economic uncertainty, it's also necessary for the state to **find opportunities to work more cost-effectively and efficiently** through initiatives like *Cutting Green Tape*.
5. **Consider the relevance and value of working and agricultural lands, parks, trails, and public lands** during the current crisis, and include them in the state's effort to address emergency funding needs.
6. **Advance a multi-benefit stimulus investment in nature-based solutions** that will provide for people, nature, and the economy.





Five Guiding Principles

Our recommendations to government leadership for achieving the vision of an integrated climate adaptation and economic development approach are organized around five principles:

Guiding Principle 1 - Equity: Focus on addressing equity in the context of the pandemic and economic crises.

Guiding Principle 2 - Regional Partnerships: Leverage existing regional and cross-jurisdictional collaborations to support strategic investments in nature-based solutions across the state.

Guiding Principle 3 - Investment: Identify and retain targeted investments in the state budget to ensure that California lands are accessible, cared for, and protected. Consider advancing an economic stimulus bond which would help create a pathway to economic stability and ecological resiliency.

Guiding Principle 4 - Innovation: Catalyze innovative initiatives like *Cutting Green Tape*, which can increase momentum towards climate change goals now, while realizing cost and operational efficiencies.

Guiding Principle 5 - Action: Integrate climate adaptation goals with an economic development approach. Through fund support, leveraged financing, and partnerships, encourage holistic resilience to climate change through targeted workforce and economic development around climate adaptation solutions.





Specific Statewide Recommendations

Green investments that sustain basic needs for land stewardship during the COVID-19 crisis, support equity and inclusion, and align with local and state planning to address climate change should be prioritized.

1. Promote and support **regional climate adaptation programs and projects that provide multiple benefits** across sectors.
2. Prioritize investment in **projects that will immediately generate new jobs, preserve existing jobs**, and advance the state's strategic climate change goals.
3. Prioritize green infrastructure, outdoor recreation, and natural resource protection and restoration **investments in communities of color and low-income communities**, which are most disproportionately impacted by climate change threats and the pandemic crisis.
4. Use the best **available science to inform decision-making** and promote the role that climate smart agriculture and nature-based climate solutions play in meeting the state's climate adaptation and mitigation goals.
5. Focus investment on **capital projects for urban residents and rural residents that increase sustainable public access and the vitality of natural lands**.



Statewide Recommendations cont'd

6. Invest in **capital projects that maintain public safety, promote environmental and public health, and protect populations from climate risks**, including reducing wildfire threats through vegetation management and ecological restoration; building resiliency into agricultural lands and food systems; and addressing sea level rise through green infrastructure and wetland restoration projects.
7. Focus **workforce development programs on under-resourced populations and communities of color**, coordinating with community leaders, labor organizations, and local agency officials so that the proposals best reflect the needs of communities and available worker pools.
8. Maintain momentum on ***Cutting Green Tape* to increase the pace and scale of restoration projects** that will lead to more jobs, and a reduction in costs to the state by addressing climate change impacts.
9. Leverage **capital investment with flexible funding sources**, including private capital and Prop 68 Community Access funding, to support planning projects and programming, both of which support jobs across sectors, including nonprofits and agencies.





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