



April 10, 2023

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Room 160
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1573 – Support Letter

Dear Chairperson Bauer-Kahan:

On behalf of the undersigned, we are pleased to support AB 1573, which would eliminate the use of non-functional turf and sets the strongest level of water conservation requirements for new or major rehabilitated non-residential landscapes, including requiring all nonresidential projects to use 75% local native plants for the project's landscaping footprint after January 1, 2026. It would also create a definition for "local native plants."

California is at the forefront of climate change, as it experiences the real-time impacts of extreme weather, water shortages, and the nation's highest levels of species loss. Action is needed now to conserve natural resources while protecting the state's remarkable biodiversity. This bill helps unite a growing body of California public policy aimed at water conservation, biodiversity protection, and urban greening.

Today, roughly half of all publicly supplied water is used primarily for landscape irrigation, and much of that irrigation is potable water used on non-functional turf, and turf is the number one irrigated crop in the United States. Moving to native plant landscapes will realize reductions in energy use, water use, and greenhouse gas emissions based on reduced inputs and maintenance needs of these landscapes.

This bill would also further Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-82-20 that establishes a state policy to protect biodiversity and take action to make our state more climate resilient through state agency action that promote biodiversity protection, habitat restoration, wildfire-resilient, sustainably managed landscapes and other conservation outcomes.

AB 1573 takes an important first step into ensuring that future landscaping will benefit California's climate resilience and biodiversity conservation efforts by setting requirements for non-residential landscaping that will promote the use of drought-tolerant native plant landscaping.

For these reasons, we support AB 1573 and urge an "Aye" vote.

Sincerely,
Liv O'Keeffe

Senior Director of Public Affairs
California Native Plant Society

Cam Tredennick
Executive Director
California Association of Resource Conservation
Districts

J.P. Rose
Policy Director, Urban Wildlands Program
Center for Biological Diversity

Ashley Overhouse
Water Policy Advisor
Defenders of Wildlife

Erin Woolley
Policy Advocate
Sierra Club California

Bill Allayaud
Calif. Director of Government Affairs
Environmental Working Group

Dan Silver
Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League

Kate Hayes and William Krimmel
Principals
Miridae

Nicole Calhoun
Owner
Artemisia Nursery

Lucinda McDade
Executive Director
California Botanic Garden

Marven Norman
Policy Coordinator
Center for Community Action and
Environmental Justice (CCA EJ)

Charles Miller
Chapter Chairperson
Los Angeles Climate Reality Project

Darryl Little Jr.
California Legislative Advocate
Natural Resources Defense Council

David Diaz
Executive Director
Active San Gabriel Valley

Karen Reside
President
Long Beach Gray Panthers

Steve Bardwell
President
Morongo Basin Conservation Association

Suzanne Hume
Educational Director & Founder
CleanEarth4Kids

Justin Maciulis
Nevada County Native Plants

Sophie McLean
Native Plant Specialist and Nursery Manager
Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Bette Mc Donnell
Donor Relations Director
Amelia Eglund
Gardening Crew Lead
Nature in the City
Asha Sharma
Organizing Co-Director
Pesticide Action Network
Diana Carpinone
President
Non Toxic Communities

Ina Rommeck
Nursery Manager
Putah Creek Council

Jack Eidt
Co-Founder
SoCal 350 Climate Action

Ariel Cherbowsky Corkidi
Director
San Bruno Mountain Watch

Ildiko Polony
Executive Director
Sutro Stewards

Kathy Schaeffer
Legislative Coordinator
San Fernando Valley Climate Reality

Andrew Brooks
President
Skyline Park Citizens Association dba Skyline
Wilderness Park

Melanie Winter
Founder & Director
The River Project

Glenn Phillips
Executive Director

Whitney Grover
Deputy Director
Golden Gate Audubon Society

Alice Kaufman
Policy and Advocacy Director
Green Foothills

Sandra Nevala-Lee
Partner
Green Thumb Works

Nancy Buermeyer
Director of Policy and Program
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners

Susan Morgan
Founder and Director
Indivisible Marin

Holly Wright
Education and Stewardship Coordinator
The Friends of the Santa Clara River

Kimberly Jay Moses
Principal
Kimberly Moses Design

Catherine Dodd PhD RN
Advisor
Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics
Safety FACTS

Michael Wellborn
President
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks

Charles Miller
Founder
LA Native

Gopal Shanker
President
Récolte Energy

Chance Cutrano
Director of Programs
Resource Renewal Institute

Kim Neistadt
Climate Leader
Climate Reality Project

Jessa Kay Cruz
Senior Pollinator Conservation Specialist,
California and the Intermountain West
The Xerces Society for Invertebrate
Conservation

Anna Kondolf
Principal
Anna Kondolf Lighting Design

Amber Snow
Human Resources
Annie's Annuals & Perennials

Lucy Bartholomew
Public Policy Advocate
Blue Zones Project Mendocino County

Kathy Kramer
Founder
Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Karen L Andersen
Chair
Citizens for Sustainable Marina

Eileen Mitro
Coordinator
Climate Action Mendocino

Jeffrey Tong
Co-founder
ColinasCosteras

William R Taylor
Owner

Floodgate Farm

Doug Mandel
President
Ghost Pine Native Plant Nursery

Kathy Kerridge
Board Member
Good Neighbor Steering Committee of Benicia

Brian Lilia
Director
Lilia Arts

Betsy Vanleit
Vice President, Board of Directors
Ojai Valley Green Coalition

April Owens
CEO
Pollinate Collective

Catherine Sandra Capone
President
Tule River Parkway Association

Robin Mitchell
Advisory Committee Member
El Cerrito Community Garden Network

Martha Jackson
President
El Cerrito Garden Club

Individual Signers:

Carol Levin
Jan Lochner
Patt McDaniel
Linda Peach
Kit Veerkamp
Liz Strauss
Christine Hoex
Kenneth Nemire
Marsha Glassner
Natasha Granoff
Margaret Partlow
Betty Young
Joy Kawa
Ron Vanderhoff
Jill Birchell
Tece Markel
Pat Houghtby
Harry White
Marie Verrkamp
Sandra B. Pizzio
Stephen G Scalmanini
Diane Bloom
Manjeet Singh, MD
Margaret P. Beltramo