

September 30, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Letter from Scientists in Support of the Establishment of Chuckwalla National Monument and expansion of Joshua Tree National Park**

Dear President Biden,

On behalf of the signatories below representing the scientific community and our many years of research, we are writing to express our strong support for the establishment of Chuckwalla National Monument, as well as the expansion of Joshua Tree National Park via the establishment of an adjacent national monument managed by the National Park Service. The permanent protection of areas with exceptional scientific, cultural, and recreational value is essential to advancing our understanding of the natural and human world, and we celebrate the strides your administration has taken towards conserving 30% of US lands and waters by 2030. We urge you to persist in these efforts by establishing Chuckwalla National Monument.

As stated in the 1906 Antiquities Act, our national monuments are designated to conserve “objects of historic or scientific interest.” The proposed Chuckwalla National Monument is rich in cultural and scientific significance, with an abundance of native plants and animals as well as cultural and historic resources. Crucially, the proposed monument, and expansion of Joshua Tree National Park, would preserve the core of the Colorado Desert and major habitat linkages, connecting six wilderness areas, Joshua Tree National Park, the Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range, and the Salton Sea. In the face of climate change, biodiversity depends on such linkages which maintain the resilience of sensitive species. It is essential that these areas are protected and managed well, so that we, our colleagues, and future generations of researchers will continue to have access to this living laboratory.

Below, we share just a few examples of the resources within the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument that are of great importance to the scientific community:

**Flora:** The proposed Chuckwalla National Monument sustains one of the most botanically diverse collections of native flora in the California Desert, including several rare and endemic species. Nearly sixty rare plant species have been identified within the boundaries of the proposed monument, with some of the most notable species being the Mecca aster (*Xylorhiza cognata*), the Orocopia sage (*Salvia greatae*), and the Munz cholla (*Cylindropuntia munzii*), which can grow up to 13 feet tall and is found in a narrow section of the bajadas of the southern Chuckwalla Mountains. The recently described (2014) Chuckwalla cholla (*Cylindropuntia chuckwallensis*) finds the center of its distribution within the proposed

monument in the Chuckwalla Mountains. The area contains several important habitat types, including an astonishing abundance of desert wash woodlands, (also known as microphyll woodlands) which are a critical component of a well-functioning desert ecosystem and support a disproportionately high wildlife species richness. In a canyon deep in the Chuckwalla Mountains, the proposed monument also hides a rich stand of riparian vegetation containing over 60 native California fan palms, among other important species. The area, which is supported by a naturally occurring spring, is a refuge for migratory birds and desert bighorn sheep.

**Fauna:** Named for the Chuckwalla lizard, a charismatic reptile native to the California Desert, the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument contains critical habitat for several important wildlife species, including the federally threatened Mojave desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*), burro deer (*Odocoileus hemionus eremicus*), Mojave fringe-toed lizard (*Uma scoparia*), and many more. By connecting several other protected and wilderness areas, the proposed monument would prevent the loss of critical habitat linkages which threaten the Mojave desert tortoise and other vulnerable species. The Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket's desert wash woodlands sustain the highest density of winter bird populations in California, as well as remarkably high densities of mammal and reptile species. The proposed monument also holds some of the best remaining habitat in California for the endangered Sonoran pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana sonoriensis*). The pronghorn last occurred in California within the proposed monument, and the area is considered the most suitable for the species' reintroduction into the ecosystem. Home to more than 20 species that are threatened, endangered, sensitive, or otherwise of concern, the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument provides a unique refuge within the California Desert.

**Cultural Resources:** The proposed Chuckwalla National Monument is situated on the ancestral homelands of the Iviatim, Nüwü, Pipa Aha Macav, Kwatsáan, and Maara'yam peoples. Home to areas such as the Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket, the proposed monument contains many important sites that hold cultural, natural, and spiritual significance for Indigenous peoples today. Corn Springs, which has supplied a welcome source of food and water to humans and animals alike for over 11,000 years, is of particular significance as a major occupation site for Native American Tribes. The site served as a way station for Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, and Yuma bands, and is home to spectacular and world-renowned displays of petroglyphs, as well as archaeological features such as surface artifacts, metates, and rock rings. The proposed Chuckwalla National Monument would protect about 40 miles of the historic Bradshaw Trail National Back Country Byway, a trail used by Indigenous communities which in later years became a link between Arizona gold mine camps and the California coast. In more recent history, evidence of past mining claims is scattered throughout the proposed monument, and historic settlements still dot the landscape. During World War II, American Troops prepared for combat in the proposed monument's rugged desert lands, leaving behind important historical sites. Finally, the area contains approximately 35 miles of the route of the historic Eagle Mountain Railroad, at one point the longest privately owned railroad in the US.

**Climate Change:** In addition to the proposed monument's unique value to scientists and researchers, the desert lands that make up the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument are vitally important in the face

of climate change, including (but not limited to) their value for carbon sequestration. As some of the most important remaining undisturbed desert lands in California, leaving this area intact is the best way to maximize the California Desert's contribution to carbon emission reduction. Permanent protection of these lands will also help ensure that they remain resilient to drought and other features of the changing climate. As the desert's recovery from alteration and disturbance takes place on a time scale of up to thousands of years, we cannot rely on future restoration of these vulnerable ecosystems. Instead, the desert lands housed within the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument must be shielded from excessive disturbance today, through the enhanced protection and attention to land management planning that comes with national monument status.

The Chuckwalla National Monument would be the largest protected area of the Colorado Desert bioregion, containing some of the best wilderness values, scenery, and recreational opportunities that remain unprotected in the U.S in addition to its value to researchers as described above. Developing appropriate land use and management actions across these lands is essential to preserving these resources in the face of climate change, the spread of invasive species, and other impacts, while increasing the focus on restoring desired ecological conditions to achieve conservation goals. For these, and many other reasons, the undersigned scientists and researchers support the establishment of Chuckwalla National Monument and look forward to its continued importance in advancing our scientific understanding of the natural and human world.

Sincerely,

**Jun Bando, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis  
Executive Director, California Native Plant Society

**Nick Jensen, Ph.D.**, Claremont Graduate University  
Conservation Program Director, California Native Plant Society

**Brendan Wilce, B.S.**, University of California, Davis  
Conservation Program Coordinator, California Native Plant Society

**Isobel Nairn, M.S. Candidate**, Stanford University  
Wyss Conservation Fellow, California Native Plant Society

**Courtney Matzke, M.S.**, Claremont Graduate University  
Botanist, California Native Plant Society

**Julie Evens, M.A.**, Humboldt State University  
Vegetation Program Director, California Native Plant Society

**Jordan Collins, B.S.**, California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo  
Lead Field Botanist, California Native Plant Society

**Kristen Nelson, M.S.**, California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo  
Rare Plant Program Manager, California Native Plant Society

**Aaron Sims**, California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo  
Rare Plant Program Director, California Native Plant Society

**Alyssa Huante, B.S.**, University of California, Irvine  
Education Program Specialist, California Native Plant Society

**Bryce King, B.S.**, California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo  
Lead Field Botanist, California Native Plant Society

**Lucinda McDade, Ph.D.**, Duke University  
Executive Director & Director of Research, California Botanic Garden

**Naomi Fraga, Ph.D.**, Claremont Graduate University  
Director of Conservation Programs, California Botanic Garden

**Maria Jesus, M.S.**, Claremont Graduate University  
Conservation Botanist, California Botanic Garden

**Hester L. Bell, Ph.D.**  
Research Associate, California Botanic Garden

**Carrie Kiel, Ph.D.**, Claremont Graduate University  
Conservation Geneticist & Research Assistant Professor, California Botanic Garden

**Steve Boyd, M.S.**  
Herbarium Curator Emeritus, California Botanic Garden

**Joy England, M.S.**  
Conservation Botanist, California Botanic Garden

**Cheryl Birker, B.S.**, California State University, Fullerton  
Seed Conservation Program Manager, California Botanic Garden

**Mercedes Schroeder, Ph.D.**  
Lead Conservation Genomics Technician, California Botanic Garden

**Carol Annable, M.S.**  
Botanist, California Botanical Garden

**Amy Alverson, B.S.**

Seeds of Success Coordinator, California Botanic Garden

**Katie Debbas, M.S.**, University of Edinburgh

California Botanic Garden

**Peri Lee Pipkin, M.S.**, Claremont Graduate University

Research Assistant, California Botanic Garden

**Cameron W. Barrows, Ph.D.**, University of California, Riverside

Emeritus, Professional Research Scientist, University of California, Riverside

**Delores Chan, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

Environmental Engagement Program Project Manager, The Bay Foundation

**J. Travis Columbus, Ph.D.**, University of California, Berkeley

Senior Scientist, California Botanic Garden

**Duncan S. Bell**

Senior Conservation Botanist, California Botanic Garden

**Izzy Coiro, M.S Candidate.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Sicely Sohn, M.S. Candidate**, University of Maine

**Aaron Kreisberg, M.S.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

Plant Conservation Manager, Catalina Island Conservancy

**Melissa Vezard, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Alexis Grana, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Chris Tracy, Ph.D.**

Director, Boyd Deep Canyon Reserve, University of California, Riverside

**Mark Fisher**

Senior Museum Scientist, Boyd Deep Canyon Reserve, University of California, Riverside

**Adele Colwell, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

Climate Corps Fellow, Environmental Defense Fund

**Vivian Phan, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Nadine Snyder, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Air Pollution Specialist, California Air Resources Board

**Erin Clem, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Sally de Becker, M.S.**, Duke University  
Senior Biologist, Surf to Snow Environmental Resource Management

**Alessandra Vidal Meza, Ph.D. Candidate**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Ron Vanderhoff**  
Plant Science Chair, California Native Plant Society, Orange County

**Nicole Mathwich, Ph.D.**, University of Arizona  
Assistant Professor, San Diego State University

**David Imper, M.S.**, Oregon State University  
Ecologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Retired

**My-Lan Le, M.S. Candidate**, University of Colorado, Denver  
Graduate Student Researcher, Denver Botanic Gardens

**Eric Focht, Ph.D.**  
Staff Researcher, University of California, Riverside

**Caroline Erickson, M.S.**, San Francisco State University  
Plant Biologist, WRA, Inc.

**Jason Flores**, Florida International University  
Lead Field Technician, National Ecological Observation Network

**John Williams, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis  
Project Scientist, University of California, Davis

**Nicole Jurjavec, M.S.**  
Senior Botanist, Stillwater Sciences & Board of Directors for Northern California Botanists

**Erika Erzberger, M.S.**, University of Idaho  
Board Member, California Native Plant Society, Milo Baker

**David Popp, M.S.**, California State University, Sacramento

**Selena Vengco, M.S.**, Claremont Graduate University

**David Greenberger**

Rare Plant Committee Chair, California Native Plant Society, Marin Chapter

**Chris Winchell, B.S.**, California State University, Fresno

Botanist, H.T. Harvey & Associates

**Vince Scheidt, M.A.**, UCLA

Vice President, California Native Plant Society

**Marina Picciotto, Ph.D.**, The Rockefeller University

Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Pharmacology, Yale University

**Margie Mulligan, M.S.**

Botanist, Mulligan Biological Consulting

**Olivia Jenkins, M.S.**, University of California, Irvine

Biologist, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

**Leslie Saul-Gershenz, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis

Associate Director of Research, Wild Energy Initiative, University of California, Davis, & SaveNature.Org

**Jaden Husser, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Elena Perry, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Gabriel Ingman, M.S.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Meghan Roberts, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Taylor Cook, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

Co-Founder & CEO, The Hurd Co.

**Roxana Lagunas, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Shane O'Brian, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Samantha Lance, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Paul Stapp, Ph.D.**, Colorado State University  
Professor of Biology, California State University Fullerton

**Philip Rundel, Ph.D.**  
Emeritus Professor, UCLA

**Jane M. Packard, Ph.D.**, University of Minnesota  
Associate Professor Emeritus, Texas A&M University

**Edward Huang, Ph.D.**  
Principal Researcher, California Institute of Environmental Design & Management (CIEDM)

**Stephanie Wade, M.S.**, Cornell University  
Consulting Utility Forester, PG&E, Sierra Forestry

**Candace LaCroix, M.S.**  
Natural Resources Specialist, City of South San Francisco

**Patti J Obrien, M.D.**, University of Vermont  
Assistant Professor Clinical Scholar, Department of Medicine, University of Vermont

**Karissa Fong, B.S.**, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona  
Staff Research Associate, University of California, Davis

**Kristie Hill-Cummings, Ph.D.**, Meharry Medical College  
Adjunct Professor, California Indian Nations College

**Allison Keeney, B.S.**, California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo  
Assistant Director, UCLA Mathias Botanical Garden

**Michael Clarkson**, Herpetological Conservation International

**Wendy Chen, DVM Candidate**, University of California, Davis

**Melissa Vezard, M.ESM.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Jenn Yost, Ph.D.**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
Professor of Biology, California Polytechnic State University

**Virginia Matzek, Ph.D.**, Stanford University  
Professor, Santa Clara University

**Leah Gardner, M.S.**

Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist, California State Parks

**Kathleen Brundige, M.A.**, California State University-San Bernardino

Ecologist, Professor of Natural Resources, College of the Desert

**Gretchen North, Ph.D.**, UCLA

Professor of Biology, Occidental College

**Andrew Chambers, B.S.**, California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt

Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Barbara A. Ballenger, R.Ph.**, University of Iowa

**Teresa Burgess, Ph.D.**, University of California, San Francisco

Chief Scientific Officer, Paradigm Shift Therapeutics

**Victoria Stover, B.S.**, California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt

Biologist, ICF

**Mary Lou Rosczyk, M.S.**

Clinical Laboratory Scientist

**Darrel Jenerette, Ph.D.**

Professor, University of California, Riverside

**Nolan Kirby, B.S.**, Western Washington University

Youth Educator, Soil Born Farms

**Steve Schoenig, M.S.**

Branch Chief (retired), Biogeographic Data Branch, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Amy Plesetz**, California State University Long Beach

Wildlife Biologist, Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology & Flora y Fauna LLC

**Beth Lamb, M.S., CHG**, University at Buffalo

Hydrogeologist (Retired)

**Julie Ann Kierstead, M.S.**, Northern Arizona University

California Certified Consulting Botanist #0005; retired Forest Service Botanist, Research Associate, California Academy of Sciences

**Allison Alberts, Ph.D.**, University of California, San Diego  
Senior Advisor, EcoLeaders LLC

**Kent Morris, M.A.**  
Adjunct Professor of Anthropology, Long Beach City College

**Michelle Cloud-Hughes, B.S.**, San Diego State University  
Botanist, Desert Solitaire Botany and Ecological Restoration

**David Wappler, B.A.**, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Field Research Associate, Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology

**Sarah Norris, M.S.**, University of California, Davis  
Senior Scientist | Arborist, Wild Rye Consulting

**Jon Holstein, B.S., PMP**, Humboldt State University  
Program Manager, KMEA

**Kurt Leuschner, M.A.**, University of Florida  
Professor of Natural Resources, College of the Desert

**Trish Gilbert**  
Senior Environmental Scientist, California State Parks

**Holly Forbes, B.A.**, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Senior Museum Scientist, University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley

**Maria Deinzer, M.A.**, University of Oregon  
Academic Advisor, Biological Sciences Career Study

**Joanna Tang, Ph.D. Candidate**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Mark Egger, B.S.**  
Research Associate, WTU Herbarium, Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture

**Brett Butler, Ph.D. Candidate**, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico

**Sandra Namoff, Ph.D.**, Claremont Graduate University  
Consulting Botanist

**Martha Nungesser, Ph.D.**, University of Virginia  
Senior Environmental Scientist (Retired), South Florida Water Management District

**Kerry Winger, M.S.**, Sonoma State University  
Education Outreach Lead, Center for Environmental Inquiry, Sonoma State University

**Jordan Barnett, M.S.**, California State University, Long Beach

**Paula M. Schiffman, Ph.D.**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Professor of Biology, California State University, Northridge

**Marc Mains, B.S.**, Oregon State University  
Associate Wildlife Biologist, Oregon State University

**Julia Kuhlman, M.S.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Clifford E. Trafzer, Ph.D.**, Oklahoma University  
Distinguished Professor of History, Costo Chair in American Indian Affairs, University of California,  
Riverside

**Robert Dragani, M.S.**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Wildlife Biologist & Environmental Consultant

**James Marcell Hall, M.S.**, Stanford University  
Civil Engineer, University of the Pacific, Stanford University

**Annalena Stenger, B.S.**, Western Washington University  
Wildlife Biologist, Teya Enterprises

**Evan Frost, M.S.**, Humboldt State University  
Terrestrial Ecologist, Wildwood Consulting LLC

**Vanessa Tucker, B.S.**, California State University, Fullerton  
Wildlife Biologist

**Loraine Washburn, Ph.D.**, UCLA  
Research Scientist, Colby College

**Tom Fraser, M.S.**  
Biological Project Manager (Retired), WRA

**Susan Fregien, M.S.**  
Aquatic Ecology, Retired, Central Valley Water Boards

**Brent D. Mishler, Ph.D.**, Harvard University  
Distinguished Professor of Integrative Biology, University of California, Berkeley

**Craig Fischer, Ph.D. Candidate**, San Diego State University

**Jill M Jollay, M.S.**, University of Cincinnati  
IUCN Iguana Specialist Group

**Chris Giorni, M.A.**, San Francisco State University  
Executive Director, Tree Frog Treks

**David Hedrick**  
Operations Manager, Desert Tortoise Council

**Judy Haggard, M.A.**, Humboldt State University  
Wildlife Biologist (Retired)

**Elizabeth Delaney, M.D.**, Rutgers University

**Monty Criswell, B.S.**, University of Houston  
Ecologist, GHD

**Jazmine Lakey**  
Field Leader, Student Conservation Association

**Melanie Davis, B.A.**, Evergreen State College  
Assistant Specialist, Botanist, University of California, Riverside

**Edeli Reyes Gonzalez**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
Translation Specialist, Environmental Education, Friends of the Desert Mountains

**Jessica Moodie, M.S.**, University of South Alabama  
Wildlife Biologist, WEST Ecosystems

**Maribel Lopez, M.A.**, Miami University  
Senior Biologist, Ironwood Consulting

**Keir Morse, Ph.D.**, Claremont Graduate University  
Research Associate, California Botanic Garden

**Joseph Phil Parker, MBA**  
Instructor, Conservation and Natural Resources, College of the Desert

**Marisol Villarreal, B.S.**, University of California, Davis  
Environmental Scientist, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

**Melissa Lippincott, M.S.**, University of California, Irvine  
Botanist

**Alexandra Lewandowski, M.S.**, California State University, Fullerton

**Rulon W. Clark, Ph.D.**  
Professor of Biology, San Diego State University

**Leslie A. Kuhn, Ph.D.**, University of Pennsylvania  
Professor emeritus, Michigan State University

**Lydia Halick, B.S.**, Metropolitan State University of Denver  
Keystone Science School

**Becca Stallings, M.N.R.S.**, Colorado State University  
Ecologist, Raven Ecology

**Anna Bonnette**  
Forest Botanist, US Forest Service

**Charlie Fisher, Ph.D.**, University of California, Berkeley  
Emeritus Professor, Brandeis University

**Erin Questad, Ph.D.**, University of Kansas  
Professor, Cal Poly Pomona

**Lusetta Sims, M.S.**  
Botanist, US Forest Service PPSG

**Rayna Fitzgerald, B.S.**, University of California, Berkeley  
Scientific Aid, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Jennifer J Buck-Diaz, M.S.**, University of California, Davis  
Vegetation Ecologist, California Native Plant Society

**Jennifer Riddell, Ph.D.**, Arizona State University  
Botanist, Educator, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resource Dept.

**Clara Abundio Castillo, B.S.**, California State University, Fullerton

**Michael W. Tuma, Ph.D.**, University of Southern California  
Principal Biologist, FirstCarbon Solutions, Inc.

**Bruce Babcock, Ph.D.**, University of California, Berkeley  
Professor and Associate Dean, School of Public Policy, UCR

**E. Fiesler, Ph.D.**  
President, Bioveyda, Minimally-invasive Biological Inventories, Surveys, and Biodiversity Assessments

**Joe Doyle, Ph.D.**

**Maliheh Ghajargar, Ph.D.**, Politecnico di Torino  
Assistant Professor, Chapman University

**Ed LaRue, Jr., M.S.**, Ohio State University  
Circle Mountain Biological Consultants

**Diana Cosand, M.A.**, California State University  
Professor, Chaffey College

**Rebecca Jean Emigh, Ph.D.**, University of Chicago  
Professor of Sociology, UCLA

**Aliz Raksi, Ph.D.**, UCLA  
Senior Bioinformatics Scientist, Bionano Genomics

**Abby Bake, M.S., Ph.D. Candidate**, University of Utah

**Griffin Capehart, M.S.**, California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo  
Staff Biologist, ECORP Consulting, Inc.

**Stephanie Pincetl, Ph.D.**, UCLA  
Professor, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, UCLA

**Adriana Hernandez, Ph.D.**, Cornell University  
Associate Director for Research, Stanford University, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

**Shreya Singh, B.S.**, California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo  
Biologist, GEI Consultants

**Thomas Wilkinson Mulroy, Ph.D.**, University of California, Irvine  
Research Associate, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

**Leslie Backus, M.S.**, University of Central Florida  
Wildlife Biologist & Spatial Analyst, Wild Sky and Moonfire

**Michael Long**, California State University Los Angeles  
Natural Areas Administrator, retired, Los Angeles County Natural Areas/Nature Centers

**Tobin Hammer, Ph.D.**, University of Colorado Boulder  
Assistant Professor, UC Irvine

**Angus Nairn, Ph.D.**, Birmingham University, England  
Charles B. G. Murphy Professor of Psychiatry, Yale University

**Dylan Cohen, Ph.D.**, Claremont Graduate University  
Postdoctoral researcher, Chicago Botanic Garden

**Robert Douglas Stone, Ph.D.**, University of California, Berkeley  
Research Associate, California Botanic Garden

**Joseph Cicero, B.S.**, University of Maine  
Biologist

**Irana Hawkins, Ph.D., MPH**, Simmons College  
Founder, Nature's Dietician®

**Joseph Meier, Ph.D.**, UC San Diego  
Associate Professor, ArtCenter College of Design

**Sean Christopher Lahmeyer, M.S.**, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona  
Associate Director of Botanical Collections, Conservation and Research, The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical

**Seth Baker, B.S.**, ArtCenter College of Design  
Gardens Principal Designer & Head Gardener EVC, Huntington Botanical Garden

**Theodore Garland, Jr., Ph.D.**, University of California, Irvine  
Distinguished Professor, University of California, Riverside

**Carrie Strohl, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis  
Leader & Board President, The School Garden Doctor

**Daniel Moen, Ph.D.**, Stony Brook University  
Assistant Professor, University of California, Riverside

**Allison Kreiley, B.S.**, UMass Boston  
Hydrographer, USGS

**Joe Mueller, M.S.**, Sonoma State University  
Professor of Biology, College of Marin

**Patricia M. Corry, Ph.D.**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Biologist

**Helen Payne, Ph.D. Candidate**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Debra D. Hiraki, Ph.D.**  
Laboratory Supervisor, retired, Stanford Health Care

**Ashley Tuggle, MEM**, Duke University  
Senior Environmental Project Manager, Amigo Environmental

**Virginia Meyer, Ph.D.**  
Professor Emerita, Sacramento City College

**Ed Ryken, B.S.**, University of Southern California  
Coordinator of Bird Docents Alcatraz Island, Collaborative Innovation

**Eric Diesel, Ph.D.**, Stanford University

**Dr. S. Hollis Woodard, Ph.D.**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Associate Professor of Entomology, University of California, Riverside

**Henrik Kibak, Ph.D.**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
Professor of Biology, Emeritus, California State University, Monterey Bay

**Amy Brewster, M.S.**  
Volunteer, Anza-Borrego Natural History Association

**Ken Buegeleisen**  
Treasurer, The Fungal Diversity Survey

**Jeanna Mielcarek, B.S.**, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Ecologist

**Brandy Wood, M.S.**, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona  
Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**David Reznick, Ph.D.**, University of Pennsylvania  
Distinguished Professor, University of California, Riverside

**Sharif Durzi, B.A.**, University of Colorado Boulder  
Ecologist, SWCA Environmental Consultants

**Rachael L. Olliff Yang, Ph.D.**, University of California, Berkeley  
Science Technical Support, California Biodiversity Network

**Barbara Brydolf, Ph.D.**, University of California, San Diego  
Retired field biologist, California Native Plant Society, Alta Peak Chapter

**Guy A. Jett, M.S.**, University of Wyoming  
California Professional Geologist, Retired

**Katherine Waselkov, Ph.D.**, Washington University in St. Louis  
Associate professor of Biology, California State University, Fresno

**Earle Cummings, M.S.**, University of California, Davis  
Retired Manager Urban Stream Restoration Program, California Natural Resources Agency

**Edith Read, Ph.D.**, University of California, Irvine  
Senior Ecologist, E Read and Associates Inc

**Andrew Sunda, M.S. Candidate**, California State University, Los Angeles  
Geologist, California State University, Los Angeles

**Leif Richardson, Ph.D.**, Dartmouth College  
Conservation Biologist, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

**Emma Agruss, M.A.**, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Archaeologist, University of Hawaii at Manoa

**Glen Holstein, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis  
Board Member of Tuleyome and Yolo Colusa CNPS Chapter

**Taylor Broadhead, M.S.**, Purdue University

Senior Manager, Water Policy, Audubon California

**Geoffrey Geupel**, Lewis & Clark College

Director of Strategic Partnerships, Point Blue Conservation Science

**Rebecca Hiller, M.S. Candidate**, University of Hawaii at Manoa

**Arren M Allegretti, Ph.D.**

Social-ecological Scientist, Associate Ecologist, Live Oak Associates Inc.

**Kenneth Abernathy**, California Naturalist

Director, Caterpillar Chow Habitat Farms

**Tony LaBanca, M.S.**

Retired Ecologist & Manager, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Catherine Buchanan, M.S.**, University of Toledo

Environmental Resources Engineer, Chemist, & Biologist

**Cecilia Ledesma, B.S.**, Humboldt State University

Marine Science Educator, The Marine Mammal Center

**Anna Feerick, Ph.D. Candidate**, University of California, Davis

**Michelle Forys**

Environmental Scientist, California State Parks

**Audra Barrios, B.S.**, University of California, Santa Cruz

Biologist and Executive Director, Things That Creep

**Nicolette Gordon, M.S.**, California State University, San Marcos

**Debra Barringer, M.S.**, Colorado State University

Restoration Ecologist, Ventura County Resource Conservation District

**Monica Matthews, M.S.**, Purdue University Fort Wayne

Conservation Ecologist, Ventura County Resource Conservation District

**George Butterworth**

Botanist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Alexandra Dorough, B.S.**, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Botanist, ECORP Consulting

**Thomas W. Keeney, B.S.**, Certified Wildlife Biologist

Senior Ecologist & Natural Resources Manager, Retired, USDA Forest Service, Naval Air Station Pt. Mugu,  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District

**Julie A. Weeder, M.S.**, Michigan State University

Ecologist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Lucas Basulto**, Humboldt State University

Desert Ecologist, Buzzard Rock Consulting

**Michael Klima, B.S.**, Humboldt State University

Associate Environmental Planner, Caltrans

**Lawrence E. Hunt, M.S., Ph.D. Candidate**

Consulting Biologist, Hunt & Associates Biological Consulting

**Lindsey Saum, Ph.D.**, University of California, Riverside

Senior Environmental Scientist, Specialist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Clinton Kellner, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis

Botanist and Entomologist

**Patricia Bohls, M.S.**, University of California, Davis

Senior Scientist (Specialist), California Department of Food and Agriculture, Pollinator Habitat Program

**Liliana Lettieri, Ph.D.**, Georgia Institute of Technology

Program Manager, Vantiva Precision BioDevices

**Megan Lulow, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis

Executive Director UCI Nature, University of California, Irvine

**Lauren Sullivan, M.S.**, Louisiana State University

Area Biologist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Rachelle McLaughlin, B.A.**

Wildlife Biologist

**Natasha Dvorak, B.S.**, Pitzer College

Biologist, Swaim Biological, Inc.

**Mindy Brooks, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis

**Aleks Ljubisavljevic, B.S.**, California State University, Monterey Bay  
Environmental Scientist, California State Parks

**Jana Mariposa Niernberger Muhar, Esq.**  
Horticulturist, Mariposa Habitat Nursery

**Martha L. Booz, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis  
Bio-Rad Laboratories, Retired, Life Science Group

**Dianne DuBois, M.S.**, Antioch University  
Staff Scientist, Center for Biological Diversity

**Alison Gardner**, Certified Botanical Surveyor  
Collector & Propagator, Jug Handle Native Plant Nursery

**Maia Jones, Ph.D.**, Washington University in St. Louis

**Jared Heuck, M.S.**, California State University, Fullerton  
Fossil Preparation Laboratory Manager, Raymond Alf Museum of Paleontology

**Heidi E M Dobson, Ph.D.**, University of California, Berkeley  
Professor of Biology, Whitman College

**Nicole Greene, Ph.D.**, University of California, Berkeley  
Principal Scientist, Roche Diagnostics

**Jennifer Van Gelder, M.S.**, Humboldt State University  
Biologist & Owner, Van Gelder Biological & CoRenewal

**Kathlyn Robbins, Ph.D.**  
Research Scientist, Retired, National Institute of Health (NIH)

**David B Casterson, B.S.**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
High School Biology Teacher, Retired, Santa Cruz City School District

**James Price, Ph.D.**, University of California, San Francisco  
Scientist, Checkerspot

**John P. Anderson, Ph.D.**

Senior Scientist, Retired, Elan Pharmaceuticals, Restoration Technician, Retired, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

**Cody Schaaf, M.S.**, University of Amsterdam  
Consulting Ecologist

**Michael P. Gonella, Ph.D.**, Miami University  
Chair & Professor of Horticulture, Santa Barbara City College

**Ruby Kwan-Davis, M.S.**, California State University, Monterey Bay  
Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Joanne Heraty, M.S.**  
Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Thomas Lindberg, B.S.**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
Associate Hydrologist, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

**Matt Cronin, B.A.**, Colorado College  
Biochemist

**Thor Anderson, M.S.**, California State University, Monterey Bay  
Senior Ecologist, California Society for Ecological Restoration

**Joia Fishman, M.S.**, San Jose State University  
Nursery Specialist & Biologist, Avila & Associates

**Gary Falxa, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis  
Wildlife Biologist, Retired, USFWS

**Linda Mutch, M.S.**, University of Arizona  
Science Communication Specialist, Retired, National Park Service

**Anna L. Weitzman, Ph.D.**, Harvard University

**Marcia Hamann Wolfe**, Senior Certified Ecologist  
President, MH Wolfe and Associates Environmental Consulting, Inc

**Linda Jahnke, B.A.**, University of California, Berkeley  
Research Scientist, Astrobiology, Retired, Space Sciences, NASA civil service

**Alana Dixon, M.S.**, University of California, Santa Barbara

Laboratory Technician, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

**Tedmund J. Swiecki, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis  
Principal Plant Pathologist, Phytosphere Research

**Elizabeth A DeJarnatt, R.N., PHN., M.S.**  
Credentialed School Nurse, Jefferson E. School District

**Bailey Jorgensen, M.S.**, State University of New York Maritime College  
Collections Manager, Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology

**Dennis Pilien, M.A., M.Ed.**, California State University, Long Beach  
Adjunct Professor, Retired, Fullerton College

**Christopher Payne, M.D.**, Vanderbilt University  
Emeritus Professor of Medicine, Stanford University

**Diane Cornwall, M.S.**, The Mackay School - University of Nevada, Reno  
San Francisco State University Sierra Nevada Field Campus

**Robert H Zimmerman, Ph.D.**

**Doug Mandel, B.S.**  
President, Ghost Pine Native Plant Nonprofit Nursery

**Sarah Schmid, B.S.**, University of Florida  
Principal Biologist, Dudek

**Jane Valerius, M.S.**, Colorado State University, Fort Collins  
Botanist & Wetland Ecologist, Jane Valerius Environmental Consulting

**Marit Doshi, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis

**Amy I. Binion, B.S.**, Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Laboratory Analyst

**Eva Grotkopp Kuo, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis  
Research Scientist, HamboLab, Inc.

**Roman LoBianco, M.S.**, California State University, East Bay  
Wildlife Biologist, Chautauqua Institution

**Vicki Thill, M.S.**, University of Nevada, Reno  
Biologist Consultant, Westland Resources

**John S Munzinger, Ph.D.**, Ohio State University  
Briar Cliff University and University of San Diego

**Sara Chandler, M.S.**, San Jose State University  
Senior Biologist, Sequoia Ecological Consulting

**Gabriela Rincon, Ph.D. Candidate**, Stanford University

**Kelly Cohen, B.S.**, University of California, Davis  
Senior Environmental Planner- Wildlife Biologist, Retired, California Dept. of Transportation, Office of Biological Studies

**Alan Kaufmann, M.S.**, Northern Arizona University  
Senior Conservation Program Director, Laguna Canyon Foundation

**Elias Aceves, M.A.**, Stanford University  
Plurinational Land Reform in CA Working Group

**Richard "Chip" Cochran, Ph.D.**, Loma Linda University

**Philip Clevinger**  
Biologist, WSP international

**Dawson Verley, M.S. Candidate**, University of California, Berkeley

**Andre Ngo, Ph.D.**, University of Toronto  
Director of Research and Conservation, Little Ray's Reptile Zoo

**Liberty Walton, B.S.**, Stanford University

**Andrew Adams**  
Animal Keeper, California Living Museum

**Patricia Brown, Ph.D.**, UCLA  
Research Biologist

**Emily Hoefft, B.S.**, Humboldt State University  
Science Laboratory Instructional Assistant & Botanist, Santa Rosa Junior College

**William Rainey, Ph.D.**, University of California, Berkeley  
Research Biologist, Retired

**Mishuana Goeman, Ph.D.**, Stanford University  
Professor, Chair and President of American Studies Association, University at Buffalo

**David Delgado Shorter, Ph.D.**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
Professor, UCLA

**Stephanie M Aguilon, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA

**Gregory F. Grether, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis  
Professor of Biology, University of California, Los Angeles

**Jory Chapin Lerback, Ph.D.**, University of Utah  
Postdoctoral Researcher, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

**Ailee Montalvo, Ph.D.**, University of California, Riverside  
Restoration Ecologist, Retired, Riverside Corona RCD

**Thomas W. Gillespie, Ph.D.**, University of California, Los Angeles  
Professor, University of California, Los Angeles

**Deborah Lutterschmidt, Ph.D.**, Oregon State University  
Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine

**Kevin Thornton, Ph.D.**, University of Chicago  
Professor, UC Irvine

**Nichole Procter, M.S., Ph.D. Candidate**, University of California, Irvine

**Lauren Merlino, M.S., Ph.D. Candidate**, University of California, Irvine

**Nathan Thuma, M.D.**, Indiana University, Bloomington  
Psychiatrist, Napa State Hospital

**Adriana Briscoe, Ph.D.**, Harvard University  
Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Member of the National Academy of Sciences, University of California, Irvine

**Dominika Dmitruk, M.S.**, Warsaw University of Life Sciences

Visiting Scholar, University of California, Davis

**Catherine Horkay, B.S.**, Stanford University  
Research Assistant, Stanford University

**Mark Estelel, Ph.D.**, University of Alberta, Canada  
Distinguished Professor, University of California, San Diego

**Carolyn Kurle, Ph.D.**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
Conservation Biology Professor, University of California, San Diego

**Kevin Mendoza, Ph.D.**, University of Utah

**Claudia Ponath, M.A.**  
Project Director, University of California, San Francisco

**Emilio Grande, Ph.D.**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
Assistant Professor, California State University, East Bay

**Robin Kobaly, M.S.**, University of California, Riverside  
Botanist, Executive Director, The SummerTree Institute

**Kelly Herbinson, M.S.**, San Francisco State University  
Executive Director, Mojave Desert Land Trust

**Michael F. Allen, Ph.D.**, University of Wyoming  
Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of California, Riverside

**Andrea Jones, M.S.**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Senior Director of Conservation, Audubon California

**Will Harlan, M.S.**, Clemson University  
Senior Scientist, Center for Biological Diversity

**Ileene Anderson, M.S.**, California State University, Northridge  
Senior Scientist, Center for Biological Diversity

**Daniel Orr, M.S.**, California State University, Monterey Bay  
Director, National Audubon Society

**Sandy DeSimone, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis  
Director research, education and land management, Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary

**Thomas Gates, Ph.D.**

Anthropologist, Preservation Management Services

**Ashley Seufzer, M.S.,** University of Wisconsin, Madison

Program Manager, National Audubon Society

**Keilani Bonis-Ericksen, M.S.,** University of Hawaii at Hilo

Geospatial Analyst, National Audubon Society

**Cristina Juran, M.S.,** Brigham Young University

Wildlife Biologist, Psomas

**Joanna Grand, Ph.D.,** University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Director, Spatial Conservation Science, National Audubon Society

**Eric Daniels, Ph.D. Candidate,** Princeton University

**Madhavi Colton, Ph.D.,** University of Melbourne

Executive Director, Stone Center for Environmental Stewardship, University of California, Berkeley

**Autumn Iverson, Ph.D.,** University of California, Davis

Senior Avian Ecologist, Point Blue Conservation Science

**Jerry Freilich, Ph.D.**

Research Coordinator, Retired, US National Park Service

**Jennifer Gee, Ph.D.,** Princeton University

Director of the James San Jacinto Mountains Reserve, University of California Natural Reserve System (UCR)

**Grant Ballard, Ph.D.,** The University of Auckland

Chief Science Officer, Point Blue Conservation Science

**Melissa Weaver, Ph.D.,** Center for Limnology, University of Wisconsin

Research Scientist - Limnologist, Retired, Sigma Xi, American Society for Limnology and Oceanography

**Kathleen McAfee, Ph.D.,** University of California, Berkeley

Professor Emerita, San Francisco State University

**Polly McWhorter Quick, Ph.D.,** Harvard University

Instructor of Anthropology, Retired, University of California-Berkeley, San Francisco State University

**Christopher Pincetich, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis  
Senior Environmental Scientist

**Carolyn Losee, R.P.A., M.A.**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
Owner/Principal, Archaeological Resources Technology

**Roger A Burger, Ph.D.**  
Independent Consultant

**Kristen Strohm, M.S.**, Colorado State University  
Director, Wolf Creek Community Alliance

**Adrienne Frisbee, M.S.**, University of Florida  
Biology Faculty, Cabrillo College

**Jennifer Funk, Ph.D.**, Stony Brook University  
Professor, University of California, Davis

**Bradford Martin, Ph.D.**, Loma Linda University  
Adjunct Professor of Biology, La Sierra University, Crafton Hills College, Loma Linda University

**Tracy Ferea, Ph.D.**, University of California, Santa Cruz

**Joy T Barnitz, M.Div., Ph.D.**, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Alava Biopharm Partners

**Woody Elliott, M.S., Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis  
State Park Environmental Scientist, Retired, California State Parks

**Paul Barber, Ph.D.**, University of California, Berkeley  
Professor, University of California, Los Angeles

**Blaire Van Valkenburgh, Ph.D.**, Johns Hopkins University  
Distinguished Research Professor, University of California, Los Angeles

**Albert Ruhi, Ph.D.**, University of Girona  
Professor of Freshwater Ecology and Conservation, University of California, Berkeley

**Sandra Starkey, Ph.D.**, University of Missouri  
Associate Professor, Retired, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

**Patrick Frost, M.S.**

Adjunct Faculty in Biology, Shasta College

**Alison O'Dowd, Ph.D.**, University of California, Berkeley

Professor and Chair, Cal Poly Humboldt

**Jim Graham, Ph.D.**, Colorado State University

Professor, Cal Poly Humboldt

**Daniel Gluesenkamp, Ph.D.**, University of California, Berkeley

President, California Institute for Biodiversity

**Thomas B Smith, Ph.D.**, University of California, Berkeley

Professor, UCLA