



**September 23, 2020**

**Contacts:**

Juan Altamirano, Audubon, [jaltamirano@audubon.org](mailto:jaltamirano@audubon.org) 714-319-0303  
 Jeanne Merrill, CalCAN, [jmerrill@calclimateag.org](mailto:jmerrill@calclimateag.org) 916-600-0083  
 Chuck Mills, CA Releaf, [cmills@californiareleaf.org](mailto:cmills@californiareleaf.org) 916-798-6075  
 Heather Gately, The Nature Conservancy, [heather.gately@tnc.org](mailto:heather.gately@tnc.org) 773-474-4500

**Governor Newsom's Climate Executive Order is an Important Step  
 But Natural and Working Lands Must Be Part of the Climate Solution**

Governor Newsom's climate executive order issued today took bold and essential steps to address transportation emissions. Our organizations applaud today's action and call on the Administration to take equally bold action to better include natural and working lands in the state's climate strategy.

California's unparalleled and rich biodiversity is the very fabric that makes up our different landscapes. These natural and agricultural lands underpin most of our economy, our food security, and water supply, provide local access to trees and green space, and sustain the stunning landscapes, fish and wildlife, and bountiful foods that Californians treasure. These lands can be a powerful ally in the fight to combat climate change, but past management, land use decisions, and climate change present huge challenges to creating and maintaining healthy landscapes and protecting underserved communities.

Science-driven nature-based solutions will serve all Californians, but especially front-line communities who will be more impacted by our changing climate. Accelerating these solutions — from local parks to urban forests, to wetlands, healthy soils and more fire-resilient landscapes — will strengthen efforts to create healthier places to live, mitigate heat and flood risk, and combat the systemic redlining that has placed disproportionate climate burdens on communities of color.

California has the unique opportunity to transform the critical climate challenges currently facing our natural and working lands and unique biodiversity into powerful climate change solutions. Actions to protect and improve management of land to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate impacts from fire, drought, and sea level rise will also improve air and water quality; protect biodiversity; create jobs; and support equity across California communities.

We call on Governor Newsom to lead California and the nation in taking real steps to activate our forests, farms, wetlands, deserts, and urban green spaces as part of our climate solution. We look forward to collaborating with the Administration to make these essential solutions a reality.