**The California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC) is currently working on its charter, to be available in the near future, that includes goals and objectives. The charter will describe CA LCC goals, organizations, and decision methods. Information on this page is draft and is not finalized by the Interim Steering Committee.**

**Purpose**

The CA LCC is a management-science partnership informing and promoting integrated science, natural resource management and conservation to address impacts of climate change and other stressors within and across ecosystems.

**Scope and Timing**

The geographic scope of the CA LCC is depicted in [Figure 1. (PDF)](http://californialcc.org/docs/maps/r8_sublcc2.pdf). It consists of two Subunits.

SierraBay Subunit: Extends from the Sierra Nevada mountains to the San Francisco Bay. The SierraBay subunit contains lands and waters within the watersheds of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, Tulare Lake, and San Francisco Bay. It includes the Central Valley, foothills and western slopes of the Sierra Nevada, and coastal headlands that border San Francisco Bay.

Coastal Southern Subunit: Consists of the coastal mountain ranges of central California, southern California and northern Mexico, lands between the Mojave Desert and the Pacific Ocean, and numerous offshore islands.

The CA LCC is being convened in two phases. Phase I began in early 2010 and focused on coordinating partners and initial funding decisions in the SierraBay Subunit. Phase II beginning at the end of 2010 will expand the CA LCC into its full geographic scope and organizational representation by adding partners from the Coastal Southern Subunit as well as the SierraBay Subunit. The CA LCC is expected to be fully formed and functioning by the middle of calendar year 2011. Work is currently underway to expand into the Coastal Southern Subunit.

**Goals**

The following goals have been identified by the Interim Steering Committee: Foster collaboration and integration of science and management. Support research, monitoring, and the development of technical products to inform and enhance conservation decisions and actions. Facilitate information acquisition, interpretation, translation, exchange and availability. Promote adaptive management strategies. Communicate information, findings, activities, and opportunities within and outside the LCC community.

**CA LCC Guiding Principles**

Within the CA LCC geographic scope and community, many existing natural resource conservation efforts are conducted by individual organizations and partnerships. The CA LCC will: Strengthen existing partnerships by providing new science capacity to help them address their priority conservation needs. The CA LCC will not replace or supplant existing conservation partnerships. Provide enhanced scientific capabilities to help conservation delivery in consideration of climate change. The CA LCC will not be a vehicle for conservation delivery. Provide agencies with additional science information and tools to help them address issues impacting management of wildlife and associated ecosystems. The CA LCC will not supercede federal, state, local and tribal natural resource management authorities.

**Organizational Structure**

The CA LCC is being initially governed by an Interim Steering Committee (ISC). As the partnership expands, the composition of the Steering Committee will change. The ISC will be replaced by a permanent organizational structure after the entire geographic scope of the CA LCC has been encompassed.

ISC Responsibilities: Serve as the interim executive body for decision making. Develop the initial organizational structure. Promote cooperation, coordination, consolidation of information, and collaboration among partner organizations to support the purpose, goals, objectives, and priorities of the CA LCC. Prioritize projects, and make funding decisions (as advised by a Project Selection Subcommittee described below) for implementation and funding. Determine funding timelines, identify funding opportunities and other available resources (e.g., staff, in-kind services) to support priority projects and activities. Establish the initial CA LCC Charter and support Phase II development of the CA LCC and the selection of a permanent Steering Committee. Oversee and advise communication within the CA LCC community. Solicit input and participation from their agency/organization and provide their management, technical staff, colleagues, and/or constituents updates and progress of the CA LCC.

[List of Interim Steering Committee Agencies](http://californialcc.org/partners.html#steering)

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Subcommittees will be formed to address priority CA LCC topics and will be comprised of governmental, non-governmental, and Tribal representatives. Currently, the Subcommittees supporting the CA LCC include: Goals Subcommittee. This group is preparing interim goals and the proposed CA LCC Purpose Statement. The Purpose Statement and Goals guide decisions on the interim work to be conducted by the CA LCC.

Structure Subcommittee. This group is preparing the proposed organizational structure and decision-making methods that the CA LCC will use to discuss key topics and make key decisions. Science Subcommittee. This group will provide technical support and help identify data and information needs for the CA LCC. An initial task of this group is to identify short-term priorities for project funding in FY 2011.

**Staff**

The CA LCC is supported by a full time staff directed by and reporting to the Steering Committee. The CA LCC Coordinator Debra Schlafmann and associated staff are responsible for creation and delivery of technical products to the Steering Committee, and for facilitating and assisting the subcommittees created by the Committee to pursue the goals of the program. The CA LCC Coordinator serves as the liaison between other established committees and the Steering Committee and will facilitate Steering Committee meetings, ensure information is communicated to all members, maintain records, and ensure decisions are implemented.