

MOTION

On the 7th of October, 2020, Governor Newsom issued an executive order enlisting California’s vast network of natural and working lands – forests, rangelands, farms, wetlands, coast, deserts and urban greenspaces – in the fight against climate change.

The order directs state agencies to deploy a number of strategies to store carbon in the state’s natural and working lands and remove it from the atmosphere. The order also sets a first-in-the-nation goal to conserve 30 percent of the state’s land and coastal water by 2030 to fight species loss and ecosystem destruction.

Leading conservation scientists, Indigenous leaders, and international organizations like the United Nations International Convention on Biodiversity say that in order to stop the dual extinction and climate crises and preserve clean water, clean air, and a stable climate, we need to conserve 50% of the planet by 2050. In the United States, that means we need to conserve 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030. This goal entails the following steps:

- Conserve and restore large, intact landscapes and wildlife corridors;
- Implement land conservation strategies that contribute to climate solutions;
- Support the conservation and stewardship vision and priorities of Tribal Nations;
- Conserve more open lands and parks near communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities.

Sixty percent of lands in the continental United States are in a largely natural condition or could plausibly be restored to a natural condition. With an ambitious agenda and strong leadership, we can still conserve a substantial portion of remaining wildlife and natural areas.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Department of City Planning, in consultation with the Chief Legislative Analyst and any other department as needed, to report on the feasibility of the City independently joining the 30x30 Conservation campaign, and committing to conserving 30% of the City’s land for open space and conservation.

PRESENTED BY: _____
DAVID RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: _____