



## CNPS CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT

Approved by Chapter Council, June 10 2017

- Climate is a significant factor effecting natural ecosystems, including California flora.
- CNPS recognizes that climate change is real and that the current rate of global warming is faster than nonhuman natural forces would produce. Based on overwhelming evidence and broad scientific consensus, we hold that human actions, including greenhouse gas emissions, are major contributors to local and global climate change. This recognition follows the work of world leading institutions and organizations, including the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change<sup>1</sup>, the United States National Academy of Sciences<sup>2</sup>, and the American Geophysical Union<sup>3</sup>. CNPS recognizes that climate change is a current and future stress on California's native flora, especially when added to other human activities, including habitat loss, introduction of non-native species, and blocking landscape linkages.
- CNPS supports science-based, rational policies and actions, on the local, state, national, and international levels, that lead to the reduction of greenhouse gases without endangering California's native flora. We urge all Californians and CNPS members to do their part to protect California's native plants.
- CNPS recognizes that because the effects of current climate change will span centuries to come, we need to identify and enact conservation measures that must be undertaken now and in years and decades to come, given the context of predicted but uncertain future conditions. We also recognize that further efforts, many of them unforeseeable, will be needed to protect California's native plants.
- CNPS supports research on climate change and its effects on California native plants. Such research can include, but is not limited to, studying probable changes in local microclimates and their effects on native plants, and novel conservation methods.

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch), accessed June 4, 2017

<sup>2</sup> <http://nas-sites.org/americasclimatechoices/events/a-discussion-on-climate-change-evidence-and-causes/>, accessed June 4, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> [http://sites.agu.org/sciencepolicy/files/2013/07/AGU-Climate-Change-Position-Statement\\_August-2013.pdf](http://sites.agu.org/sciencepolicy/files/2013/07/AGU-Climate-Change-Position-Statement_August-2013.pdf), accessed June 4, 2017.