**Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project**

**Process Outline**

**January 21, 2015**

This document outlines the process for meeting the Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project (CVLCP) goal and objectives. This CVLCP is a dynamic **process** for partners to define strategic climate-smart adaptation goals, objectives, strategies, and actions for the Central Valley landscape. Result will be **products** that include integrated information, maps, and tools that help partners identify the locations at which the adaptation strategies and actions will provide the most benefit.

**Project Goal**

In partnership with natural resource managers and scientists, identify climate-smart conservation actions that will maximize the adaptive capacity of priority species, habitats, and ecosystems to support an ecologically connected Central Valley landscape.

**Conservation Objectives**

**Objective 1.** Conserve resilient and adaptable ecosystems that sustain future Central Valley biodiversity.

**Objective 2.** Promote landscape-scale connectivity and ecological and physical processes that function within current and future ranges of variability to support diverse and thriving Central Valley.

**Objective 3.** Reduce the impacts of climate change and other co-occurring stressors to Central Valley ecosystems.

**Iterative Steps**

Steps one, two, and three will be completed through this project. Step four will be completed by the project partners. Step five will be completed with assistance of the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC) after implementation of adaptation actions.

**Step 1 – Define Goals and Identify Priority Natural Resources**

**Step 2 – Assess Vulnerability of Priority Natural Resources**

**Step 3 – Identify Adaptation Strategies and Actions**

**Step 4 – Partners Implement Adaptation Options**

**Step 5 – Monitor Effectiveness and Revise Strategies, & Actions**

**Deliverables**

**Building off of decades of conservation efforts in the Central Valley, this project will develop:**

1. Lists of priority natural resources that will be representative of the Central Valley and the focus for this project.
2. Vulnerability assessments and scenario planning for identified priority natural resources.
3. Adaptation strategies developed for the priority natural resources.
4. Spatially explicit options for conservation action that will support resilience and adaptation of priority natural resources.
5. An online toolbox and outreach plan to help partners use and apply the adaptation strategies and conservation options.

6. A “lessons learned” document to adjust current efforts and inform future work on climate smart conservation and adaptation strategies.

**Process Outline**

**Step 1 – Define Goals, Objectives and Identify Priority Natural Resources**

**1.1**  Collect existing conservation goals, objectives, and priority natural resources (species, habitats, and ecosystems) identified by partners

**1.2** Develop forward-looking, climate-smart conservation goals and objectives to guide the project.

**1.3** Use scenario planning to visualize future conditions in the Central Valley.

**1.4** Based on future conditions, identify priority natural resources that will focus efforts for this project.

**Step 2 – Assess Vulnerability of Priority Natural Resources**

**2.1** Synthesize and review existing data, information, and models regarding the futurecapability of the landscape to support priority natural resources.

**2.2** Conduct scenario planning and vulnerability assessments to evaluate the adaptive capacity of priority natural resources.

**2.3** Reassess goals, objectives, and priority natural resources.

**Step 3 – Identify Adaptation Strategies and Actions**

**3.1** Develop spatially-explicit climate-smart conservation strategies and actions for land protection, land management, and restoration actions.

**Step 4 – Implement Adaptation Strategies and Actions**

**4.1** Develop an outreach plan to assist with sharing the strategies.

**4.2** Partners cooperatively implement climate-smart conservation actions.

**Step 5 - Monitor Effectiveness and Revise Strategies & Actions**

**5.1** Periodically survey partners to gather data on actions taken and update spatially-explicit climate-smart conservation strategies.

**5.2** Develop lessons learned which can be used to revise current process and improve climate-smart adaptation strategies elsewhere.

**5.3** Review and revise climate-smart strategies and actions.

