

Plenary Regional Meetings Notes

March 7, 2017 – California Land Conservation Conference

This is a compilation of the regional breakout group reports from the 2017 annual conference, Day 1 regarding characteristics and issues in the regions. A map of the regions is provided at the end.

Central Valley:

Strengths of the Region:

- Food and agriculture.
- Reasonable cost of living.
- Water recharge.
- Investment in youth programs.
- Outside of the box partnerships.
- Growth (mitigation).

Challenges of the Region:

- Poverty.
- Food deserts.
- Least amount of land trusts.
- Water overdraft.
- SGMA.
- Divide between urban and rural.
- Need for nonprofits in other areas.
- Air quality.

Opportunities for CCLT:

- Information regarding legislation.
- Represent the issues without alienation.
- Convene land trusts.
- Strengthen partnerships.
- New initiatives.
- Information about new trends.
- Encouragement and inspiration.
- Risk taking.
- Foster relationships with California Endowment or other organizations.

Central Coast:

Strengths of the Region:

- Best part of California (tongue in cheek).
- High level of conservation thinking.
- Highly regulated

Challenges of the Region:

- Land is expensive.
- Especially hard with agriculture.
- Coast vs. inland areas (different audiences).
- Going beyond conservation creates splits.

Opportunities for CCLT:

- Help with Sacramento agencies and federal resource agencies.
- Get prepared for post-regulatory environment.

Northern California:

Strengths of the Region:

- Vast!
- Coastal zone regulations.
- Resources in high quality.
- Tribal history.
- Strong local communities.

Challenges of the Region:

- Hard to define/make it cohesive.
- Funding.
- Impacts of cannabis.
- Geographic isolation.
- Lack of job opportunities (vulnerable to development).
- Fewer voters.
- Hard to connect stories to urban areas.

Opportunities for CCLT:

- Advocate for funding and with state/federal agencies.
- Build relationships with urban areas (sister land trusts).
- Water policy committee.
- Expand representation.
- Get out on the land.
- Standardization of best practices (technical assistance).
- Accreditation specific to California.
- Support regional councils.
- Affinity groups.

Sierra:

Strengths of the Region:

- Natural resources (i.e. water and timber).
- Recreation opportunities.
- Vast wild lands.

Challenges of the Region:

- Lack of financial investment.
- Lack of political clout.
- Loved to death (no resources to manage influx of people who visit).

Opportunities for CCLT:

- Bridge between urban and rural areas.
- Authentic partnerships (communities and land trusts).
- Engage in conversation about water policy (especially Watershed Improvement Partnership).

Bay Area:

Strengths of the Region:

- Ecological diversity.
- Progressive.
- Intellectual capital.
- Conservation tradition.
- Belief in science.
- Many partners and opportunities for collaboration.
- Sense of urgency.
- Trend setters.
- Donor base.

Challenges for the Region:

- Do not have good political advocates.
- Crowded field.
- Land is expensive.
- Donors are distracted/hard to get attention.
- Aging donor base.
- Growing population and development pressure.
- Lack of diversity on staff and board.
- Not reaching constituencies.
- Need to understand how other cultures approach nature.
- Cannabis.
- Live in a bubble.

Opportunities for CCLT:

- Connect to partner groups.
- Best practices.
- Include college students in events to create pipeline of recruits.
- Internships.
- Language best practices.
- Diversity inclusion issues.
- Disseminate science.
- Workshops (how people have been successful and share).
- Partnerships/mergers.
- Honest conversations about how we are bumping into each other.
- TIO and Conservation Horizons.
- Policy level work both state and federal and how to do it ourselves.
- State park protection.

Southern California:

Strengths of the Region:

- Varied ecology and economic areas.
- Diverse and large population.
- Opportunities for education and engagement.
- Positive engagement experiences.
- Lots of legislators.

Challenges of the Region:

- Diverse and large population.
- Financial resource struggles.
- Expensive land.
- Expanding partnerships (i.e., healthcare, education).

Opportunities for CCLT:

- Advocate.
- Help with more financial resources.

