



JUNE 2025

CONSERVATION CATCH-UP



Celebrating Beach Ranch Conservation Project

In May, CalConservation joined the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, California Coastal Conservancy, and Wildlife Conservation Board to celebrate the conservation of Beach Ranch in Santa Cruz County. The project protects 247 acres of habitat, farmland, and community protection against flooding.

[Learn More](#)



CalGEM Geologist Discovers Rare Fossil

Adelaida Springs Receives \$2.6 Million Conservation Easement



The Department's own Chris Driesbach made a notable fossil discovery! Chris unearthed an "unusually complete" whale fossil dating over 13 million years old that was excavated, airlifted, and now resides at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History for further study. [Read More](#)

Adelaida Springs Ranch and the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo recently secured an easement from Conservation and the Strategic Growth Council to protect 890 acres of woodland and rangeland.

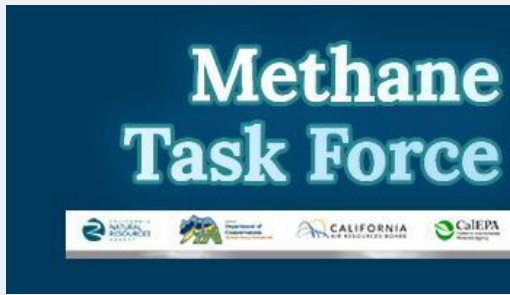
[Learn More](#)



Saving Trees in the Altadena Fire Aftermath

State Mining & Geology Board member Stephanie Landregan's is working to preserve trees in the Altadena area in the aftermath of the destructive Eaton Fire. Her ongoing efforts in the community, including with the American Institute of Architects Pasadena and Foothill Chapter, are helping protect the region's iconic cedar trees, among other species. [Read more about her efforts](#)

Recap: Methane Task Force Public Meeting



CalConservation and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) held a May 27 public meeting for the Methane Task Force. The meeting shared highlights from recent SB 1137 health protection zone workshops, a recap of CalGEM's **Project Plug** efforts, and updates on CARB's methane monitoring program.

[Learn More](#)



CGS Presents at Post-Wildfire Recovery Summit

Don Lindsay from the California Geological Survey spoke last month at a Post-Fire REcover All Hands All Lands meeting hosted by the Washington state Department of Natural Resources. Lindsay briefed attendees about the team's role in recovery from January's Los Angeles wildfires, providing insight to our partners across the west coast. [Watch the Video](#)

Reducing Fire Fuels in Glenn County



With funding from Conservation, CalFIRE, and other state partners, local landowners have transformed a high-risk brush field into grazing lands and grasslands while significantly lowering the area's fire risk.

[Watch the Video](#)

In the News: Protecting Bats from White Nose Syndrome

A fungus has been decimating American bat populations for years, causing the deadly disease White Nose Syndrome to flourish in bat caves across the continent. The Department's own Trinity Smith continues to dedicate her time and passion, protecting native bat populations through her extensive fieldwork tracking the fungus's spread within California's abandoned mines and beyond. Learn more from the New York Times about how preserving bat colonies and protecting the public from the abandoned mines they thrive in go hand-in-wing.



Photos by Joey Danielson

[Read More](#)

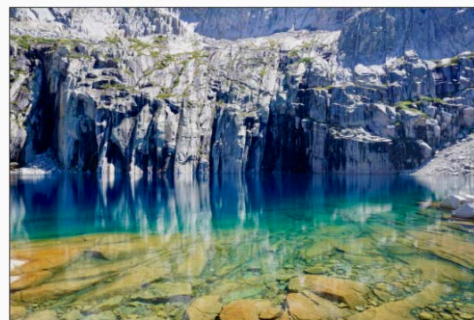
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Tulare County Grant Opportunities - Applications Open!

One of our grantees, San Joaquin Valley Water, plans to use \$1.5 million to help Tulare County farmers reduce groundwater usage. Applications for these grants are due August 31st. **Find out more about Conservation's Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program**

[Read More](#)

See our CGS Photo Contest Winners

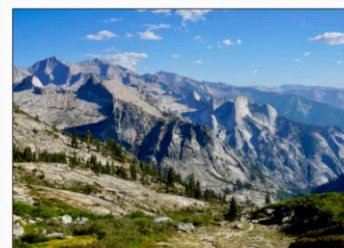


1st place: Precipice Lake, along the high Sierra trail Big Sky loop, Sequoia National Park. Photo by Kim Thorndahl

CGS Staff Photo Contest

IN 2024, CGS HELD AN INFORMAL PHOTO CONTEST open to staff. Many landscape images were submitted. Staff participated in blind voting where the names of the photographers were withheld; the top four vote-getters are shown here.

2nd place: Great Western Divide, view south from Elizabeth Pass trail, Sequoia National Park. Photo by Kim Thorndahl



It is common for the California Geological Survey Team to catch a glimpse of California's beauty when in the midst of their fieldwork. Check out the winners and runners-up of their internal photo contest in the latest issue of CGS Magazine. [Click Here](#)



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