



**CNPS Chapter Council Meeting Minutes - DRAFT**

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**December 2, 2023**

**Meeting led by Woody Elliott, ACTING CHAIR - CNPS Chapter Council Vice Chair**

**Minutes prepared by Snowdy Dodson, CNPS Chapter Council Secretary**

**Final approval date:**

**Chapter Council Delegates, December 2, 2023:**

Chapter	Delegate/ Alternate Delegate Name	Attending Dec. 2023 CC Meeting	
		In person	Zoom
Alta Peak	Cathy Capone		X
Baja California	Cesar Garcia Valderrama	X	
Bristlecone	Stephen Ingram	X	
Bryophyte	Ben Carter		X
Channel Islands	Patt McDaniel		X
Dorothy King Young	Nancy Morin		X
East Bay	Beth Wurzburg		X
El Dorado County	Alice Cantelow		X
Kern County	Richard Spjut	X	
LA/Santa Monica Mtns	Snowdy Dodson	X	
Marin County	Laura Lovett		X
Milo Baker	April Owens	X	
Mojave Desert	No attendee		
Monterey Bay	No attendee		
Mount Lassen	David Popp		X
Napa Valley	No attendee		
North Coast	Larry Levine	X	

Chapter	Delegate/ Alternate Delegate Name	Attending Dec. 2023 CC Meeting	
		In person	Zoom
North San Joaquin Valley	Cynthia Typaldos		X
Orange County	Rebecca Crowe	X	
Redbud	Leslie Warren		X
Riverside/San Bernardino	Arlee Montalvo	X	
Sacramento Valley	Carol Witham		X
San Diego	Justin Daniel	X	
San Gabriel Mountains	Margaret Gallagher		X
San Luis Obispo	David Chipping		X
Sanhedrin	Andrea Davis		X
Santa Clara Valley	Vivian Neou	X	
Santa Cruz County	Lucy Ferneyhough		X
Sequoia	Reagan O'Leary		X
Shasta	Susan Gallaugher		X
Sierra Foothills	David Campbell	X	
South Coast	Brent Morgan	X	
Tahoe Basin & Sierra Valley	Brent Hall		X
Willis Jepson	Mary Frances Kelly-Poh		X
Yerba Buena	Susan Mullaney	X	
Yolo-Colusa	Glen Holstein		X

### Additional Attendees

First Name	Last Name	CNPS Chapter	Title/Position	In Person Zoom
John	Hunter		Board President	Zoom
Jun	Bando	State Office/Sacramento	Executive Director	in person
Orchid	Black	SGM, RSB	Parliamentarian	Zoom
Helena	Bowman	San Gabriel Mountains	Chapter President	In person
Caroline	Martorano	Staff	Restoration Senior Coordinator	Zoom
Barbara	Lezon	Staff	Membership Manager	Zoom
Aaron	Sims	Staff	Rare Plant Program Director	in person
Woody	Elliott	Marin	Acting CC Chair	in person
Julie	Evens	Staff, Sacramento Valley	Vegetation Program Director	In person
Nick	Jensen	Staff	Conservation Director	in person

Christine	Pieper	Staff	Development Director	<b>in person</b>
Jen	Aguilar	Staff	Education Specialist	<b>Zoom</b>
Vern	Goehring	Yolo-Colusa	Member	<b>In person</b>
Steve	Goetz	Willis Jepson	Healthy Nurseries Program	<b>In person</b>
Robin	Mitchell	East Bay	Board member	<b>Zoom</b>
Vince	Scheidt	San Diego	Board member	<b>In person</b>
Liv	O'Keeffe	Staff/Sac Valley	Senior Director Public Affairs	<b>In person</b>
John	Schmidt	Sacramento Valley	Chapter President	
Brock	Wimberley	Staff, El Dorado	Sr. Ops. Director	<b>Zoom</b>
Ray	Curiel	Santa Clara Valley		<b>In person</b>
Judy	Fenerty	Santa Clara Valley	Chapter President	<b>In Person</b>
Matt	Smith	LASMM	Chapter Rare Plant Chair	<b>In person</b>
Sherry	Ashbaugh	San Diego	Chapter Public Outreach	<b>In person</b>
Patrick	Manley	Sacramento		<b>In person</b>
Sundeep	Amin	San Diego	Chapter Board member	<b>In person</b>
Marty	Foltyn	San Diego	Member	<b>Zoom</b>
Priya	Pharate	Santa Clara Valley	Chapter Vice President	<b>Zoom</b>
Jim	Xerogenes			
Joy	Walters	San Gabriel Mntns	Chapter Treasurer	
Cliff	McLean	San Gabriel Mntns	Member	<b>In person</b>
Gabi	McLean	San Gabriel Mntns	Member	<b>In person</b>
Alyssa	Huante	Staff	Education Specialist	<b>In person</b>
Steve	Schoenig	Board	Treasurer	<b>In person</b>
Johanna	Del Casillo Munera	presenter	UC Davis	<b>In person</b>
Ann	Elliott	Marin	Member	<b>In person</b>
Chris	Lewis	Sacramento Valley	Member	<b>In person</b>
Suzanne	Weller	Kern County	Member	<b>In person</b>
Sunny	Saraoa	Orange County	Member, Chapter Board	<b>In person</b>
Mel	Letterman	Orange County	Member	<b>In person</b>
Melanie	Fontana	City of San Diego	Parker Ranger	<b>In person</b>
Phoebe	Bogdon	City of San Diego	Ranger Intern	<b>In person</b>

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ROLL CALL – Woody Elliott (Chapter Council Vice Chair/Acting Chair); Justin Daniel (President, San Diego Chapter); Snowy Dodson (Chapter Council Secretary)**

Woody Elliott (Chapter Council Vice Chair/Acting Chair) introduced himself and announced that our meeting venue (Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center) closes at 5 pm so we are on a very strict schedule.

Woody thanked Justin Daniel (San Diego Chapter President) and his Chapter for hosting the December Chapter Council & Board meetings. Justin thanked the Tijuana Estuary Natural Preserve organization and California State Parks staff for their assistance in getting the meeting organized. He made a land acknowledgement on behalf of the Kumeyaay tribe who are in mourning for an elder and could not attend the meeting. He also thanked his volunteers and all the CNPS members & CNPS staff for traveling to San Diego to participate.

Chapter Council Secretary, Snowdy Dodson, conducted a roll call of delegates & a quorum was declared.

### **SECRETARY’S REPORT – REVIEW & APPROVE JUNE 10 & SEPT. 9 CHAPTER COUNCIL MINUTES – Snowdy Dodson (Chapter Council Secretary)**

Snowdy announced that she had incorporated revisions to the two past Chapter Council minutes & distributed them ahead of this meeting. There were no subsequent revisions. Vivian Neou moved to approve the June 10, 2023 Minutes; the motion was seconded by Cathy Capone. The motion was approved. Rich Spjut moved to approve the Sept. 9, 2023 Minutes; seconded by Arlee Montalvo; The motion carried with a few abstentions.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Jun Bando (CNPS Executive Director)**

See: [Quarterly Report](#) and [ED Update](#) for complete details.

Jun reported & gave the following update. She also noted that she met the previous evening with San Diego Chapter members to hear about their activities.

Jun’s snapshot of CNPS indicated that membership is close to 13K; there is high partner & donor confidence in the organization and our impact has never been greater. CNPS recently worked with an outside consultant to assess our fundraising practices and identify recommendations for strengthening our fundraising to sustain CNPS’s impact and increase our financial sustainability. Over the past year, CNPS has succeeded in securing larger, multi-year grants and contracts that will help to stabilize our revenue, e.g., upcoming \$580K in foundation grants as well as Calif. Dept. of Food & Agriculture notice of intent to award us over 1.8 million dollars covering two agreements in the horticultural program aimed at integrating pollinator data into Calscape and developing native plant propagation protocols.

Staff are working on developing Action Plans & annual budget for the next fiscal year that begins on April 1, 2024.

Biodiversity Initiatives Group (BIG) evolution is underway with a staff realignment. The Education team (currently under Public Affairs) will move to BIG, which will be renamed the Education and Stewardship team. This realignment will help strengthen synergies between education, community science, horticulture, and stewardship. The former BIG Director position (currently vacant) will be rescoped as the Education and Community Science Director. In addition, a new Education & Community Science Manager position will be created in 2024. This will provide additional capacity needed to effectively manage the CNPS conference and the planned development of a CNPS public education center. Moving Education out from Public Affairs will also allow our Senior Director for Public Affairs, Liv O’Keeffe, to focus more bandwidth on communications, publications, CNPS campaigns, and external engagement/government affairs, including interfacing with the State of California budget process.

The initial vision for the CNPS education center (also envisioned as a staff headquarters), will be revisited once a new Education and Community Science Director and Manager are hired. Staff will work closely with CNPS volunteer leadership to update the vision for the center, define needs, and investigate physical space options; a bequest designated to support the center will be used to jump start this process.

**Strategic Plan** – Jun restated the goals of the plan: Know, Save, Enhance & Restore, & Connect & Collaborate. These are the basis of all current strategies & action plans for CNPS.

**Know** – US Forest Service Species of Conservation Concern Accounts have been completed for 6 northern national forests resulting in 450 assessments. There are new federal BLM Redding & El Dorado National Forest projects. We have received additional State of California funding for fine-scale vegetation mapping, including in the Central Coast, and will be receiving more funding for collection of vegetation data and plant vouchers, including in the Klamath Mountains.

**Save** – we have been involved with National Monuments campaigns urging presidential action in areas such as the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and inclusion of Molok Luyuk into Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. We have supported the 30X30 movement & the California Biodiversity Network. We are wrapping up a Wildlife Conservation Board grant for Important Plant Areas.

**Enhance & Restore** – the California Native Seed Strategy (see the presentation later in the program) is finalizing a document.

Calscape 2.0 is coming out in early 2024

We advocated heavily for AB 1573 until bill revisions gutted the intent of the legislation. We hope to follow up with more legislative work to revive the effort to mandate California native plants in public horticultural projects.

**Connect & Collaborate** – The latest *Artemisia* special issue in 2 parts covers California Native American perspectives on native plants and climate change. The publication is available online. Chapters are encouraged to share the special issue with Tribal partners and can order additional hard copies from the state CNPS office. There have been Education Program listening sessions reported later in the program. There was a DEIJ webinar with chapters to share the DEIJ vision, values & progress with a larger CNPS audience. The link to the recording is shared in the minutes below.

The state office will be working with the Board and Chapters on the vision for a Public Education Center. Before investigating options for purchase or lease, CNPS needs to define the goals for the center and what infrastructure would be needed, and where, to support these goals. The target audience is still under discussion & the center would also be used for state offices/HQ. Staff will guide & the Board & Chapters will collaborate in formulating the vision for such a center. Initially funding for the Center has come from a bequest from a Santa Clara Valley Chapter member. The Sacramento centric location of the Center was questioned as we have needs all over the state. Mobile education centers were mentioned as an option. An advantage to a Sacramento location is the nearness to legislator and agency contacts.

**Aaron Sims (Rare Plant Program Director)** presented [update for the Rare Plant Program](#) noting that next year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rare Plant Inventory which was started by Ledyard Stebbins. Currently there are 6600 California native plants, and 1/3 are in protected status so the Inventory is a very robust part of CNPS activities. For instance, our CNPS logo is the Panamint Daisy (*Enceliopsis covillei*) which is a rare plant representing CNPS. Please send feedback on how to celebrate the anniversary to Aaron at [asims@cnps.org](mailto:asims@cnps.org).

### **CNPS BOARD REPORT – John Hunter (Board President) & Chapter Council Board Representatives, Alice Cantelow & Lucy Ferneyhough**

Lucy reported a few items from the CNPS Board meeting: There was a closed session to evaluate the Executive Director. In the Development Program, philanthropic and growth opportunities are being studied by an outside consultant who has interviewed key donors & found that CNPS has a good fund-raising history and excellent reputation with donors. There is a need to have a staff person in charge of large gifts to broaden our reach and include more Board members who have fundraising experience.

Alice added that there are opportunities for fundraising by Board members who could call donors to connect and do further outreach. There is a potential for garnering further donations to CNPS in this way. A new fundraising document is in the works.

John Hunter commented on his positive experiences as Board President. Jun thanked John for his leadership. She is committed to strengthening collaboration with chapters but does not see a rapid growth in staffing. She suggested that people contact Christine Pieper the CNPS Development Director to answer questions on development. John mentioned that CNPS has a very strong reputation as an environmental group and that it would be a good idea to consider someone outside the CNPS organization to be on our Board. Maintaining Board strength should be a priority.

The meeting attendees thanked John for his service.

**CNPS STATEWIDE COMMUNITIES UPDATE – (formally Virtual Chapters) – Robin Mitchell & Cynthia Typaldos** see [attached file](#)

To date the team has: 1. Established a Working Group 2. Created two Gardening Communities (the working group is one and the other is native plant gardening. 3. Have determined a need for a Zoom (possibly CNPS sponsored) account to conduct business. 4. Have decided on a need for a minimum of 3-5 “founding” members for each topic. 5. Native plant gardening topics are focused on creating a statewide list of public native plant gardens; Homeowners Associations (HOAs) emphasis on California native plants; & sheet mulching are starts for statewide topics for community focus. They showed a live demonstration of a Google site homepage created by Robin. They have a webpage for the gardening community google group to facilitate proposals for statewide discussion topics e.g. HOAs; public native plant gardens. Cynthia will send out an email soliciting gardening topics with a link to the Communities homepage. A google group is set up. A few people will work on the web site; anyone can start discussion threads e.g. garden tour announcements.

Discussion of how to schedule online discussions ensued to clarify how to facilitate this Communities movement.

The group thanked the team for their efforts.

**CNPS STATE FINANCE UPDATE – Brock Wimberley (Senior Operations Director)** see [attached file](#).

Brock presented a CNPS Finance Report with a half-year Profit & Loss statement and compared figures from the previous fiscal year. He indicated that CNPS is on target with our projected budget though revenue is a little bit under that expected. Our biggest line item is personnel costs. Overall, we have good reserves and are doing well. We are formulating a reserves policy to make sure our spending rate will not deplete reserves. Our reserves are invested primarily in ESG mutual funds and laddered T-bills & CDs; so, we expect to see increased returns from those investments.

Chapters can invest their extra funds with the state investment accounts to grow their funds. There are two pools: Mutual Funds and fixed income. Information on this opportunity is online in the [Chapter Handbook](#) PW: panamint. Withdrawals can be made no more than monthly; however, quarterly is better.

**Steve Schoenig (Board Treasurer)** commented on the budgeting process. He is chair of the Finance Committee that overlooks the CNPS state budget. The process is taken seriously. Investments build up from unpredictable bequests; reserves are spent strategically in consultation with Brock & Jun. As stated by Brock, a reserves policy is under development with a goal of establishing Best Management Practices for reserves.

**CNPS CHAPTER EDUCATION LISTENING SESSIONS - Jen Aguilar & Alyssa Huante (Education Program Specialists)** see [attached file](#)

Jen & Alyssa reported that 25 chapters participated either in person or via surveys. The goals of the sessions were to create connections; encourage lifelong learning; support DEI; foster professional development; & support native plant science. Currently, there are a wide variety of Chapter outreach activities – program meetings, field trips, garden tours, plant sales, scholarships, restorations, wildflower shows, etc.

The listening sessions attempted to determine current Chapter needs to support programming. Some input was: teacher & student resources; child focused activities; landscaping information; connections /interactions with other chapters; communications support; audience diversity; workshops for the general public; & recruitment of volunteers.

The most needed support is volunteer training opportunities. Another highly rated need is toolkits for field trips & garden tours. Other needs include school curriculum materials; a toolkit for special events hosting; & a tabling kit for outreach. The listening sessions also identified values & themes; the top themes were biodiversity & human action and native plant gardening. Top priorities for chapter resources (next 2 years) are: identify CNPS themes & messaging; create a resource sharing platform; develop school curriculum resources (in progress) for middle school educators as the biggest need which should be shared with the Calif. Dept. of Education; tabling outreach toolkit (including kid's activities) & a garden tour toolkit; increased training & support for communications platforms; & multilingual resources on landscaping. The listening sessions just wrapped up, and this is just the beginning of an ongoing process. Further progress will be made when the new Education Program Director is hired & there is an Education Program realignment. One audience suggestion was that a list of Spanish language field trip leaders be developed as a statewide resource.

Alyssa announced that the next CNPS Conservation Conference with a SoCal venue will be in either Jan/Feb 2026 or Oct./Nov. 2025. Contact her [ahuante@cnps.org](mailto:ahuante@cnps.org) to get involved with planning.

**ACCREDITATION TO IMPROVE RESTORATION: HEALTHY NURSERIES & HABITATS COMMITTEE UPDATE – Steve Goetz (Jepson Chapter) & Johanna Del Casillo Munera (UC Davis Coop Extension)** see this [link](#) for complete details

There is a known potential for *Phytophthora* infestations in native plant nurseries. Outbreaks have occurred in NorCal with plant hosts such as Toyon & Coffeeberry. The *Phytophthora* in Native Habitats Working Group has been involved with developing a nursery accreditation program having a systems approach for disease management. This effort seeks to institute preventive measures so as not to have to resort to a reactive approach after infestation. The aim is to identify hazards; ID critical control points that pose infection risk; and evaluate & correct the critical control points of contamination. Nursery hazards include contaminated propagation sources; contaminated ground; contaminated irrigation water; unsterilized used containers; contaminated potting media. This systems approach will ID hazards: mandate the use of clean seed collection or shoot tips for propagation; the use of raised (2.5 ft.) benches & gravel in growing areas; use of well or city water for irrigation; steam sterilization of containers; & steam sterilization of potting media.

The program has the acronym, AIR (Accreditation To Improve Restoration <https://restoration.sf.ucdavis.edu/>) and is voluntary with a goal of preventing contaminated California native plant stock being planted out into restoration sites. To date, there are 9 fully accredited & 12 in process nurseries state-wide. This program establishes BMPs with a mantra of “start clean stay clean.” To participate, a nursery should fill out forms on the AIR website. A key component is plant testing. Accreditation lasts for two years. Workshops about the program are planned in early 2024 in SoCal & NorCal. For further information contact Dr. Del Casillo Munera [jdelcastillo@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jdelcastillo@ucdavis.edu) And check out this website: <https://greenhousepathology.faculty.uc.davis.edu/>

As yet, there is no funding for nurseries to have clean infrastructure. For example, steamers are expensive around \$5K per steamer. Home gardeners can send plant samples to CA Dept. of Food & Ag. for analysis of potential pathogens

Steve Goetz reported on “Protect Our Natural Areas” handout [see draft document](#) which is a flyer designed to ask hikers to clean hiking boots & prevent the spread of pathogens into the wild. Could such a document be used CNPS for sponsored hikes? How effective would it be? Would it be useful for hike leaders. Discussion suggestions included a QR code for the flyer information and/or posting the information at trailheads. Currently, there is no organized group for field trip chairs/leaders. Contact [sgoetz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sgoetz@sbcglobal.net) to get involved with this effort.

**DEIJ (DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND JUSTICE) UPDATE – Barbara Lezon (CNPS Membership Manager)** for update see [this link for presentation](#) & the next link for [DEIJ Vision Statement](#)  
For DEIJ Webinar see this [link](#) passcode: W4c%=Fq%

Barbara pointed out the latest first of a two-part *Artemisia* issue with its outreach and focus on Native American traditional ecological knowledge concerning California native plants and their stewardship.

She presented the DEIJ Vision Statement and update which are internal documents approved by the CNPS Board in Sept. She indicated that we now need a public facing draft DEIJ Vision Statement which will be more reachable/understandable for the public. A webinar was held on 11/29/23 to get more input about DEIJ priorities & capacity of CNPS Chapters (see link above). The Public Affairs Group is giving priority to this input.

The webinar was created to share the DEIJ vision & how it can be integrated into chapter activities; volunteers were asked to give input to their experiences & asked about their Chapter priorities. The results of the recent DEIJ chapter survey were shared. There were about 30 webinar attendees. The webinar recording link will go out to chapter volunteers for feedback. John Hunter pointed out that the DEIJ effort aims to broaden CNPS's outreach to more groups other than our present demographic. One comment characterized DEIJ as a political issue i.e., a reflection of one's political party affiliation. However, it was pointed out that the main issue of DEIJ is to express a set of core values. Vern Goehring expressed an opinion that people are attacking the CNPS DEIJ language as a way to attack the DEIJ concept.

**CNPS VEGETATION PROGRAM: CLASSIFICATION/MAPPING UPDATE - Julie Evens (Vegetation Program Director)** [see this link](#) for further details

Julie indicated that she worked closely with her CNPS colleagues, Jennifer Buck-Diaz & Abra Scholtz on this presentation. She outlined the Vegetation Program goals – methods, inventory, monitoring, mapping, rarity ranking, online maintenance of the Manual of CA Vegetation, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., published research results, etc. They work in collaborations all over the state – staff & partners of many organizations; bring a diversity of groups.

Currently they are actively working in several state areas – North Coast, Bay Area, Mojave-Sonoran Desert, Central Coast, South Coast of SoCal & statewide riparian areas. Fine scale vegetation mapping is the focus. The California State budget has funded a lot of the surveys. Millions of acres have been surveyed with the help of numerous partners. Project products include vegetation inventory & classification; fine scale vegetation mapping; other GIS products such as canopy height & density; derivative Lidar products such as impervious/pervious surfaces including building footprints; ensuring accuracy of the mapping data which can result in other needs such as wildland fuels & wildfire risk. Most information can be seen on the CNPS Vegetation pages on the website: [www.cnps.org/vegetation](http://www.cnps.org/vegetation).

For an overview of data for each project site see the [link here](#) and above.

The Vegetation studies have many possible applications: climate change, watershed management, wildfire planning, rare vegetation type ID, setting open space priorities, restoration planning, disease monitoring, cannabis risk assessment. The Program is using emerging technologies & becoming more digital for data collection: ARCGIS and other Esri tools Dashboards for data exploration & QC for tracking progress, and streamlining collection & display of the data. Chapters can help in several ways: providing local contacts; identifying key survey locations; attending training sessions; collecting data on sensitive natural communities; hosting CNPS field staff working near survey sites i.e., home hosting; participating in regional veg-a-thons. Future work will focus on identifying the extent of, or threats to Sensitive Natural Communities (SNC); determining landscape/SNC data gaps; Important Plant Areas updates with new map data & rankings.

**CNPS CALIFORNIA NATIVE SEED STRATEGY UPDATE – Caroline Martorano (Restoration Senior Coordinator)** see [this link](#) for further details

There is a real need for a supply of California native seed for restoration projects as there is too much non-native seed going into restorations. Using locally sourced seed is difficult. A large amount of seed is required for each



project. Seed production involves a huge amount of planning & once seed is collected it must be grown out, certified & tested for percent of germination. The Seed Strategy has several goals:

1. Native seed needs assessment & assurance of reliable availability of genetically appropriate seed.
2. Improve guidelines & identify research needs for native seed production & use.
3. Develop tools for decision-making by seed producers.
4. Develop strategies & tools for communication.

Next step will be to implement regional working groups with a view to identifying native seed producers & restoration practitioners. Please contact Caroline ( [cmartorano@cnps.org](mailto:cmartorano@cnps.org) ) with recommendations for working group participants.

## **ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, & CHAPTER COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD – Vivian Neou (Leadership Development Chair)**

Vivian reported on our online election ballot results. She emphasized that Chapter participation in the election of our leaders is key to our success as an organization. The following candidates were elected:

### Board Leadership

President: Vivian Neou for two years

Secretary: April Owens for two years

### Chapter Council Leadership

Chair of the Chapter Council - Judy Fenerty for one year

Vice Chair of the Chapter Council – Woody Elliott for two years

Woody Elliott was thanked for filling in as Acting Chapter Council Chair for the past year.

Our Bylaws mandate that we have 9 Board members; we have 5 positions to fill as there are unfilled openings after the recent election process.

Those openings are Director (2024); Chapter Council Representative to the Board; 2 Directors; & Vice President of the Board.

Vivian conducted the election from the floor. She indicated that Robin Mitchell of the East Bay Chapter has self-nominated for the position of Board Director. She outlined her skill set & interest in participating as a Board Director. Beth Wurzburg as Chapter Council delegate for East Bay Chapter supported this nomination. No others self-nominated; Vivian called for the vote: There were 13 in person votes in favor; online 13 votes in favor; no votes against. Candidate was elected.

Next, Larry Levine of the North Coast Chapter self-nominated for the position of Chapter Council Representative to the Board; he outlined his interest in the position; as Larry is the North Coast Chapter Delegate & supportive of his own nomination; no others self-nominated. Vivian called for the vote: There were 13 in person in favor; 13 online votes in favor; no votes against. Candidate was elected.

Next were 2 Director positions. Leslie Warren of the Redbud Chapter self-nominated & outlined her qualifications for the position; Leslie Warren as the Redbud Delegate supported herself for the position. Vivian called for the vote: There were 13 in person votes in favor; 13 online votes in favor; no votes against. Candidate elected.

Later in the process, Lucy Ferneyhough the Santa Cruz County Chapter Council delegate nominated herself for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Director position & as the Santa Cruz Delegate supported her own candidacy. Vivian called for the vote: There were 13 in person votes in favor; 13 online votes in favor; no votes against. Candidate elected.

The Vice President of the Board is open for one year as Vivian was elected Board President. Vince Scheidt of the San Diego Chapter self-nominated & received Chapter support for his candidacy. Vivian called for the vote: there were 13 in person votes in favor; 13 online votes in favor; no votes against. Candidate elected.

Due to Vince's election to Vice President of the Board, there was a one-year Director position open. Vivian asked for nominations & Cathy Capone of the Alta Peak Chapter self-nominated & supported her own candidacy as she is the Alta Peak Delegate. Vivian called for the vote: There were 13 in person votes in favor; 13 online votes in favor; no votes against. Candidate elected.

#### **INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE UPDATE – Steve Schoenig**

A year ago, the Committee was rechartered. Since then, there have been 2 online meetings with 20 chapters represented. It was decided to schedule quarterly meetings & invited Cal-IPC Executive Director to attend & present at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, there was a Calflora presentation. Many chapters have invasives control as an important focus. One key issue is the increased movement to dial back or even prohibit herbicide use by government entities. It was noted that invasives are the biggest threat to native plants, & herbicides can be a very effective means of invasive plant control. Herbicides should be part of the invasive plant control toolbox. CNPS has 3 policies dealing with invasive weeds & herbicides in weed control. Some committee members feel that these policies are too weak & should incorporate stronger language emphasizing the importance of herbicide use in weed control. A subcommittee plans to draft a revision of those policies & also examine any position statements on the matter.

#### **CARBON NEUTRAL COMMITTEE – UPDATE – John Hunter (CNPS Board President)**

John updated the Chapter Council on progress made in determining the carbon footprint of CNPS activities. The focus has been on determining our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Estimation (inventory) of GHG emissions is a complex issue. He indicated that there is a draft preliminary inventory of GHG Emissions for CNPS. The intent is to determine direct, indirect & downstream emissions using inputs from CNPS records such as CAAR, vehicle logs, expense reports, etc. His initial estimate is that CNPS generates roughly 160 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> each year. This is equivalent to the carbon footprint of several U.S. households or emissions generated from irrigating 75-150 acres each year. Transportation of volunteers & staff make up the majority of CNPS GHG emissions, and office utilities, office waste, & publications are the smallest piece of the pie. Future recommendations will include the GHG inventory & scope, tracking methods, suggestions on further reducing & offsetting of emissions. Travel will be a major focus.

**Woody adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.** There was no time for presentations from Delegates in Round-The-Table Highlights agenda item. The next meeting will be hosted by the South Coast Chapter in San Pedro on March 2. The June 8 meeting will be hosted by the Kern Chapter; there is a need for a chapter to host the Sept. 7 meeting; the Dec. 7 meeting will be in Sacramento.