

June 21, 2022

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: One-time support for biorepositories and orphan collections

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the Natural Science Collections Alliance, I urge you to approve the one-time investment in Biorepositories and Orphan Collections as proposed in SB-154, the Budget Act of 2022.

The Natural Science Collections Alliance is a non-profit association that supports natural science collections across the United States, including their human resources, the institutions that house them, and the research activities they pursue for the benefit of science and society. Our membership consists of institutions that are part of an international network of museums, botanical gardens, herbaria, universities, and other institutions that contain natural science collections and use them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and outreach activities.

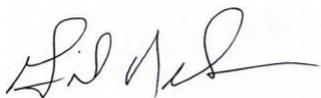
Thank you for your leadership in addressing the climate and biodiversity crises that threaten California. As you know, the Legislature's budget includes much-needed one-time funding to save the natural history collections that preserve California's biodiversity for the future.

As an organization representing natural history collections nationwide, including several in California, we can affirm that this one-time support is urgently needed to help California's biorepositories move forward in addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, and human health. It would secure infrastructure in hundreds of institutions statewide, making California a leader in these critical efforts.

As you negotiate with the Legislature, we ask you to please allow the Legislature's proposal to invest in California's biorepositories and orphaned collections to move forward. Your choice will save irreplaceable biodiversity specimens for the future, secure infrastructure for future generations, and advance the public engagement and workforce development needed for the success of your administration's ambitious vision.

Please contact Jyotsna Pandey at membership@nscalliance.org if we can answer any questions or provide additional information. And please, choose to include Biorepositories and Orphan Collections in your final budget.

Respectfully,



Gil Nelson, Ph.D.
President
Natural Science Collections Alliance