



2026 California Science Education Conference

Precon Justification Letter

Date:

Dear

I am requesting support to attend **Environmental Literacy and Advocacy Day**, a full-day pre-conference experience held in conjunction with the California Science Education Conference on **Thursday, November 5, 2026, in Sacramento.**

This professional learning experience brings together **classroom teachers, instructional coaches, STEM coordinators, site and district administrators, county office leaders, and other science education professionals** from across California. The day is designed to connect current environmental science with NGSS implementation, environmental literacy, civic engagement, and education leadership.

Attending Environmental Literacy and Advocacy Day would be a valuable investment in my professional growth and in our broader efforts to provide students with meaningful science learning that connects scientific understanding, civic engagement, and the challenges facing their communities. I would be happy to share what I learn with colleagues and discuss how these ideas could support our school, district, or organizational goals.

Key Learning Opportunities

Learn directly from scientists and researchers

- Explore current environmental research and real-world challenges affecting California.
- Consider how scientific research, data, and phenomena can support meaningful NGSS-aligned learning.
- Collaborate across grade levels to identify connections to standards, resources, and existing instructional practices.

Explore environmental literacy advocacy with Ten Strands

- Understand the difference between “**Little ‘a’ advocacy**” at the local level and “**Big ‘A’ Advocacy**” connected to broader policy efforts.
- Examine recent and current statewide environmental literacy initiatives.



- Explore realistic pathways for educators and education leaders to participate through public comment, sign-on letters, legislative outreach, and other forms of civic engagement.

Strengthen student civic engagement

- Learn from youth speakers about the impact of student voice and advocacy.
- Explore models for student-led projects, recommendations, community action, and policy engagement.
- Consider where civic engagement can authentically fit within curriculum, programs, and broader educational initiatives.

Value Beyond the Conference

Participation in this preconference can support work at multiple levels by providing:

- **New ideas and strategies** for environmental literacy and NGSS implementation.
- **Connections with educators and education leaders** from across California.
- **Greater understanding of statewide environmental literacy efforts** and opportunities for involvement.
- **Models for student civic engagement and leadership** that can be adapted to different educational settings.
- **Ideas that can be shared with colleagues** through department, site, district, or county professional learning and planning.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,



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