

# California's Environmental Principles & Concepts - All Grades

**PRINCIPLE I: People Depend on Natural Systems** The continuation and health of individual human lives and of human communities and societies depend on the health of the natural systems that provide essential goods and ecosystem services. [EP&C-1](#)

**1-a** The goods produced by natural systems are essential to human life and to the functioning of our economies and cultures. [EP&C-1-A](#)

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**1-b** The ecosystem services provided by natural systems are essential to human life and to the functioning of our economies and cultures. [EP&C-1-B](#)

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**1-c** That the quality, quantity, and reliability of the goods and ecosystem services provided by natural systems are directly affected by the health of those systems. [EP&C-1-C](#)

**PRINCIPLE II: People Influence Natural Systems** The long-term functioning and health of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems are influenced by their relationships with human societies. [EP&C-2](#)

**2-a** Direct and indirect changes to natural systems due to the growth of human populations and their consumption rates influence the geographic extent, composition, biological diversity, and viability of natural systems. [EP&C-2-A](#)

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**2-b** Methods used to extract, harvest, transport, and consume natural resources influence the geographic extent, composition, biological diversity, and viability of natural systems. [EP&C-2-B](#)

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**2-c** The expansion and operation of human communities influences the geographic extent, composition, biological diversity, and viability of natural systems. [EP&C-2-C](#)

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**2-d** The legal, economic, and political systems that govern the use and management of natural systems directly influence the geographic extent, composition, biological diversity, and viability of natural systems. [EP&C-2-D](#)

**PRINCIPLE III: Natural Systems Change in Ways that People Benefit from and can Influence** Natural systems proceed through cycles that

**3-a** Natural systems proceed through cycles and processes that are required for their functioning. [EP&C-3-A](#)

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**3-b** Human practices depend upon and benefit from the cycles and processes that operate within natural systems. [EP&C-3-B](#)

humans depend upon, benefit from and can alter. EP&C-3

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**3-c** Human practices can alter the cycles and processes that operate within natural systems. EP&C-3-C

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**PRINCIPLE IV: There are no Permanent or Impermeable Boundaries that Prevent Matter from Flowing Between Systems The exchange of matter between natural systems and human societies affects the long-term functioning of both.** EP&C-4

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**4-a** The effects of human activities on natural systems are directly related to the quantities of resources consumed and to the quantity and characteristics of the resulting byproducts. EP&C-4-A

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**4-b** The byproducts of human activity are not readily prevented from entering natural systems and may be beneficial, neutral, or detrimental in their effect. EP&C-4-B

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**4-c** The capacity of natural systems to adjust to human-caused alterations depends on the nature of the system as well as the scope, scale, and duration of the activity and the nature of its byproducts EP&C-4-C

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**PRINCIPLE V: Decisions Affecting Resources and Natural Systems are Complex and Involve Many Factors Decisions affecting resources and natural systems are based on a wide range of considerations and decision-making processes.** EP&C-5

**5-a** There is a spectrum of what is considered in making decisions about resources and natural systems and how those factors influence decisions. EP&C-5-A

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**5-b** The process of making decisions about resources and natural systems, and how the assessment of social, economic, political, and environmental factors has changed over time. EP&C-5-B