

Associated Students of Cerritos College

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

01.28.2026

Director of Sustainability Jacob Padilla introduced the following Resolution,
Senator Hilda Rubianes seconded the following Resolution

A Resolution

Supporting Native Transition Initiative

JR-2526-01

Whereas: The Associated Students of Cerritos College support campus practices that responsibly conserve shared resources and advance long-term national and global efforts towards a net-zero carbon emission future;

Whereas: The Paris Agreement (2015) commits nations to hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts warming to 1.5°C, and recent observations underscore the urgency of action, 2024 confirmed as the first calendar year to exceed 1.5°C the recommended global average temperature. The 2023-2025 period averaging above 1.5°C, “To limit global warming to 1.5°C, greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest and decline 43% by 2030” [1];

Whereas: Reducing unnecessary irrigation and fertilizer use is a practical sustainability strategy that can lessen ongoing resource consumption, operational inputs, and urban runoff;

Whereas: The World Bank estimates that a \$1 investment in nature-based adaptation can result in \$4 of environmental, social, and economic benefits through avoided losses and reduced risk;

Whereas: Combustion-engine landscape maintenance equipment can contribute to air pollution, including ozone-forming volatile organic chemicals and particulate emissions and lower maintenance native landscaping can reduce mowing and relegated equipment use;

Whereas: Preserving biodiversity supports pollinators whose economic value is estimated at \$301 billion annually, and expanding native plantings can reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides while filtering stormwater and greywater, improving water quality and air quality and helping stabilize soil to prevent erosion;

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Whereas: Increasing California native-landscaping reduces the routine of mowing and trimming, improving maintenance efficiency and long term cost regardless of the equipment type. The Associated Students of Cerritos College strongly recommends employer-supported California Native Plant Certification to ensure grounds staff has capacity and specialized skills to install and maintain these landscapes effectively

Whereas: At the community scale, nature-based solutions such as rain gardens, bioswales, and green roofs can manage stormwater and may be constructed for 5–30 percent less and maintained for 25 percent less than conventional gray infrastructure;

Resolved: The Associated Students of Cerritos College recommend that the College develop or expand a Native Landscaping Transition Plan that includes baseline inventory of landscaped areas, identification of priority conversion zones, and guidance for reduced-input maintenance practices including irrigation schedules and fertilizer reduction.

Resolved: The Associated Students of Cerritos College recommend that landscaping conversions be prioritized during routine replacement cycles and planned improvements in order to minimize disruption and manage costs while steadily advancing the 2030 target, “In 2020, California Governor Newsom signed into law [N-82-20](#), an Executive Order on Biodiversity and Climate Change, with the objective of conserving a minimum of 30 percent of California’s land and waters by 2030. California’s goals for 30x30 offer an integrated path forward that acknowledges biodiversity as essential for human health and climate resilience.” [2]

Resolved: The Associated Students of Cerritos College request an annual progress update from all participating landscape architects hired by Cerritos College summarizing progress toward the 30 percent by 2030 goal and documenting measurable reductions in water use and fertilizer application where feasible.

Resolved: The Associated Students of Cerritos college hereby endorses **JR-2526-01** and the attached resolution (Exhibit A) shall be sent to the Student Senate for California Community Colleges 2026 General Assembly, which shall be voted on by delegates.

Resources:

[1] [UNFCC](#)

[2] [30x30 Biodiversity Initiative](#)

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Committee Referral

Referred? No

Amendment History

Senator Vega moved to strike “Native Landscaping and Water Wise Grounds Acts” as the title of the resolution, and insert a new title of “Supporting Native Transition Initiative”, seconded by Senator Valdez. No objections, motion passed unanimously.

Final Senate Action

Date of final vote: January 28, 2026

Senators Voting Yes: Bennett, Biji Jacob, Castro, Chamberlain, Chavez, Chung, De Las Alas, Godinez, Haque, Hernandez, Mateo, Miranda, Montoya, Nieto Mejia, Om, Raya, Rodriguez, Rubianes, Ruiz, Sosa-Diaz, Valdez, Vega, & Villar.

Senators Voting No: None.

Senators Abstaining: None.

Vote Count: 23 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

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Exhibit A

Resolution Supporting Native Transition Initiative

Author: Jacob Padilla and Hilda Rubianes

Sponsor(s): Associated Students of Cerritos College (ASCC)

Whereas, The Paris Agreement (2015) commits nations to hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts warming to 1.5°C, and recent observations underscore the urgency of action, 2024 confirmed as the first calendar year to exceed 1.5°C the recommended global average temperature. The 2023-2025 period averaging above 1.5°C, “To limit global warming to 1.5°C, greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest and decline 43% by 2030” [1]

Whereas, Combustion-engine landscape maintenance equipment can contribute to air pollution, including ozone-forming volatile organic chemicals and particulate emissions and lower maintenance native landscaping can reduce mowing and relegated equipment use [2];

Whereas, Preserving biodiversity supports pollinators whose economic value is estimated at \$301 billion annually, and expanding native plantings can reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides while filtering stormwater and greywater, improving water quality and air quality and helping stabilize soil to prevent erosion [7];

Whereas, Increasing California native-landscaping reduces the routine of mowing and trimming, improving maintenance efficiency and long term cost regardless of the equipment type. Many organizations across California (California Native Plant Society [3], Theodore Payne Foundation [4], Santa Barbara Botanical Garden [5], etc.) are providing California Native Plant Landscape Certification Programs to provide training for both new and experienced landscape professionals to master native plant landscaping while improving water efficiency, and promoting sustainability.

Resolved, that the Student Senate of California Community Colleges advocates that landscaping conversions be prioritized during routine replacement cycles and planned improvements in order to minimize disruption and manage costs while steadily advancing the 2030 target, “In 2020, California Governor Newsom signed into law N-82-20, an Executive Order on Biodiversity and Climate Change, with the objective of conserving a minimum of 30 percent of California’s land and waters by 2030. California’s goals for 30x30 offer an integrated path forward that acknowledges biodiversity as essential for human health and climate resilience.” [6]

Resolved, that the Student Senate of California Community Colleges recommend that all colleges develop or expand a Native Landscaping Transition Plan that includes baseline

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inventory of landscaped areas, identification of priority conversion zones, and guidance for reduced-input maintenance practices including irrigation schedules and fertilizer reduction.

Resolved, that the Student Senate of California Community Colleges recommends student body associations to request an annual progress update from professional landscapers, paid for by the college, to the Student Senate or an appropriate shared governance body summarizing progress toward the 30 percent by 2030 goal and documenting measurable reductions in water use and fertilizer application where feasible.

Resolved, that the Student Senate of California Community Colleges recommend colleges work with local native plant organizations to ensure that most architectural and landscape plans brought forth to college administrations identify the usage of native -landscaping to ensure the promotion of conservation, biodiversity, eco-friendly environments, and most importantly, sustainability.

Citations:

- [1] [UNFCCC - The Paris Agreement](#)
- [2] Regional Air Quality Control - [National report highlights measurable benefits of electrifying lawn and garden equipment](#)
- [3] California Native Plant Society - [California Native Plant Landscaper Certificate Program](#)
- [4] Theodore Payne Foundation - [California Native Plant Landscaper Certificate Program](#)
- [5] Santa Barbara Botanic Garden - [California Native Plant Landscaper Certification Program](#)
- [6] [30x30 Biodiversity Initiative](#)
- [7] U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services - [Pollinators benefit economies](#)