California
Education and the Environment Initiative

Political

California's Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI)

A law passed in 2003 established California's Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) and called for the development of the State's first-ever Environmental Principles and Concepts (EP&C). California's EP&C were developed with the participation of over 100 scientists and technical experts, representing state agencies, universities, business and industry, and non-governmental organizations. California's Environmental Principles and Concepts are specifically focused on the interactions and interdependence of human societies and natural systems. The Environmental Principles are as follows:

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.

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.

Principle III—Natural Systems Change in Ways that People Benefit from and Can Influence. Natural systems proceed through cycles that humans depend upon, benefit from, and can alter.

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.

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.

California's academic content standards and the EP&C form the instructional foundation of the EEI Curriculum, a Kindergarten-12th grade instructional program for California schools.

This map is one of a series of 12 maps developed in cooperation with the National Geographic Society to support the implementation of California's Education and the Environment Initiative.