FINALLY, A TREATY ON GLOBAL WARMING

The Paris Accord (i.e., United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) became effective on November 4, 2016. Signed by representatives of 195 nations on December 12, 2015, it has now been ratified by 100 nations, including the U.S., China and India, the biggest producers of greenhouse gas emissions. The pact is the result of many years of efforts to get agreement on the necessity and method of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and man-made global warming. It is a loose treaty which obligates parties to make the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but leaves each party to set its own goals. How effective this loose agreement will be remains to be seen, but at least it is a big step in the right direction.

This treaty is particularly welcome in California, which has pioneered legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Although its impact is not fully known, there is no doubt that global warming is a threat to many of California's precious native plants and ecosystems.

The full text of bills and the Legislative Analyst's summary are available on the California Legislature Information website (Click Link Here).

CNPS positions on bills are available at CNPS Legislative Report (Click Link Here). Overview of CNPS Legislation Program (Click Link Here).