



CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
LEGACY PROJECT

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[www.calegacy.org](http://www.calegacy.org)

## Becoming California

“**BECOMING CALIFORNIA**” is a two-hour documentary program that will take viewers on a fantastic journey of discovery and inquiry across two billion years of California’s history, from its physical assembly and diversification of life to current and projected environmental changes brought on by modern society – in short, an exploration of the fundamental nature of our relationship to a changing environment. The first hour will explore the deep time origins of California and provide the necessary temporal and spatial context for understanding the forces that shaped the state’s diverse landscapes and ecosystems. The last hour will examine the power of humans to modify Earth’s natural systems - for better or worse - and the power of individuals to re-shape our environmental future.

### ACT ONE: **Assembling California – The Power of Time and Space**

*Explores the assembly of California over geologic and evolutionary time.*

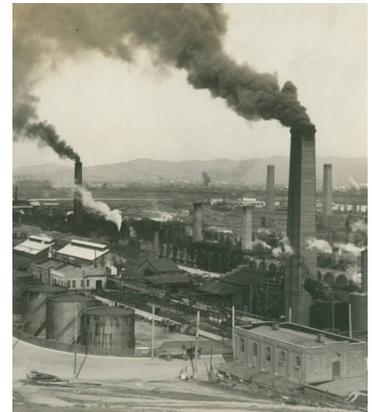
From its earliest origins to the formation of its land, climate, and tremendous diversity of life, this is the ongoing and unfinished story of the physical and biological assembly of California. We journey into deep time with the scientists who pieced together the complex forces of change that continue to shape California today.



### ACT TWO: **Reinventing California – The Power of Many**

*Examines the power of humans to modify Earth’s natural systems.*

*Reinventing California* traces the pattern of human exploitation of the natural world – how culture, population growth, and the marvels of technology have accelerated environmental change beyond our intent. From first peoples to early explorers and modern shapers of California, we experience the scope and magnitude of environmental changes brought about by an ever expanding human population.



### ACT THREE: **Becoming California – The Power of One**

*Reveals the individual’s power to re-shape our environmental future.*

This is the culmination of our story of environmental change. We have seen how the land and climate were formed, how diverse and abundant life evolved, and how man’s best and worst stewardship has brought us to our current environmental “state” of the state. Now, we deconstruct the traditional values that have promoted our alienation from nature and provide a vision for a new force of environmental change: The power of one.





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## Production Team

### **Kit Tyler** : Senior Producer / Director

Producer, director, and award winning photographer, Kit Tyler's career spans more than twenty-five years of stage, film and broadcast experience. He has held positions as Director, Evening News Producer, and Chief Photographer for large market television stations in California and worked for every major television network, including NBC, CNN, and The Discovery Channel. Kit Tyler has won three Bay Area Emmys, in addition to a host of other regional and national honors. He is a graduate of Wesleyan University.

### **Richard York** : Writer

Richard York is a journalist and writer, with over 30 years of broadcast, screenplay, and stage play experience. He has covered state, national, and international news – from the Middle East, to the Reagan/Gorbachev summit, to the Tour de France. For the past 15 years, he has focused on California politics, measuring the ups and downs of the state's last four governors. As a journalist for KCRA-TV in Sacramento, he has served as writer, photographer, editor, and field producer. He has also written over 20 stage plays and a number of feature length screenplays.

### **Richard Tsai** : Art Director / Animator

Richard Tsai is principal owner of Field of Vision, a design visualization firm based in San Francisco. He has 12 years of experience producing highly crafted computer-generated models, visual simulations, and animations for a wide range of projects. Prior to forming Field of Vision, Richard Tsai was a visual simulation specialist at BRW Inc., focusing on simulations and animations for major transportation planning projects. He continued his simulation work at EDAW Inc., where he founded and led the Design Visualization Group serving EDAW's entire Western region.

### **Pat Metheny** : Jazz Musician / Composer

Award winning jazz guitarist Pat Metheny has performed with artists as diverse as Steve Reich, Ornette Coleman, Herbie Hancock, Jim Hall, Milton Nascimento, and David Bowie and written with keyboardist Lyle Mays for more than 20 years. His body of work includes compositions for solo guitar, small ensembles, electric and acoustic instruments, large orchestras, and ballet pieces, with settings ranging from modern jazz to rock to classical. He has won countless polls as "Best Jazz Guitarist" and awards, including three gold records for *(Still Life) Talking*, *Letter from Home*, and *Secret Story*. He has also won 16 Grammy Awards, including Best Rock Instrumental, Best Contemporary Jazz Recording, Best Jazz Instrumental Solo, and Best Instrumental Composition.

### **Jim Baxter** : Executive Producer

Creator of *Becoming California* and co-founder of the California Environmental Legacy Project, Jim Baxter has long had a passion for enjoying, understanding, and protecting the natural world. A professor of biology at Sacramento State University, he teaches ecology, natural history, and plant ecology, and chairs the department's graduate program. His love of nature, teaching and research has inspired him to explore meaningful ways of communicating scientific understanding about the natural world. He has B.A. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz and an M.A. in Ecology and Systematic Biology at San Francisco State University. He earned his Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolution from Rutgers University.

### **Jeffrey White** : Executive Producer

Jeffrey White is a science educator and biodiversity specialist. His career in teaching and learning about the natural sciences began in middle school and was deepened by work in Brazil conducting ecology studies and surveying human impacts on rainforest systems. He has taught in California public schools and is currently a biology professor at Humboldt State University. He is also Co-founder and Executive Director of the Redwood Science Project, a natural science education institute. His passion for teaching and learning about natural history led him to co-found the California Environmental Legacy Project and co-create *Becoming California*. With a B.A. in Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, he earned a teaching certificate from California State University, Los Angeles and his Ph.D. in Botany from Michigan State University.