

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL: MARCH 2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Bills of Interest

California State Legislature

**AB 43 (SCHULTZ D ) WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.**

Introduced: 12/2/2024

Status: 3/24/2025-VOTE: Do pass and be re-referred to the Committee on [Appropriations] (PASS)

Location: 3/24/2025-A. APPR.

Summary: Current law requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to take specified actions relating to the addition of rivers or segments of rivers to the state's wild and scenic rivers system if, among other things, the federal government enacts a statute that, upon enactment, would require the removal or delisting of any river or segment of a river in the state that was included in the national wild and scenic rivers system and not in the state wild and scenic rivers system. Current law authorizes, only until December 31, 2025, the secretary to take action under these provisions to add a river or segment of a river to the state wild and scenic rivers system. Current law requires those actions to remain in effect until December 31, 2025, except as otherwise provided. This bill would indefinitely extend the date by which the secretary is authorized to take the specified actions relating to the addition of rivers or segments of rivers to the state's wild and scenic rivers system, as described above.

**AB 52 (AGUIAR-CURRY D ) NATIVE AMERICAN RESOURCES.**

Last Amend: 3/10/2025

Status: 3/11/2025-Re-referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

Location: 3/10/2025-A. NAT. RES.

Summary: Current law finds and declares it to be the public policy and in the public interest of California to encourage the voluntary conveyance of conservation easements to qualified nonprofit organizations. Current law defines the term "conservation easement" for these purposes, and authorizes certain entities and

**Highlight** – New bill, amended, or other action of note since last Council meeting

organizations to acquire and hold conservation easements, including a federally recognized California Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission, to protect a California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place, if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed. This bill would instead authorize a California Native American tribe that is on the above-described contact list, to protect a California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place, to acquire and hold conservation easements, if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed or otherwise conveyed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

**AB 274 (RANSOM D ) ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS: INVENTORY.**

Last Amend: 3/3/2025

Status: 3/24/2025-VOTE: Do pass as amended, and be re-referred to the Committee on [Appropriations] with recommendation: To Consent Calendar (PASS)

Location: 3/24/2025-A. APPR.

Summary: Current law vests in the State Lands Commission with exclusive jurisdiction over all ungranted tidelands and submerged lands owned by the state, and of the beds of navigable rivers, streams, lakes, bays, estuaries, inlets, and straits, including tidelands and submerged lands. Current law authorizes the commission to take immediate action to remove from areas under its jurisdiction a vessel that is left unattended and is moored, docked, beached, or made fast to land in a position as to obstruct the normal movement of traffic or in a condition as to create a hazard to navigation, other vessels using a waterway, or the property of another. Current law requires the commission, by July 1, 2019, and in consultation with other relevant state and local agencies directly involved in the removal of abandoned vessels, to develop a plan for the removal of abandoned commercial vessels. This bill would require the commission, on or before January 1, 2027, to create an inventory of all abandoned and derelict commercial and recreational vessels on or in waters within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, including commercially navigable waters, as specified. The bill would require the inventory to include specified information about each vessel, including, among other things, the amount of commercial and recreational vessels located in the Sacramento-San

Joaquin Delta and the estimated size and weight of each commercial or recreational vessel.

**AB 295 (MACEDO R ) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT:  
ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: WATER STORAGE,  
WATER CONVEYANCE, AND GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PROJECTS:  
STREAMLINED REVIEW.**

Introduced: 1/23/2025

Status: 2/10/2025-Referred to Coms. on NAT. RES. and W. P., & W.

Location: 2/10/2025-A. NAT. RES.

Summary: The Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2021 authorizes the Governor, until January 1, 2032, to certify environmental leadership development projects that meet specified requirements for certain streamlining benefits related to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The act, among other things, requires a lead agency to prepare the record of proceedings for an environmental leadership development project, as provided, and to provide a specified notice within 10 days of the Governor certifying the project. The act is repealed by its own term on January 1, 2034. This bill would extend the application of the act to water storage projects, water conveyance projects, and groundwater recharge projects that provide public benefits and drought preparedness. Because a lead agency would be required to prepare the record of proceedings for water storage projects, water conveyance projects, and groundwater recharge projects pursuant to the act, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

**AB 362 (RAMOS D ) WATER POLICY: CALIFORNIA TRIBAL COMMUNITIES.**

Introduced: 1/30/2025

Status: 3/24/2025-Referred to Coms. on W. P., & W. and E.S & T.M.

Location: 3/24/2025-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act establishes a statewide program for the control of the quality of all the waters in the state and makes certain legislative findings and declarations. Current law defines the term “beneficial uses” for the purposes of water quality as certain waters of the state that may be protected against quality degradation, to include, among others, domestic,

municipal, agricultural, and industrial supplies. This bill would add findings and declarations related to California tribal communities and the importance of protecting tribal water use, as those terms are defined. The bill would add tribal water uses as waters of the state that may be protected against quality degradation for purposes of the defined term “beneficial uses.”

**AB 430 (ALANIS R ) STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD: EMERGENCY REGULATIONS.**

Introduced: 2/5/2025

Status: 2/18/2025-Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Location: 2/18/2025-A. W.,P. & W.

Calendar: 4/8/2025 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASM WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE PAPAN, DIANE, Chair

Summary: Current law provides that an emergency regulation adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board following a Governor’s proclamation of a state of emergency based on drought conditions, for which the board makes specified findings, may remain in effect for up to one year, as provided, and may be renewed if the board determines that specified conditions relating to precipitation are still in effect. This bill would require the board, before the 2nd renewal of any emergency regulation or upon its repeal, to conduct a comprehensive economic study assessing the impacts of the regulation and would require the board to make the study publicly available on its internet website.

**AB 454 (KALRA D ) MIGRATORY BIRDS: CALIFORNIA MIGRATORY BIRD PROTECTION ACT.**

Introduced: 2/6/2025

Status: 2/18/2025-Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Location: 2/18/2025-A. W.,P. & W.

Calendar: 3/25/2025 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASM WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE PAPAN, DIANE, Chair

Summary: The California Migratory Bird Protection Act, until January 20, 2025, made unlawful the taking or possession of any migratory nongame bird designated in the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act before January 1, 2017, any additional migratory nongame bird that may be designated in the federal act after that date, or any part of those migratory nongame birds, except as provided. Current law, as of January 1, 2026, repeals this provision. This bill would instead extend the California Migratory Bird Protection Act indefinitely.

**AB 497 (WILSON D ) SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN.**

Introduced: 2/10/2025

Status: 2/11/2025-From printer. May be heard in committee March 13.

Location: 2/10/2025-A. PRINT

Summary: Current law makes available to the Natural Resources Agency bond funds for, among other things, implementing an updated State Water Resources Control Board's San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary Water Quality Control Plan (Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan), which establishes water quality control measures and flow requirements needed to provide reasonable protection of beneficial uses in the watershed. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation relating to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

**AB 514 (PETRIE-NORRIS D ) WATER: EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLIES.**

Introduced: 2/10/2025

Status: 3/21/2025-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

Location: 2/24/2025-A. W.,P. & W.

Calendar: 4/29/2025 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASM WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE PAPAN, DIANE, Chair

Summary: The Urban Water Management Planning Act requires every public and private urban water supplier that directly or indirectly provides water for municipal purposes to prepare and adopt an urban water management plan. The act requires an urban water management plan to include a water shortage contingency plan, as provided. This bill would declare that it is the established policy of the state to encourage, but not mandate, the development of emergency water supplies by local water suppliers, and to support their use during times of drought or unplanned service or supply disruption, as provided.

**AB 638 (RODRIGUEZ, CELESTE D ) STORMWATER: REUSES: IRRIGATION.**

Last Amended: 3/19/2025

Status: 3/20/2025-Re-referred to Com. on E.S & T.M.

Location: 3/3/2025-A. E.S. & T.M.

**Calendar:** 3/25/2025 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASM ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TOXIC MATERIALS CONNOLLY, DAMON, Chair

Summary: The Stormwater Resource Planning Act authorizes one or more public agencies to develop a stormwater resource plan that meets certain standards to address the capture of stormwater, as defined, and dry weather runoff, as defined. This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board, by June 1, 2026, to establish guidance for stormwater capture and use for the irrigation of urban public lands, as defined. The bill would require the guidance to include, but not be limited to, the use of captured stormwater for irrigation to offset the use of potable water, as specified, and criteria for, among other things, pathogens and pathogen indicators and total suspended solids.

**AB 639 (SORIA D ) DAMS: EXCEPTIONS.**

Introduced: 2/13/2025

Status: 2/24/2025-Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Location: 2/24/2025-A. W.,P. & W.

**Calendar:** 3/25/2025 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASM WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE PAPAN, DIANE, Chair

Summary: Current law defines a dam to mean any artificial barrier, together with appurtenant works, that does or may impound or divert water, and meets other specified criteria. Current law excludes from the definition a barrier that is or will be not in excess of 6 feet in height, regardless of storage capacity, or that has or will have a storage capacity not in excess of 15 acre-feet, regardless of height. Current law requires the Department of Water Resources to supervise the construction, enlargement, alteration, repair, maintenance, operation, and removal of dams and reservoirs for the protection of life and property. This bill would additionally exclude from the definition of a dam a barrier that does not impound water above the top of a levee where maximum storage behind the barrier has a minimum of 3 feet of freeboard on the levee and is a weir, as defined, with either mechanically or manually removable flashboards or gates.

**AB 707 (SORIA D ) SAN LUIS AND DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY: B.F. SISK DAM RAISE AND RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT.**

Introduced: 2/14/2025

Status: 2/15/2025-From printer. May be heard in committee March 17.

Location: 2/14/2025 A - PRINT

Summary: Would appropriate \$455,500,000 from the General Fund to the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority for the purpose of funding the State Highway 152 Route improvements required to complete the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project.

**AB 717 (AGUIAR-CURRY D ) WATER RIGHTS: APPROPRIATION: SMALL RESTORATION USE.**

Last Amended: 3/10/2025

Status: 3/11/2025-Re-referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Location: 3/10/2025-A. W.,P. & W.

**Calendar:** 4/8/2025 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASM WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE PAPAN, DIANE, Chair

Summary: The Water Rights Permitting Reform Act of 1988 authorizes any person to obtain a right to appropriate water for a small domestic, small irrigation, or livestock stockpond use, as defined, upon registering the use with the State Water Resources Control Board, as prescribed, payment of a registration fee, and application of the water to reasonable and beneficial use with due diligence. Current law requires a person, in registering their water use to the board, to set forth a certification that the registrant has contacted the Department of Fish and Wildlife and to include a copy of any conditions required by the department. This bill would authorize any person to also obtain a right to appropriate water for a small restoration use, as defined. The bill would also authorize a person to apply for a restoration management permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, as provided, and if the permit is issued, the person would be required to include a copy of any conditions required by the restoration management permit with the required certification.

**AB 734 (SCHULTZ D ) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES DATA: REPORTING.**

Introduced: 2/18/2025

Status: 2/19/2025-From printer. May be heard in committee March 21

Location: 2/18/2025-A. PRINT

Summary: The California Public Records Act requires state and local agencies to make their records available for public inspection, unless an exemption from disclosure applies. Current law requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to establish a standardized electronic format and protocol for the exchange of electronic data for the purposes of meeting environmental data reporting or



other usage requirements, as provided. This bill would require any biological resources data, as defined, submitted to a regional, local, or state public agency to be posted on that public agency's internet website and made publicly available within 2 weeks of submission to the public agency, as provided.

**AB 900 (PAPAN D ) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: 30 X30 GOALS: LAND CONSERVATION: SCIENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP.**

**Last Amend: 3/24/2025**

Status: 3/24/2025-From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on NAT. RES. Read second time and amended.

Location: 3/10/2025-A. NAT. RES.

Calendar: 4/7/2025 2:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 437 ASM NATURAL RESOURCES BRYAN, ISAAC, Chair

Summary: By Executive Order No. N-82-20, Governor Gavin Newsom directed the Natural Resources Agency to combat the biodiversity and climate crises by, among other things, establishing the California Biodiversity Collaborative and conserving at least 30% of the state's lands and coastal waters by 2030. Existing law provides that it is the goal of the state to conserve at least 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030, known as the 30x30 goal. On April 22, 2022, the Natural Resources Agency issued the "Pathways to 30x30 California: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature" report and current law requires the Secretary of Natural Resources Agency to prepare and submit an annual report to the Legislature on progress made toward achieving the 30x30 goal, as provided. This bill would require the agency, on or before July 1, 2026, to update the Pathways to 30x30 Report, and for the update to include, among other things, recommendations to increase science-based management and stewardship of 30x30 lands, including innovative ways to reduce barriers and increase federal, state, and local support for science-based management and stewardship, as specified.

**AB 975 (GALLAGHER R ) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: LAKE AND STREAMBED ALTERATION AGREEMENTS: EXEMPTIONS: CULVERTS AND BRIDGES.**

**Last Amend: 3/18/2025**

Status: 3/19/2025-Re-referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

Location: 3/10/2025-A. NAT. RES.

Summary: Current law prohibits a person, a state or local governmental agency, or a public utility from substantially diverting or obstructing the natural flow of, or substantially changing or using any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake, or depositing or disposing of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake, unless prescribed requirements are met, including written notification to the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the activity. Current law requires the department to determine whether the activity may substantially adversely affect an existing fish and wildlife resource and, if so, to provide a draft lake or streambed alteration agreement to the person, agency, or utility. Current law prescribes various requirements for lake and streambed alteration agreements. Current law also establishes various exemptions from these provisions. This bill would exempt from these provisions emergency projects undertaken, carried out, or approved by a state or local government agency to maintain, repair, restore, or reconstruct a bridge 30 feet long or less or reconstruct a culvert 70 feet long or less, that has been damaged as a result of fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide, within one year of the damage.

**AB 1102 (BOERNER D ) DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: SEA LEVEL RISE AND GROUNDWATER RISE RISK ASSESSMENT.**

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Status: 2/21/2025-From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.

Location: 2/20/2025-A. PRINT

Summary: Existing law requires a public agency to compile one or more lists that specify in detail the information that will be required from any applicant for a development project, as defined. This bill would require a proponent of a new development to complete a sea level rise and groundwater rise risk assessment as

part of the application to a public agency if the proposed development will be within 1,000 feet of a contaminated site, as provided, and will be within an area vulnerable to groundwater rise or sea level rise, as defined. Because the bill would place additional duties on local agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

**AB 1146 (PAPAN D ) WATER INFRASTRUCTURE: DAMS AND RESERVOIRS: WATER RELEASE: FALSE PRETENSES.**

Last Amend: 3/17/2025

Status: 3/18/2025-Re-referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Location: 3/17/2025-A. W.,P. & W.

Calendar: 4/29/2025 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASM WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE PAPAN, DIANE, Chair

Summary: Would prohibit the release of stored water from a reservoir in this state if the release is done under false pretenses, which the bill would define to mean a release of water from a reservoir in a manner that is knowingly and designedly under any false or fraudulent representation or assumption as to the purpose and intended use of the water. The bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to issue an interim relief order, as specified, to a reservoir operator to prohibit the release of stored water in violation of the above-described prohibition. The bill would authorize the board to commence an interim relief proceeding on its own motion or upon the petition of an interested party, and would specify information required to be included in the petition. The bill would provide any person who violates these provisions would be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine or imprisonment in the county jail, or both. By expanding the scope of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

**AB 1367 (GALLAGHER R ) THE CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN: WATER STORAGE**

Introduced: 2/21/2025

Status: 3/13/2025-Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Location: 3/13/2025-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: Current law requires the Department of Water Resources to update every 5 years the California Water Plan for the orderly and coordinated control, protection, conservation, development, and use of the water resources of the state. This bill would require the department to amend The California Water Plan to state that water storage is the preferred method to be used by the state to meet increased water demands by urban, agricultural, and environmental interests.

**AB 1373 (SORIA D ) WATER QUALITY: STATE CERTIFICATION.**

Last Amend: 3/24/2025

Status: 3/24/2025-Referred to Com. on E.S & T.M. From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on E.S & T.M. Read second time and amended.

Location: 3/24/2025-A. E.S. & T.M.

Summary: Under existing law, the State Water Resources Control Board and the California regional water quality control boards prescribe waste discharge requirements in accordance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Under federal law, any applicant seeking a federal license or permit for an activity that may result in any discharge into the navigable waters of the United States is required to first seek a state water quality certification, as specified. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authorizes the state board to certify or provide a statement to a federal agency, as required pursuant to federal law, that there is reasonable assurance that an activity of any person subject to the jurisdiction of the state board will not reduce water quality below applicable standards. The federal act provides that if a state fails or refuses to act on a request for this certification within a reasonable period of time, which shall not exceed one year after receipt of the request, then the state certification requirements are waived with respect to the federal application. This bill would require the state board to hold a public hearing at least 21 days before taking

action on an application for a certificate or statement. The bill would prohibit the authority to issue a certification for a license to operate a hydroelectric facility from being delegated.

**SB 31 (MCNERNEY D ) WATER QUALITY: RECYCLED WATER.**

Last Amend: 2/10/2025

Status: 3/12/2025-Set for hearing March 25.

Location: 2/19/2025-S. N.R. & W.

Calendar: 3/25/2025 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2100 SEN NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER LIMÓN, MONIQUE, Chair

Summary: The Water Recycling Law generally provides for the use of recycled water. Current law requires any person who, without regard to intent or negligence, causes or permits an unauthorized discharge of 50,000 gallons or more of recycled water in or on any waters of the state to immediately notify the appropriate regional water board. This bill would, for the purposes of the above provision, redefine "recycled water" and provide that water discharged from a decorative body of water during storm events is not to be considered an unauthorized discharge if recycled water was used to restore levels due to evaporation.

**SB 72 (CABALLERO D ) THE CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN: LONG-TERM SUPPLY TARGETS.**

Last Amend: 3/18/2025

Status: 3/18/2025-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

Location: 1/29/2025-S. N.R. & W.

Summary: Current law requires the Department of Water Resources to update every 5 years the plan for the orderly and coordinated control, protection, conservation, development, and use of the water resources of the state, which is known as "The California Water Plan." Current law requires the department to include a discussion of various strategies in the plan update, including, but not limited to, strategies relating to the development of new water storage facilities, water conservation, water recycling, desalination, conjunctive use, and water transfers, that may be pursued in order to meet the future needs of the state.

Current law requires the department to establish an advisory committee to assist the department in updating the plan. This bill would revise and recast certain provisions regarding The California Water Plan to, among other things, require the department to expand the membership of the advisory committee to include, among others, tribes, labor, and environmental justice interests. The bill would require the department, as part of the 2033 update to the plan, to update the interim planning target for 2050, as provided. The bill would require the target to consider the identified and future water needs for a sustainable urban sector, agricultural sector, and environment, and ensure safe drinking water for all Californians, among other things.

**SB 90 (SEYARTO R ) SAFE DRINKING WATER, WILDFIRE PREVENTION, DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS, AND CLEAN AIR BOND ACT OF 2024: GRANTS: IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC EVACUATION ROUTES: MOBILE RIGID WATER STORAGE: ELECTRICAL GENERATORS.**

Last Amend: 3/12/2025 (likely to be removed from Bills of Interest)

Status: 3/12/2025-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

Location: 3/11/2025-S. N.R. & W.

Summary: The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 makes \$135,000,000 available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Office of Emergency Services for a wildfire mitigation grant program to provide, among other things, loans, direct assistance, and matching funds for projects that prevent wildfires, increase resilience, maintain existing wildfire risk reduction projects, reduce the risk of wildfires to communities, or increase home or community hardening. The act provides that eligible projects include, but are not limited to, grants to local agencies, state agencies, joint powers authorities, tribes, resource conservation districts, fire safe councils, and nonprofit organizations for structure hardening of critical community infrastructure, wildfire smoke mitigation, evacuation centers, including community clean air centers, structure hardening projects that reduce the risk of wildfire for entire neighborhoods and communities, water delivery system improvements for fire suppression purposes for communities in very high or high fire hazard areas, wildfire buffers, and incentives to remove structures that significantly increase hazard risk. This bill would include in the list of eligible projects grants to the above-

mentioned entities for improvements to public evacuation routes in very high and high fire hazard severity zones, mobile rigid dip tanks, as defined, to support firefighting efforts, prepositioned mobile rigid water storage, as defined, and improvements to the response and effectiveness of fire engines and helicopters.

**SB 224 (HURTADO D ) DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: WATER SUPPLY FORECASTING.**

Introduced: 3/11/2025

Status: 3/12/2025-Set for hearing March 25.

Location: 2/5/2025-S. N.R. & W.

**Calendar:** 3/25/2025 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2100 SEN NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER LIMÓN, MONIQUE, Chair

Summary: Would require the Department of Water Resources, on or before January 1, 2027, to adopt a new water supply forecasting model and procedures that better address the effects of climate change and implement a formal policy and procedures for documenting the department's operational plans and the department's rationale for its operating procedures, including the department's rationale for water releases from reservoirs. The bill would also require the department to establish, and publish on the department's internet website, the specific criteria that it will employ to determine when its updated water supply forecasting model has demonstrated sufficient predictive capability to be ready for use in each of the watersheds. The bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report on its progress toward implementing the new forecasting model and to post the report on the department's internet website. The bill would also require the department, on or before January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report that explains the rationale for the department's operating procedures specific to the previous water year.

**SB 287 (ARREGUÍN D ) CALIFORNIA TRAILS CONSERVANCY PROGRAM.**

Last Amend: 3/24/2025

Status: 3/24/2025-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on RLS.

Location: 2/6/2025-S. RLS.

Summary: Existing law establishes the Natural Resources Agency, composed of departments, boards, conservancies, and commissions responsible for the restoration, protection, and management of the state's natural and cultural resources. This bill would establish in the agency the California Trails Conservancy Program. The bill would require the program to have specified purposes, including promoting enhanced and expanded environmentally sound greenways and trail networks. If the agency determines that it would benefit these purposes, the bill would authorize the agency to establish an ad hoc working group with specified members, including a representative from the Department of Parks and Recreation. The bill would authorize the agency to delegate administration of the program to the agency's Deputy Secretary for Access. The bill would also authorize the agency to administer funding for priority projects, as defined, through existing or new grants or competitive grant programs and would require that no less than 35% percent of the funding administered by the agency for the purposes of the program be allocated to projects benefiting disadvantaged communities, as defined.

**SB 470 (LAIRD D ) BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT: TELECONFERENCING.**

Introduced: 2/19/2025

Status: 3/12/2025-Set for hearing March 25.

Location: 2/26/2025-S. G.O.

**Calendar:** 3/25/2025 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1200 SEN GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION PADILLA, STEPHEN, Chair

Summary: The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act authorizes meetings through teleconference subject to specified requirements, including, among others, that the state body post agendas at all teleconference locations, that each teleconference location be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that the agenda provide an



opportunity for members of the public to address the state body directly at each teleconference location, and that at least one member of the state body be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting. The act authorizes an additional, alternative set of provisions under which a state body may hold a meeting by teleconference subject to specified requirements, including, among others, that at least one member of the state body is physically present at each teleconference location, as defined, that a majority of the members of the state body are physically present at the same teleconference location, except as specified, and that members of the state body visibly appear on camera during the open portion of a meeting that is publicly accessible via the internet or other online platform, except as specified. The act authorizes, under specified circumstances, a member of the state body to participate pursuant to these provisions from a remote location, which would not be required to be accessible to the public and which the act prohibits the notice and agenda from disclosing. The act repeals these provisions on January 1, 2026. This bill would delete the January 1, 2026 repeal date, thereby authorizing the above-described additional, alternative set of teleconferencing provisions indefinitely.

**SB 607 (WIENER D ) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS: INFILL PROJECTS.**

Amended: 3/24/2025

Status: 3/24/2025-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on E.Q.

Location: 3/5/2025-S. E.Q.

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of an environmental impact report (EIR) on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. Existing law defines "negative declaration" and "mitigated negative declaration" for these purposes. This bill would revise the definition of negative declaration to mean a written statement

briefly describing the substantial evidence in the record that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment, as specified. The bill would also revise the definition of mitigated negative declaration to mean that revisions would avoid or mitigate the effects on the environment, as determined by the public agency based upon substantial evidence in the record, as specified, and that there is substantial evidence that the project as revised will not have a significant effect on the environment, as provided. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

**SB 639 (ASHBY D ) ZONING: SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY.**

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Status: 3/12/2025-Set for hearing April 8.

Location: 3/5/2025-S. N.R. & W.

**Calendar:** 4/8/2025 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2100 SEN NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER LIMÓN, MONIQUE, Chair

Summary: Existing law requires each city and county within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley to amend its general plan relative to the data and analysis contained in the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, as specified and to amend its zoning ordinance consistent with the general plan. This bill, until January 1, 2030, would include in the exceptions to the requirement that the urban level of flood protection be achieved for urban and urbanizing areas protected by project levees by 2025, specified areas located in the City of Sacramento and the County of Sacramento, that shall, instead, be required to achieve the urban level of flood protection by 2030. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

**SB 650 (CABALDON D ) THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA REFORM ACT OF 2009.**

Amended: 3/24/2025

Status: 3/24/2025-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on RLS.

Location: 2/20/2025-S. RLS.

Summary: Existing law, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009, provides that it is the intent of the Legislature to provide for the sustainable management of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem, to provide for a more reliable water supply for the state, to protect and enhance the quality of water supply from the Delta, as defined, and to establish a governance structure that will direct efforts across state agencies to develop a legally enforceable Delta Plan. Existing law authorizes persons and certain entities, claiming that a proposed covered action is inconsistent with the Delta Plan and that, as a result of that inconsistency, the action will have a significant adverse impact on the achievement of certain goals or implementation of government-sponsored flood control programs to reduce risks to people and property in the Delta, to file an appeal with regard to a certification of consistency submitted to the Delta Stewardship Council. Existing law requires the appeal to be heard by the council within 60 days of the date of the filing of the appeal, as specified, and requires the council to make its decision on the appeal within 60 days of hearing the appeal. This bill would provide certain deadlines for legal actions arising out of specified actions of the council and would make related changes. The bill would add state and local public agencies to those entities authorized to appeal regarding a certification of consistency.

**SB 697 (LAIRD D ) DETERMINATION OF WATER RIGHTS: STREAM SYSTEM.**

Introduced: 2/21/2025

Status: 3/12/2025-Set for hearing March 25.

Location: 3/5/2025-S. N.R. & W.

**Calendar:** 3/25/2025 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2100 SEN NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER LIMÓN, MONIQUE, Chair

Summary: Current law authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to hold proceedings to determine all rights to water of a stream system whether based upon appropriation, riparian right, or other basis of right. Current law provides various requirements for the board when determining adjudication of water rights, including, among other things, performing a detailed field investigation of a stream system, as defined, issuing an order of determination, providing notice and a hearing process, and filing a final order. This bill would revise the above-described provisions regarding the board's statutory adjudication of water rights during an investigation of a stream system to, among other things, require representatives of the board to investigate in detail the use of water with the authority, but no requirement, to conduct a field investigation, authorize the board to issue information orders that require claimants to submit monthly reports of water use from the stream system through a form provided by the board, and require claimants to respond to that order within 45 days of the date of issuance by the board.

**SB 795 (RICHARDSON D ) 30 X30 GOAL: STATE AGENCIES: PLANS, POLICIES, OR REGULATIONS.**

Introduced: 2/21/2025

Status: 3/12/2025-Referred to Coms. on G.O. and N.R. & W.

Location: 3/12/2025-S. G.O.

Summary: Current law requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to prepare and submit, on or before March 31, 2024, and annually thereafter, a report to the Legislature on the progress made in the prior calendar year toward achieving the goal to conserve 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030. Current law provides that it is the goal of the state to conserve at least 30% of

California's lands and coastal waters by 2030, known as the 30x30 goal. This bill would require all state agencies, including their departments, boards, offices, commissions, and conservancies, to consider the 30x30 goal when adopting, revising, or establishing plans, policies, or regulations, and shall ensure, to the extent feasible, that the plan, policy, or regulation is not inconsistent with the 30x30 goal.

**SB 856 ( COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER ) MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES ACT: BIENNIAL REPORTS: SEMIANNUAL UPDATES.**

Introduced: 3/11/2025

Status: 3/19/2025-Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

Location: 3/19/2025-S. N.R. & W.

Summary: The Marine Invasive Species Act requires the State Lands Commission, in consultation with specific entities, to biennially submit to the Legislature a report that includes certain information, including, among other things, a summary of the information provided in the ballast water discharge report forms submitted to the commission, as provided. This bill would require the biennial report submitted to the Legislature to instead be submitted triennially and would require that report to instead include a summary of the information provided in the ballast water management report forms submitted to the commission, as provided.