

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL: JUNE 2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

California State Legislature

Support

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

Amended: 4/9/2025

Status: 6/17/2025 From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on JUD. (Ayes 10. Noes 0.) (June 17). Re-referred to Com. on JUD.

Location: 6/17/2025 A - JUD.

Summary: 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. This bill would make the provisions of the Delta Plan severable.

Bills of Interest

AB 43 (SCHULTZ D) WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.

Introduced: 12/2/2024

Status: 6/11/2025-Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

Location: 6/11/2025-S. N.R. & W.

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

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

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

Last Amend: 3/ 26/2025

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/9/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 5/23/2025-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Current law establishes within the Natural Resources Agency, the State Lands Commission consisting of the Controller, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Director of Finance. Current law vests in the 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.

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

Last Amend: 4/21/2025

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/14/2025) (May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 5/23/2025-A. 2 YEAR

Brief 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, as defined, and the importance of protecting tribal water use. 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.

Last Amend: 5/1/2025

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/14/2025) (May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 5/23/2025-A. 2 YEAR

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, within 180 days following a finding by the board that a nonfee emergency regulation is no longer necessary, as provided, to conduct a comprehensive economic study assessing the impacts of the regulation, as specified.

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

Last Amend: 6/16/2025

Status: 6/16/2025-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee. From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/10/2025-S. APPR.

Summary: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is a federal law protecting migratory birds and allows states to implement additional regulations for their protection. In California, the Migratory Bird Protection Act made it illegal until January 20, 2025, to take or possess migratory nongame birds listed before January 1, 2017, or any birds added after that, except in specific cases. However, this provision will be repealed as of January 1, 2026. The new bill proposes permanently prohibiting the taking or possession of any migratory bird designated in federal laws before January 1, 2025, and any birds added afterward. This bill would repeal the provision effective January 20, 2025, making it immediately unlawful to take or possess these birds. It will expand the scope of certain crimes under the Fish and Game Code and does not require state reimbursement for local costs because of a specified exemption. The bill is set to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

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

Introduced: 2/10/2025

Status: 5/8/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was PRINT on 2/10/2025) (May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 5/8/2025-A. 2 YEAR

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.

Amended: 5/1/2025

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/14/2025) (May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 5/23/2025-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Would declare that it is the established policy of the state to encourage, but not mandate, the development of emergency water supplies by both local and regional water suppliers, as defined, and to support their use during times of drought or unplanned service or supply disruption, as provided.

AB 527 (PAPAN D) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATORY PROJECTS.

Amended: 5/5/2025

Status: 6/4/2025-Referred to Coms. on E.Q. and N.R. & W.

Location: 6/4/2025-S. E.Q.

Calendar: 7/2/2025 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 112 SEN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BLAKESPEAR, CATHERINE, Chair

Brief Summary: Current law establishes the Geologic Energy Management Division in the Department of Conservation, under the direction of the State Oil and Gas Supervisor, who is required to supervise the drilling, operation, maintenance, and abandonment of wells so as to permit the owners or operators of those wells to utilize all methods and practices known to the industry for the purpose of increasing the ultimate recovery of geothermal resources, as provided. Current law requires the division to be the lead agency for all geothermal exploratory projects for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as specified, and authorizes the division to delegate its lead agency responsibility for geothermal exploratory projects to a county that has adopted a geothermal element for its general plan. Current law also requires the county in which a geothermal project is located to assume the responsibilities of a lead agency for a geothermal exploratory project upon the request of an applicant, as specified. Current law defines "geothermal exploratory project" in part as a project composed of not more than 6 wells and associated drilling and testing equipment whose chief and original purpose is to evaluate the presence and characteristics of geothermal resources. This bill provides that "geothermal exploratory project" includes, among other things, equipment and activities necessary to establish interconnectivity between wells and reservoirs. The bill would, until January 1, 2031, exempt geothermal exploratory projects for which the county is the lead agency that meet specified conditions from CEQA. The bill would authorize the lead agency to require the

project applicant to file an indemnity bond before it makes its determination pursuant to this exemption, as specified. The bill would require the lead agency, at least 30 days before the making the determination to approve or carry out a change in use pursuant to this exemption, to post a written notice on its internet website and at the project site. The bill would require, if the lead agency determines that the project is not subject to CEQA pursuant to this exemption, the lead agency to file a notice with the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation and with the county clerk of the county in which the project is located, as provided.

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

Last Amend: 5/23/2025

Status: 6/11/2025-Referred to Coms. on E.Q. and N.R. & W.

Location: 6/11/2025-S. E.Q.

Calendar: 7/2/2025 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 112 SEN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
BLAKESPEAR, CATHERINE, Chair

Summary: Current law, 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 December 1, 2026, to develop recommendations for stormwater capture and use for the irrigation of urban public lands, as defined. The bill would require the recommendations to address, but not be limited to, opportunities for the use of captured stormwater for irrigation to offset the use of potable water, as specified, and recommendations for, among other things, pathogens and pathogen indicators and total suspended solids.

AB 639 (SORIA D) DAMS: EXCEPTIONS.

Last Amend: 6/11/2025

Status: 6/11/2025-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/10/2025-S. APPR.

Calendar: 6/23/2025 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200 SEN APPROPRIATIONS
CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Brief 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. 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, but would apply only to specified weirs named in the bill.

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: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/30/2025) (May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 5/23/2025-A. 2 YEAR

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 766 (SHARP-COLLINS D) STATE AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS: STRATEGIC PLANS: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Last Amend: 5/23/2025

Status: 6/4/2025-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Location: 6/4/2025-S. RLS.

Summary: The State Government Strategic Planning and Performance and Review Act requires each agency, department, office, or commission for which strategic planning efforts are recommended, as specified, to develop a strategic plan and to report to the Governor and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee by April 1 each year on the steps being taken to develop and adopt a strategic plan. The act requires the report to include a description of the elements to be included in the strategic plan, the process for developing and adopting the strategic plan, and the timetable for the plan's completion. This bill would require all agencies and departments subject to the Governor's authority to, for any strategic plans applicable, develop or update the strategic plan to reflect the use of data analysis and inclusive practices to more effectively advance racial equity and to respond to identified disparities with changes to the organization's policies, programs, and operations.

AB 869 (IRWIN D) STATE AGENCIES: INFORMATION SECURITY: ZERO TRUST ARCHITECTURE.

Introduced: 2/19/2025

Status: 6/11/2025-Referred to Com. on G.O.

Location: 6/11/2025-S. G.O.

Calendar: 7/8/2025 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1200 SEN GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION PADILLA, STEPHEN, Chair

Summary: Current law establishes the Office of Information Security within the Department of Technology for the purpose of ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of state systems and applications and to promote and protect privacy as part of the development and operations of state systems and applications to ensure the trust of the residents of this state. Current law requires specified state entities to implement the policies and procedures issued by the office. Existing law additionally authorizes the office to conduct, or require to be conducted, an independent security assessment of every state agency, department, or office, as specified. Current law requires every state agency, as specified, to certify, by February 1 annually, to the office that the agency is in compliance with all adopted policies, standards, and procedures and to include a plan of action and milestones, as specified. This bill would require every state agency, as specified, and subject to specified exceptions, to implement Zero Trust architecture for all data, hardware, software, internal systems, and essential third-party software, including for on-premises, cloud, and hybrid environments, to achieve prescribed levels of maturity based on the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Maturity Model, as defined, by specified dates. In implementing Zero Trust architecture, the bill would require state agencies to prioritize the use of solutions that comply with, are authorized by, or align to federal guidelines, programs, and frameworks and, at a minimum, prioritize multifactor authentication for access to all systems and data, enterprise endpoint detection and response solutions, and robust logging practices, as specified. The bill would require the office's chief to develop or revise uniform technology policies, standards, and procedures for use by all state agencies in Zero Trust architecture to achieve specified maturity levels on all systems in the State Administrative Manual and Statewide Information Management Manual.

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

Last Amend: 5/23/2025

Status: 6/11/2025-Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

Location: 6/11/2025-S. N.R. & W.

Calendar: 6/24/2025 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2100 SEN NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER LIMÓN, MONIQUE, 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. 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. 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, as part of the 2027 annual report on progress made toward achieving the 30x30 goal, to update the Pathways to 30x30 Report, and for the update to include, among other things, recommendations to increase and improve 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 1102 (BOERNER D) SEA LEVEL RISE AND GROUNDWATER RISE: CONTAMINATED SITES: REPORT.

Last Amend: 4/9/2025

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/14/2025) (May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 5/23/2025-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: The Department of Toxic Substances Control generally regulates the management and handling of hazardous substances, materials, and waste. The bill would require, on or before January 1, 2027, the department and the State Water Resources Control Board to submit a report to the Legislature that includes specified information, including information relating to all contaminated sites that are vulnerable to sea level rise and groundwater rise.

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

Last Amend: 5/1/2025

Status: 6/9/2025-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Location: 6/9/2025-S. RLS.

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, designedly, and intentionally under any false or fraudulent representation 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. The bill would make any person who violates these provisions civilly liable in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for each day in which the violation occurs. The bill would also require these penalties to apply to the United States to the extent authorized under federal law, as specified.

AB 1156 (WICKS D) SOLAR-USE EASEMENTS: SUSPENSION OF WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACTS: TERMS OF EASEMENT: TERMINATION.

Last Amend: 5/23/2025

Status: 6/4/2025-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Location: 6/4/2025-S. RLS.

Summary: The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, otherwise known as the Williamson Act, authorizes a city or county to contract with a landowner to limit the use of agricultural land to agricultural use if the land is located in an agricultural preserve designated by the city or county, as specified. The act authorizes the parties to mutually agree to rescind the contract in order to simultaneously enter into a solar-use easement if approved by the Department of Conservation, as specified. Existing law defines the term "solar-use easement" for these purposes to mean any right or interest acquired by a county, or city in a parcel or parcels determined to be eligible, as provided, where the deed or other instrument

granting the right or interest imposes certain restrictions that effectively restrict the use of the land to photovoltaic solar facilities for the purpose of providing for the collection and distribution of solar energy and certain other incidental or subordinate uses or other alternative renewable energy facilities. This bill would revise the definition of the term "solar-use easement" to, among other changes, expand the authorized uses of the land under the easement to include solar energy storage and appurtenant renewable energy facilities. The bill would revise the conditions under which the land subject to a Williamson Act contract may be subject to a solar-use easement, as described above, to instead require the conversion of the Williamson Act contract into a solar-use easement for the term of the solar-use easement, rather than the rescission of the contract, if the Department of Conservation determines that the parcel is eligible to be placed in the easement, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

ACA 11 (MACEDO R) CALIFORNIA WATER RESILIENCY ACT.

Introduced: 3/24/2025

Status: 3/25/2025-From printer. May be heard in committee April 24.

Location: 3/24/2025-A. PRINT

Summary: This measure, the California Water Resiliency Act, would require the Treasurer to annually transfer an amount equal to 1% of all state revenues from the General Fund to the Water Conveyance and Capacity Infrastructure Fund, which the measure would create. The measure would continuously appropriate moneys in the fund to the California Water Commission for its actual costs of implementing these provisions and for administering grants for the entitlement, repair, design, and construction of water infrastructure projects that will maintain or expand the availability of clean, safe drinking water for homes and businesses, and water for agricultural uses, consistent with area of origin water rights.

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

Last Amend: 6/9/2025

Status: 6/9/2025-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Location: 6/5/2025-A. W. P., & W.

Calendar: 6/17/2025 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASM WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE PAPAN, DIANE, 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: 4/10/2025

Status: 6/9/2025-Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Location: 6/9/2025-A. W.,P. & 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 all beneficial uses, including, but not limited to, urban uses, agricultural uses, tribal uses, and the environment, and ensure safe drinking water for all Californians, among other things. The bill would

require the plan to include specified components, including a discussion of the estimated costs, benefits, and impacts of any project type or action that is recommended by the department within the plan that could help achieve the water supply targets.

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.

Amended: 3/12/2025

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/5/2025) (May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 5/23/2025-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, approved by the voters as Proposition 4 at the November 5, 2024, statewide general election, authorized the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate-smart, sustainable, and resilient farms, ranches, and working lands, park creation and outdoor access, and clean air programs. The act 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.

Last Amend: 5/23/2025

Status: 6/5/2025-In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Location: 6/4/2025-A. DESK

Summary: Current law requires the Department of Water Resources to gather and correlate information and data pertinent to an annual forecast of seasonal water crop. Current law also requires the department 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." This bill would require the department, 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: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/5/2025) (May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 5/23/2025-S. 2 YEAR

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 427 (BLAKESPEAR D) HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND.

Last Amend: 5/23/2025

Status: 6/9/2025-Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Location: 6/9/2025-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: Proposition 117, an initiative measure approved by the electors at the June 5, 1990, direct primary election, enacted the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990. The act creates the Habitat Conservation Fund and requires the moneys in the fund to be used for specified purposes generally relating to the acquisition, enhancement, or restoration of wildlife habitat. The act requires the Controller, until June 30, 2020, to annually transfer \$30,000,000 from the General Fund to the Habitat Conservation Fund, less any amount transferred to the Habitat Conservation Fund from specified accounts and funds. The act, until July 1, 2020, continuously appropriates specified amounts from the Habitat Conservation Fund to the Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Coastal Conservancy, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the California Tahoe Conservancy, and

continuously appropriates the balance of the fund to the Wildlife Conservation Board. This bill would require the Controller to continue to annually transfer \$30,000,000 from the General Fund, less any amount transferred to the Habitat Conservation Fund from specified accounts and funds to the Habitat Conservation Fund until June 30, 2035, and would continuously appropriate that amount on an annual basis in the same proportions to the specified entities described above until July 1, 2035. This bill contains other existing laws.

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

Last Amend: 4/10/2025

Status: 6/9/2025-Referred to Com. on G.O.

Location: 6/9/2025-A. G.O.

Summary: Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a state body be open and public and all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body. The 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. This bill would instead repeal these provisions on January 1, 2030.

SB 607 (WIENER D) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

Last Amend: 5/28/2025

Status: 6/5/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(8). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on 6/5/2025) (May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 6/5/2025-S. 2 YEAR

Brief Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) 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. Current law, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009, declares that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a critically important natural resource for California and the nation and it serves as both the hub of the California water system and the most valuable estuary and wetland ecosystem on the west coast of North and South America. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature that, among other things, no revisions shall be made to CEQA for purposes of the Delta Conveyance Project.

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

Last Amend: 5/6/2025

Status: 5/15/2025-Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 34. Noes 0.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Location: 5/15/2025-A. DESK

Summary: Current law prohibits the legislative body of a city or county within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley from entering into a development agreement for property that is located within a flood hazard zone after the amendments described above are complete unless the city or county makes a specified finding. Among the possible findings, is that the local flood agency has made adequate progress on construction of a flood protection system that will result in flood protection equal to or greater than the urban level of flood protection in urban or urbanizing areas intended to be protected by the system, which, except as provided, shall be achieved by 2025 for urban and urbanizing areas protected by project levees. Current law similarly prohibits each city and county within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley from approving a discretionary permit or other discretionary entitlement that would result in the construction of a new building or construction that would result in an increase in allowed occupancy for an existing building, or a ministerial permit that would result in the construction of a new residence, for a project that is located within a flood hazard zone after the amendments described above are complete unless the city or county makes a specified finding. Among the possible findings, is that the local flood agency has made adequate progress toward the urban level of flood protection as described above. Current law similarly requires the legislative body of each city and county within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley to deny approval of a tentative map or a parcel map for a subdivision that is located within a flood hazard zone after the

amendments described above are complete unless the city or county makes a specified finding. Among the possible findings, is that the local flood agency has made adequate progress toward the urban level of flood protection as described above. This bill 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.

SB 675 (PADILLA D) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: STREAMLINING.

Last Amend: 5/23/2025

Status: 6/5/2025-In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Location: 6/4/2025-A. DESK

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 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. This bill would provide additional streamlining benefits to Waterfront Environmental Leadership Development Projects (WELDPs), as defined, that, among other specified conditions, are certified by the Governor and located on more than 50 acres of land and water within the Central Embarcadero Planning District of the San Diego Unified Port District within the County of San Diego. The bill would provide that the streamlining benefits include a requirement that the California Coastal Commission provide specific and substantive comments or objections for certain documents within 60 days, as provided. The bill would require a lead agency or applicant to, within 30 days after the certification of the environmental impact report by the lead agency, file required application forms and materials for a port master plan amendment with the commission. The bill would authorize the commission, if a certain condition is met, to charge a fee to an applicant for the reasonable costs incurred

by the commission for processing documents for review or the application of the WELDP. By placing new duties on local agencies related to the streamlining benefits, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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

Last Amend: 5/1/2025

Status: 6/5/2025-Referred to Coms. on W. P., & W. and JUD.

Location: 6/5/2025-A. W.,P. & W.

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, if the board determines that the information provided by the person, as specified, is inadequate, to issue information orders that require claimants to submit reports of water use from the stream system through a form provided by the board, and require claimants to respond to that order within 75 days of the date of issuance by the board.

SB 856 (COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER) CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT OF 1976: FILING FEE WAIVER: MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES ACT: BIENNIAL REPORTS: SEMIANNUAL UPDATES.

Last Amend: 4/21/2025

Status: 5/29/2025-Referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

Location: 5/29/2025-A. NAT. RES.

Summary: The California Coastal Act of 1976 establishes the California Coastal Commission and requires any person wishing to perform or undertake any

development in the coastal zone, as defined, in addition to obtaining any other permit required by law from any local government or from any state, regional, or local agency, to obtain a coastal development permit, as provided. The act authorizes the commission to waive the filing fee for an application for a coastal development permit. This bill would clarify the commission is authorized to also waive the filing fee for an application for a coastal development permit amendment. The bill would authorize the commission to, when the commission waives the filing fee for an application for a coastal development permit or permit amendment for a project meeting certain criteria, specify whether the waiver also applies to future applications for an amendment to the permit. The bill would also make various nonsubstantive changes and update erroneous cross references.