

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL: MARCH 2026 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

California State Legislature

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

Bills of Interest

AB 35 (ALVAREZ D) SAFE DRINKING WATER, WILDFIRE PREVENTION, DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS, AND CLEAN AIR BOND ACT OF 2024: ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT: EXEMPTION: PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Introduced: 12/2/2024

Last Amend: 1/14/2026

Status: 1/27/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Location: 1/27/2026-S. RLS.

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. Current law authorizes certain regulations needed to effectuate or implement programs of the act to be adopted as emergency regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, as provided. Current law requires the emergency regulations to be filed with the Office of Administrative Law and requires the emergency regulations to remain in effect until repealed or amended by the adopting state agency. This bill, notwithstanding the above, would exempt the adoption of regulations needed to effectuate or implement programs of the act from the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, as provided. The bill would require a state entity that receives funding to administer a

competitive grant program established using the Administrative Procedure Act exemption to do certain things, including develop draft project solicitation and evaluation guidelines and to submit those guidelines to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, except as provided. The bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to post an electronic form of the guidelines submitted by a state entity and the subsequent verifications on the Natural Resources Agency's internet website.

AB 52 (AGUIAR-CURRY D) FARMER EQUITY: ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Introduced: 12/2/2024

Last Amend: 1/8/2026

Status: 1/27/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Location: 1/27/2026-S. RLS.

Summary: The Farmer Equity Act of 2017 requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to ensure the inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, as defined, in the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of food and agriculture laws, regulations, and policies and programs, as specified. This bill would authorize the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to establish 2 advisory committees, known as the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Producer Advisory Committee and the Small-Scale Producer Advisory Committee, for the purpose of advising the secretary and the department with respect to their responsibilities under the Farmer Equity Act of 2017. The bill would authorize the advisory committees to advise the secretary and the department on programs, policies, education, outreach, technical assistance, and general needs for small-scale producers, medium-scale producers, and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in California.

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

Introduced: 1/30/2025

Last Amend: 4/21/2025

Status: 2/2/2026 Died on inactive file.

Location: 2/2/2026 A - DEAD

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 497 (WILSON D) SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN: UPDATE: SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT: EXEMPTION.

Introduced: 2/10/2025

Last Amend: 1/5/26

Status: 2/2/2026 From committee: Filed with the Chief Clerk pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

Location: 1/15/2026 A - DEAD

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 establishes the State Water Resources Control Board to exercise the adjudicatory and regulatory functions of the state in the field of water resources. Pursuant to its authority, the board adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan) that, among other things, establishes objectives to protect the beneficial uses of the water and prevent nuisance within the waters specified in the Bay-Delta Plan. 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. This bill would require the board to adopt an update to the Bay-Delta Plan that addresses the Sacramento River and its tributaries, Sacramento-San

Joaquin Delta (Delta) eastside tributaries, and the Delta no later than August 31, 2026. The bill would exempt the board from the requirements to prepare, provide for review, transmit to state agencies, and include written or oral responses to comments on a specified draft substitute environmental document, as provided.

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

Introduced: 2/21/2025

Status: 5/1/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was W.,P. & W. on 3/13/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 5/1/2025-A. 2 YEAR

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 1551 (KRELL D) CALIFORNIA RICE COMMISSION: PURPOSE.

Introduced: 1/7/2026

Status: 2/2/2026-Referred to Com. on AGRI.

Location: 2/2/2026-A. AGRI.

Summary: Current law creates the California Rice Commission with a prescribed membership and authorizes the commission to promote the sale of rice, educate and instruct the wholesale and retail trade with respect to proper methods of handling and selling rice, and conduct scientific research. Current law declares the California Rice Commission to be necessary for, among other things, carrying out the California rice industry's commitment to responsible stewardship and increasingly efficient cultural practices. This bill would additionally declare the commission to be necessary for maintaining a sufficient footprint of annual rice acreage to support the wildlife habitat objectives of the state.

Calendar: 3/25/2026 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 126 ASM AGRICULTURE SORIA, ESMERALDA, Chair

AB 1600 (ARAMBULA D) DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES: FARMWORKER COMMUNITIES.

Introduced: 1/16/2026

Last Amend: 3/17/2026

Status: 3/17/2026-From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on E.S & T.M. Read second time and amended.

Location: 2/9/2026-A. E.S. & T.M.

Summary: Current law defines “disadvantaged communities” and requires the California Environmental Protection Agency to identify disadvantaged communities for investment opportunities from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and for other purposes. This bill would expand the definition of “disadvantaged communities” by explicitly authorizing the inclusion of farmworker communities that meet certain requirements. The bill would require the agency, in consultation with the Department of Community Services and Development and the State Department of Public Health, to revise applicable screening tools and guidance documents to ensure the inclusion of farmworker communities as disadvantaged communities in all relevant program eligibility determinations and benefit calculations.

Calendar: 3/24/2026 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASM ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TOXIC MATERIALS CONNOLLY, DAMON, Chair

AB 1624 (ZBUR D) PUBLIC LANDS PROTECTION ACT.

Introduced: 1/22/2026

Status: 3/16/2026-Referred to Coms. on L. GOV. and NAT. RES.

Location: 3/16/2026-A. L. GOV.

Summary: The Planning and Zoning Law requires each county and city to adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the county or city, and of any land outside its boundaries that bears relation to its planning. Current law authorizes the legislative body of a county or city to adopt ordinances that, among other things, regulate the use of buildings, structures, and land as between industry, business, residences, open space, and other purposes, as

provided. For these purposes, current law authorizes the legislative body to divide a county or city into zones, but requires that regulations adopted be uniform for each class or kind of building or use of land throughout each zone. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare 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. This bill, the Public Lands Protection Act, would, upon transfer to any private or nonfederal entity of a parcel of land located within the state that is owned by the United States government on or after January 1, 2025, and that has been designated in an adopted general plan or zoning ordinance as open space, public land, resource conservation, or an equivalent conservation-oriented designation, immediately subject that parcel to the zoning designation and associated state and local restrictions. The bill would also, upon transfer of a parcel of land located within the state that is owned by the United States government on or after January 1, 2025, and that has not been designated in an adopted general plan or zoning ordinance at the time of transfer to any private or nonfederal entity, automatically subject that parcel to the most restrictive conservation-oriented zoning designation currently applied in the jurisdiction, by operation of law.

AB 1691 (DIXON R) MARINE RESOURCES: COPPER-BASED ANTIFOULING PAINT: STANDARDS, STUDIES, AND BEST METHODS.

Introduced: 2/3/2026

Status: 3/11/2026-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (March 10). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 3/10/2026-A. APPR.

Summary: The California Ocean Resources Stewardship Act of 2000 finds that it is the policy of the state to, among other things, ensure adequate coordination of ocean resources management science among state, regional, and federal agencies and marine science institutions, as provided. Current law requires every manufacturer of, importer of, or dealer in any pesticide, except as specified, to obtain a certificate of registration from the Department of Pesticide Regulation before the pesticide is offered for sale. Current law requires the Director of Pesticide Regulation to endeavor to eliminate from use in the state pesticides that endanger the agricultural or nonagricultural environment, among other things, and

in carrying out this responsibility, to develop an orderly program for the continuous evaluation of all pesticides actually registered, as specified. This bill would require, on or before January 1, 2029, the Department of Pesticide Regulation to complete a reevaluation of copper-based antifouling boat paint products, and to make the determination to retain, modify, or suspend its standards or to place new appropriate standards on the chemical composition or use of copper-based antifouling paints. The bill would require, on or before June 1, 2028, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the State Water Resources Control Board, regional water control boards, and the Department of Pesticide Regulation to collaborate on active studies related to the effectiveness of low-leach-rate paint and elevated copper concentrations in saltwater harbors, bays, and marinas that are primarily a result of the use of copper-based antifouling paint, and would require the Department of Pesticide Regulation to finish and release these studies.

AB 1729 (LEE D) STATE EMPLOYMENT: TELEWORK PROGRAMS.

Introduced: 2/5/2026

Status: 3/2/2026-Referred to Com. on P. E. & R.

Location: 3/2/2026-A. P.E. & R.

Summary: Current law requires every state agency to develop and implement a telecommuting plan as part of its telecommuting program in work areas where telecommuting is identified as being both practical and beneficial to the organization. Current law requires the Department of General Services to establish a unit for purposes of overseeing telecommuting programs that is required to, among other things, develop and update policy, procedures, and guidelines to assist agencies in the planning and implementation of telecommuting programs. Current law requires the department to establish criteria for evaluating the state's telecommuting program. Existing law defines "telecommuting" for purposes of those provisions. This bill would revise and recast those provisions. The bill would replace the term "telecommuting" with "telework," as defined. The bill would also require the Department of General Services to establish a telework dashboard that displays the cost-effectiveness and efficiency benefits of state telework programs, including documenting annual savings to the state of reduced office space and operating costs.

AB 1772 (PAPAN D) FISH AND WILDLIFE: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES: GOLDEN MUSSELS.

Introduced: 2/9/2026

Status: 2/10/2026-From printer. May be heard in committee March 12.

Location: 2/9/2026-A. PRINT

Summary: Current law generally prohibits a person from possessing, importing, shipping, or transporting in the state, or from placing, planting, or causing to be placed or planted in any water within the state, invasive mussels and authorizes the Director of Fish and Wildlife or the director's designee to engage in various enforcement activities with regard to invasive mussels, as provided. Current law requires specified entities that own or manage a reservoir, as defined, where certain activities are permitted to monitor and prevent the introduction of invasive mussel species, as specified, and requires any entity that discovers invasive mussels in the state to report the discovery immediately to the department. This bill would provide that it is the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation to, among other things, address and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, including, but not limited to, the golden mussel, in California's waterbodies and water infrastructure systems.

AB 1881 (RAMOS D) CALIFORNIA INDIAN FREEDOM ACT OF 2026.

Introduced: 2/12/2026

Status: 3/3/2026-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

Location: 3/2/2026-A. JUD.

Summary: Current law establishes various protections for California Native American tribes, including prohibiting a public agency or private party using or occupying public property or operating on public property from interfering with the free expression or exercise of Native American religion as provided in the United States Constitution and the California Constitution. Current law also requires a local government to provide formal notification to each California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project site as an invitation to consult on the proposed project, as provided. Existing law requires the local government, during the consultation, to give deference to the tribal information,

tribal knowledge and customs, and the significance of the resource to the California Native American tribe. Current law prohibits any information, as described, that is submitted by a California Native American tribe during the environmental review process from being included in the environmental document or otherwise disclosed by the lead agency or any other public agency to the public, as specified, without the prior consent of the tribe that provided the information. This bill, the California Indian Freedom Act of 2026, would prohibit a governmental agency from substantially burdening a California Indian or California Native American tribe's exercise of religious beliefs or spiritual practices, including their access to and use of sacred sites and objects, and their ability to perform religious ceremonies and rites, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, unless the governmental agency demonstrates that application of the burden is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is in the least restrictive means of furthering that interest. The act would apply to all state and local government actions, including, among others, permitting decisions, land use approvals, and enforcement actions. The bill would authorize a California Indian or tribe to assert a violation of these provisions as a claim or defense in any judicial or administrative proceeding, as specified. Before any governmental agency undertakes, approves, permits, funds, or authorizes a project that may impact a sacred site or cultural landscape, the bill would require the governmental agency to engage in early, meaningful and good-faith government-to-government consultation with an affected tribe.

AB 1894 (RUBIO, BLANCA D) FISH AND WILDLIFE: INVASIVE MUSSELS

Introduced: 2/12/2026

Last Amend: 3/16/2026

Status: 3/17/2026-Re-referred to Com. on W., P., & W.

Location: 3/16/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: Existing law, until January 1, 2030, generally prohibits a person from possessing, importing, shipping, or transporting in the state, or from placing, planting, or causing to be placed or planted in any water within the state, invasive mussels, and authorizes the Director of Fish and Wildlife, or the director's designee, to engage in various enforcement activities with regard to invasive mussels. Existing law, until January 1, 2030, requires a public or private agency that operates a water

supply system to cooperate with the department to implement measures to avoid infestation by invasive mussels and to control or eradicate any infestation that occurs in a water supply system. Existing law requires any person, or federal, state, or local agency, district, or authority that owns or manages a reservoir, where specified activities are permitted, except as specified, to develop and implement a program designed to prevent the introduction of invasive mussel species, as provided. Existing law requires any entity that discovers invasive mussels within the state to immediately report the discovery to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. This bill would provide that, notwithstanding any other law, the state has exclusive authority to regulate invasive mussels. The bill would prohibit a city, county, district, or other local agency from adopting, enforcing, or implementing any ordinance, rule, regulation, policy, or other declaratory action pertaining to invasive mussels unless expressly authorized by state law.

AB 2026 (AGUIAR-CURRY D) GROUNDWATER RECHARGE.

Introduced: 2/17/2026

Status: 2/18/2026-From printer. May be heard in committee March 20.

Location: 2/17/2026-A. PRINT

Summary: Would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation to further increase groundwater storage and remove impediments to recharge in a way that will maximize groundwater recharge while protecting water rights and communities, state and federal water projects, and environmental needs, as provided.

AB 2045 (CONNOLLY D) HABITAT RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

Introduced: 2/17/2026

Status: 3/2/2026-Referred to Com. on W., P., & W.

Location: 3/2/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: Under the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act, a habitat restoration or enhancement project is a project with the primary purpose of improving fish and wildlife habitat. The act requires the Director of Fish and Wildlife to approve a habitat restoration or enhancement project if the director determines

that specified conditions are met. Under the act, the director's approval of a habitat restoration or enhancement project is in lieu of any other permit, agreement, license, or other approval issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The act makes moneys in the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Account available to the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purposes of administering and implementing the act. Current law repeals the act on January 1, 2027. This bill would extend the operation of the act indefinitely.

AB 2051 (WICKS D) PUBLIC RESOURCES: COASTAL RESILIENCE PERMITTING WORKING GROUP

Introduced: 2/18/2026

Status: 3/9/2026-Referred to Coms. on NAT. RES. and W., P., & W.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. NAT. RES.

Summary: Would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, in consultation with the Secretary for Environmental Protection, to convene a Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group for the purpose of developing a Coastal Resilience Permitting Roadmap for coastal resilience projects proposed in specified areas. The bill would require the Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group to consist of representatives from federal, state, and local agencies, including, among others, the California Coastal Commission, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The bill would, on or before January 1, 2028, require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to submit the Coastal Resilience Permitting Roadmap to the Governor and the relevant fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature. The bill would require, on or before April 1, 2027, the California Coastal Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Regional Water Quality Boards with jurisdiction over the coast and the San Francisco Bay, to convene a Coastal Resilience Permit Advisory Group to support the deliberations of the Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group.

Calendar: 3/23/2026 Upon Call of the Chair - State Capitol, Room 437 ASM NATURAL RESOURCES BRYAN, ISAAC, Chair

AB 2184 (WILSON D) CAP-AND-INVEST PROGRAM: NATURE-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS: FUNDING.

Introduced: 2/19/2026

Status: 3/9/2026-Referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. NAT. RES.

Summary: The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 authorizes the State Air Resources Board to include in regulations the use of a market-based compliance mechanism, known as the California Cap-and-Invest Program, to comply with those regulations. Current law requires moneys collected by the state board from the auction or sale of allowances as part of the California Cap-and-Invest Program to be deposited in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and continuously appropriates a portion of the moneys in the fund for various purposes. Current law requires the Natural Resources Agency, in collaboration with the state board, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Food and Agriculture, an expert advisory committee established, as provided, and other relevant state agencies, to determine an ambitious range of targets for natural carbon sequestration, and for nature-based climate solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions for 2030, 2038, and 2045 to support state goals to achieve carbon neutrality and foster climate adaptation and resilience. Current law defines “nature-based climate solutions” for these purposes to mean activities, such as restoration, conservation, and land management actions, that increase net carbon sequestration or reduce greenhouse gas emissions in natural and working lands. This bill would annually appropriate up to \$300,000,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund in the annual Budget Act each fiscal year from the 2027–2028 to the 2045–46 fiscal year, inclusive, to achieve nature-based climate solutions, including \$150,000,000 to be allocated to the Natural Resources Agency to fund nature-based climate solutions, not less than \$50,000,000 to be allocated to the Department of Food and Agriculture to fund nature-based climate solutions in croplands and grasslands, and the remaining amount to be allocated for nature-based climate solutions at the discretion of the Legislature.

AB 2216 (AGUIAR-CURRY D) SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY

Introduced: 2/19/2026

Status: 3/9/2026-Referred to Coms. on W., P., & W. and NAT. RES.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: Current law establishes in the Natural Resources Agency the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. Current law requires the conservancy to act as a primary state agency to implement ecosystem restoration in the Delta and to support efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents. Current law specifies the composition of the governing board of the conservancy and requires liaison advisers to serve in an advisory, nonvoting capacity. Current law requires the conservancy to prepare and adopt a strategic plan to achieve the goals of the conservancy and requires the strategic plan to be consistent with certain plans. Current law authorizes the conservancy to engage in partnerships with nonprofit organizations, local public agencies, and landowners, and authorizes the conservancy to provide grants and loans to state agencies, local public agencies, and nonprofit organizations to further the goals of the conservancy. Current law establishes the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Fund in the State Treasury. Current law makes moneys in the fund available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for purposes of these provisions. This bill would expand the area covered by the conservancy to include the Valley, as defined. The bill would rename the conservancy the Valley and Delta Conservancy, rename the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Fund the Valley and Delta Conservancy Fund, and make conforming changes. The bill would add 2 additional liaison advisers, who are designees of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the San Joaquin River Conservancy, respectively.

Calendar: 3/24/2026 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASM WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE PAPAN, DIANE, Chair

AB 2218 (KALRA D) WATER POLICY: CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES.

Introduced: 2/19/2026

Status: 3/9/2026-Referred to Coms. on W., P., & W. and E.S & T.M.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: Current law establishes various state water policies, including the policy that the use of water for domestic purposes is the highest use of water and the human right to water. This bill would declare that it is the established policy of the

state to acknowledge and correct the inequities caused by state-sanctioned acts of termination, removal, and assimilation inflicted upon all California Native American tribes through compensation, legal recognition of rights, or replacement of benefits lost. The bill would require all relevant state agencies, including the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board, to consider and incorporate this policy when revising, adopting, or establishing rights, policies, regulations, permits, or grant criteria to address identified inequities.

Calendar: 3/24/2026 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASM WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE PAPAN, DIANE, Chair

AB 2260 (CONNOLLY D) WATER: RESTORATION MANAGEMENT: SMALL RESTORATION USE

Introduced: 2/19/2026

Last Amend: 3/17/2026

Status: 3/17/2026-From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on W., P., & W. Read second time and amended.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

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. This bill would extend the above-described ability to obtain a right to appropriate water to a small restoration use, as provided. The bill would define several terms for these purposes, including defining a small restoration use as a specified use of water for fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement in connection with a project to restore, enhance, or provide habitat for native fish and wildlife, as provided.

Calendar: 3/24/2026 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASM WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE PAPAN, DIANE, Chair

AB 2277 (SCHULTZ D) CALIFORNIA STATE PARK STEWARDSHIP ACT OF 2026.

Introduced: 2/19/2026

Last Amend: 3/9/2026

Status: 3/10/2026-Re-referred to Com. on W., P., & W.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: Would establish the California State Park Stewardship Act of 2026. The bill would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to identify and administer best practices for conducting projects and programs addressing climate change through the stewardship and management of state park lands and promoting climate resilience, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and protecting biodiversity by integrating climate considerations into all aspects of park planning, development, and operations. The bill would establish the Wildfire Safety and Climate Stewardship Fund, to be administered by the department, to, among other things, support stewardship of state park lands and ensure improved carbon uptake and storage in units of the state park system, and would authorize the department to enter into an agreement with specified entities to accept funding for these purposes, as provided.

AB 2360 (ARAMBULA D) STATE AGENCIES: GOVERNMENTAL LINGUISTICS.

Introduced: 2/19/2026

Status: 3/9/2026-Referred to Com. on G.O.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. G.O.

Summary: Current law requires each department, commission, office, or other administrative agency of state government to write each document, as defined, that it produces in plain, straightforward language, avoiding technical terms as much as possible, and using a coherent and easily readable style. This bill would specify that the plain, straightforward language requirement applies to both digital and printed documents, and would define “plain language” for purposes of that provision. The bill would require each state agency, as described above, to create, adopt, and post on its internet website a plain language policy that identifies how the state agency will incorporate or strengthen plain language writing and design principles and practices.

AB 2447 (BAUER-KAHAN D) WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION ACT.

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Status: 2/21/2026-From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.

Location: 2/20/2026-A. PRINT

Summary: The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the State Water Resources Control Board and the California regional water quality control boards are the principal state agencies with authority over matters relating to water quality. The act requires the state board to formulate and adopt state policies for water quality control and requires the regional boards to adopt regional water quality control plans in compliance with the state policies. Under the act, the state board and the regional boards prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge of waste that could affect the quality of the waters of the state. This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board to require the regional boards to update the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in order to reduce nitrogen waste discharges from commercial irrigated agricultural areas, as provided. The bill would require the regional boards to adopt revised orders with waste discharge requirements on or before January 1, 2028, that are sufficient to meet certain reductions in nitrogen waste discharges. The bill would require the state board to, on or before July 1, 2027, publish both a list of standardized crop names and categories, and a statewide methodology for calculating, and field-level reporting of, nitrogen balances for croplands, including nitrogen fertilizer applications and nitrogen discharges, that account for available soil nitrogen, to be used by the regional boards and incorporated into the revised orders.

AB 2469 (PAPAN D) DATA CENTERS: WATER USE DISCLOSURES.

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Last Amend: 3/16/2026

Status: 3/17/2026-Re-referred to Com. on W., P., & W.

Location: 3/16/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: The Planning and Zoning Law authorizes the legislative body of any county or city to adopt ordinances that, among other things, regulate the use of

buildings, structures, and land as between industry, businesses, residences, and open space, as specified. This bill would prohibit a city, county, or city and county from approving a discretionary or ministerial permit or other entitlement that would result in the construction, or an expansion that increases the maximum peak use, of a data center unless specified conditions are satisfied, including, among others, that the applicant provides the city, county, or city and a county prescribed information. The bill would include in this prescribed information a water scarcity plan, a water supply assessment, and a water use assessment, each as provided.

AB 2507 (NGUYEN D) OFFICE OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS.

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Status: 3/9/2026-Referred to Com. on G.O.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. G.O.

Summary: Current law establishes within the office of the Governor, the office of the Governor's Tribal Advisor, which is headed by the Governor's Tribal Advisor who is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. This bill would, instead, establish within the Office of the Governor, the Office of Tribal Affairs (office), which is headed by the Secretary of Tribal Affairs who is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor, as specified. The bill would require each state agency that engages, or has programs, services, or responsibilities affecting tribal governments to, among other things, designate a tribal liaison, as described. The bill would require the office to be advised by a Tribal Advisory Committee, as described, and would require the committee to, among other things, provide recommendations and tribal perspectives to assist the office in strengthening government-to-government engagement and improving the design, access, and implementation of state programs and services affecting tribal governments.

AB 2569 (HART D) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: NATURAL HAZARDS AND ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Status: 3/9/2026-Referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. NAT. RES.

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. This bill would expand those definitions to include impacts on people, as specified. The bill would additionally require the lead agency to include in the EIR a detailed statement on any significant effects that may result from locating the proposed project near, or attracting people to, existing or reasonably foreseeable natural hazards or adverse environmental conditions. Because the lead agency would be required to undertake this additional consideration, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

AB 2619 (PAPAN D) WATER RESOURCES: DATA CENTERS.

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Status: 3/9/2026-Referred to Coms. on W., P., & W. and L. GOV.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: Existing law authorizes the legislative body of an incorporated city and the county board of supervisors to license businesses carried on within their respective jurisdictions and to set license fees, as specified. This bill would require a person who owns or operates a data center, prior to applying to a city or a county for an initial business license, equivalent instrument, or permit, to provide its water supplier, under penalty of perjury, an estimate of the expected water use, the anticipated source of water, and the data center's projected water use volume for the maximum day, maximum month, and average year. When applying to a city or county for an initial business license, the bill would require a person who owns or operates a data center to report, under penalty of perjury, on the application, an estimate of the expected water use, the anticipated source of water, and the data center's projected water use volume for the maximum day, maximum month, and average year. When applying to a city or county for a renewal of a business license, equivalent instrument, or permit, the bill would require a person who owns or

operates a data center to report, under penalty of perjury, on the application, the data center's annual water use for the preceding calendar year, including total water use, direct water use, and indirect water use, as prescribed. By expanding the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would define terms for purposes of these provisions. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

AB 2627 (HART D) CALIFORNIA RANGELAND, GRAZING LAND, AND GRASSLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM.

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Status: 3/9/2026-Referred to Coms. on NAT. RES. and W., P., & W.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. NAT. RES.

Summary: Existing law establishes the California Rangeland, Grazing Land, and Grassland Protection Program to protect California's rangeland, grazing land, and grasslands through the use of conservation easements, for specified purposes. Existing law authorizes, under the program, funds to be expended by the Wildlife Conservation Board for the acquisition of conservation easements over qualified property, as defined, and authorizes the board to make grants of funds to a state agency, local public agency, or nonprofit organization for the acquisition of conservation easements over qualified property. This bill would appropriate, from the above-described bond funds made available to the board, \$90,000,000 to the board to award under the program as grants to eligible entities, as defined, to acquire conservation easements on privately owned qualified property that supports food and fiber production and ecosystem services, including wildfire fuel reduction, groundwater recharge, wildlife habitat, and scenic open space. The bill would require, on or before June 30, 2029, a grantee to expend the grant funds to acquire a conservation easement and record the conservation easement. The bill would authorize the board to partner with, and receive funds from, land trusts that are certified by the United States Department of Agriculture, as provided. This bill contains other existing laws.

AB 2787 (COMMITTEE ON WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE) WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE: OMNIBUS BILL.

Introduced: 3/12/2026

Status: 3/16/2026-Referred to Com. on W., P., & W.

Location: 3/16/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Brief Summary: Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish the Nesting Bird Habitat Incentive Program to encourage landowners to cultivate or retain certain plants to provide waterfowl and other game bird nesting habitat cover and authorizes the department to enter into grants or contracts with landowners and other specified entities to implement the program, as specified. Existing law authorizes the department, except for specified types of contracts, to enter into contracts with, or grant funds to, public and private entities for fish and wildlife habitat preservation, restoration, and enhancement whenever the department finds that the contract will assist in meeting the department's duty to preserve, protect, and restore fish and wildlife. Existing law, for purposes of this authorization, provides for certain public contract rules and establishes exemptions from certain labor requirements. This bill would, except as specified, apply those last described provisions to contracts and other agreements for the management and operation of department-managed lands and contracts and grants under the Nesting Bird Habitat Incentive Program, as provided.

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 872 (MCNERNEY D) CLIMATE CHANGE: FUNDING PRIORITIES.

Introduced: 1/6/2026

Last Amend: 2/18/2026

Status: 3/3/2026-Set for hearing March 18.

Location: 2/26/2026-S. E.Q.

Summary: The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases. The act authorizes the state board to include in its regulation of those emissions the use of market-based compliance mechanisms. Current law requires all moneys, except for fines and penalties, collected by the state board from the auction or sale of allowances as part of a market-based compliance mechanism to be deposited in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Current law requires, beginning with 2026–27 fiscal year, that funds be allocated according to a specified priority, including, among other things, that the sum of \$1,000,000,000 be reserved for appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act or other statute. This bill would require, of that amount, beginning with the 2026–27 fiscal year and continuing through the 2046–47 fiscal year, the sum of \$150,000,000 be appropriated annually, to the Department of Water Resources for the purposes of supporting capital improvements to restore the original design water conveyance capacity for state water conveyance systems impacted operationally by land subsidence, and the sum of \$150,000,000 be appropriated annually to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy for projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to improve existing levees, as specified, thereby making an appropriation.

Calendar: 3/18/2026 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1200 SEN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BLAKESPEAR, CATHERINE, Chair

SB 895 (WIENER D) CALIFORNIA SCIENCE AND HEALTH RESEARCH BOND ACT.

Introduced: 1/15/2026

Last Amend: 3/16/2026

Status: 3/16/2026-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on HEALTH.

Location: 2/11/2026-S. HEALTH

Summary: Existing law establishes various grant and loan programs for research, including, among others, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, California Firefighter Cancer Prevention and Research Program, and the Public Interest Research, Development, and Demonstration Program. This bill would establish the California Foundation for Science and Health Research within the Government Operations Agency. The bill would create require the Secretary of Government Operations to oversee the process of appointing the director of the foundation, and would authorize the Secretary of Government Operations to delegate the task of hiring and determining the salaries, bonuses, and benefits of additional personnel to the director, as specified. The bill would require the director and personnel of the foundation to be responsible for implementing the strategic objectives of the California Foundation for Science and Health Research Council, as described below, administering grants and loans awarded by the council, and all other duties as deemed necessary for the operation of the foundation. This bill would create the California Foundation for Science and Health Research Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature.

Calendar: 3/25/2026 1:30 p.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1200 SEN HEALTH WEBER
PIERSON, M.D., AKILAH, Chair

**SB 952 (LAIRD D) STATE WATER PROJECT: RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES
AND ZERO-CARBON RESOURCES.**

Introduced: 2/2/2026

Last Amend: 3/17/2026

Status: 3/17/2026-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on RLS.

Location: 2/2/2026-S. RLS.

Summary: Under existing law, it is the policy of the state that eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources supply 90% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2035, 95% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2040, 100% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2045, and 100% of electricity procured to serve all state agencies by December 31, 2035,

as specified. Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources to procure eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources to satisfy those obligations imposed on the State Water Resources Development System, commonly known as the State Water Project, pursuant to that policy. Existing law requires the department, in conducting procurement, to consider specified factors and requires that all resources procured be used first to meet the department's own electricity needs. This bill would require the department, in conducting procurement, to consider portfolio diversity, resource type, location, and hours of typical peak operation.

SB 1085 (DURAZO D) WATER SUPPLY PLANNING: CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT DETERMINATION.

Introduced: 2/13/2026

Status: 3/11/2026-Set for hearing March 24.

Location: 2/26/2026-S. N.R. & W.

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to be responsible for determining whether a project is exempt from CEQA and whether an environmental impact report, a negative declaration, or a mitigated negative declaration is required. Current law requires a city or county that determines a certain type of project is subject to the requirements of CEQA to identify any public water system that may supply water for the project and to request those public water systems to prepare a specified water supply assessment, as provided. This bill would instead require a city or county to make that identification of public water systems for certain projects that the city or county approves, without regard to whether the project is determined to be subject to the requirements of CEQA.

Calendar: 3/24/2026 9:30 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2100 SEN NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER BECKER, JOSH, Chair

SB 1159 (CABALDON D) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: TRANSPARENCY AND GOVERNANCE

Introduced: 2/18/2026

Status: 3/16/2026-Set for hearing March 24.

Location: 3/4/2026-S. JUD.

Summary: The California Constitution provides that people have the right of access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business. Various provisions of current law, including the California Public Records Act, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, and the Ralph M. Brown Act, provide, with some exceptions, for public access to government records and meetings of government bodies. Among those acts, the California Public Records Act defines "person" to include any natural person, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, firm, or association. The Political Reform Act of 1974 imposes various requirements and limitations with respect to the conduct of public officials, campaign expenditures and disclosures, political advertisements, lobbying, the ballot pamphlet, and other aspects of political reform. The Administrative Procedure Act governs, among other things, the procedures for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of regulations by state agencies and for the review of those regulatory actions by the Office of Administrative Law. The California Environmental Quality Act defines "person" to include any person, firm, association, organization, partnership, business, trust, corporation, limited liability company, company, district, county, city and county, city, town, and, among other things, the state. This bill would specify that, for purposes of the California Public Records Act, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Political Reform Act of 1974, the Administrative Procedure Act, and CEQA, "person," "interested person," "participant," "member of the public," as applicable, and any other similar terms under each act referring to those who may engage with governmental agencies, do not include artificial intelligence, as defined, systems, autonomous agents, robots, or other nonhuman entities, whether physical or digital.

Calendar: 3/24/2026 1:30 p.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2100 SEN JUDICIARY UMBERG, THOMAS, Chair

SB 1313 (MCNERNEY D) PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS: GRANTS AND LOANS: PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Status: 3/16/2026-Set for hearing April 22.

Location: 3/4/2026-S. E.Q.

Summary: The California Safe Drinking Water Act provides for the operation of public water systems and imposes on the State Water Resources Control Board various duties and responsibilities for the regulation and control of drinking water in the state. This bill would authorize the state board to fund projects, upon the appropriation of funds by the Legislature, through grants or loans to public water systems to address perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water or source water. The bill would prescribe sources from which those funds may originate and permissible activities for those projects. The bill would authorize the state board to implement the bill through a policy handbook or workplan exempt from the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act. This bill contains other existing laws.

Calendar: 4/22/2026 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 112 SEN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BLAKESPEAR, CATHERINE, Chair

SB 1428 (COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER) PUBLIC LANDS: MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES: WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE TASK FORCE.

Introduced: 3/2/2026

Status: 3/11/2026-Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

Location: 3/11/2026-S. N.R. & W.

Summary: Existing law defines “task force” as the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force established by the Governor to oversee the implementation of Executive Order No. B-52-18, and required the task force to, among other things, on January 1, 2022, develop a comprehensive implementation strategy to track and ensure the achievement of the goals and key actions identified in “California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan” issued by the task force in January 2021, as provided. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to the definition of “task force.”

SCR 142 (BECKER D) MARCH4WATER MONTH

Introduced: 3/10/2026

Status: 3/10/2026-Introduced. Referred to Com. on RLS.

Location: 3/10/2026-S. RLS.

Summary: Would declare the month of March 2026 to be March4Water Month in California and would encourage all residents, businesses, and local leaders to participate in activities and programs that promote water efficiency, support workforce development in the water sector, and prioritize water solutions as essential investments in the state's economic future.