DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL: NOVEMBER 2026 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

California State Legislature

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

Bills of Interest

SB 872 (MCNERNEY D) DELTA LEVEES AND CANAL SUBSIDENCE FUND.

Introduced: 1/6/2026

Last Amend: 8/13/2026

Status: 9/27/2026-Vetoed by the Governor. In Senate. Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

Location: 9/27/2026-S. VETOED

Summary: Existing law, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009, declares that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (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. Existing law establishes in the Natural Resources Agency the Department of Water Resources (department). Existing law requires the department and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine the principal options for the Delta and requires the department to evaluate and comparatively rate each option for its ability to do specified things, including, among others, to maintain Delta water quality for Delta users, and to preserve, protect, and improve Delta levees. Existing law establishes in the agency the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. Existing 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. Existing law provides for the preservation of specified management areas of the Suisun Marsh, pursuant to a protection plan prepared and adopted by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, as provided. Existing law establishes the Delta Stewardship Council,

and requires the council to develop, adopt, and implement a comprehensive long-term management plan for the Delta, known as the Delta Plan, as provided. Existing law requires the department, upon appropriation, to reimburse an eligible local agency for costs incurred for the maintenance or improvement of specified levees, in an amount not to exceed 75% of costs incurred in excess of a set amount per mile, as provided. This bill would require the department to reimburse 100% of the excess costs if a local agency demonstrates economic hardship and the reimbursement is for a project that addresses a threat to life, property, water supply, or habitat. This bill would establish the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund in the State Treasury and, upon appropriation, would make the moneys in the fund available to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency for expenditure consistent with the allocations as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

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

Introduced: 2/19/2026

Last Amend: 7/2/2026

Status: 9/30/2026-Vetoed by Governor.

Location: 9/30/2026-A. VETOED

Summary: Would require the state government to support California Native Americans to maintain cultural and linguistic traditions, practice ecosystem stewardship, and engage in good faith government-to-government consultations with all California Native American tribes regarding policies that may affect tribal communities.

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

Introduced: 12/2/2024

Last Amend: 1/8/2026

Status: 9/27/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 495, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/27/2026-A. CHAPTERED

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 113 (GABRIEL D) BUDGET ACT OF 2026.

Introduced: 1/8/2025 (Spot bill)

Last Amend: 8/28/2026

Status: 9/18/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 248, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/18/2026-A. CHAPTERED

Summary: The Budget Act of 2026 made appropriations for the support of state government for the 2026–27 fiscal year. This bill would amend that budget act by amending, adding, and repealing items of appropriation and making other changes. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as a Budget Bill. This bill would declare that it makes an appropriation for the usual current expenses of the state, and shall go into immediate effect. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

AB 1156 (WICKS D) WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACTS: CANCELLATION FEES: PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR FACILITIES.

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Last Amend: 8/27/2026

Status: 9/30/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 875, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/30/2026-A. CHAPTERED

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. Existing law authorizes the county or city to cancel a contract under certain circumstances and conditions. Existing law requires the city or county to determine the amount of the cancellation fee, based on the assessor's determination of the fair market value of the land as though it were free of the contractual restriction, that the landowner shall pay if the city and county approves a cancellation of a contract, as specified. Existing law authorizes the city or county to waive the payment or extend the time for making payment if the cancellation is caused by an involuntary transfer or change in the use which may be made of land, the county or city has determined that it is in the best interest of the program to conserve agricultural land use that the payment be either deferred or not required, and the extension is approved by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, as provided. This bill would remove the ability of a city or county to waive payment or extend the time for making payment, as described above. The bill would instead authorize the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, upon application by the landowner, to waive payment or extend the time for making payment, as described above, if either the cancellation is caused by an involuntary transfer or change in the use which may be made of the land, as described above, or the cancellation is to facilitate a photovoltaic solar facility that meets specified conditions.

AB 1551 (KRELL D) CALIFORNIA RICE COMMISSION: PURPOSE.

Introduced: 1/7/2026

Status: 9/27/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 521, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/27/2026-A. CHAPTERED

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.

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

Introduced: 1/16/2026

Last Amend: 8/21/2026

Status: 9/27/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 529, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/27/2026-A. CHAPTERED

Summary: Existing 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 require the agency to do specified things regarding farmworker communities for purposes of identifying disadvantaged communities including, among other things, assessing whether designating farmworker communities as disadvantaged communities would increase those communities' access to investment opportunities and identifying potential barriers faced by low-income farmworker communities in accessing investment opportunities, as specified.

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

Introduced: 2/12/2026

Last Amend: 8/27/2026

Status: 9/30/2026-Vetoed by Governor.

Location: 9/30/2026-A. VETOED

Summary: Existing 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. Existing 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. Existing 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. Existing law, the California Public Records Act, requires each state and local agency, as defined, to make its records open to public inspection at all times during office hours, except as specifically exempted from disclosure by law. The act specifically exempts from disclosure records that are exempted or prohibited from disclosure by federal or state law and lists records subject to that exemption, specifying that the listed exemptions are not inclusive of all exemptions under the act. This bill, the California Indian Freedom Act of 2026, would, commencing January 1, 2028, prohibit a governmental agency from substantially burdening a California Indian or California Native American tribe's exercise of religious beliefs or spiritual practices on state lands, except as necessary to protect public safety and security, 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.

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

Introduced: 2/12/2026

Last Amend: 5/28/2026

Status: 9/18/2026-Vetoed by Governor.

Location: 9/18/2026-A. VETOED

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 of Fish and Wildlife 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. This bill would prohibit a public agency from prohibiting imported water deliveries for groundwater replenishment, as defined, due to invasive mussels if the importation complies with a specified invasive mussel control plan and unless there is substantial, documented evidence of a proven health and safety risk as a result of the invasive mussels.

AB 2032 (RANSOM D) FISH AND WILDLIFE: GOLDEN MUSSELS.

Introduced: 2/17/2026

Last Amend: 8/13/2026

Status: 9/29/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 817, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/29/2026-A. CHAPTERED

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, as defined. Existing law requires a public or private agency that operates a water supply system to cooperate with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) to implement measures to avoid infestation by invasive mussels and

to control or eradicate any infestation that may occur in a water supply system, and, if invasive mussels are detected, to prepare and implement a plan, as specified, to control or eradicate invasive mussels within the system (control plan). Existing law prohibits the importation, transportation, possession, or live release of specified wild animals, except under a revocable, nontransferable permit, known as a restricted species permit, issued by the department, in cooperation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, and only if certain requirements are met. This bill would exempt from the requirement to obtain a restricted species permit for invasive mussels a public or private agency that operates a water supply system and has submitted a control plan to the department for maintenance, operational, and research activities within the water supply system, as specified.

AB 2045 (CONNOLLY D) HABITAT RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

Introduced: 2/17/2026

Last Amend: 8/21/2026

Status: 9/29/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 818, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/29/2026-A. CHAPTERED

Summary: The Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act authorizes a project proponent to submit a habitat restoration or enhancement project to the Director of Fish and Wildlife for approval. The act requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to assess an application fee for a project submitted to the department consistent with specified fees adopted by the department, as provided. Under the act, a habitat restoration or enhancement project is defined as a project with the primary purpose of improving fish and wildlife habitat. The act requires the director to approve a habitat restoration or enhancement project if the director determines that specified conditions are met. 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. Existing law repeals the act on January 1, 2027. This bill would extend the operation of the act until January 1, 2032, and would require the department to submit a report on the implementation of the act to the Legislature no later than December 31, 2029. The bill would maintain the requirement for the application fee to be consistent

with other specified fees adopted by the department until the department establishes, on or before January 1, 2030, an application fee schedule, as specified.

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

Introduced: 2/18/2026

Last Amend: 8/21/2026

Status: 9/27/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 575, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/27/2026-A. CHAPTERED

Summary: The California Coastal Act of 1976 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 requires each local government lying in whole or in part within the coastal zone to prepare a local coastal program for that portion of the coastal zone within its jurisdiction. The act requires a land use plan of a proposed local coastal program to be submitted to the California Coastal Commission for certification. The act authorizes the commission to extend, for a period not to exceed one year, certain time limitations relating to local coastal programs for good cause. This bill would authorize the commission to retroactively extend, for good cause and a period not to exceed 5 years, a time limitation established for a local government to act on the commission's suggested modifications to a land use plan amendment that would authorize approval of an affordable housing development, as specified.

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

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Last Amend: 8/27/2026

Status: 9/21/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 436, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/21/2026-A. CHAPTERED

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 water 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 and a water supply assessment, each as provided. The bill would also include in the specified conditions that the applicant assumes responsibility for the full cost of any required water conveyance, treatment or storage, or distribution infrastructure improvements necessary to serve the project, as determined by the applicable water supplier. The bill would provide that this provision is severable.

AB 2507 (NGUYEN D) OFFICE OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS.

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Last Amend: 8/21/2026

Status: 9/25/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 449, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/25/2026-A. CHAPTERED

Summary: Existing 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. The bill would require the office to, among other things, support the implementation of consultation policies, facilitate direct engagement between state agencies and tribal governments, and provide training, guidance, and technical assistance to tribal liaisons and state agency personnel, as specified.

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

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Last Amend: 8/21/2026

Status: 9/21/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 437, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/21/2026-A. CHAPTERED

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, a good faith 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, a good faith 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 and direct 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 2656 (PETRIE-NORRIS D) PUBLIC EMPLOYEES: NOTICE: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PERFORMING SERVICE WITHIN SCOPE OF WORK.

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Last Amend: 7/1/2026

Status: 9/30/2026-Vetoed by Governor.

Location: 9/30/2026-A. VETOED

Summary: Executive Order No. N-12-23 requires specified state agencies, in collaboration with other state agencies and their workforce, to draft a report to the Governor examining the most significant, potentially beneficial use cases for deployment of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools by the state. The executive order requires the report to explain the potential risks to individuals, communities, and government and state government workers, and requires the report to be regularly assessed and updated in consultation with, among others, the state government workforce or organizations that represent state government employees, as specified. Chapter 928 of the Statutes of 2024, the Generative Artificial Intelligence Accountability Act, requires specified state agencies to update the report, as needed, to respond to significant developments and to consult with specified parties, including organizations that represent state exclusive employee representatives. This bill would require certain state and local public employers to provide written notice to a recognized employee organization at least 45 days before taking an action to develop, purchase, or require the use of GenAI to perform a service that is within the scope of work of the job classification represented by the recognized employee organization.

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

Introduced: 1/15/2026

Last Amend: 8/27/2026

Status: 9/30/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 1040, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/30/2026-S. CHAPTERED

Summary: Would establish the California Foundation for Science and Health Research within the Government Operations Agency. The bill would 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, loans, and contracts awarded by the council, and all other duties as deemed necessary for the operation of the foundation.

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

Introduced: 2/13/2026

Last Amend: 9/18/2026

Status: 9/30/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 1004, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/30/2026-S. CHAPTERED

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. Existing 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, among other things, would instead require a city or county, upon receipt of a preliminary application for a housing development project that meets certain conditions, or upon a development application for certain projects being determined as complete or deemed complete, to make that identification of public water systems. The bill would require a city or county, within 15 days of receiving an application that meets either of the above-mentioned criteria, to request each identified public water system to determine whether the

projected water demand associated with the proposed project was included in the most recently adopted urban water management plan.

SB 1087 (CABALDON D) TRANSPORTATION PLANNING: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGIES: TRANSPORTATION FUNDING PROGRAMS

Introduced: 2/13/2026

Last Amend: 8/21/2026

Status: 9/30/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 1005, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/30/2026-S. CHAPTERED

Summary: Existing law requires certain transportation planning agencies to prepare and adopt regional transportation plans directed at achieving a coordinated and balanced regional transportation system. Existing law requires a regional transportation plan to include a policy element, a sustainable communities strategy prepared by a metropolitan planning organization, an action element, and a financial element, as provided. Existing law requires those transportation planning agencies to adopt and submit every 4 years, except as provided, an updated regional transportation plan to the California Transportation Commission and the Department of Transportation. This bill would revise and recast the requirements for a sustainable communities strategy, including, among other things, (A) requiring a sustainable communities strategy every 8 years with a progress report after 4 years instead of requiring a sustainable communities strategy every 4 years, (B) requiring the state board to provide each region with greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for 2035 and 2045, and (C) requiring the state board to hold technical workshops before providing those targets. The bill would also revise the state board's process for reviewing sustainable communities strategies and alternative planning strategies, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 1125 (MENJIVAR D) WATER RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Introduced: 2/17/2026

Last Amend: 8/19/2026

Status: 9/30/2026-Vetoed by the Governor. In Senate. Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

Location: 9/30/2026-S. VETOED

Summary: Existing law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to develop a plan for the funding and implementation of the Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program. Existing law requires the plan to include, among other things, a description of the method for collecting moneys to support and implement the program and a description of the method for determining the amount of moneys that may need to be collected from water ratepayers to fund the program. This bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Program. As part of the program, the bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Fund in the State Treasury, available upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide water affordability assistance for residential water services to low-income residential ratepayers, as specified. The bill would establish separate implementation procedures depending on whether the state board determines that the Legislature appropriated enough moneys from the fund for a partial implementation of the program or a statewide implementation of the program. The bill would require the state board to take various actions in administering the fund, including, among other things, tracking and managing revenue in the fund separately from all other revenue. The bill would require the state board, in consultation with relevant agencies and after a public hearing, to adopt guidelines for implementation of the program and to adopt and submit a report to the Legislature or post the report on its internet website, as specified.

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

Introduced: 2/18/2026

Last Amend: 6/25/2026

Status: 9/30/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 863, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/30/2026-S. CHAPTERED

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 existing law, including the California Public Records Act, the Legislative Open

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. 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 Legislative Open Records Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, the California Coastal Act of 1976, 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, or robots, whether physical or digital.

SB 1423 (STERN D) REGIONAL PLANNING: STANDARDIZED SPATIAL PLANNING DATASETS.

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Last Amend: 8/13/2026

Status: 9/30/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 1039, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 9/30/2026-S. CHAPTERED

Summary: Existing law establishes the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation in the Governor's office for the purpose of serving the Governor and the Governor's cabinet as staff for long-range planning and research and constituting the comprehensive state planning agency. This bill would require the office, on or before July 1, 2028, to compile, standardize, maintain, and make publicly available through a consolidated online platform a core set of statewide standardized spatial planning datasets, as defined. The bill would require the datasets to include specified categories of information, including hazardous data, natural resource sensitivity data, and agricultural value data, as provided. The bill would also require the office, on or before January 1, 2029, to develop and provide guidance for agencies to inform how to use and integrate the datasets in regional planning processes and products. The bill would require the office to update those datasets as new or revised data becomes available from the originating state or federal agencies. This bill would permit state, regional, and local governments to consider

use of the standardized spatial planning datasets published by the office in the development and production of land use and infrastructure plans, as specified.