

March 2025

Agenda Item: 8b
Meeting Date: March 27, 2025
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Legislative Update



**Delta
Stewardship
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

AB 52 (Aguiar-Curry) Native American Resources.

AB 52 (Aguiar-Curry, D) Native American resources. + 👤 🔔

Current Text: Amended: 3/10/2025 PDF HTML

Last Amend: 3/10/2025

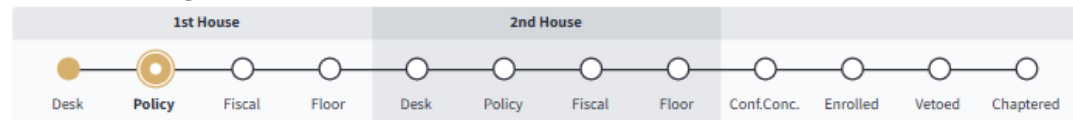
Status: 3/11/2025-Re-referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

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

Brief Summary: Current law finds and declares it to be the public policy and in the public interest of California to encourage the voluntary conveyance of conservation easements to qualified nonprofit organizations. Current law defines the term “conservation easement” for these purposes, and authorizes certain entities and organizations to acquire and hold conservation easements, including a federally recognized California Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission, to protect a California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place, if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed. This bill would instead authorize a California Native American tribe that is on the above-described contact list, to protect a California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place, to acquire and hold conservation easements, if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed or otherwise conveyed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Calendar:

Current Analysis:



AB 274 (Ransom) Abandoned and Derelict Vessels.

AB 274 (Ransom D) Abandoned and derelict vessels: inventory. + 👤 🔔

Current Text: Amended: 3/3/2025 PDF HTML

Last Amend: 3/3/2025

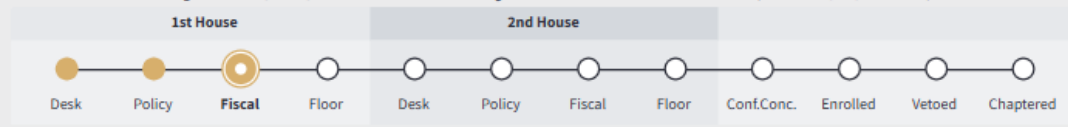
Status: 3/24/2025-VOTE: Do pass as amended, and be re-referred to the Committee on [Appropriations] with recommendation: To Consent Calendar (PASS)

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

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

Calendar:

Current Analysis: 3/21/2025 Assembly Natural Resources (text 3/3/2025)



AB 717 (Aguiar-Curry) Water Rights: Appropriation: Small Restoration Use.

AB 717 (Aguiar-Curry D) Water rights: appropriation: small restoration use. + 👤 🔔

Current Text: Amended: 3/10/2025 PDF HTML

Last Amend: 3/10/2025

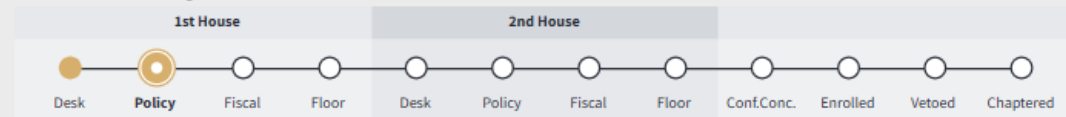
Status: 3/11/2025-Re-referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

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

Brief 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.

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

Current Analysis:



AB 1146 (Papan) Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs: water releases: false pretenses.

AB 1146 (Papan D) Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs: water release: false pretenses. +  

Current Text: Amended: 3/17/2025 PDF HTML

Last Amend: 3/17/2025

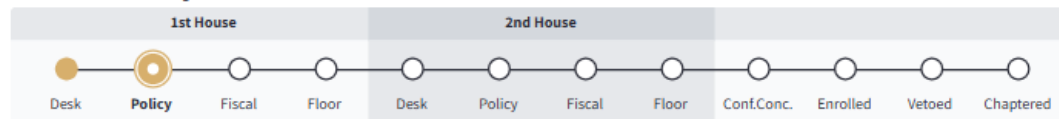
Status: 3/18/2025-Re-referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

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

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

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

Current Analysis:



SB 650 (Cabaldon) The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009.

[SB 650 \(Cabaldon D \) The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009.](#) +  

Current Text: Amended: 3/24/2025 PDF HTML

Last Amend: 3/24/2025

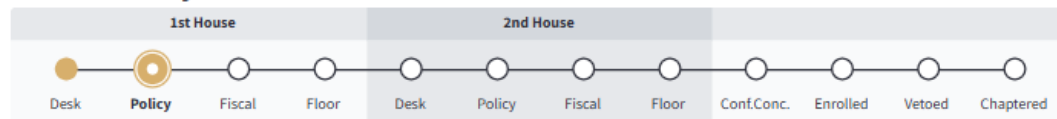
Status: 3/24/2025-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on RLS.

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

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

Calendar:

Current Analysis:



SB 650

- Establishes a 90 day statute of limitations for a legal challenge to:
 - Council's adoption or amendment to the Delta Plan or its appeals procedures
 - Council's determination of an appeal to a certification of consistency
- Adds the definition of a "person" to the Delta Reform Act for purposes of appeals
 - Individual person (*Water Code Section 19*)
 - Firm, association, organization, partnership, business trust, corporation, limited liability company, or company (*Water Code Section 19*)
 - Any city, county, city and county, special district, joint powers authority, or other political subdivision of the state, a public utility as defined in Section 216 of the Public Utilities Code, or a mutual water company as defined in Section 2725 of the Public Utilities Code. (*Water Code Section 10535*)

SB 650

Statute of Limitations

- Provides Council, interested parties, and covered action proponents with certainty as to the timing of litigation, and helps expedite a prompt resolution.
 - Similar to the Delta Protection Commission (60 days) and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (60 days)

Person Definition

- Helps clarify original intent and affirms common practice and interpretation

Recommended Position - Support

Authorize the Executive Officer and Legislative and Policy Advisor, or their designee, to convey a support position on SB 650 on behalf of the Council and to undertake the activities necessary, in consultation with the Chair, to ensure its successful passage through the legislative process.

Thank you

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