



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL: JANUARY 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: 1/5/2026

Status: 1/13/2026 From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 13. Noes 0.) (January 12).

Location: 1/12/2026-A. APPR.

Summary: The Administrative Procedure Act sets forth the requirements for the adoption, publication, review, and implementation of regulations by state agencies. The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 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to be filed with the Office of Administrative Law and requires the emergency regulations to remain in effect until repealed or amended by the adopting state agency.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 would delete the above provisions relating to the adoption of regulations to implement the act as emergency

regulations and would instead exempt the adoption of those regulations from the Administrative Procedure Act.

Calendar: 1/16/2026 #1 ASM SECOND READING FILE -- ASSEMBLY BILLS

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

Introduced: 12/2/2024

Last Amend: 1/8/2026

Status: 1/9/2026-Re-referred to Com. on AGRI.

Location: 1/5/2026-A. AGRI.

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.

Calendar: 1/14/2026 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 126 ASM AGRICULTURE SORIA, ESMERALDA, Chair

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

Introduced: 1/21/2025

Last Amend: 3/26/2025

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

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

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

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

Introduced: 1/23/2025

Status: 5/1/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was NAT. RES. on 2/10/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

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

Summary: The Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2021 authorizes the Governor, until January 1, 2032, to certify environmental leadership development projects that meet specified requirements for certain streamlining benefits related to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The act, among other things, requires a lead agency to prepare the record of proceedings for an environmental leadership development project, as provided, and to provide a specified notice within 10 days of the Governor certifying the

project. The act is repealed by its own term on January 1, 2034. This bill would extend the application of the act to water storage projects, water conveyance projects, and groundwater recharge projects that provide public benefits and drought preparedness. Because a lead agency would be required to prepare the record of proceedings for water storage projects, water conveyance projects, and groundwater recharge projects pursuant to the act, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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

Introduced: 1/30/2025

Last Amend: 4/21/2025

Status: 1/12/2026-From inactive file. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 1/12/2026-A. THIRD READING

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.”

Calendar: 1/16/2026 #91 ASM THIRD READING FILE - ASSEMBLY BILLS

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

Introduced: 2/5/2025

Last Amend: 5/1/2025

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

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

Summary: Current law provides that an emergency regulation adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board following a Governor's proclamation of a state of emergency based on drought conditions, for which the board makes specified findings, may remain in effect for up to one year, as provided, and may be renewed if the board determines that specified conditions relating to precipitation are still in effect. This bill would require the board, within 180 days following a finding by the board that a nonfee emergency regulation is no longer necessary, as provided, to conduct a comprehensive economic study assessing the impacts of the regulation, as specified.

AB 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: 1/6/2026-Re-referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Location: 1/5/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act establishes a statewide program for the control of the quality of all the waters in the state and makes certain legislative findings and declarations. Current law 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 514 (PETRIE-NORRIS D) WATER: EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLIES.

Introduced: 2/10/2025

Last Amend: 5/1/2025

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

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

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

AB 524 (WILSON D) FARMLAND ACCESS AND CONSERVATION FOR THRIVING COMMUNITIES ACT.

Last Amend: 8/29/2025

Status: 10/1/2025-Vetoed by Governor. Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

Location: 10/1/2025-A. VETOED

Summary: The California Farmland Conservancy Program Act establishes within the Department of Conservation the California Farmland Conservancy Program. Current law authorizes the program to offer financial assistance, including grants or contracts, for projects and activities on agricultural lands, as defined, that support agricultural conservation and sustainable land management. This bill would require the department, in collaboration with the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force, to establish the Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Program in the department to provide financial and technical assistance to support agricultural land acquisition and protection. The bill would require the department, subject to specified requirements, to provide financial assistance under the program to qualified entities for the purpose of acquiring agricultural lands to

transfer or provide long-term leases to qualified farmer participants, as specified. The bill would establish the Farmland Access Fund in the State Treasury and would make moneys in the fund available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the department for program expenditures.

Calendar: 1/16/2026 #20 ASM GOVERNOR'S VETOES

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

Last Amend: 9/5/2025

Status: 10/6/2025-Vetoed by Governor. Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

Location: 10/6/2025-A. VETOED

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

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

Calendar: 1/16/2026 #42 ASM GOVERNOR'S VETOES

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

Last Amend: 7/3/2025

Status: 8/29/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/18/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 8/28/2025-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: The Stormwater Resource Planning Act requires the State Water Resources Control Board, by July 1, 2016, to establish guidance for purposes of the act. This bill would require the board, by December 1, 2026, to develop recommendations for stormwater capture and use for the irrigation of urban public lands, as defined. The bill would require the recommendations to address, but not be limited to, opportunities for the use of captured stormwater for irrigation to offset the use of potable water, as specified, and recommendations for, among other things, pathogens and pathogen indicators and total suspended solids. Prior to approving the recommendations, the bill would require the board to solicit and receive written public comment on proposed recommendations.

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

Introduced: 2/14/2025

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

Location: 2/14/2025-A. PRINT

Summary: Would appropriate \$455,500,000 from the General Fund to the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority for the purpose of funding the State Highway

152 Route improvements required to complete the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project.

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

Introduced: 2/14/2025

Last Amend: 3/10/2025

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

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

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

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

Last Amend: 9/5/2025

Status: 10/13/2025-Vetoed by Governor. Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

Location: 10/13/2025-A. VETOED

Summary: The State Government Strategic Planning and Performance and Review Act requires each agency, department, office, or commission for which strategic

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

Calendar: 1/16/2026 #77 ASM GOVERNOR'S VETOES

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

Introduced: 2/19/2025

Status: 8/29/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/18/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 8/29/2025-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: Current law establishes the Office of Information Security within the Department of Technology for the purpose of ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of state systems and applications and to promote and protect privacy as part of the development and operations of state systems and applications to ensure the trust of the residents of this state. Current law requires specified state entities to implement the policies and procedures issued by the office. Existing law additionally authorizes the office to conduct, or require to be conducted, an independent security assessment of every state agency, department, or office, as specified. Current law requires every state agency, as specified, to certify, by February 1 annually, to the office that the agency is in compliance with all adopted policies, standards, and procedures and to include a plan of action and milestones, as specified. This bill would require every state agency, as specified, and subject to specified exceptions, to implement Zero Trust architecture for all data, hardware, software, internal systems, and essential third-party software, including for on-premises, cloud, and hybrid environments, to achieve prescribed levels of

maturity based on the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Maturity Model, as defined, by specified dates. In implementing Zero Trust architecture, the bill would require state agencies to prioritize the use of solutions that comply with, are authorized by, or align to federal guidelines, programs, and frameworks and, at a minimum, prioritize multifactor authentication for access to all systems and data, enterprise endpoint detection and response solutions, and robust logging practices, as specified. The bill would require the office's chief to develop or revise uniform technology policies, standards, and procedures for use by all state agencies in Zero Trust architecture to achieve specified maturity levels on all systems in the State Administrative Manual and Statewide Information Management Manual.

AB 1001 (RUBIO, BLANCA D) DROUGHT.

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Status: 5/8/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was PRINT on 2/20/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

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

Summary: Current law authorizes an implementing agency to provide advance payment of up to 25% of grant funds awarded to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, mobilehome parks, mutual water companies, farmers and ranchers, federally recognized California Native American tribes, nonfederally recognized Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for specified purposes, administrators, and groundwater sustainability agencies that have demonstrated cashflow problems according to the satisfaction of the implementing agency. This bill would make a nonsubstantive change to that authorization.

**AB 1102 (BOERNER D) SEA LEVEL RISE AND GROUNDWATER RISE:
CONTAMINATED SITES: REPORT.**

Introduced: 2/20/2025

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

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

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

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

Last Amend: 6/23/2025

Status: 8/29/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/18/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 8/29/2025-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: Would prohibit the release of stored water from a reservoir owned and operated by the United States 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 owned and operated by the United States in a manner that is knowingly, designedly, and intentionally under any false or fraudulent representation as to the purpose and intended use of the water. The bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board or the Attorney General, as provided, to bring an action for injunctive relief for a violation of the above-described prohibition. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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

Last Amend: 9/9/2025

Status: 9/13/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(14). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on 9/13/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 9/13/2025-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, otherwise known as the Williamson Act, authorizes a city or county to contract with a landowner to limit the use of agricultural land to agricultural use if the land is located in an agricultural

preserve designated by the city or county, as specified. The act authorizes the parties to mutually agree to rescind the contract in order to simultaneously enter into a solar-use easement if approved by the Department of Conservation, as specified. Current law defines the term “solar-use easement” for these purposes to mean any right or interest acquired by a county, or city in a parcel or parcels determined to be eligible, as provided, where the deed or other instrument granting the right or interest imposes certain restrictions that effectively restrict the use of the land to photovoltaic solar facilities for the purpose of providing for the collection and distribution of solar energy and certain other incidental or subordinate uses or other alternative renewable energy facilities. This bill would revise the definition of the term “solar-use easement” to, among other changes, expand the authorized uses of the land under the easement to include solar energy storage and appurtenant renewable energy facilities.

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 1548 (PELLERIN D) THE MONTEREY BAY AREA STEWARDSHIP AUTHORITY.

Introduced: 1/7/2026

Status: 1/8/2026-From printer. May be heard in committee February 7.

Location: 1/7/2026-A. PRINT

Summary: Current law establishes various entities for specified purposes over specific geographic areas of the state, including the San Francisco Bay Restoration

Authority and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, among others. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation that would establish the Monterey Bay Area Stewardship Authority, as specified.

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

Introduced: 1/7/2026

Status: 1/8/2026-From printer. May be heard in committee February 7.

Location: 1/7/2026-A. PRINT

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 1553 (CONNOLLY D) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT.

Introduced: 1/8/2026

Status: 1/9/2026-From printer. May be heard in committee February 8.

Location: 1/8/2026-A. PRINT

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. Current law exempts from CEQA, except when located on natural and protected lands, as defined, a project that consists exclusively of a daycare center, as specified, a project that consists exclusively of a federally qualified health center or a rural health clinic, as specified, a project that consists exclusively of a nonprofit food bank or food pantry, as specified, and a project that consists exclusively of a facility for advanced manufacturing, as

specified. This bill would state that it is the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation that would, among other things, provide that projects exempted from CEQA pursuant to the above-described provisions remain subject to, and in compliance with, all applicable state laws intended to protect public health, safety, and the environment.

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

Introduced: 1/22/2025

Last Amend: 3/12/2025

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

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

Summary: The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, approved by the voters as Proposition 4 at the November 5, 2024, statewide general election, authorized the issuance of bonds in

the amount of \$10,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate-smart, sustainable, and resilient farms, ranches, and working lands, park creation and outdoor access, and clean air programs. The act makes \$135,000,000 available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Office of Emergency Services for a wildfire mitigation grant program to provide, among other things, loans, direct assistance, and matching funds for projects that prevent wildfires, increase resilience, maintain existing wildfire risk reduction projects, reduce the risk of wildfires to communities, or increase home or community hardening. The act provides that eligible projects include, but are not limited to, grants to local agencies, state agencies, joint powers authorities, tribes, resource conservation districts, fire safe councils, and nonprofit organizations for structure hardening of critical community infrastructure, wildfire smoke mitigation, evacuation centers, including community clean air centers, structure hardening projects that reduce the risk of wildfire for entire neighborhoods and communities, water delivery system improvements for fire suppression purposes for communities in very high or high fire hazard areas, wildfire buffers, and incentives to remove structures that significantly increase hazard risk. This bill would include in the list of eligible projects grants to the above-mentioned entities for improvements to public evacuation routes in very high and high fire hazard severity zones, mobile rigid dip tanks, as defined, to support firefighting efforts, prepositioned mobile rigid water storage, as defined, and improvements to the response and effectiveness of fire engines and helicopters.

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

Last Amend: 9/2/2025

Status: 10/3/2025-Vetoed by the Governor. In Senate. Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

Location: 10/3/2025-S. VETOED

Summary: Current law requires the Department of Water Resources to gather and correlate information and data pertinent to an annual forecast of seasonal water crop. Current law also requires the department to update every 5 years the plan for the orderly and coordinated control, protection, conservation, development, and

use of the water resources of the state, which is known as “The California Water Plan.” This bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2027, to update its water supply forecasting models and procedures to address the effects of climate change and implement a formal policy and procedures for documenting the department’s operational plans and the department’s rationale for its operating procedures, including the department’s rationale for water releases from reservoirs. The bill would also require the department to establish, and publish on the department’s internet website, the specific criteria that it will employ to determine when its updated water supply forecasting model has demonstrated sufficient predictive capability to be ready for use in each of the watersheds. The bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report on its progress toward implementing the new forecasting model and to post the report on the department’s internet website.

Calendar: 1/16/2026 #11 SEN GOVERNOR'S VETOES

SB 287 (ARREGUÍN D) CALIFORNIA TRAILS CONSERVANCY PROGRAM.

Introduced: 2/6/2025 (Spot bill)

Last Amend: 3/24/2025

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

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

Summary: Existing law establishes the Natural Resources Agency, composed of departments, boards, conservancies, and commissions responsible for the restoration, protection, and management of the state’s natural and cultural resources. This bill would establish in the agency the California Trails Conservancy Program. The bill would require the program to have specified purposes, including promoting enhanced and expanded environmentally sound greenways and trail networks. If the agency determines that it would benefit these purposes, the bill would authorize the agency to establish an ad hoc working group with specified members, including a representative from the Department of Parks and Recreation. The bill would authorize the agency to delegate administration of the program to the agency’s Deputy Secretary for Access. The bill would also authorize the agency

to administer funding for priority projects, as defined, through existing or new grants or competitive grant programs and would require that no less than 35% percent of the funding administered by the agency for the purposes of the program be allocated to projects benefiting disadvantaged communities, as defined.

SB 601 (ALLEN D) WATER: WASTE DISCHARGE.

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Last Amend: 7/10/2025

Status: 8/28/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/20/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 8/28/2025-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: The State Water Resources Control Board and the 9 California regional water quality control boards regulate water quality and prescribe waste discharge requirements in accordance with the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (act) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. Under the act, the State Water Resources Control Board is authorized to adopt water quality control plans for waters for which quality standards are required by the federal Clean Water Act, as specified, and that in the event of a conflict, those plans supersede regional water quality control plans for the same waters. This bill would authorize the state board to adopt water quality control plans for nexus waters, which the bill would define as all waters of the state that are not also navigable, except as specified. The bill would require any water quality standard that was submitted to, and approved by, or is awaiting approval by, the United States Environmental Protection Agency or the state board that applied to nexus waters as of May 24, 2023, to remain in effect, as provided.

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

Introduced: 2/21/2025

Last Amend: 7/7/2025

Status: 7/17/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was NAT. RES. on 6/16/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 7/17/2025-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. The Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2021 authorizes the Governor, until January 1, 2032, to certify environmental leadership development projects that meet specified requirements for certain streamlining benefits related to CEQA. This bill would provide additional streamlining benefits to Waterfront Environmental Leadership Development Projects (WELDPs), as defined, that, among other specified conditions, are certified by the Governor and located on more than 50 acres of land and water within the Central Embarcadero Planning District of the San Diego Unified Port District within the County of San Diego. The bill would provide that the streamlining benefits include a requirement that the California Coastal Commission provide specific and substantive comments or objections for certain documents within 60 days, as provided. The bill would require a lead agency or applicant to, within 30 days after the certification of the environmental impact report by the lead agency, file required application forms and materials for a port master plan amendment with the commission. The bill would authorize the commission, if a certain condition is met, to charge a fee to an applicant for the reasonable costs incurred by the commission for processing documents for review or the application of the WELDP. By placing new duties on local agencies related to the streamlining benefits, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

SB 827 (MCNERNEY D) DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: SUPERVISION OF DAMS AND RESERVOIRS.

Introduced: 1/6/2026

Status: 1/7/2026-From printer. May be acted upon on or after February 6.

Location: 1/6/2026-S. RLS.

Summary: Current law prohibits the construction of any new dam or reservoir or the enlargement of any new dam or reservoir until the owner has applied for and obtained from the Department of Water Resources written approval of plans and specifications. Current law authorizes the department, in connection with

approving a dam or reservoir, to require certain data, investigations, reports, and any other appropriate information as may be necessary. This bill would make a nonsubstantive change in these provisions.