



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL: AUGUST 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: 8/17/2026-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/17/2026-A. THIRD READING

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.

Status: 8/19/2026 #244 ASM THIRD READING FILE - SENATE BILLS (Floor Mgr. - Harabedian)

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

Introduced: 2/19/2026

Last Amend: 6/25/2026

Status: 8/14/2026-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(14). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/3/2026)

Location: 8/14/2026-S. DEAD

Summary: Existing law establishes in the Natural Resources 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 specifies the composition of the governing board of the conservancy, including 11 voting members, and requires liaison advisers to serve in an advisory, nonvoting capacity. Existing 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. Existing 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. Existing law establishes the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Fund in the State Treasury. Existing 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 and Lake, as defined. The bill would rename the conservancy the Valley, Lake, and Delta Conservancy and make conforming changes. The bill would rename the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Fund the Delta Conservancy Fund and create the Valley and Lake Conservancy Fund in the State Treasury, moneys in which would be available upon appropriation by the Legislature for purposes of the conservancy in the Valley and Lake. The bill would add to the governing board one additional voting member who is appointed by the Lake County Board of Supervisors and one who is a tribal representative appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. By imposing additional requirements on the Lake County Board of Supervisors, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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

Introduced: 2/19/2026

Last Amend: 7/2/2026

Status: 8/13/2026-From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 4. Noes 0.) (August 13). Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/13/2026-S. THIRD READING

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.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #355 SEN ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

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: 6/11/2026

Status: 7/16/2026-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 89, Statutes of 2026.

Location: 7/16/2026-A. CHAPTERED

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 (act), 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. Existing 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. Existing 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, among other things, to develop draft project solicitation and evaluation guidelines, to transmit copies of those guidelines to the fiscal committees and to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature, to hold a noticed public meeting on those guidelines, and to submit those guidelines to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, except as provided.

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

Introduced: 12/2/2024

Last Amend: 1/8/2026

Status: 6/30/2026-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 6/30/2026-S. THIRD READING

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.

Status: 8/19/2026 #110 SEN ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE (Floor Mgr. - Hurtado)

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

Introduced: 1/7/2026

Status: 8/17/2026-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Assembly. (Ayes 39. Noes 0.). In Assembly. Ordered to Engrossing and Enrolling.

Location: 8/17/2026-A. ENROLLMENT

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: 8/13/2026

Status: 8/17/2026-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.Location: 7/2/2026-S. APPR.

Location: 8/17/2026-S. THIRD READING

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 expand the definition of “disadvantaged communities” by explicitly authorizing the inclusion of farmworker communities that meet certain requirements.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #444 SEN ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

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

Introduced: 2/9/2026

Last Amend: 6/25/2026

Status: 8/14/2026-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(14). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/3/2026)

Location: 8/14/2026-S. DEAD

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 in the state, invasive mussels, and authorizes the Director of Fish and Wildlife or the director’s designee to engage in various enforcement activities, including ordering the areas in

conveyance that contain water be drained, dried, or decontaminated, as provided. Existing law 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 may occur in a water supply system. Existing law requires, if invasive mussels are detected, the operator of a water supply system to, in cooperation with the department, prepare and implement a plan to control or eradicate invasive mussels within the system, and eliminate or minimize any potential downstream transport of an invasive mussel. Existing law requires, on or before December 31, 2026, the department to review all approved plans and require all plans that do not specifically address all invasive mussel species known to be present in bodies of water in the state as of January 1, 2026, to be updated or revised appropriately to include all invasive mussel species, on or before September 30, 2027. Existing law requires every invasive mussel species to be addressed in a plan no later than 180 days from the date that the species is listed in a certain regulation. Existing law defines “invasive mussel” for these purposes as any nonnative detrimental mussel, as provided. This bill would prohibit a conveyance from being launched until a specified drying period has completed, as provided. By expanding the scope of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require the department to require water supply system operators to update their plans to address all invasive mussel species present in the operator’s water system as of January 1, 2026, as provided.

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

Introduced: 2/12/2026

Last Amend: 8/3/2026

Status: 8/13/2026-From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 5. Noes 0.) (August 13). Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/13/2026-S. THIRD READING

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. 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 on state lands, 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 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. The bill would require a governmental agency to allow California Indians access to sacred sites on state lands, as specified.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #322 SEN ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE (Floor Mgr. - Cervantes)

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

Introduced: 2/12/2026

Last Amend: 5/28/2026

Status: 8/17/2026-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Assembly. (Ayes 39. Noes 0.). In Assembly. Concurrence in Senate amendments pending.

Location: 8/17/2026-A. CONCURRENCE

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.

Status: 8/19/2026 #11 ASM CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2026 (AGUIAR-CURRY D) GROUNDWATER RECHARGE.

Introduced: 2/17/2026

Last Amend: 7/2/2026

Status: 8/14/2026-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(14). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/3/2026)

Location: 8/14/2026-S. DEAD

Summary: Existing law declares that all water within the state is the property of the people of the state, but the right to the use of the water may be acquired by appropriation in the manner provided by law. Existing law requires the appropriation to be for some useful or beneficial purpose. Existing law provides, however, that the diversion of floodflows for groundwater recharge does not require an appropriative water right if certain conditions are met, including that a local or regional agency that has adopted a local plan of flood control or has considered flood risks as part of its most recently adopted general plan has given

notice, as provided, of imminent risk of flooding and inundation of lands, roads, or structures. Existing law defines “floodflow” for these purposes to include circumstances in which flows would inundate ordinarily dry areas in the bed of a terminal lake to a depth that floods dairies and other ongoing agricultural activities, or areas with substantial residential, commercial, or industrial development. Existing law applies those requirements to diversions commenced before January 1, 2029. Existing law prohibits an entity from substantially diverting or obstructing the natural flow of, or substantially changing or using any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake, or from depositing or disposing of certain material where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake, without first notifying the Department of Fish and Wildlife of that activity, and entering into a lake or streambed alteration agreement if required by the department to protect fish and wildlife resources, except as specified. This bill would revise and recast those conditions required for the appropriative water right exemption for a diversion of floodflows for groundwater recharge, would apply the requirements to a diversion commenced before January 1, 2034, and would further exempt those diversions from the requirements of CEQA and requirements relating to lake or streambed alteration agreements, subject to conducting tribal consultation, as provided.

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

Introduced: 2/17/2026

Last Amend: 8/13/2026

Status: 8/17/2026-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/17/2026-S. THIRD READING

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.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #501 SEN ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE (Floor Mgr. - Ashby)

AB 2045 (CONNOLLY D) HABITAT RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

Introduced: 2/17/2026

Last Amend: 8/13/2026

Status: 8/17/2026-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/17/2026-S. THIRD READING.

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 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. 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. 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.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #503 SEN ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

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

Introduced: 2/18/2026

Last Amend: 8/13/2026

Status: 8/17/2026-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/17/2026-S. THIRD READING

Summary: Existing law establishes the Natural Resources Agency and vests the agency with jurisdiction over various public resources. Existing law establishes the California Environmental Protection Agency and sets out its mission for programs, policies, and standards. Under existing law, various state entities, including the California Coastal Commission, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife have responsibilities with respect to coastal permitting and development. This bill 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 July 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.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #504 SEN ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

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

Introduced: 2/19/2026

Last Amend: 5/18/2026

Status: 8/14/2026-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(14). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/3/2026)

Location: 8/14/2026-S. DEAD

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 native fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement in connection with a project to restore, enhance, or provide habitat for native fish and wildlife, as provided. The bill would require the board to give priority to processing small restoration use registrations that are coupled with a petition for mandatory dedication to instream beneficial uses or wetlands habitat, as specified

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

Introduced: 2/19/2026

Last Amend: 5/18/2026

Status: 8/14/2026-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(14). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/3/2026)

Location: 8/14/2026-S. DEAD

Summary: Existing 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 instead require each state agency, as described above, to write each document it produces after January 1, 2027, either digitally or in print, in plain language, as specified, and

would define “plain language” for purposes of that provision. The bill would authorize a state agency, as described above, to use standards created by the Office of Data and Innovation that identify how a state agency incorporates plain language principles and practices.

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

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Last Amend: 8/13/2026

Status: 8/17/2026-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/17/2026-S. THIRD READING

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, a water supply assessment, and a water use 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 Department of Water Resources or the applicable water supplier.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #551 SEN ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

AB 2507 (NGUYEN D) OFFICE OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS.

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Last Amend: 8/13/2026

Status: 8/17/2026-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/17/2026-S. THIRD READING

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.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #557 SEN ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

**AB 2521 (PAPAN D) CALIFORNIA COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:
WATER AVAILABILITY STUDY: CENTRAL VALLEY.**

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Last Amend: 7/2/2026

Status: 8/14/2026-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(14). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/3/2026)

Location: 8/14/2026-S. DEAD

Summary: Existing law establishes the Department of Water Resources within the Natural Resources Agency and vests it with various powers and duties related to water. Existing law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to administer a water rights program pursuant to which the board grants and revokes permits and licenses to appropriate water. Existing law authorizes any person who has an urgent need to divert and use water to apply for, and authorizes the board to issue, a conditional, temporary permit, as prescribed. Existing law finds and declares that the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) was organized as a nonprofit corporation at the request of the Legislature for the specific purpose of offering expert advice to the state government on public policy issues significantly

related to science and technology. This bill would, on or before January 1, 2028, require the Department of Water Resources, in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, to select 2 watersheds that are within, or drain into, the Central Valley to conduct a watershedwide water availability study. The bill would, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, request CCST to, in consultation with the Department of Water Resources and the board, undertake and complete a comprehensive study of water availability in the selected watersheds. The bill would require the study to, among other things, determine daily flow rates in rivers, streams, and creeks in the watersheds over the past 30 years to the extent data is available.

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

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Last Amend: 7/2/2026

Status: 8/13/2026-From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 5. Noes 2.) (August 13). Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/13/2026-S. THIRD READING

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.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #390 SEN ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

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: 8/13/2026-From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (August 13). Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/13/2026-S. THIRD READING

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.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #394 SEN ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

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

Introduced: 3/12/2026

Last Amend: 8/18/2026

Status: 8/18/2026-Read third time and amended. Ordered to second reading.

Location: 8/18/2026-S. SECOND READING

Summary: Existing law establishes a registration fee and a renewal fee for vessels, and imposes an additional fee, known as the invasive mussel infestation prevention fee, on a vessel required to pay the registration fee or renewal fee, as provided. Existing law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue a vessel an invasive mussel infestation prevention sticker to the vessel owner upon payment of the invasive mussel infestation prevention fee. Existing law authorizes a vessel operator to be issued a citation for operating a vessel or a recreational vessel in nonmarine waters without a valid state-issued invasive mussel infestation prevention sticker. This bill would exempt from that provision relating to citations a person who operates a vessel or recreational vessel on the waters of Lake Tahoe or Topaz Lake if the vessel is registered in the State of Nevada, the State of Nevada has a program in effect for the management of aquatic invasive species, and the vessel displays a current aquatic invasive species decal issued by the State of Nevada.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #21 SEN ASSEMBLY BILLS - SECOND READING FILE (Floor Mgr. - Becker)

SB 10 (PADILLA D) CLIMATE CHANGE: PLANS: GENDER IMPACTS

Introduced: 12/2/2024

Last Amend: 5/12/2026

Status: 8/14/2026-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(14). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 6/24/2026)

Location: 8/14/2026-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law requires the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation and the Natural Resources Agency, on or before July 1, 2026, and every 3 years thereafter, to update the Extreme Heat Action Plan to promote comprehensive, coordinated, and effective state and local government action on extreme heat. This bill would require the office and the agency, on or before July 1, 2028, to conduct an assessment of the disparate and differentiated gendered impacts and risks of extreme heat, as provided, for purposes of integration into updates to the Extreme Heat Action Plan.

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

Introduced: 1/15/2026

Last Amend: 8/13/2026

Status: 8/17/2026-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/17/2026-A. THIRD READING

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 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 and require the moneys in the fund to be used by the foundation to award grants and make loans to public or private research companies, universities, institutes, and organizations for scientific research and development, in specific areas of research, including, but not limited to, biomedical, behavioral health, and climate research.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #247 ASM THIRD READING FILE - SENATE BILLS (Floor Mgr. - Solache)

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

Introduced: 2/2/2026

Last Amend: 8/6/2026

Status: 8/17/2026-Assembly amendments concurred in. (Ayes 40. Noes 0.) Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.

Location: 8/17/2026-S. ENROLLMENT

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 state agency obligations imposed on the State Water Resources Development System, commonly known as the State Water Project, pursuant to that policy. Existing law authorizes the department to defer, until no later than December 31, 2040, procuring zero-carbon electricity resource quantities equal to the amount of electricity provided under an existing contract to procure fossil generation entered into before January 1, 2010, if the department determines that the full achievement of the state agency obligations imposed on the State Water Project would require the early termination of the existing contract and that early termination of the existing contract would result in significant uneconomic costs. 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 that procurement, to also consider portfolio diversity, resource type, location, and hours of typical peak operation. The bill would expand the scope of the department's authorization to defer the procurement of those resource quantities to apply to an existing contract to procure fossil generation entered into before January 1, 2011, rather than January 1, 2010.

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

Introduced: 2/13/2026

Last Amend: 6/17/2026

Status: 8/6/2026-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/6/2026-A. THIRD READING

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.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #95 ASM THIRD READING FILE - SENATE BILLS (Floor Mgr. - Bryan)

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

Introduced: 2/13/2026

Last Amend: 6/25/2026

Status: 8/13/2026-Assembly Rule 63 suspended. From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 11. Noes 4.) (August 13). Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/13/2026-A. THIRD READING

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. Existing law requires a sustainable communities strategy to achieve regional targets set by the State Air Resources Board for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the automobile and light truck sector in the region for 2020 and 2035, respectively, and requires the state board to update those targets every 8 years, consistent with each metropolitan planning organization's timeframe for updating its regional transportation plan, as specified. Existing law establishes certain procedural requirements for setting and updating those targets and authorizes the state board to revise the targets every 4 years based on changes in specified factors. This bill would instead require, commencing with the first or 2nd regional transportation plan prepared on or after January 1, 2027, as determined by the applicable metropolitan planning organization, the regional transportation plan to include an 8-year sustainable communities strategy prepared by the metropolitan planning organization.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #187 ASM THIRD READING FILE - SENATE BILLS

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

Introduced: 2/18/2026

Last Amend: 6/25/2026

Status: 8/13/2026-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. In Senate. Concurrence in Assembly amendments pending.

Location: 8/13/2026-S. CONCURRENCE

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.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #56 SEN UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Introduced: 2/20/2026

Last Amend: 8/13/2026

Status: 8/17/2026-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/17/2026-A. THIRD READING

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.

Calendar: 8/19/2026 #302 ASM THIRD READING FILE - SENATE BILLS