

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE



2025 LEGISLATIVE BILL SUMMARY



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December 2025

To all interested parties,

I am pleased to provide this report on the activities of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee in 2025. This report contains summaries of the measures referred to, acted upon, or introduced within the committee's jurisdiction during 2025. It also details the oversight and informational hearings conducted by the committee.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Vice Chair Jeff Gonzalez, and other members of the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee for their service and engagement on the committee this past year. I look forward to continued collaboration with the members of the committee, the agencies and departments within the committee's jurisdiction, and interested stakeholders to address pressing issues within the committee's jurisdiction in the coming year.

More information on legislative measures can be found online at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>. Please contact the committee at (916) 319-2096 if you have questions or would like additional information about the bills summarized in this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Papan".

Diane Papan, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee

2025 Legislative Bill Summary

Abbreviation & Acronym & Initialism Key

CEC — California Energy Commission

ESA — Endangered Species Act

CARB — California Air Resources Board

CNRA — California Natural Resources Agency

CDFW — California Department of Fish and Wildlife

CEQA — California Environmental Quality Act

FGC — Fish and Game Commission

DWR — Department of Water Resources

GSA — Groundwater Sustainability Agency

LSAA — Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement

MWD — Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NPS — National Park Service

OHV — Off-highway motor vehicle

SGMA — Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

State Parks — Department of Parks and Recreation

State Water Board — State Water Resources Control Board

Regional Water Boards — Regional Water Quality Control Boards

| | |
|---|----|
| Fish and Wildlife | 6 |
| AB 14 (Hart) - Coastal resources: Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program. | 6 |
| AB 263 (Rogers) - Scott River: Shasta River: watersheds. | 6 |
| AB 454 (Kalra) - Migratory birds: California Migratory Bird Protection Act..... | 6 |
| AB 550 (Petrie-Norris) - CESA: the California State Safe Harbor Agreement Program Act..... | 6 |
| AB 697 (Wilson) - Protected species: authorized take: State Route 37 improvements..... | 6 |
| AB 734 (Schultz) - Environmental protection: biological resources data: CEC: powerplants: power lines: applications..... | 6 |
| AB 763 (Ward) - Timber harvesting: streambed agreement: waste discharge requirements... | 7 |
| AB 764 (Jeff Gonzalez) - Birds and mammals: nongame birds. | 7 |
| AB 807 (Dixon) - Conservation and mitigation bank: marine artificial reefs. | 7 |
| AB 846 (Connolly) - Endangered species: incidental take: wildfire preparedness activities..... | 8 |
| AB 892 (Schultz) - Captive wild animals: direct contact: prohibition. | 8 |
| AB 975 (Gallagher) - LSAA: exemptions: culverts and bridges. | 8 |
| AB 1024 (Harabedian) - CDFW: San Gabriel Valley Bear Management and Community Safety Act..... | 9 |
| AB 1038 (Hadwick) - Bears: hunting: use of dogs..... | 9 |
| AB 1056 (Bennett) - Gill nets: permits..... | 9 |
| AB 1089 (Carrillo) - Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: industrial projects and commercial projects..... | 9 |
| AB 1169 (Jeff Gonzalez) - Wildlife grants: Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement program. | 10 |
| AB 1316 (Addis) - Hunting licenses: information on firearms. | 10 |
| AB 1319 (Schultz) - Protected species: CESA..... | 10 |
| SB 427 (Blakespear) - Habitat Conservation Fund. | 11 |
| SB 556 (Hurtado) - Habitat enhancement and restoration: floodplains..... | 11 |
| SB 609 (Laird) - Fish: commercial fishing. | 11 |
| SB 718 (Dahle) - Hunting and sport fishing licenses: reduced fees..... | 11 |
| Flood control | 11 |
| AB 269 (Bennett) - Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program. | 11 |
| AB 639 (Soria) - Dams: exceptions..... | 11 |
| AB 915 (Petrie-Norris) - Dam safety: state supervision: exceptions. | 11 |
| SB 556 (Hurtado) - Habitat enhancement and restoration: floodplains..... | 12 |
| SB 639 (Ashby) - Zoning: Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley. | 12 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Groundwater | 12 |
| AB 293 (Bennett) - Groundwater sustainability agency: transparency. | 12 |
| AB 568 (Macedo) - Tule East Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act..... | 12 |
| AB 709 (Jeff Gonzalez) - SGMA: groundwater sustainability plans..... | 13 |
| AB 929 (Connolly) - SGMA: managed wetlands. | 13 |
| AB 1044 (Macedo) - Tulare Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act..... | 13 |
| AB 1413 (Papan) - SGMA: groundwater adjudication. | 13 |
| AB 1466 (Hart) - Groundwater adjudication: burden of proof. | 13 |
| Parks and Recreation | 14 |
| AB 616 (Caloza) - State Parks: California State Library Parks Pass Program..... | 14 |
| AB 679 (Pellerin) - State Parks: Big Basin Redwoods, Año Nuevo, and Butano State Parks. | 14 |
| AB 1139 (Rogers) - CEQA: exemption: public access: nonmotorized recreation. | 14 |
| AB 1225 (Bennett) - State parks and state beaches: Accessibility Advisory Committee. | 14 |
| AB-1252 (Caloza) - State parks: Elephant Hill: City of Los Angeles..... | 15 |
| AJR 9 (Wallis) - National parks: federal funding..... | 15 |
| SB 55 (Umberg) - State parks: facilities pass: Gold Star Family members..... | 15 |
| SB 360 (Rubio) - Land conservation: California Wildlife, Coastal, and Park Land Conservation Act: County of San Bernardino. | 15 |
| SB 563 (Valladares) - State parks: OHV Recreation: grants: eligible applicants. | 15 |
| SB 586 (Jones) - OHV: eMotos. | 15 |
| SB 630 (Allen) - State parks: real property: acquisitions and leases. | 16 |
| Water | 16 |
| AB 93 (Papan) - Water resources: demands: data centers. | 16 |
| AB 263 (Rogers) - Scott River: Shasta River: watersheds. | 16 |
| AB 269 (Bennett) - Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program. | 17 |
| AB 362 (Ramos) - Water policy: California tribal communities. | 17 |
| AB 430 (Alanis) - State Water Board: emergency regulations..... | 17 |
| AB 514 (Petrie-Norris) - Water: emergency water supplies..... | 17 |
| AB 580 (Wallis) - Surface mining: MWD | 17 |
| AB 639 (Soria) - Dams: exceptions..... | 17 |
| AB 717 (Aguilar-Curry) - Water rights: appropriation: small restoration use..... | 18 |
| AB 915 (Petrie-Norris) - Dam safety: state supervision: exceptions. | 18 |

| | |
|--|----|
| AB 1146 (Papan) - Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs: water release: false pretenses. | 18 |
| SB 31 (McNerney) - Water quality: recycled water..... | 18 |
| SB 72 (Caballero) - The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets..... | 18 |
| SB 224 (Hurtado) - DWR: water supply forecasting. | 19 |
| SB 599 (Caballero) - Atmospheric rivers: research: forecasting methods: experimental tools. | 19 |
| SB 650 (Cabaldon) - The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009. | 19 |
| SB 697 (Laird) - Determination of water rights: stream system..... | 20 |
| Miscellaneous | 20 |
| AB 581 (Bennett) - State shrub..... | 20 |
| AB 1086 (Muratsuchi) - Marine Carbon Initiative. | 20 |
| AB 1426 (Kalra) - Diablo Range Conservation Program. | 20 |
| AB 1520 (Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife) - Public resources: conservation. | 20 |
| ACR 107 (Bauer-Kahan) - The Diablo Range. | 20 |
| SB 369 (Padilla) - Salton Sea: restoration projects: skilled and trained workforce. | 21 |
| SB 765 (Niello) - State snake. | 21 |

Fish and Wildlife

AB 14 (Hart) - Coastal resources: Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program.

Codifies and allows for the expansion and implementation of the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program, a voluntary vessel speed reduction and sustainable shipping program off the California coast designed to reduce whale strikes and air pollution.

Status: Chapter 606, Statutes of 2025

AB 263 (Rogers) - Scott River: Shasta River: watersheds.

Provides that emergency regulations adopted by the State Water Board for the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds on January 27, 2025 shall remain in effect until January 1, 2031 or until the State Water Board adopts permanent rules establishing and implementing long-term instream flow requirements in those watersheds.

Status: Chapter 130, Statutes of 2025

AB 454 (Kalra) - Migratory birds: California Migratory Bird Protection Act.

Prohibits the take or possession of any migratory bird, or any part of any migratory bird that was designated as of January 1, 2025 under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Status: Chapter 365, Statutes of 2025

AB 550 (Petrie-Norris) - CESA: the California State Safe Harbor Agreement Program Act.

Provides that if an at-risk species becomes listed as an endangered, threatened, or candidate species pursuant to the California ESA, then further authorization or approval shall not be required for a "take" of that at-risk species.

Status: Pending in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

AB 697 (Wilson) - Protected species: authorized take: State Route 37 improvements.

Allows CDFW to authorize the incidental take of the fully protected species salt-marsh harvest mouse, the California clapper rail, the California black rail, and the white-tailed kite as a result of construction on State Route 37.

Status: Chapter 438, Statutes of 2025

AB 734 (Schultz) - Environmental protection: biological resources data: CEC: powerplants: power lines: applications.

Requires the CEC to make biological resources data it receives during the permitting processes for energy and renewable energy projects available to the public unless disclosure of the data would put species at risk.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Governor's Veto Message:

"This bill would require the [CEC] to publicly release granular biological resources data used in the completion of Environmental Impact Reports, unless [CDFW] determines that releasing such data would pose a significant risk of harm to individuals of a species.

Currently, the [CEC] receives both detailed biological resource maps generated by a project applicant and similar maps that the applicant obtains from [CDFW], as part of the environmental impact assessment for proposed energy projects moving through the [CEC's] site certification permitting programs. The resolution of these maps is governed by data-use guidelines publicly developed by [CDFW] to protect the precise locations of sensitive species and biological resources, as higher resolution maps risk increasing poaching, collection and habitat disturbance in these locations.

Though this bill is well-intended, the risks associated with this divulgence of information and the added procedural requirements of a [CDFW] determination on whether to divulge such information, if found harmful, are unnecessary, add additional process complexity, and likely won't yield additional mitigations or safeguards for species impacted by proposed energy projects.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill."

AB 763 (Ward) - Timber harvesting: streambed agreement: waste discharge requirements.

Accelerates the timeframe for CDFW to issue an LSAA and for a regional water quality control board to authorize timber harvest operations to within five working days of when an approved Timber Harvesting Plan has been issued by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Status: Pending in Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

AB 764 (Jeff Gonzalez) - Birds and mammals: nongame birds.

Includes the mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) in the list of nongame bird species that may be taken or possessed at any time, until January 1, 2031.

Status: Chapter 441, Statutes of 2025

AB 807 (Dixon) - Conservation and mitigation bank: marine artificial reefs.

Expands the definition of conservation bank and mitigation bank to include marine artificial reefs and determines specifications as to how those marine artificial reefs should be maintained and managed.

Status: Pending in Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

AB 846 (Connolly) - Endangered species: incidental take: wildfire preparedness activities.

Would have established a process to facilitate the approval of an incidental take permit for listed species if needed by a local agency to undertake wildfire preparedness activities, and would have required CDFW to impose fees for its costs to review wildfire preparedness plans.

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee

AB 892 (Schultz) - Captive wild animals: direct contact: prohibition.

Prevents a person from allowing a member of the public to come into direct contact with specified animals held in captivity.

Status: Pending in Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

AB 975 (Gallagher) - Lake and streambed alteration agreements: exemptions: culverts and bridges.

Would have exempted projects to repair or reconstruct a bridge up to 30 feet long or a culvert up to 70 feet long, in the County of Sutter, that were damaged or destroyed by a fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2024 from LSAA requirements. Would have repealed this provision on January 1, 2027.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Governor's Veto Message:

“This bill exempts specified Sutter County projects and activities for bridges and culverts that have been damaged as a result of fire, flood, storm, earthquake, subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2024 from existing specified state requirements related to lake and streambed alteration.

[CDFW] is tasked with determining if bridge and culvert project activity would substantially and adversely impact fish and wildlife resources. If found to have such impacts, [CDFW] must draft a[n] [LSAA] that identifies species present in the area and for the project developer to mitigate the adverse impacts in conjunction with the activity. [CDFW] also assesses an administrative fee to support the implementation of these agreements.

Though this bill is intended to expedite damaged bridge and culvert projects, [CDFW] would still be required to develop individualized fish and wildlife resource protections for exempt projects, creating unknown but potentially significant General Fund cost pressures because the number and scope of projects that meet this bill's exemption criteria are not fully known.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill."

AB 1024 (Harabedian) - CDFW: San Gabriel Valley Bear Management and Community Safety Act.

Would have required CDFW to develop a plan to address issues related to bears in the San Gabriel Valley and to tag and track any bear that enters a residential neighborhood in a city located within the San Gabriel Valley.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 1038 (Hadwick) - Bears: hunting: use of dogs.

Would have authorized a person to pursue bear with dogs, but not injure or kill the bear, during seasons to be established by FGC and would have allowed FGC to establish a hunting season where a hunter may allow dogs to pursue bear.

Status: Held in Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

AB 1056 (Bennett) - Gill nets: permits.

Authorizes, on or after January 1, 2027, a set gill net permit holder to transfer a permit only to a family member once, and prohibit any further transfer of that permit.

Status: Chapter 720, Statutes of 2025

AB 1089 (Carrillo) - Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: industrial projects and commercial projects.

Would have authorized CDFW to enter into an agreement with any city to delegate to the city the taking of a western Joshua tree associated with commercial and industrial projects, and would have revised CDFW's authority to issue a permit for the removal of a western Joshua tree, including to meet defensible space requirements.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Governor's Veto Message:

"This bill authorizes [CDFW] to enter into an agreement with any city to delegate to the city the taking of a Western Joshua Tree associated with commercial and industrial projects. In addition, this bill revises CDFW's authority to issue a permit for the removal of a Western Joshua Tree around single-family homes.

The Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (Act) of 2023 was carefully crafted to balance the need to develop housing and clean energy projects in the Mojave Desert region, while creating a robust but practical permitting process aimed at protecting one of California's most iconic species. The Act currently authorizes CDFW to enter into an agreement with any county or city and delegate limited authority to permit the taking of a Western Joshua Tree associated with developing single-family residences, multifamily residences, accessory structures, and public works projects.

While I recognize the desire to expand this delegated authority to include the taking of these trees where commercial and industrial projects are sited, this bill goes too far in authorizing the blanket removal of these trees near single-family homes that will ultimately undermine Western Joshua Tree protections and conservation requirements under the Act. Furthermore, this bill would increase the complexity and time required to manage the permitting process as modified by this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill."

AB 1169 (Jeff Gonzalez) - Wildlife grants: Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement program.

Would have raised the compensation available to a landowner who participates in the Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement program, which offers hunting and fishing opportunities, to \$52 per acre or \$87 per public participant for the 2026 calendar year and index the compensation limit thereafter.

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee

AB 1316 (Addis) - Hunting licenses: information on firearms.

Would have required CDFW to provide information about firearm safety to every person who purchases a hunting license.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 1319 (Schultz) - Protected species: California Endangered Species Act.

Authorizes CDFW to extend protections under the California ESA to a California native species listed under the federal ESA if the federal government takes actions to decrease federal protections for that species under the federal ESA. Further, makes it unlawful for a person to import, cause to be imported, export, cause to be exported, transport, sell, offer for sale, possess, receive, acquire, or purchase any fish, wildlife, or plant that was taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of any law, treaty, or statute.

Status: Chapter 638, Statutes of 2025

SB 427 (Blakespear) - Habitat Conservation Fund.

Extends the sunset of the Habitat Conservation Fund from 2030 to 2035.

Status: Chapter 317, Statutes of 2025

SB 556 (Hurtado) - Habitat enhancement and restoration: floodplains.

Would have required that \$21.5 million be allocated to the Wildlife Conservation Board for multiple benefit floodplain restoration projects in Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties upon appropriation by the Legislature.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

SB 609 (Laird) - Fish: commercial fishing.

Authorizes CDFW to publicly release commercial fisher names and fishing license numbers, fish business names and identification numbers, and fishing vessel names and registration numbers to facilitate the accurate reporting of fishing activity, landing receipts, and fish sales, deliveries and transfers reporting.

Status: Chapter 227, Statutes of 2025

SB 718 (Dahle) - Hunting and sport fishing licenses: reduced fees.

Would have expanded eligibility for reduced-fee sport fishing and hunting licenses until January 1, 2032, to persons receiving public benefits under specified programs and also would have required CDFW to report to the Legislature evaluating the effect of the reduced fee-licenses.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

Flood control

AB 269 (Bennett) - Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program.

Permits the funding of dam removal projects under the Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program administered by DWR.

Status: Pending in Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee

AB 639 (Soria) - Dams: exceptions.

Exempts specific weirs on the Kings River that have at least three feet of freeboard from regulation and oversight by the Division of Safety of Dams within DWR.

Status: Chapter 617, Statutes of 2025

AB 915 (Petrie-Norris) - Dam safety: state supervision: exceptions.

Would have exempted water storage ponds that are associated with an energy storage facility that uses compressed air technology and is located in eastern Kern County from dam safety regulations.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Governor's Veto Message:

“This bill would exempt from state dam safety requirements and oversight, as well as specified fees, any water storage facilities associated with an energy storage system project that uses compressed air technology.

While I support development of novel, long-lead-time, and large clean energy resources, it is imperative that we do so with safety at the forefront. Additionally, it is essential that the costs incurred by state agencies overseeing the safety of these facilities are recovered from project developers to adequately ensure compliance with applicable safety requirements.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.”

SB 556 (Hurtado) - Habitat enhancement and restoration: floodplains.

Would have required that \$21.5 million be allocated to WCB for multiple benefit floodplain restoration projects in Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties upon appropriation by the Legislature.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

SB 639 (Ashby) - Zoning: Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley.

Extends the deadline to achieve urban level of flood protection for the Natomas and Beach Lake subareas in the City of Sacramento, portions of the Natomas Basin in the Counties of Sacramento and Sutter, and the City of Marysville from 2025 to 2030.

Status: Chapter 777, Statutes of 2025

Groundwater

AB 293 (Bennett) - Groundwater sustainability agency: transparency.

Requires a GSA to post information regarding its board membership and its board members' economic interests on the GSA's website by January 1, 2026.

Status: Chapter 359, Statutes of 2025

AB 568 (Macedo) - Tule East Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act.

Creates the Tule East Groundwater Sustainability Agency to oversee groundwater management and compliance with SGMA in portions of the Tule subbasin in eastern Tulare County.

Status: Pending on Assembly Floor

AB 709 (Jeff Gonzalez) - SGMA: groundwater sustainability plans.

Clarifies that a GSA may amend a coordination agreement after DWR has issued an assessment of the GSAs' groundwater sustainability plans.

Status: Chapter 439, Statutes of 2025

AB 929 (Connolly) - Sustainable groundwater management: managed wetlands.

Exempts, until January 1, 2029, groundwater use by managed wetlands and small community water systems serving a disadvantaged community from a GSA's authority to regulate groundwater pumping and assess fees under SGMA.

Status: Placed on the Senate Inactive File

AB 1044 (Macedo) - Tulare Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act.

Creates the Tule East Groundwater Sustainability Agency to oversee groundwater management and compliance with SGMA in portions of the Tule subbasin in eastern Tulare County.

Status: Placed on Assembly Inactive File

AB 1413 (Papan) - SGMA: groundwater adjudication.

Provides that a court shall not establish a sustainable yield or safe yield in a comprehensive groundwater adjudication that allows more total pumping from a basin annually or on average than a valid groundwater sustainability plan unless a party establishes that the GSA did not base its sustainable yield on the best available information and best available science and makes other changes relative to comprehensive groundwater adjudications and validation actions.

Status: Placed on Senate Inactive File

AB 1466 (Hart) - Groundwater adjudication: burden of proof.

Permits a court, in actions to adjudicate groundwater rights, to exempt or treat separately claimants who extract or divert minor quantities of water; requires a party's initial disclosure to additionally include information relating to agricultural use; and requires a court to request the groundwater sustainability agency provide a technical report that quantifies and describes the groundwater uses of parties that have not otherwise appeared before the court.

Status: Chapter 643, Statutes of 2025

Parks and Recreation

AB 616 (Caloza) - Department of Parks and Recreation: state parks: California State Library Parks Pass Program.

Would have authorized State Parks, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide vehicle day use annual passes, free of charge, to the California State Library.

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee

AB 679 (Pellerin) - State Parks: Big Basin Redwoods, Año Nuevo, and Butano State Parks.

Permits, until January 1, 2033, State Parks to acquire property for Big Basin Redwoods, Año Nuevo, and Butano state parks on its own behalf.

Status: Chapter 275, Statutes of 2025

AB 1139 (Rogers) - CEQA: exemption: public access: nonmotorized recreation.

Expands an exemption from CEQA for a change in use approved by a park district to allow public access for non-motorized recreation on preexisting roads, trails, and pathways owned or managed by the park district to allow the exemption in cases where the lead agency is a county park agency.

Status: Chapter 391, Statutes of 2025

AB 1225 (Bennett) - State parks and state beaches: Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Would have required the Director of State Parks to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Governor's Veto Message:

"This bill would require [State Parks] to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee to make recommendations to [State Parks] on improving accessibility throughout the state park system.

While I support enhancing accessibility to recreational opportunities in state parks, this bill would be duplicative of the [State Parks'] existing Accessibility Division. Moreover, [State Parks] has completed hundreds of projects throughout the state park system, removing architectural and programmatic access barriers and constructing accessible trails pursuant to a court-approved timeline under a long-standing consent decree.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill."

AB 1252 (Caloza) - State parks: Elephant Hill: City of Los Angeles.

Authorizes State Parks to enter into a lease agreement with the City of Los Angeles and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for purposes of leasing the property known as Elephant Hill in the El Sereno area in the City of Los Angeles and requires the State Park and Recreation Commission to classify the property as a unit of the state park system and State Parks to prepare a general plan for the unit.

Status: Pending in Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

AJR 9 (Wallis) - National parks: federal funding.

Urges the President and Congress to immediately restore full and consistent funding and staffing for the National Park Service (NPS) and makes findings regarding the iconic nature of the state's national parks, the popularity of these parks, and the impact of reducing the NPS workforce on the local economy, NPS employees, and park visitors.

Status: Placed on Senate inactive file

SB 55 (Umberg) - State parks: facilities pass: Gold Star Family members.

Would have required State Parks, upon presentation of eligibility, to issue a pass to a Gold Star Family member for use of all facilities in units of the state park system.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

SB 360 (Rubio) - Land conservation: California Wildlife, Coastal, and Park Land Conservation Act: County of San Bernardino.

Authorizes the County of San Bernardino to preserve land with easements funded by the California Wildlife, Coastal, and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988, or revenue generated by the sale or exchange of land preserved by such funds, for park and recreational purposes, and include playgrounds, recreational venues, and preservation of historical resources as allowable preservation activities.

Status: Pending in Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

SB 563 (Valladares) - State parks: Off-highway Motor Vehicle Recreation: grants: eligible applicants.

Would have made special districts that employ peace officers eligible for grants and cooperative agreements with the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

SB 586 (Jones) - Off-highway motor vehicles: eMotos.

Classifies an "off-highway electric motorcycle" or "Emoto" as an OHV thereby requiring them to follow OHV rules, including displaying an identification plate or device issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Status: Chapter 588, Statutes of 2025

SB 630 (Allen) - State parks: real property: acquisitions and leases.

Exempts State Parks from certain Department of General Services and State Public Works Board processes for the acquisition of specified properties.

Status: Chapter 775, Statutes of 2025

Water

AB 93 (Papan) - Water resources: demands: data centers.

Requires a data center operator to provide its estimated or actual water use to its water supplier as a condition of obtaining or renewing a business license issued by a city or county.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Governor's Veto Message:

"This bill requires data centers, when applying for an initial business license, to provide to their water supplier an estimate of expected water use. It further requires data centers, when applying for a renewal of a business license, to provide their water supplier with a report on annual water use.

The widespread adoption of artificial intelligence technologies is driving an unprecedented demand for data center capacity throughout the nation. As the global epicenter of the technology sector, California is well positioned to support the development of this critically important digital infrastructure in the state.

While I appreciate the author's intent, I am reluctant to impose rigid reporting requirements about operational details on this sector without understanding the full impact on businesses and the consumers of their technology.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill."

AB 263 (Rogers) - Scott River: Shasta River: watersheds.

Provides that emergency regulations adopted by the State Water Board for the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds on January 27, 2025 shall remain in effect until January 1, 2031 or until the State Water Board adopts permanent rules establishing and implementing long-term instream flow requirements in those watersheds.

Status: Chapter 130, Statutes of 2025

AB 269 (Bennett) - Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program.

Permits the funding of dam removal projects under the Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program administered by DWR.

Status: Pending in Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee

AB 362 (Ramos) - Water policy: California tribal communities.

Requires the State Water Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, when approving a project or regulatory program, to describe how that project or regulatory program would impact tribal water uses and to incorporate tribal uses of water into water quality control plans.

Status: Pending on Assembly Floor

AB 430 (Alanis) - State Water Board: emergency regulations.

Requires the State Water Board to conduct a comprehensive economic study assessing the impacts of a non-fee emergency regulation within 180 days of the regulation's expiration. Provides the economic study shall cover fiscal impacts to affected industries, fisheries, communities, and water users and requires the State Water Board to make the study publicly available on its website no later than 30 days after its completion.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 514 (Petrie-Norris) - Water: emergency water supplies.

Declares it is state policy to encourage local and regional water suppliers to develop emergency water supplies to be used during times of drought or unplanned service or supply disruption.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 580 (Wallis) - Surface mining: MWD.

Extends the sunset date to January 1, 2041, on the statute authorizing MWD to prepare a single master reclamation plan, known as the Metropolitan Reclamation Plan, for its earth moving operations conducted on lands it owns or leases, or upon which easements or rights-of way were granted to MWD.

Status: Chapter 270, Statutes of 2025

AB 639 (Soria) - Dams: exceptions.

Exempts specific weirs on the Kings River that have at least three feet of freeboard from regulation and oversight by the Division of Safety of Dams within DWR.

Status: Chapter 617, Statutes of 2025

AB 717 (Aguiar-Curry) - Water rights: appropriation: small restoration use.

Creates a new water right registration, “small restoration use,” that allows the use or diversion to storage of no more than 20 acre-feet of water annually, subject to specified requirements.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 915 (Petrie-Norris) - Dam safety: state supervision: exceptions.

Exempts water storage ponds that are associated with an energy storage facility that uses compressed air technology and is located in eastern Kern County from dam safety regulations.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Governor's Veto Message:

“This bill would exempt from state dam safety requirements and oversight, as well as specified fees, any water storage facilities associated with an energy storage system project that uses compressed air technology.

While I support development of novel, long-lead-time, and large clean energy resources, it is imperative that we do so with safety at the forefront. Additionally, it is essential that the costs incurred by state agencies overseeing the safety of these facilities are recovered from project developers to adequately ensure compliance with applicable safety requirements.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.”

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

Prohibits the release of stored water under false pretenses from a federally-managed reservoir and authorizes the State Water Board to seek injunctive relief to enforce this prohibition.

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee

SB 31 (McNerney) - Water quality: recycled water.

Changes requirements regarding recycled water relative to unauthorized discharges to waters of the state, decorative bodies of water, landscape irrigation, and its use at or near food handling and processing facilities and cafeterias.

Status: Chapter 736, Statutes of 2025

SB 72 (Caballero) - The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.

Revises and recasts requirements for the contents of the California Water Plan, requires DWR to develop a long-term water supply planning target for 2050, and establishes an

interim target to develop an additional nine million acre-feet of water by 2040.

Status: Chapter 210, Statutes of 2025

SB 224 (Hurtado) - DWR: water supply forecasting.

Requires DWR to update its water supply forecasting models and procedures by January 1, 2027.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Governor's Veto Message:

"This bill would require [DWR] to update its water supply forecasting models and procedures to address the effects of climate change.

This bill is in response to an audit request in 2022 that incorrectly claimed the DWR overestimated the amount of water expected to run off from the Sierra Nevada and prematurely released over 700,000 acre-feet of water in 2021. The resulting State Auditor report indeed found no unnecessary release of water, but stated that DWR did not adequately account for climate change in its water supply forecasts. In June of this year, DWR submitted its final report to the State Auditor, identifying in detail how it has implemented the Auditor's recommendations, including additional climate change modeling.

I am satisfied with DWR's response to this audit and with its ongoing work to model climate change, particularly rain and snowfall, across California. As a result, this bill is unnecessary.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill."

SB 599 (Caballero) - Atmospheric rivers: research: forecasting methods: experimental tools.

Requires DWR to research, develop, and implement experimental tools that produce seasonal and subseasonal atmospheric river forecasts under the Atmospheric Rivers Research and Forecast Improvement Program.

Status: Ordered to Assembly Inactive File

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

Makes clarifying changes regarding consistency certifications and legal challenges under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 and specifies that provisions of the Delta Plan are severable.

Status: Chapter 324, Statutes of 2025

SB 697 (Laird) - Determination of water rights: stream system.

Removes the requirement for field investigations of each person who has given notice of intent to file a proof of claim in a statutory adjudication and makes related procedural changes regarding statutory adjudications.

Status: Chapter 422, Statutes of 2025

Miscellaneous

AB 581 (Bennett) - State shrub.

Declares that the bigberry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) is the official state shrub of California.

Status: Chapter 481, Statutes of 2025

AB 1086 (Muratsuchi) - Marine Carbon Initiative.

Would have required CARB to establish the Marine Carbon Initiative to, among other things, advance research and the scientific understanding of marine carbon dioxide removal and sequestration, and, upon appropriation, would have allocated \$2 million annually to CARB for at least seven years to fund the Marine Carbon Research Program.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 1426 (Kalra) - Diablo Range Conservation Program.

Would have established the Diablo Range Conservation Program Act to protect, preserve, and restore the Diablo Range's natural, cultural, and physical resources through the acquisition, restoration, and management of lands.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 1520 (Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife) - Public resources: conservation.

Makes various changes to statutes related to water, parks, and wildlife.

Status: Chapter 401, Statutes of 2025

ACR 107 (Bauer-Kahan) - The Diablo Range.

Resolves that the Legislature recognizes the importance of the Diablo Range and commends and supports CNRA, organizational stakeholders, and individuals in their collective efforts to elevate awareness of the benefits and values of the Diablo Range.

Status: Pending in Senate Rules Committee

SB 369 (Padilla) - Salton Sea: restoration projects: skilled and trained workforce.

Requires the use of a skilled and trained workforce for Salton Sea restoration projects that cost more than \$1 million.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Governor's Veto Message:

"This bill would impose new workforce requirements on contractors, subcontractors, and entities at every other tier that work on state restoration projects at the Salton Sea starting January 1, 2026.

Over the course of my Administration, the state's Salton Sea Management Program has dramatically increased the pace and scale of its restoration projects, covering miles of previously exposed lakebed with bird and fish habitat, as well as native plants. These efforts are addressing severe habitat loss and the public health risks of exposed lakebed dust emissions. Simultaneously, these investments are providing job opportunities for local workers in a region long burdened by high unemployment. These mutually beneficial outcomes are a transformative step for this region. That is why I was proud to collaborate with the author last year on the creation of the Salton Sea Conservancy, which will further advance these shared objectives and enhance these outcomes.

I appreciate the author's efforts and commitment to addressing the pervasive issues in the Salton Sea region. Though well-intended, I am concerned this bill may result in delays to critical, shovel-ready restoration projects. Recognizing the importance of prioritizing efforts to provide high-quality, local jobs while balancing the urgent need to accelerate restoration projects at the Salton Sea, I am directing [CNRA], in consultation with the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, to identify and publish recommendations on increasing regional workforce development opportunities and promote long-term economic mobility in the community.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill."

SB 765 (Niello) - State snake.

Declares that the giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) is the official state snake of California.

Status: Chapter 482, Statutes of 2025