

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE



2015-2016 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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OVERVIEW

The Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee (Committee) tackled a number of critical issues facing the state of California in the 2015-16 Session. Not the least of these was responding to California's historic drought conditions, overseeing implementation of the multi-billion dollar Proposition 1, Water Bond passed by voters in 2014, and furthering other practices essential to the long term sustainability of California's water resources.

The Legislature and Administration worked together to improve the sustainability and management of California's state park system through creation of the independent Parks Forward Commission (Commission) and establishment of a transformation team at the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to implement the Commission's recommendations. The Assembly also passed a measure to place a park bond on the statewide ballot authorizing \$3 billion in expenditures for parks and open space, but that measure did not make it through the Senate.

The Committee also heard and passed landmark legislation on several important wildlife issues, including but not limited to, a ban on commercial trade in elephant ivory and an end to captive breeding of orcas.

The Committee in the 2015-16 Session held hearings on over 130 bills, of which 72 were ultimately signed into law by the Governor.

The Committee also held the following informational and oversight hearings:

- California's Flood Control Planning and Infrastructure (*January 2015*)
- Implementation of Proposition 1, the Water Bond (*February 2015*)
- California State Park Reforms: Parks Forward Commission Recommendations (*February 2015 – with Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water*)
- Water Resources Management in the Los Angeles Watershed (*November 2015 – with Select Committee on Urban Rivers and Streams*)
- Update on Proposition 1, California's Water Bond (*February 2016 – with Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation*)
- State Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (*February 2016 - with Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water*)
- The 2016 Proposed Park Bond: Investing in CA's Future: Facilitating Parks and Outdoor Access for All (*August 2016*)
- Update on the Water Storage Investment Program Quantification Regulations (*November 2016*)

WATER ISSUES: ADJUSTING TO THE NEW NORMAL

Water has historically been a scarce resource in California and has traditionally pitted urban, agricultural, and environmental interests against one another. Most of the precipitation falls in the northern half of the state in the winter and spring, and is used in the southern half of the state in the summer and fall. In the early to middle part of the 20th century the hydrology of the state was re-engineered to address this time and place challenge. However, that system was built for a population less than half of the current population prior to environmental decline and endangered species protections, and without knowledge of climate change and the altered weather patterns it will bring.

The time and place challenge in California's water supply has been highlighted and exacerbated by the current historic drought. The developed water supply system has allowed for the state's population to expand and for California to become the nation's bread basket. Today, that water delivery system faces uncertainty in supply due to climate change, increased demands from population growth, agricultural production and environmental needs.

The philosophy that droughts are something to be weathered has evolved into one of recognition that improved efficiency and management are necessary to meet both human and ecological needs. Tackling the challenges from the impacts of human engineering and demands on water supply, coupled with the effects of climate change, are daunting and there are no silver bullet solutions. Multiple policies and projects will need to move forward to decrease demand, increase sustainable sources of water supply, improve management of water supplies and enhance the health of ecosystems that support water supply. In the 2015-16 Session, the Committee saw numerous bills supporting approaches to these multiple challenges.

DROUGHT RESPONSE

As the drought ran into its fifth consecutive year, there was hope that 2016 would provide drought busting precipitation, but it was an average year with the precipitation falling predominately in the north of the state. While water deliveries from the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project increased over what they had been in 2015, most contractors received a delivery short of their full allotment.

The drought has affected sectors differently. The ability to shift from traditional sources of water has led to significant resiliency in some sectors. For instance, where agriculture was able to pump groundwater, fallow lands, or purchase water to replace a shortage in surface water, the effects of the drought could be somewhat mitigated. That resiliency is limited, however. The fact is, prolonged drought reduces supply, and unless demand is equivalently reduced that shortage will eventually catch up. This may be reflected in agricultural revenues peaking in 2013 and eroding since. Some rural communities have lost water supply entirely, and have been supported by trucked and bottled water, most notably, East Porterville. The environment, as well, has suffered severe effects of

degraded wildlife habitat from drought related water shortages. Significantly, there have been 66 million tree deaths and only 3-5% survival of some salmon species spawn in the last several years.

As a response to the continuing drought and in an effort to reduce demand, Executive Order B-29-15 of April 1, 2015, required the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) to impose restrictions to achieve a statewide 25% reduction in potable urban water usage through February 28, 2016. These restrictions required urban water suppliers to reduce usage as compared to the amount used in 2013. This and other similar actions resulted in reducing the state's water usage.

Since 2013, the Legislature has appropriated over \$3 billion to support drought relief. This has included money for food to workers directly impacted by the drought, funding to secure emergency drinking water supplies for drought impacted communities, bond funds for projects that will help local communities save water and make their water systems more resilient to drought, and lawn removal and water efficiency upgrades. There has been little support, however, for those not on municipal water systems. This committee passed AB 954 (Mathis), 2015, and AB 1588 (Mathis), 2016, that would have provided grants and low interest loans for private water systems. Ultimately, AB 954 died in Senate Appropriations and AB 1588 was vetoed by the Governor.

The drought has also brought to the forefront the issue of water rights. The water right priority system in the state is designed to manage water in times of drought. This can serve several purposes. For example, it can ensure that more senior water right holders are receiving their rights, as opposed to junior water right holders, or that public trust and water quality standards are met. The 2015 water year saw 94 million acre-feet of water curtailed. This was the largest water year curtailment on record. AB 2550 (Patterson), 2016, would have been heard by this committee and would have required compensation be paid to a water right holder who did not receive their full water right. AB 2550 ultimately did not move forward. The Legislature passed SB 88 (Budget and Fiscal Review) Chapter 27, Statutes of 2015, which among other things, added measuring and reporting requirements for water rights holders. The additional reporting is intended to help support the water right priority system by incorporating more data.

Finally, one of the biggest challenges in addressing the drought has been a lack of coordinated data across the state. There are volumes of data collected by local, state, and federal bodies, but that data does not work in concert with each other. In 2016, this committee passed AB 1755 (Dodd), Chapter 506, Statues of 2016, which requires the creation and maintenance of a statewide integrated water data platform. This will centralize all water data and make it publicly available. This type of data model has led to very successful management and development in energy policy, as well as private sector technology development. Additionally, with the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act there will be large amounts of new data coming available.

GROUNDWATER

Groundwater is a critically important component of water supply in California. Depending on conditions, groundwater provides a third to nearly two-thirds of the state's water supply. The swing in the amount of total supply that comes from groundwater is affected by a variety of factors, including drought. In some places throughout the state, groundwater extraction exceeds natural recharge. That situation increases as reliance on groundwater increases, as in times of drought. Where extraction exceeds natural recharge, often times, there are undesirable results such as lowering of groundwater levels, reduced groundwater storage capacity, seawater intrusion, degraded water quality, land subsidence, or depletions of interconnected surface water. In 2014, this committee and the Legislature passed SB 1168 (Pavley), Chapter 346; AB 1738 (Dickinson), Chapter 347, and; SB 1319 (Pavley), Chapter 348, all Statutes of 2014. Collectively, these statutes have come to be known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). In passing SGMA, California implemented a groundwater regulation scheme for the first time and became the last western state to do so. Not surprisingly, the passage of SGMA was controversial and there were a considerable number of bills in the 2015-16 Session to address implementation of SGMA.

SGMA laid out a clear timeline for the implementation of the act with the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), by July 1, 2017, followed by development and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), by July 1, 2020, or 2022, depending on the condition of the local groundwater basin, with full sustainability achieved within 20 years. AB 617 (Perea), Chapter 666 and SB 13 (Pavely), Chapter 255, both Statutes of 2015, as well as, SB 1262 (Pavely), Chapter 594, Statutes of 2016, all made modifications to or incorporated SGMA into existing planning and administrative processes. Importantly, SGMA was predicated on the concept of local control with a GSA forming based on local decisions. The Committee passed SB 37 (Vidak), Chapter 391 and SB 564 (Cannella) Chapter 392, both Statutes of 2016, that will lead directly to the formation of a couple of GSA's. The Committee also addressed the issue of streamlining the court administered adjudication process for groundwater management through AB 1390, (Alejo), Chapter 672 and SB 226 (Pavely), Chapter 676, both Statutes of 2015, should local bodies not be able to come together to form a GSA or implement a GSP. SB 1317 (Wolk), 2016, would have restricted local decisions to approve new wells. Ultimately, that bill did not move forward.

It seems likely that further refinements to SGMA will be forthcoming in the 2017-18 Session. In particular, mechanisms for groundwater recharge will need to be enhanced. An example of those steps was AB 453 (Salas), Chapter 439, Statutes of 2016, which addressed the ability of Semitropic Water Storage District to charge a fee to implement specified groundwater storage projects. Further steps to finance and make water available for groundwater storage will likely receive greater attention moving forward.

WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY

Certainty in water supply has been an area of policy focus for as long as California has had cities and agriculture. As such, there have been long standing differences in ideologies on the best approach to achieving greater water supply reliability. These range from increasing surface storage, groundwater storage, stormwater capture, recycled water, to desalination. In 2014, this committee and the Legislature passed AB 1471 (Rendon), Chapter 188, Statutes of 2014, which placed Proposition 1, a \$7.545 billion general obligation bond for water related projects and programs on the November 4, 2014, ballot where it passed with 67% of the vote. The effects of Proposition 1 have been and will continue to be, wide ranging on increasing water supply reliability. In addition to Proposition 1, steps taken by the Legislature in the 2015-16 Session will further improve the sustainability and reliability of California's water supply.

The biggest threat to the continued reliability of the existing water system is climate change and environmental degradation. Proposition 1 appropriated \$2.7 billion to the Water Commission for water storage projects. Specifically, it made funds available for specified surface storage projects, groundwater storage projects, conjunctive use and reservoir reoperation projects, and specified local and regional surface storage projects. Proposition 1 conditioned funding a project on public benefit requirements being met, including ecosystem improvements, Delta water quality improvements, flood control benefits, emergency response, and recreational purposes. The Water Commission is required to approve regulations specifying the process used to award funding by December 15, 2016.

The Committee passed several bills related to improving or expanding existing water infrastructure that could be affected by the \$2.7 billion of water storage funding. This includes AB 2551 (Gallagher), Chapter 760, Statutes of 2016, which allows for the use of alternative contracting methods for a surface storage project that receives Proposition 1 funding. The Committee also passed AB 935 (Salas), Chapter 601, Statutes of 2016, which would allow for funding a water reutilization project in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. Additionally, the Committee passed AB 1585 (Alejo), to maximize water storage, water supply, flood management, and groundwater recharge in Monterey County, which policy was ultimately adopted through SB 831 (Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 338, Statutes of 2016.

There are also untraditional sources of recycled water, stormwater capture, and desalination that have been receiving increasing attention as reliable sources of water. These sources of water have been slower to be adopted because they have typically been more expensive than traditional sources of water. That equation has been changing recently. In the last decade the price difference between traditional and untraditional water supplies has decreased significantly. On top of the price narrowing, the reliability of many untraditional sources has become more certain than traditional sources. Proposition 1 also helped provide support for nontraditional sources of water. Proposition 1 contained \$200 million in grants for multi-benefit stormwater management projects, and \$725 million for recycled water and desalination projects. In the 2015-16 Session, this committee passed AB 2594 (Gordon), Chapter 526, Statutes of 2016, and

SB 1328 (Lara), of 2016, which aimed at providing additional financing tools for stormwater capture projects.

In addition to greater exploration of untraditional sources of water, new approaches to manage the origins of our water sources have emerged. Proposition 1 included nearly \$1.5 billion for watershed protection and restoration. This committee passed AB 2480 (Bloom), Chapter 695, Statutes of 2016, which makes specified source watersheds eligible for the same forms of financing as other water collection and treatment infrastructure. These financing tools will be used to enhance the resiliency and reliability of our watersheds which is becoming increasingly necessary to combat climate change and environmental degradation. There are also areas being explored that will improve the ability to retain water supplies that are currently not retained. This committee passed SB 758 (Block), Chapter 682, Statutes of 2015, which directs the Department of Water Resources to take all actions within its existing authority to operate reservoirs in a manner that improves flood control and increases water supply, hydropower, and water reliability. Long term, this should help improve reservoir management in response to storm events.

Collectively, these diverse actions will improve the reliability of water supply in the state. It seems likely that the Legislature will continue to take similar steps to further improve the reliability of water supply. In some cases, the question will remain as to how water from the northern part of the state will remain a reliable supply for the southern part of the state.

DELTA ISSUES

The Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta (Delta) is both the hub of the California Water System and the most valuable estuary and wetland ecosystem on the west coast of the Americas. The Delta provides water, in whole or in part, to more than 25 million Californians and 3 million acres of agricultural land. It supports a four hundred billion dollar a year economy, is part of the Pacific Flyway, is critical habitat to 700 native plant and animal species, and is home to more than 500,000 people.

The Delta watershed is in crisis and this has created a subsequent crisis in California's water infrastructure. Put succinctly, existing pressures on the Delta are not sustainable. Among other human impacts, the Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP) operations have altered the natural amount, duration, direction and timing of water flows. As a result, today there are about 100 Delta wildlife species, 140 plant species and 13 species of fish that have some form of legal or regulatory protection. There have also been numerous species-related restrictions on the management of water exports from the Delta since 1991, with restrictions being in place continuously since 2008.

Simply receiving more precipitation does not appear to be sufficient to resolve the challenges for species and deliveries in the Delta. A significant part of the problem stems from the fact that the infrastructure associated with deliveries itself is environmentally damaging. 2016, an average precipitation year, is an example of what the future of this

environmental and infrastructure challenge would appear to hold. The CVP Sacramento Valley interests received 100% of their deliveries while many CVP San Joaquin Valley interests received a small percentage of deliveries. It seems that further restrictions on deliveries from the Delta and continued ecological decline are a certainty under the status quo. The core Delta challenge is the fact that it is the hub of the water supply system and reforming how it functions is essential to addressing the health of the Delta.

In the 2015-16 Session, the Legislature saw several bills directly aimed at Delta operations and management. AB 2583 (Frazier), 2016, failed passage in this committee. AB 2583 would have placed new requirements on the approval, financing, and operation of any new conveyance facility in the Delta. AB 1713 (Eggman), 2016, passed this committee, and would have prohibited the construction of a peripheral canal, as defined, in the Delta, unless certain requirements are met. AB 1713 was held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations. SB 554 (Wolk), 2016, as passed by this committee, would have extended the existing Delta levee maintenance financing mechanisms indefinitely. A reduced version of that bill was vetoed by the Governor and a related topic is currently being examined by the Delta Stewardship Council and the Delta Protection Commission.

All of the legislation in the 2015-16 Session directly related to the Delta in one way or another, is impacted by the Delta governance structure established by the 2009 Delta Reform Act. Actions occurring in the Administration will significantly affect new developments in the Delta. The Delta Stewardship Council is charged with taking actions addressed in AB 2583 and SB 554. The State Water Board is required to make an approval decision similar to what AB 1713 would have required. Future actions by these bodies and other state and federal bodies will be critical to the future management of the Delta. Some of those actions include an update of the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan by the State Water Board. Increased instream flows in the San Joaquin River and its tributaries is currently out for public comment as part of Phase 1 of the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan. The development of the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan, the approach to Delta conveyance, and potential federal actions related to the endangered species and Delta pumps will likely be areas of attention in the next legislative session.

WATER CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY

The other side of the coin from increasing water supply is approaches to reduce water demand. SB 7 x7 (Steinberg), Chapter 4, Statutes of the 7th Extraordinary Session of 2009-2010, established a requirement that the state must achieve a 20% reduction in urban water use by December 31, 2020. Since that time, the state has experienced a historic drought precipitating Executive Orders B-29-15 of April 1, 2015, and B-37-16 of May 9, 2016. Those executive orders, respectively, required a 25% reduction in urban water use, and directed the Department of Water Resources with the Water Board to develop new water use targets to build upon the existing 20% reduction in urban water usage through strengthened standards for indoor residential per capita water use, outdoor irrigation, commercial, industrial and institutional water use, and water leaks. In the 2015-16 budget, the Legislature appropriated \$30 million, \$24 million for lawn

replacement and \$6 million for efficient toilet replacement. With this as both a backdrop and foreshadowing of things to come, the Legislature took several actions in the 2015-16 Session to improve water conservation.

From a plumbing standpoint, this committee passed SB 555 (Wolk), Chapter 679, Statutes of 2015, which requires each urban retail water supplier, on or before October 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, to submit an annual water loss audit report to the Department of Water Resources. Additionally, this committee passed SB 7 (Wolk), Chapter 623, Statutes of 2016, which requires all new multifamily units have individual water meters and that landlords bill residents for the increment of water that they use. From an outdoor water use standpoint, this committee passed several bills taking a variety of different approaches aimed at discouraging excessive outdoor water use. SB 814 (Hill), Chapter 230, Statutes of 2016, prohibits excessive water use by a residential customer during statewide or local emergency drought conditions, and requires urban retail water suppliers to establish a method to identify and discourage excessive water use. AB 1928 (Campos), Chapter 326, Statutes of 2016, will require efficiency standards for outdoor irrigation equipment. AB 2515 (Weber), Chapter 576, Statutes of 2016, requires a regular update procedure for the model water-efficient landscape ordinance. SB 1340 (Wolk), 2016, passed this committee, and would have required a local permit for installation of large stand-alone landscaping irrigation systems. Ultimately, that bill was vetoed by the Governor.

Increasing water supply and improving water management are going to be critical for the future of water in California, but decreasing demand will be equally important. As mentioned above, future actions out of the Administration will soon come into play. It seems very likely that legislation that allows for more approaches to improving water conservation and efficiency will be forthcoming in the next legislative session.

SALTON SEA

The Salton Sea is located in a desert sink in Southern California's Imperial and Coachella valleys. It is the largest man-made lake in California. The Salton Sea was created by a Colorado River irrigation canal failure accident in 1905. The size of the lake fluctuates with the amount of runoff and rain in a given year.

The Salton Sea has significant value as a natural resource. Over 95% of the state's historical wetlands have been converted to other uses, making the Salton Sea one of the most important remaining wetland areas in California for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. The Salton Sea supports over 400 species of birds, and is an internationally important stopover site for the hundreds of thousands of birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway. Fishery resources in the Salton Sea have, however, declined lately due to the increasing salinity, about double that of the ocean, and worsening water quality.

In 2003, with California drawing 800,000 acre feet more than its 4.4 million acre feet allotment of Colorado River water, the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) was put into place to reduce California's use of Colorado River water. The major Colorado

River water rights holders in California – the Imperial Irrigation District, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the San Diego County Water Authority, and the Coachella Valley Water District – agreed to quantify their water rights, engage in a series of water transfers and restore the Salton Sea. At the time of the QSA, it was known that reducing water use on Imperial Valley farms would reduce the amount of runoff water that historically flowed to the Salton Sea. These reduced inflows would cause the sea to shrink, leading to a host of environmental and public health problems.

Under the terms of the QSA, the State of California assumed responsibility to plan for and fund measures that would address these impacts and restore the Salton Sea. Farm fallowing programs that have produced enough water to maintain the Salton Sea will conclude in 2017. To date, no comprehensive plan to restore the Salton Sea has been approved or funded, although, the Natural Resources Agency has prepared a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and submitted a preferred alternative to the Legislature. That plan would cost nearly \$9 billion and has not been implemented.

The Governor's 2015-16 May Revise Budget acknowledged that prior comprehensive plans to restore the sea are no longer feasible due to cost and drought. The Legislature has appropriated nearly \$110 million for various habitat and watershed approaches from Propositions 84, of 2006, and Proposition 1, of 2014. The proposed approach would include thousands of acres of habitat ponds intended to recreate suitable habitat for wildlife and cover exposed playa. In the 2015-16 Session, this committee passed AB 1095 (E. Garcia), Chapter 722, Statutes of 2015, which requires the Natural Resources Agency to submit to the Legislature a list of shovel-ready Salton Sea restoration projects. AB 2896 (E. Garcia), which appropriated \$1.4 million to address water quality in runoff to the Salton Sea, and was ultimately passed as part of the budget in SB 859 (Budget and Fiscal Review) Chapter 368, Statutes of 2016.

Given that the QSA will produce significant change in the inflow of water to the Salton Sea it seems likely that there will be further legislative action in the 2017-18 Session.

OTHER WATER ISSUES

WATER ENERGY NEXUS

According to the State Energy Resources and Conservation and Development Commission, water-related energy use in California comprises approximately 20% of the state's electricity and 30% of the state's non-power plant natural gas (natural gas not used to produce electricity). The water sector uses electricity to pump, treat, transport, deliver, and heat water. This committee passed AB 1989 (Jones), 2016, and SB 551 (Wolk), 2015, that would have required the state to address the issue of the water energy nexus in the 2015-16 Session. It seems likely that this issue will continue to come up in the 2017-18 Session.

WATER MARKETS

Water transfers involve a change in the place of water use, from the water's historic point of diversion and use, to a new location either within or outside the watershed of origin. Water transfers can be an effective water management tool. Transfers are particularly useful for meeting critical needs during drought periods. One of the necessary components of an effective market is ease of access to information and the ability to trade. There is some question as to whether the California water market meets these standards. In the 2015-16 Session, this committee passed AB 2304 (Levine), 2016, and AB 1755 (Dodd), Chapter 506, Statutes of 2016, to address these challenges.

FLOOD CONTROL

This committee held a hearing January 13, 2015, to explore the status of flood control in the state. The succinct story is that we are faced with tough choices. The amount of investment needed for flood protection is enormous, in the \$10's of billions. The state and federal government are largely looked to for financing and do not appear to be stepping up with the necessary funding. Additionally, the state is largely responsible for the liability associated with flood control.

Increasingly, the ability to develop multi-benefit flood control projects is being looked to. Can flood waters be directed to more valuable uses that require less costly protection measures? This is a question that seems more and more likely to be coming to the Legislature.

PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS

California has a challenge providing safe drinking water to all of its residents. The State Water Board is responsible for the state's drinking water program and estimates that 500 communities rely on public water systems that do not meet drinking water standards. We do not know exactly how many Californians lack access to safe drinking water, as on any given day the supply of millions of people could be in question. Drinking water contamination disproportionately affects disadvantaged communities that rely on groundwater as their drinking water source. The State Water Board has primary enforcement authority of federal and state safe drinking water acts, and is responsible for the regulatory oversight of about 8,000 public water systems throughout the state. Enforcement authority for approximately 5,500 small water systems, defined as systems with under 200 service connections, has been delegated to local health officers through local primacy agreements.

This problem received considerable attention from the legislature in the 2015-16 Session with a particular focus on addressing the challenges faced in small drinking water systems. SB 88 (Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 27, Statutes of 2015, authorized the

State Water Board to order water system consolidation or extension of services. SB 1263 (Wieckowski), Chapter 843, Statutes of 2016, requires an application for a permit for a proposed new public water system to first submit a preliminary technical report. SB 552 (Wolk), Chapter 773, Statutes of 2016, authorizes the State Water Board to contract with an administrator to provide administrative and managerial services in specified disadvantaged communities.

While the work done in the 2015-16 Session was significant, there is still a large funding gap that remains to ensure that all Californians on public drinking water systems have clean supplies. It seems likely that this will be an area of further legislation in the next legislative session.

PROPOSITION 218

Proposition 218 passed in 1996. The proposition has created a significant amount of confusion and or constraints on local water infrastructure projects. As such, the proposition has received a significant amount of attention in the courts and increasing attention in the legislature. There were no bills that came to the Committee this year directly affecting Proposition 218. The California Supreme Court may be hearing a case addressing some conflicting interpretations of Proposition 218 in the next couple of years. However, the ramifications of Proposition 218 remain an issue that is often visited in discussions about local water infrastructure.

WATER SUPPLY ASSESSMENT

With continued drought and the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, water supply planning received policy attention in the 2015-16 Session. SB 1262 (Pavely), Chapter 594, Statutes of 2016, revised requirements that new developments must meet in order to demonstrate that its water supply is sufficient to include consideration of provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. AB 2561 (Irwin), Chapter 669, Statutes of 2016, extends the sunset by one year on specified wind and solar projects from a Water Supply Assessment (WSA). This subject is expected to come back in 2017, and certainly, the question of required water supply will be an issue in the 2017-18 Session.

PARK ISSUES

PARKS FORWARD COMMISSION REFORM EFFORT

The Legislature, in 2012, called for the creation of an independent commission to conduct an in-depth review and analysis of California's state park system. The Parks Forward Commission was appointed by the Natural Resources Agency in 2013 and conducted a two year study. In January 2015, the Parks Forward Commission released its

final report with recommendations for reforming the management and stewardship of California's state park system. Key recommendations of the Commission included:

- 1) Create a “transformation team” within the DPR to improve internal procedures, including technologies to assist with budgeting, planning, and project implementation;
- 2) Improve and expand relationships with nonprofits and other partners;
- 3) Develop an outside support entity to help the DPR with marketing, financial, and other aspects of the DPR’s work where an outside entity with greater business experience would be useful;
- 4) Improve cultural and natural resource protection programs;
- 5) Expand public access to parks, particularly for park-poor and disadvantaged communities.

The DPR, in 2015, created a transformation team focused on implementation of the recommendations of the Parks Forward Commission. At the time of this writing those efforts are still a work in progress, but several notable milestones have been achieved. Among other things, the DPR implemented steps to broaden eligibility for state park management level positions, including district superintendents to persons from diverse backgrounds. These positions were previously limited to law enforcement personnel only. The DPR also established a new office of park partnerships and is working on development of a broader reorganization plan.

The Legislature, in 2015, passed AB 549 (Levine), Chapter 559, Statutes of 2015, and SB 204 (Pavley), Chapter 573, Statutes of 2015, to facilitate implementation of the Parks Forward Commission recommendations and the DPR's transformation efforts. AB 549 authorized the DPR to accept donations of funds, services, and facilities for support of state parks; required proposed park concession contracts above a specified threshold to be provided to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for review prior to approval; clarified the DPR's authority to enter into agreements for acquisition and operation of cabins in state parks; clarified that concession contract renewals are subject to competitive bidding; and stated legislative intent to expedite implementation of other recommended reforms of the state park system.

SB 204 declared the value of state parks to the state's historical, natural and cultural heritage; expressly included conservation of the natural, historic, and wildlife resources of state parks within the management mission of the DPR; and expanded and clarified DPR's authorities related to state park general plans, nonprofit operating agreements, construction contracts, and youth services.

In 2016, the Legislature passed AB 2549 (Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife), Chapter 201, Statutes of 2016, which requires the DPR, in consultation with the State Park and Recreation Commission, to make recommendations to streamline and make more efficient the process for development of state park general plans, and to reduce the backlog in parks without general plans. AB 2549 also clarifies the information that must be included in cost analyses for state park revenue generation projects, and requires the

DPR to provide regular accountings of expenditures to major state park donors. The Legislature also in 2016, passed SB 1111 (Pavley), Chapter 540, Statutes of 2016, which facilitates implementation of the Parks Forward Commission's recommendation to create a new nonprofit support entity to form a strategic partnership with the DPR, for support of state parks. The director of the DPR will serve on the board of the new nonprofit, and the DPR and the nonprofit will engage in an annual priority setting process to determine the focus of the nonprofit's work. The legislation specifies that the purpose of the partnership is to complement and not supplant the contributions of other valued state park partners.

PARK BOND PROPOSAL

In 2016, the Assembly initiated efforts to place a new park bond on the state ballot. AB 2444 (E. Garcia) proposed \$3 billion in general obligation bonds to provide funding for parks and other natural resource investments. The bill placed a priority on parks in disadvantaged communities, while balancing those needs with the park needs of communities statewide. AB 2444 passed the Assembly with bipartisan support but was held in the Senate Committee on Appropriations. It is anticipated that efforts to place a park bond on the ballot in 2018 will resume in earnest this coming year, and the ground work performed for AB 2444 will be helpful in informing those efforts. As noted in the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife analysis on AB 2444, current unfunded park needs in California are estimated in the range of \$5 to \$10 billion. The most recent resource bond measures approved in California include Proposition 1 of 2014, which was almost exclusively a water bond, and Proposition 84 of 2007, which was primarily a water bond, though it did include some funding for state parks (\$400 million) and for local parks in disadvantaged communities (\$400 million). The Assembly, in passing AB 2444, emphasized the importance of investments in parks and other green infrastructure to the quality of life for all Californians and future generations.

As passed by the Assembly in 2016, AB 2444 proposed to authorize the following:

- \$1 billion in funding for safe neighborhood parks in disadvantaged communities;
- \$1 billion for state, local and regional parks as follows:
 - \$570 million for local/regional parks, including:
 - Statewide per capita \$450 million
 - Competitive \$120 million
 - \$350 million for state parks, with 80% for deferred maintenance
 - \$50 million for trails and waterfront greenways
 - \$50 million for rural parks
- \$1 billion for conservation, climate preparedness and habitat needs, including:
 - \$245 million for state conservancies
 - \$340 million for the Wildlife Conservation Board
 - \$80 million for California's Climate Resilience Account
 - \$15 million for agriculture and healthy soils
 - \$60 million for forest health
 - \$40 million to the California Conservation Corps

- \$80 million to the Natural Resource Agency for tribal cultural resources, conversion of former fossil fuel sites to open space, and resource conservation projects in areas not covered by conservancies.

The significant momentum created by the passage of AB 2444 through the Assembly, and the broad support AB 2444 received, bodes well for the likelihood that a similar measure may qualify for the 2018 ballot.

OTHER PARK ISSUES

Other notable state park legislative proposals for this session, include AB 988 (Stone), which proposed to create an outdoor education grant program to be administered by the DPR. AB 988 recognized the benefits of outdoor education for young people, which include documented improvements in educational test scores and leadership skills. AB 988 passed the Assembly but was held in the Senate Committee on Appropriations. While there has been strong policy support for these programs, identifying appropriate funding sources has proved to be a challenge.

AB 2249 (Cooley), responds to a recent controversy involving Yosemite National Park, in which a former concessionaire asserted a trademark right over historic names associated with the park. AB 2249 prohibits a state concession contract from providing a contracting party with a trademark interest in the name or names associated with a state park. The Yosemite dispute is currently in litigation as of the time of this writing, but has already led the National Park Service to rename several landmark features in the park, including the historic Ahwahnee Hotel which has now been renamed the Majestic Hotel. AB 2249 seeks to prevent a similar situation from occurring with regard to California state parks. AB 2249 passed the Legislature with unanimous support and was signed by the Governor.

SB 1333 (Block), prohibits smoking on all state beaches and state park units, in order to address environmental pollution problems associated with cigarette waste, public health problems associated with second hand smoke, and increased wildfire risk. Similar bills have passed this committee in recent years but were subsequently held in other committees. SB 1333 passed the Legislature but was vetoed by the Governor.

LOS ANGELES RIVER RESTORATION

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in restoration of the Los Angeles River. While the Los Angeles River serves an important flood protection purpose, it also presents a unique opportunity for restoration of open space and urban greening adjacent to heavily populated urban areas, and as a recreational resource for the region. Restoration of the Los Angeles River was the focus of several legislative proposals heard in this committee in the 2015-16 Session. AB 1251 (Gomez), Chapter 639, Statutes of 2015, enacted the Greenway Development and Sustainment Act, which authorizes greenway easements along urban waterways to be held by nonprofits, local governments

and tribes. AB 2651 (Gomez), Chapter 471, Statutes of 2016, makes clarifying amendments to AB 1251. AB 530 (Rendon), Chapter 684, Statutes of 2015, required the creation of a working group to develop a revitalization plan for the lower Los Angeles River. The working group is to be appointed by the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency and supported by staff of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. SB 1374 (Lara), Chapter 486, Statutes of 2016, authorizes the creation of a new regional park district known as the Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District by petition or resolution submitted to the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission before January 1, 2019. Proposition 1, the Water Bond, also included funding for restoration of the Los Angeles River, and required that funds be allocated for both the upper and lower Los Angeles River regions. AB 2444, of 2016, the proposed park bond, also included funding for the Los Angeles River, and would have required that funding to be allocated 50% for the upper river and 50% for the lower river.

WILDLIFE ISSUES

ELEPHANTS

The Legislature, in the 2015-16 Session, passed two significant legislative proposals affecting elephants. AB 96 (Atkins), Chapter 475, Statutes of 2015, makes it unlawful to purchase, sell, offer for sale, possess with intent to sell, or import with intent to sell, ivory or rhinoceros horn in California, with limited exceptions. The bill makes a violation of these prohibitions a misdemeanor, subject to both criminal and administrative penalties. Worldwide, most elephant and rhinoceros populations are in serious decline and are classified as threatened, endangered or critically endangered. It is widely recognized that illegal trade in ivory is a major threat to the survival of elephants. The United States is the second largest market for ivory in the world, after China. California provides the second largest market in the U.S., after New York. Both New York and New Jersey enacted laws banning the ivory trade in 2014.

Speaker Emeritus Toni Atkins introduced AB 96 to protect elephants and rhinoceros from poaching by eliminating the market value of poached ivory and rhinoceros horn in California. AB 96 addressed several loopholes in existing law that made enforcing the ban on importation and sale of ivory difficult. Specifically, AB 96: a) repealed the exemption for ivory possessed or imported prior to 1977 with limited exceptions for musical instruments and antiques retained, b) codified a provision placing the burden of proof on the defendant to prove that the ivory meets the limited exceptions for musical instruments and antiques, c) added express protection for rhinoceros, and d) increased penalties for violations.

The Committee also heard and passed legislation in 2016 banning the use of bullhooks to handle elephants. SB 1062 (Lara), prohibits the use of bullhooks and other devices designed to inflict pain for the purpose of training or controlling the behavior of an elephant. According to the author and supporters of this bill, bullhooks are used by a dwindling number of elephant handlers to train, punish and control elephants. Zoos

accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Performing Animal Welfare Society sanctuary now use a method called "protected contact", which relies on positive reinforcement. The author and sponsors believe this is now the industry standard, making use of the bullhook obsolete. SB 1062 passed and was signed by the Governor.

ORCAS

For the past several years, there has been extensive debate in California over the appropriateness of keeping orcas, or killer whales, in captivity for entertainment purposes. In 2014, the Committee heard AB 2140 (Bloom), which proposed to make it unlawful to hold in captivity, or use, an orca for performance or entertainment purposes, or to capture, import, export, or breed an orca in captivity. AB 2140 also would have required any orcas currently in captivity to be released to the wild, or if they could not be released to the wild, to be retired to sea pens. The Committee heard extensive testimony on AB 2140 but did not take a vote, and referred the measure to interim study.

On March 17, 2016, SeaWorld announced that it had made a decision to end all captive breeding of orcas, and to phase out its orca entertainment shows and transition to a more science-based educational program. SeaWorld stated in a press release that the current generation of orcas will be the last generation of orcas at SeaWorld. The company also announced a new partnership with the Humane Society of the United States to protect oceans and educate the public about animal welfare and conservation issues.

Following the SeaWorld announcement, Assemblymember Bloom amended AB 2305 to prohibit captive breeding of orcas in California, and allow the orcas that are currently in captivity in the state, to continue to be cared for in captivity for the rest of their lives. The language of this bill would codify SeaWorld's agreement to stop captive breeding of orcas and to transition their public orca programs away from an entertainment and performance focus, and toward more science-based educational presentations. AB 2305 passed the Committee on a vote of 12 to 1, but was subsequently referred to the Assembly Committee on Rules, and the language of the bill was instead included in a budget trailer bill, SB 839 (Budget and Fiscal Review), which was signed into law (Chapter 340, Statutes of 2016).

HABITAT CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

In 2015, the Committee heard and passed AB 498 (Levine), Chapter 625, Statutes of 2015, which articulated a statewide policy to protect wildlife corridors and habitat strongholds, and to encourage voluntary actions to further these goals. AB 498 also defined wildlife corridors in statute, and authorized mitigation banks to be created and cited in areas that will protect habitat connectivity for fish and wildlife.

In 2016, the Committee heard and passed AB 2087 (Levine), which authorizes a new voluntary, non-regulatory conservation tool known as a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS). RCISs are regional planning tools that can be used to help identify the conservation values and priorities in a region, and conservation actions which, if completed and approved by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), could generate advance mitigation credits for future infrastructure projects. The intent of AB 2087 is to provide a more strategic process for conservation planning that will result in more effective conservation outcomes, while also facilitating needed public infrastructure. AB 2087 was amended in the Senate to establish a three year pilot program through 2020, and to authorize 8 RCIS to be completed during that time frame. AB 2087 passed the Legislature on the last night of the Session and was signed by the Governor.

Several bills to address environmental impacts of illegal marijuana cultivation were considered by the Legislature this session. One of those measures, SB 165 (Monning), Chapter 139, Statutes of 2015, was heard and passed by this committee. SB 165 increased the civil penalties for various violations of the Penal Code, Fish and Game Code, and Public Resources Code, in connection with the production or cultivation of marijuana or other controlled substances on natural resource lands.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) is the leading state entity with authority and funding for acquisition and restoration of wildlife conservation lands. The WCB's three main functions are land acquisition, habitat restoration, and development of wildlife oriented public access facilities. Much of the WCB's funding has come from general obligation bond acts approved by the voters, the Habitat Conservation Fund authorized by Proposition 117 in 1990, and other state and federal funds. The WCB currently consists of a three member board, including the Director of the DFW, the President of the State Fish and Game Commission, and the Director of the Department of Finance. SB 1089 (Pavley), which was heard and approved by this committee in 2016, would add four public members, two to be appointed by the Legislature and two by the Governor, to the Wildlife Conservation Board. SB 1089 passed the Legislature and was signed by the Governor.

DRONES

Nationwide, use of drones for recreational and commercial activities has been increasing significantly in recent years. The Federal Aviation Administration estimates 1 million drones were sold in the 2015 holiday season alone. While there can be many beneficial purposes served by drones, including use as a tool for scientific research and wildlife management, the significant increase in drone use poses a number of issues and potential conflicts, including public safety, privacy and nuisance concerns. In the wildlife arena, there are also concerns regarding potential stress to, or disturbance of wildlife, and potential interference with the public's peaceful use and enjoyment of public lands.

AB 2148 (Holden), as heard and approved by this committee, required the DPR and the DFW to adopt regulations governing the use of drones on state managed lands. As amended in the Senate, AB 2148 makes it unlawful for any person to launch, land, or operate an unmanned aircraft system from DFW and DPR managed lands or waters, except as authorized by those departments. AB 2148 would also authorize the departments to consider certain factors when reviewing a request for authorization of the use of an unmanned aircraft system. Additionally, AB 2148 would make it unlawful to use an unmanned aircraft system to take, or assist in the take of fish or wildlife, or to use such a system for scouting purposes, or to pursue, drive, or herd any bird or mammal. AB 2148 was vetoed by the Governor.

FULLY-PROTECTED SPECIES

This session, the Committee heard several bills regarding fully-protected species. Existing law prohibits the take or possession of any species that are fully protected by statute. Unlike species listed under state or federal endangered species acts, the law does not authorize the DFW to issue an incidental take permit or to approve mitigation for take of fully protected species, except under very narrow circumstances, such as when the species is covered by a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP). The very restrictive nature of the fully protected species statutes has led to a number of legislative proposals for specific project exemptions. This session, such proposals included:

- AB 353 (Lackey), Chapter 620, Statutes of 2015, which permits the DFW to authorize the take of unarmored threespine stickleback, a fully protected fish species, resulting from a habitat restoration project in Bouquet Canyon and Bouquet Creek, if specified conditions are met.
- AB 1845 (Dahle), 2016, which authorizes the DFW to authorize the take of rough sculpin, a fully protected fish species, resulting from repair of Spring Creek Bridge in Shasta County, if specified conditions are met.
- AB 2001 (Mathis), 2016, which authorizes the DFW to permit the taking of the Owens pupfish in the Owens River watershed if the take is authorized under a safe harbor agreement.
- AB 2488 (Dababneh), 2016, which permits the DFW to authorize the take of unarmored threespine stickleback attributable to periodic dewatering, inspection, maintenance, modification, or repair of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Foothill Feeder water supply facility, if certain conditions, including adaptive management, are satisfied. The bill requires the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, if it applies for and receives a permit under the bill, to report to the DFW on the effectiveness of the adaptive management process in contributing to conservation of the species.

The Legislature has approved these exemptions on a case by case basis, and has typically added conditions such as full mitigation, monitoring and adaptive management, and required that the project meet the conservation standard of an NCCP by contributing to recovery of the species. In the future, as an alternative to these case by case specific

exemptions, the Legislature may wish to consider whether the fully protected species statutes should be reformed so that each specific instance does not require a separate statutory exemption.

FISHING

A major fishery issue in the 2015-16 Session was the extended closure of the commercial and recreational Dungeness and rock crab fisheries off the coast of California due to a large algae bloom that made the crab unsafe for human consumption. The algae produces a neurotoxin called domoic acid that can build up in marine life, and cause vomiting, diarrhea, cramping, and even death in severe cases, in humans. The closure of the fishery had a significant economic impact on the crab industry and local fishing communities. This committee heard and passed SB 1287 (McGuire), Chapter 542, Statutes of 2016, which, among other things, exempts emergency fishery closures due to human health risks from high levels of toxic substances from the Administrative Procedures Act, and clarifies that once the DFW receives notification from the State Public Health Officer that the fishery can be reopened, the DFW shall do so in a manner that promotes a fair and orderly fishery.

SB 1287 also requires the establishment of a lost crab gear retrieval program, in order to reduce the incidences of whales and other marine mammals becoming entangled in lost fishing gear. This portion of the bill was sponsored by the crab industry itself, which noted in support that lost crab fishing gear presents problems for navigation, can disrupt fishing activities, specifically salmon trolling, and adds to marine debris. According to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFWS), the number of whales entangled in fishing gear along the West Coast increased from an average of 10 per year between 2000 and 2012, to a record high in 2015 of 61 whales, including 57 off the coast of California alone. Fishing groups in support of SB 1287 indicated that the fishing industry desires to take steps to remedy these problems. The bill does so by creating a permit system that will allow fishermen to pick up gear left in the ocean after the close of the fishing season, and to be compensated for retrieving the gear. The fishermen whose gear is retrieved would be required to pay for the costs of recovery. This bill put the onus for recovery on the fishing fleet to ensure that this preventable source of marine debris is managed. Other supporters of SB 1287 noted that whale entanglements have become an increasing concern, and there is broad consensus that immediate establishment of a statewide gear retrieval program is part of the solution.

The Legislature, in 2016, also approved legislation to establish a reduced-fee junior fishing license. SB 345 (Berryhill), effective January 1, 2018, and continuing until January 1, 2023, allows persons age 16 years of age or older and under 18 years of age, to purchase a junior sport fishing license for \$10. Currently, persons age 16 and older, are required before fishing, to purchase a fishing license at an annual cost of \$47.01.

Other fishery related bills considered by the Committee this session include AB 1325 (Salas), which proposed to enact the Delta Smelt Preservation and Restoration Act of

2016, requiring the DFW to develop a Delta smelt hatchery program, and to enter into mitigation banking agreements authorizing take of Delta smelt in exchange for funding of the hatchery program. This bill failed passage in the Committee. The Committee also heard and passed AB 1201 (Salas), which would require the DFW to develop a science-based approach that addresses predation by nonnative species upon species of fish listed as endangered or threatened and that reside all or a portion of their lives in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, as well as predation on Chinook salmon and other native species not listed. This bill was held in the Senate Committee on Appropriations on suspense.

SUCTION DREDGE MINING

The Legislature's effort to address the environmental impacts of suction dredge mining in California streams has been a multi-year effort that culminated with the enactment of SB 637 (Allen), Chapter 680, Statutes of 2015. SB 637 authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) or a regional water quality control board to adopt waste discharge requirements that address the water quality effects of suction dredge mining, and prohibits the DFW from issuing a permit for suction dredge mining until the application is complete and includes all required permits. The state's authority to regulate suction dredge mining was also upheld by the California Supreme Court in its August 22, 2016, decision in the case of *People v. Rhinehart*.

While the impacts of suction dredge mining are debated by some, significant concerns have been raised by scientists regarding the impacts of suction dredge mining on fish and water quality. A 2003 pilot study conducted by the Water Board found that motorized suction dredging exacerbates mercury contamination of rivers and streams by "flouring" elemental mercury and converting it into the more toxic form of methyl mercury. The DFW, in an environmental review conducted to update its suction dredge mining regulations in 2012, found that suction dredge mining caused significant environmental impacts, including impacts to water quality, cultural resources, endangered wildlife, and noise. Other studies conducted by the DFW and the U.S. Forest Service have also shown that suction dredging can degrade fish habitat and have a deleterious impact on native aquatic species, particularly anadromous fish such as salmon.

Earlier legislative actions on suction dredge mining include SB 670 (Wiggins), Chapter 62, Statutes of 2009, which placed a temporary moratorium on suction dredge mining until completion of a court ordered environmental review by the DFW. AB 120 (Budget), Chapter 133, Statutes of 2011, extended the prohibition on suction dredge mining to 2016 and required the DFW to create a fee structure to cover all administrative costs of the permit program. SB 1018 (Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 39, Statutes of 2012, eliminated the 2016 sunset on the moratorium. SB 1018 also directed the DFW to consult with various agencies and make recommendations to the Legislature regarding statutory changes or authorizations necessary to fully mitigate all significant environmental impacts from suction dredge mining, and to create a fee structure to cover the DFW's costs to administer a suction dredge mining permit program.

These legislative actions occurred while a simultaneous process was playing out in the courts and administrative arenas through a series of legal and regulatory actions. In 2005, the Karuk tribe filed the initial lawsuit that was later consolidated into an 8-case coordinated action in San Bernardino County Superior Court, with a related action before the California Supreme Court. The 2005 lawsuit brought by the Karuk tribe challenged the DFW's suction dredge mining regulations which were in effect at the time, on the grounds that they did not protect endangered fish species. The court ordered the DFW to conduct a new environmental review and update its regulations. In 2009, another court order was entered prohibiting the DFW from issuing suction dredge mining permits until the environmental review and updated rulemaking were completed.

The environmental review and rulemaking were finalized by the DFW in 2012. The DFW found that suction dredge mining was causing significant environmental impacts to water quality, cultural resources, endangered wildlife, and noise, but that it lacked authority to mitigate for all the harms, particularly with regard to water quality. Therefore, the moratorium remained in effect.

Litigation challenging the DFW's 2012 regulations was filed by suction dredge miners, and a separate lawsuit challenging the regulations was also filed by a coalition of tribal, environmental and fishing interests. Both actions, as well as six other cases, were coordinated before the San Bernardino Superior Court under a single case titled: *In Re Suction Dredge Cases*. The trial court issued a preliminary order granting summary adjudication on the preemption cause of action, finding that the moratorium was preempted by the 1872 federal Surface Mining Act. This was based on the appellate court decision in *People v. Rinehart* (2014) 230 Cal.App.4th 419, a separate but related action brought by an individual miner who was cited for suction dredge mining in violation of the moratorium. The miner's sole defense was that the moratorium was preempted by federal mining laws.

The appellate court in *People v. Rinehart* held that the moratorium was preempted; however, that decision was appealed and reversed by the California Supreme Court on August 22, 2016. The Supreme Court held that the California moratorium was not preempted by the 1872 mining law. The court found that while Congress sought to protect miners' real property interests, it did not guarantee to them a right to mine immunized from exercises of the states' police powers. The court found that the state's role in protecting its waters and fish and wildlife was long-standing and predated the federal law. Under the Public Trust doctrine, the state is the trustee for the state's waters and fish resources. The court stated that there is a strong presumption against preemption in areas where the state has a firmly established regulatory role. The court found no Congressional intent to displace state law, as evidenced by the fact that Congress had previously upheld the state's earlier ban on hydraulic mining. In summary, the court held that the federal mining law does not prevent states from restricting the use of particular mining methods based on consequences to other resources. The court also relied in part on the United States' Supreme Court's 1987 decision in *Granite Rock*, which clearly

established the state's authority to regulation on environmental grounds mining claims within their borders.

It should be noted that SB 637 (Allen) which was enacted by the Legislature this Session deals not with the moratorium on issuance of suction dredge permits by the DFW, but with the Water Board's separate authority to adopt waste discharge requirements that address the water quality effects of suction dredge mining. The bill also prohibits the DFW, should the moratorium be lifted in the future, from issuing a permit for suction dredge mining until the application is complete and all other required permits, including any waste discharge permits that may be required, have been obtained.

RIGS TO REEFS

This state in 2010 enacted the California Marine Resources Legacy Act, AB 2503 (John Perez), Chapter 687, Statutes of 2010, which, under specified conditions, allows for the partial removal of a decommissioned offshore oil platform, as an alternative to full removal. The law is commonly known as the "Rigs-to-Reefs" program, since the structure of the remaining platform can serve as an artificial reef providing some habitat for fish and other marine organisms. Before partial removal can be approved there must be a scientific finding that there would be a net benefit to the marine environment from partial removal versus full removal. The additional public policy rationale behind the program is that since there would be significant cost savings to the applicant from partial removal, the law requires that the cost savings be shared with the state. The law provides that a portion of the cost savings would go to an endowment for marine conservation created by the bill, a portion would go to the state General Fund, a portion would go to the DFW to cover state review and management costs, and a portion would go to the county located nearest to the offshore oil platform. The earlier that the offshore oil facility is decommissioned, the larger the percentage of the cost savings that the applicant is allowed to retain.

While the law was enacted in 2010, to date, no entity has taken advantage of the law and applied to decommission an oil platform and leave it partially in place as an artificial reef. This year, the Legislature considered SB 233 (Hertzberg), which proposed to make a number of revisions to the program, clarify the roles of the various state agencies involved in reviewing and approving the applications, and provide a process for the DFW to receive the startup costs necessary to develop management plans for the reefs. SB 233 passed this committee in 2015 but was held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

POLLINATORS

In recent years there have been significant concerns raised by the scientific community and others over declines in the populations of pollinators, in particular, those of Monarch butterflies and honey bees. These concerns prompted legislative actions to help these species. Bees pollinate billions of dollars of agricultural crops in the United States and

are essential for pollination of many of California's most important agricultural foods. Bees are also at significant threat due to a condition called "Colony Collapse Disorder" (CCD). CCD and the loss of bees pose significant threats to our state and national food supply and economic security. Studies point to multiple contributing factors causing CCD, including varroa mites, viruses, habitat loss and pesticide use. Identifying local forage opportunities for bees beyond orchards and agricultural fields has been identified as an important part of the solution. Potentially favorable sites may include habitat strips along public highways and larger areas with natural vegetation on state and federal public lands. Bee keepers indicate that ensuring diverse forage opportunities for bees before and after the almond bloom is particularly important in California. The almond industry in California is the largest user of pollinator services in the United States, requiring 1.6 million hives each spring. When almonds and other agricultural crops are not in bloom, a variety of forage food is needed for bees that stay here all year. Bee keepers are struggling to find places to put their hives during the off season and when orchards are being sprayed with pesticides and may be unsafe for bees to be present.

In 2014, AB 2185 (Eggman), Chapter 338, Statutes of 2014, was enacted to encourage the DFW to increase opportunities for bee hives to be placed on state wild lands. AB 1259 (Levine), Chapter 380, Statutes of 2015, built upon the policy in AB 2185 by authorizing the DFW to allow the temporary placement of beehives on department-managed wildlife areas, through simple lease or permit agreements specifying appropriate conditions, and authorized the Department of General Services (DGS) to lease public lands for apiary purposes for less than fair market rental if the lease for apiary purposes does not require exclusive use of the land.

AB 559 (Lopez), Chapter 478, Statutes of 2015, similarly responds to the significant decline in populations of Monarch butterflies by authorizing the DFW to take actions to conserve monarch butterflies and the habitats they depend on for migration. AB 559 clarifies that the DFW has authority to take feasible actions to conserve monarch butterflies and their special habitats for successful migration. This bill also encourages the DFW to partner with other organizations that undertake actions to protect Monarchs, including the Monarch Joint Venture. The decrease in Monarch butterfly populations is particularly troubling because Monarchs have long been considered both an indicator of ecological health and a representative of pollinator populations. The main food source of the caterpillars is milkweed. Milkweed habitat and density have declined significantly, which has negatively impacted Monarchs, as well as bees and other pollinators. The California drought has also contributed to the lack of food sources for caterpillars and butterflies.

FUTURE ISSUES FOR THE 2016-17 SESSION

California will continue to face many challenges in meeting its water needs in the coming years. The State Water Resources Control Board is just beginning hearings on the proposed California Water Fix, a project to construct two major water intake tunnels

north of the Delta. Local and state agencies will be grappling with implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act over the next several years as well. While the severity of California's drought may have temporarily eased, the state continues to face water shortages and the likely prospect of repeated droughts. Climate change models predict that the state is likely in the future to face both cyclical droughts and increased storm severity when rains do occur, which can lead to increased flood events even in the midst of droughts. The timing of precipitation and the percentage of precipitation that falls as rain versus snow, is also changing, which will necessitate changes in the management of reservoirs and other water infrastructure. Enhancing water conservation, water efficiency, and other improvements in water management will thus be a continued necessity and way of life in California. There is also increasing interest in water markets and water transfers as a potentially valuable tool for addressing regional water needs, provided issues of transparency, shared data, and third party impacts can be appropriately addressed. All of these needs, challenges and opportunities will likely prompt continued legislative interest and attention to these and other water-related issues in the upcoming session.

As funds from prior resource bonds are nearing exhaustion, the state will need to decide whether it is time to reinvest in California's parks and other green infrastructure through authorization of another statewide park bond. There will likely be a significant effort – either through legislation or an initiative measure – to place a park bond on the 2018 statewide ballot.

As the DPR continues to work on implementation of the Parks Forward Commission's recommendations for state parks, the Legislature should continue to provide oversight of this process to ensure that further progress is achieved. The Legislature will also be looking to the Administration to provide a comprehensive long-term funding strategy for state parks in the Governor's proposed budget for 2017-18 and beyond.

The Off-Highway Vehicle Commission (OHV), which is one of four commissions under the jurisdiction of the DPR, sunsets in 2018 unless extended by the Legislature. The DPR is in the process of developing a reorganization plan that may include a proposed reconfiguring of this and other park commissions. As part of the OHV Commission sunset review, the Legislature may also want to look more closely at the funding of the OHV Division, which is based in part on a fuel tax study that was due to be updated in 2016, but to date, has not.

California has historically placed great value on the many wildlife resources supported by its diverse habitats. However, California's native wildlife species face many threats from such stressors as habitat development and a changing climate. California, in 2015, adopted a state policy to protect wildlife corridors and habitat strongholds, and to encourage voluntary actions to achieve these goals. Greater progress on these efforts is dependent both on funding and on the ability of state agencies with different missions to work collaboratively on projects to achieve multiple societal benefits for both wildlife and humans.

These challenges apply to both terrestrial and marine environments, which face new threats such as ocean acidification and toxic outbreaks that can pose risks for wildlife and human health, and may have significant implications for future fisheries and ecosystem-based management.

Bills by Issue Area

WATER

AB 149 (Chávez) - Urban water management plans.

Extends the date for the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) deadlines from December 31, 2020, to July 1, 2021. This will allow water agencies to incorporate into their UWMPs the information that, separately, they must provide by December 31, 2020, regarding compliance with achieving the mandatory statewide goal of a 20% reduction in urban per capita water use from November 2009 levels.

Status: Chapter 49, Statutes of 2015

AB 309 (Mathis) - Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, Sr. Research Grant.

Appropriates \$145,000 from the State General Fund (GF) to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for an Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, Sr., Research Grant program that will provide one-year grants to University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) campuses to research ways to expand California's water portfolio.

Status: Died - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 311 (Gallagher) - Environmental quality: Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014.

Establishes special administrative and judicial review procedures under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for water storage projects funded by the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1).

Status: Died - Assembly Natural Resources

AB 367 (Dodd) - Clear Lake.

Appropriates \$2,400,000 to Lake County for the purpose of restoring wetlands, maintaining water quality, and preventing, controlling, and eradicating invasive species in Clear Lake.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

AB 452 (Bigelow) - Water Rights Fund: groundwater regulation.

Prohibits the State Water Resources Control Board from using water rights fees collected under the water rights program to fund Sustainable Groundwater Management Act enforcement.

Status: Died- Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 453 (Salas) - Extraction of groundwater: Semitropic Water Storage District.

Authorizes the Semitropic Water Storage District to impose fees on groundwater extraction, and require the reporting of groundwater extraction with the ability to verify the reported information to fund the cost of groundwater management projects which have completed environmental review before January 1, 2020.

Status: Chapter 439, Statutes of 2016

AB 454 (Bigelow) - Sustainable groundwater management.

Adds one year to each of the deadlines for forming a groundwater sustainability agency under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and adopting a groundwater sustainability plan.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

AB 455 (Bigelow) - Groundwater sustainability plans: environmental impact reports.

Requires the Judicial Council, on or before July 1, 2016, to establish procedures that would resolve all California Environmental Quality Act challenges within 270 days for all projects covered by a Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Also prohibits a court from staying or enjoining the construction or operation of a SGMA groundwater project unless the court makes a certain finding.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife.

AB 501 (Levine) - Resources: Delta research.

As originally introduced and heard in the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, required that state-funded environmental research in the Delta be shareable and made available to the Delta Science Program within two years of completion. As finally amended and passed, this bill recognizes denim as the official state fabric.

Status: As amended, this bill is no longer within the jurisdiction of the committee.

AB 581 (Gomez) - Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014.

Requires all river, lake, stream, coastal water, and watershed protection and restoration projects that receive state funds from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) to post signs acknowledging state support of the project.

Status: Died - Senate Natural Resources and Water

AB 615 (Rendon) - Office of Sustainable Water Solutions: technical assistance.

Clarifies the types of technical assistance that the State Water Resources Control Board Office of Sustainable Water Solutions can provide to disadvantaged communities.

Status: Died - Senate Environmental Quality

AB 617 (Perea) - Groundwater.

Modifies the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act to incorporate groundwater planning into regional planning, allow public-private partnerships, provide recourse for Groundwater Sustainability Agencies if state agencies are acting inconsistent to an adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plan, add the Public Utilities Commission to the list of entities receiving notice, as specified, and make other clarifying and technical changes.

Status: Chapter 666, Statutes of 2015

AB 647 (Eggman) - Beneficial use: diversion of water underground.

Adds to the legal definition of what constitutes a beneficial use of water by including water that is stored unground, under specified conditions.

Status: Died - Senate Natural Resources and Water

AB 725 (Wagner) - Water quality: recycled water: storm-induced overflow.

On or before December 31, 2016, would require the State Water Resources Control Board, in consultation with stakeholders, to adopt a policy to address the potential for a storm-induced overflow from an impoundment in which recycled water is stored for subsequent beneficial use or aesthetic purposes.

Status: Died - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 761 (Levine) - Carbon sequestration: working lands.

Requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to establish a grant program to fund voluntary projects that increase carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions reductions on working lands, as defined. The subject matter of this bill and funding for the program was ultimately included in two budget bills, AB 1613 and SB 830.

Status: Died - Senate Appropriations

AB 935 (Salas) - Water projects.

Requires the Department of Water Resources, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to fund a reverse flow pump-back project on the Friant-Kern Canal.

Status: Chapter 601, Statutes of 2016

AB 936 (Salas) - Groundwater monitoring.

Authorizes the Department of Water Resources to allow projects and programs in disadvantaged communities, currently ineligible for funding due to noncompliance with groundwater monitoring requirements, to receive state funding if the project includes actions necessary to meet groundwater monitoring requirements.

Status: Died - Assembly Appropriations

AB 937 (Salas) - Groundwater planning: technical assistance: disadvantaged communities.

Requires the Department of Water Resources to provide technical assistance to disadvantaged communities so that they may participate in groundwater planning with any county or local agency.

Status: Died – Senate Appropriations

AB 938 (Rodriguez) - Groundwater: basin reprioritization: establishment of groundwater sustainability agency.

Authorizes the watermaster or local agency administering an adjudicated basin to elect that the adjudicated basin be subject to the provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Authorizes the court with jurisdiction over the adjudicated basin to issue an order setting a hearing to determine whether the adjudicated basin shall be subject to SGMA, as prescribed. Requires the watermaster or local agency to provide written notice to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) that the adjudicated basin is

subject to SGMA, and would require the DWR to post that notice to its Internet Web site within 15 days.

Status: Died - Senate Natural Resources and Water

AB 939 (Salas) - Groundwater sustainability agency: financial authority.

Clarifies deadlines under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) for a Groundwater Sustainability Agency to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in those cases where a groundwater basin is reprioritized by the Department of Water Resources from low or very low to high or medium priority. Extends, from 10 days to 20 days, the review period during which data used for setting fees under SGMA is publicly available.

Status: Chapter 667, Statutes of 2015

AB 954 (Mathis, Alejo) - Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant Pilot Program.

Appropriates \$10 million dollars from the General Fund to a newly-established program at the State Water Resources Control Board to provide low-interest loans and grants to eligible applicants for any of the following: 1) connecting to water or wastewater service, 2) closing abandoned septic tanks or water wells to protect health and safety, 3) deepening an existing groundwater well, or 4) installing a water treatment system if the groundwater doesn't meet primary or secondary drinking water standards.

Status: Died - Senate Appropriations.

AB 957 (Mathis) - Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014.

Amends the eligibility criteria for recycled water projects funded by Proposition 1, The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014, in order to give consideration to communities with groundwater problems.

Status: Died - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 965 (Eduardo Garcia) - California and Mexico border: water resources improvement.

Requires the California-Mexico Border Relations Council (Border Relations Council) to establish the New River Water Quality, Public Health, and River Parkway Development Program (New River Program) to coordinate funding for, and the implementation of, the recommendations from the New River Strategic Plan. Provides the Border Relations Council with a consultative and coordinating role on the development, implementation and funding of specified border-related projects and funding.

Status: Chapter 668, Statutes of 2015

AB 1061 (Gallagher) - Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District: powers.

Allows the Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District, which is under the management and control of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, to sell, lease, or rent properties, and use any revenue that is generated from the lease or rental of the properties for flood control purposes.

Status: Died - Senate Appropriations

AB 1095 (Eduardo Garcia) - Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014: restoration funding: Salton Sea.

Requires the California Natural Resources Agency, on or before March 31, 2016, to submit to the Legislature a list of shovel-ready Salton Sea restoration projects, including information regarding project costs and project completion timelines.

Status: Chapter 722, Statutes of 2015

AB 1242 (Gray) - Water quality: impacts on groundwater basins: mitigation measures.

Would require the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to increase statewide water storage capacity by 25% by January 1, 2025, and 50% by January 1, 2050, as specified. Would require the DWR, on or before January 1, 2017, to identify the current statewide water storage capacity and prepare a strategy and implementation plan to achieve those expansions in statewide water storage capacity, and to update the strategy and implementation plan on January 1, 2018, and every 2 years thereafter, until January 1, 2050. Would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to report to the Legislature on January 1, 2020, and every 5 years thereafter, until January 1, 2050, on the DWR's progress on achieving those required increases in statewide water storage capacity. Would, beginning in the 2016-17 fiscal year, continuously appropriate 25% of the annual proceeds of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to the DWR to comply with these requirements.

Status: Died - Senate Rules

AB 1243 (Gray) - Groundwater recharge: grants.

Requires that 50% of the fines collected by the State Water Resources Control Board when locals violate the provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, are deposited in a Groundwater Recharge Fund to fund local groundwater recharge projects.

Status: Died - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 1244 (Gray, Daly) - Water rights: small irrigation use.

As passed by the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, this bill required the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt general water rights conditions for small irrigation registrations in consultation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the University of California Cooperative Extension, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. As finally amended, this bill instead deals with workers compensation.

Status: As amended, this bill is no longer within the jurisdiction of the committee.

AB 1376 (Perea) - State Water Resources Control Board: appropriation: drought-related drinking water projects.

Would appropriate \$15,000,000 from the General Fund to the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board), for expenditure until June 30, 2016, for grants of up to \$500,000 per project for public water systems to address drought-related drinking water emergencies or threatened emergencies in the state. Would require the Water Board to make every effort to use other funds available to address drinking water emergencies, including federal funds made available for the drought, prior to using the funds appropriated pursuant to these provisions.

Status: Died - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 1390 (Alejo, Gomez, Perea) - Groundwater: adjudication.

Adds a new Chapter 7 to Title 10 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure that establishes methods and procedures for comprehensive groundwater adjudications.

Status: Chapter 672, Statutes of 2015

AB 1454 (Wagner) - Water quality standards: trash: single-use carryout bags.

Would suspend the operation of certain amendments to water quality control plans relating to the total maximum daily load for trash unless and until the provisions inoperative due to a pending referendum election become effective. Would require the State Water Resources Control Board to revisit and revise water quality control plans to address impaired water quality due to trash if the law pending referendum is defeated at the November 8, 2016, statewide general election.

Status: Died – Assembly Rules

AB 1463 (Gatto) - Onsite recycled water.

As heard in the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, this bill required that the State Water Resources Control Board, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health, the California Building Standards Commission, and stakeholders, develop standards that are protective of public health, safety, and the environment for reusing graywater, rainwater, and other water at the same location that it is captured, also called onsite water reuse. As finally amended, this bill deals instead with student financial aid.

Status: As amended, this bill is no longer within the jurisdiction of the committee.

AB 1470 (Alejo) - Safe Water and Wildlife Protection Act of 2016.

Requires the State Water Resources Control Board, until January 1, 2020, to establish and coordinate the Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force, comprised of specified representatives of state agencies, including the State Coastal Conservancy, in consultation with the Secretary for Environmental Protection, and would prescribe the functions and duties of the task force.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 1585 (Alejo) - Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio.

Appropriates \$10 million from the General Fund (GF) to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) for construction of a water conveyance tunnel between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Status: The content of this bill was ultimately included in SB 839 (Budget and Fiscal Review), one of the resource budget trailer bills which was signed by the Governor.

AB 1587 (Mathis) - Groundwater.

Appropriates \$50 million from Proposition 1 funds for groundwater sustainability plans and projects, and requires that special consideration be given to projects that create groundwater recharge basins in areas of fallow farmland.

Status: Died - Assembly Appropriations

AB 1588 (Mathis, Alejo) - Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant Program.

Authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board, to the extent funds are available, to implement low-interest loan and grant programs for counties and qualified nonprofit organizations to fund water and wastewater facilities improvements.

Status: Vetoed

Governor's Veto Message:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1588 without my signature.

This bill codifies the existing low-interest loans and grants being provided for local agencies, counties and qualified non-profits for drinking water or wastewater treatment projects. Unfortunately, there were some technical errors that would inadvertently limit the drought assistance we are currently providing.

AB 1590 (Mathis) - State Water Resources Control Board: appointments.

Requires that an additional 4 members be appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board by the Legislature. Requires that one member each be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, the Assembly Minority Leader, the President pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Senate Minority Leader.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 1649 (Salas, Gallagher) - State water policy: priority: surface water storage projects and joint powers authorities.

Would require the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop a state water policy that gives priority to the formation and funding of joint powers authorities (JPAs) established to address surface water storage needs by April 30, 2017.

Status: Died – Senate Natural Resources and Water

AB 1694 (Lackey) – Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014: stormwater: multibenefit projects.

This bill would have required special consideration of specific multibenefit stormwater management projects. It was subsequently amended to address public school drinking water and was re-referred to the committees on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials, and Education.

Status: As amended, this bill is no longer within the jurisdiction of the committee.

AB 1704 (Dodd) - Water rights.

Would require the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board), on or before January 1, 2018, to adopt general conditions that would permit a registrant to construct a facility that would store water for small irrigation use during times of high streamflow in exchange for the registrant reducing diversions during periods of low streamflow, as specified. Would require the Water Board, on or before June 30, 2019, to adopt general conditions and, if necessary, amend existing general conditions for the registration of small irrigation use for other purposes.

Status: Died - Senate Appropriations

AB 1713 (Eggman) - Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: peripheral canal.

Prohibits the construction of a peripheral canal, as defined, in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), unless approved through an initiative measure.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

AB 1755 (Dodd) - The Open and Transparent Water Data Act.

Requires the Department of Water Resources, in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Water Quality Monitoring Council to create and maintain a statewide integrated water data platform by August 1, 2020.

Status: Chapter 506, Statutes of 2016

AB 1842 (Levine) - Water: pollution: fines.

Imposes an additional civil penalty of up to \$10 per gallon or pound of material illegally discharged into state waterways. This bill requires the penalty to be reduced by every gallon or pound of the illegally discharged material recovered and properly disposed of by the responsible party. Additionally, this bill prohibits a person from being subject to both this penalty and the civil penalties imposed under the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act.

Status: Chapter 349, Statutes of 2016

AB 1866 (Wilk) - High-speed rail bond proceeds: redirection: water projects.

Directs that a referendum be placed on the ballot related to high-speed rail bonds for the purposes of making the high-speed rail bonds funds available to fund construction of water capital projects, including the construction of desalination facilities, wastewater treatment and recycling facilities, reservoirs, water conveyance infrastructure, and aquifer recharge.

Status: Failed passage – Assembly Transportation

AB 1925 (Chang) - Desalination: statewide goal.

Establishes a statewide goal to desalinate 300,000 acre-feet of water a year by 2025 and 500,000 acre-feet a year by 2030.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

AB 1928 (Campos) - Water efficiency: landscape irrigation equipment.

Extends the date from January 1, 2010, to January 1, 2019, by which the California Energy Commission (CEC) is required to adopt landscape irrigation equipment performance standards and labeling requirements. Additionally, prohibits the sale of new irrigation equipment on or after an effective date established by the CEC.

Status: Chapter 326, Statutes of 2016

AB 1979 (Bigelow) – Urban water management plans.

As amended in this committee, AB 1979 would have added 5 years to the population and water use planning periods required under urban water management planning. The bill

was re-referred to Rules Committee prior to being set for hearing in this committee. In final form, makes an exception to the feed-in-tariff program three megawatt limit on the generating capacity of an eligible electric generation facility to newly allow participation by a conduit hydroelectric facility with a nameplate generating capacity of up to four MWs.

Status: As amended, this bill is no longer in the jurisdiction of the committee.

AB 1986 (Wilk) - Water resources: permit to appropriate: application procedure.

Requires the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to reissue notices of applications for permits to appropriate water if the SWRCB has not rendered a final decision on the application within 20 years, and reopens the time period for interested persons to file a written protest to the application.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

AB 1989 (Jones) - Water, energy, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Would require the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to develop and implement a low-interest loan and grant program for water projects that reduce water-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in coordination with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

AB 2076 (Cristina Garcia, Eggman) - Water and energy use efficiency: certification: breweries.

Requires the Department of Water Resources, in consultation with the California brewing industry, to develop water and energy use efficiency certification guidelines for the production of beer that include, among other things, uniform standards for the industry's use of efficiency certification seals. Requires the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to consult in label design and approval for the use of a seal on a beer bottle.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 2304 (Levine) - California Water Market Exchange.

Would establish, beginning January 1, 2018, the California Water Market Exchange in the Natural Resources Agency, to create a centralized water market platform.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

AB 2335 (Beth Gaines) - Suction dredge mining: permits: report.

Requires the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to report to the Legislature, on or before June 1, 2017, on the status of the state's suction dredge mining permitting program.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 2357 (Dahle) - Water rights: monitoring and reporting.

Limits the State Water Resources Board's (SWRCB) authority to adopt regulations requiring the measurement and reporting of water diversion and use by small domestic and agricultural users to only those in year-round use.

Status: Died – Senate Natural Resources and Water

AB 2373 (Gray) - Merced Irrigation District

Would appropriate \$45,000 from the General Fund to the Merced Irrigation District (MID) to implement on-farm irrigation system and water use efficiency improvements for small communal farms in Merced County. Additionally, requires MID to report to the Legislature by April 30, 2018, for the purpose of determining the effectiveness of the appropriation and the cumulative impact on the County of Merced.

Status: Died – Senate Budget and Fiscal Review

AB 2446 (Gordon) - State Water Resources Control Board: judicial review.

As introduced, this bill would have expanded the State Water Board's authority to review a regional water quality control board action or failure to act. It was double-referred to the committees on Water, Parks and Wildlife, and Judiciary. It was amended and subsequently re-referred to Judiciary only, prior to a hearing being set in this committee.

Status: As amended, this bill is no longer in the jurisdiction of the committee.

AB 2480 (Bloom) - Source watersheds: financing.

Declares a state policy that source watersheds are recognized and defined as integral components of California's water infrastructure, and that the maintenance and repair of source watersheds is eligible for the same forms of financing as other water collection and treatment infrastructure.

Status: Chapter 695, Statutes of 2016

AB 2515 (Weber) - Water Conservation in Landscaping Act: model water efficient landscaping ordinance.

Requires the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to update the model water-efficient landscape ordinance (MWELO), by January 1, 2020, and every three years thereafter, or make a finding that an update is not useful or effective. When the MWELO is updated it requires DWR to submit it to the Building Standards Commission (BSC) for consideration in the triennial revision of the California Green Building Standards (CALGreen).

Status: Chapter 576, Statutes of 2016

AB 2525 (Holden) - Water-efficient landscaping.

This bill requires the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to create the California Water Efficient Landscaping Program (Program), upon identification of a funding source.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

AB 2550 (Patterson) - State Water Resources Control Board: instream flow curtailments: compensation.

Requires the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) to financially compensate an individual who is unable to divert their full water right due to a Water Board issued instream flow curtailment.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 2551 (Gallagher, Olsen, Salas) - Contract procurement: surface storage projects.

Authorizes alternative contracting methods for surface storage projects that receive Proposition 1 funding and conditions the use of alternative project delivery methods on meeting specific solicitation, qualification, and selection requirements.

Status: Chapter 760, Statutes of 2016

AB 2555 (Levine) - Fish and wildlife.

As introduced and heard in the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, this bill extended the operative date on several sections of the Fish and Game Code that were otherwise set to sunset on January 1, 2017. Most of the content of this bill was subsequently amended into AB 2594 which was enacted (see below), and this bill was instead amended to deal with the topic of building standards, a subject outside the jurisdiction of this committee.

Status: Most of the content of this bill was amended into AB 2594, which was signed by the Governor.

AB 2561 (Irwin) - Water supply planning: projects: photovoltaic or wind energy generation facility.

Extends the existing sunset in law which excludes photovoltaic or wind energy generation if the facility would demand no more than 75 acre-feet of water annually from a water supply assessment (WSA) for one year.

Status: Chapter 669, Statutes of 2016

AB 2583 (Frazier) - Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009.

Places new requirements on the approval, financing, and operation of any new conveyance facility in the Delta.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 2594 (Gordon) - Stormwater resources: use of captured water.

Permits a public entity that captures stormwater before the water reaches a natural channel to use the water. Specifically, this bill requires the capture to be in accordance with a stormwater resource plan, and only entitles use of water which augments water supplies and supports existing water rights.

Status: Chapter 526, Statutes of 2016

AB 2617 (Mayes) - Water efficiency measures.

Requires the Department of Water Resources to develop and solicit comments on a proposed report, in consultation with subject matter experts at the University of California, the California State University, the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, and local water districts, by December 1, 2017, and, by July 1, 2018, to issue a final report. This report would include, among other things, recommendations to public entities to help them achieve water-resilient communities and prioritize cost-effective water efficiency measures with low adverse environmental impacts based on local conditions.

Status: Died – Senate Rules

AB 2874 (Beth Gaines) - Groundwater sustainability agencies: fees.

Requires a groundwater sustainability agency, before imposing or increasing a fee authorized pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act relating to a groundwater basin that includes a water corporation regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, to notify the Public Utilities Commission.

Status: Chapter 139, Statutes of 2016

AB 2909 (Levine) - State parks: funding.

Would clarify the information that must be included in a projection of costs for activities funded by the State Parks Revenue Incentive Subaccount, and requires the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to provide an accounting to donors of expenditures of donations deposited in the State Park Contingent Fund. Was subsequently amended to require the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Department of Water Resources to develop and implement an expedited 30-day review process for petitions to transfer or exchange water or water rights if the transfer is for a reoccurring water transfer.

Status: Died - Senate Appropriations

AJR 27 (Levine) - The Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Urges the Congress of the United States to permanently reauthorize and fully fund the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund in order to maintain and preserve land and water resources.

Status: Resolution Chapter 197, Statutes of 2015

AJR 36 (Mathis) - Overflow water: beneficial use.

Resolves that the State of California declares that overflow water from the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) reservoirs should be used in the Central Valley.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

SB 7 (Wolk) - Housing: water meters: multiunit structures.

Would require, as of January 1, 2018, that individual water meters be installed on all new multifamily residential units or mixed commercial and multifamily units, and requires that landlords bill residents for the increment of water they use.

Status: Chapter 623, Statutes of 2016

SB 13 (Pavley) - Groundwater.

Makes numerous technical and clarifying amendments to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and related sections of the Water Code.

Status: Chapter 255, Statutes of 2015

SB 20 (Pavley) – Wells: reports: public availability.

As referred to this committee, this bill would have created the California Water Resiliency Investment Fund for the purpose of providing funding for a more dependable water supply for California. Before being set for hearing in this committee, the bill was amended to create the Low Carbon Fuels Council and subsequently re-referred to the

Natural Resources Committee.

Status: As amended, this bill is no longer in the jurisdiction of the committee.

SB 37 (Vidak) - Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act.

Creates the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency, specifies the Board composition of the Agency, and adds the Agency to the list of agencies created by statute to manage groundwater that are deemed the exclusive local agencies to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Status: Chapter 391, Statutes of 2016

SB 144 (Pan) - Water development projects: Sacramento-San Joaquin watersheds.

Updates the project descriptions and authorizations for specific state law flood control projects along the American and Sacramento Rivers in order to make the scope of those projects consistent with their current federal feasibility studies and authorizations.

Status: Chapter 674, Statutes of 2015

SB 163 (Hertzberg) - Wastewater treatment: recycled water.

As referred to this committee, SB 163 would have declared it a waste and unreasonable use of water, to discharge treated wastewater from an ocean or bay outfall, and would have established a requirement that by January 1, 2033, at least 50% of treated wastewater that would have otherwise have been discharged through an ocean or bay outfall, to be beneficially reused. This bill was double-referred to the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee (ES&TM) and this committee. It was subsequently amended in ES&TM, amending the penal code, relating to bail.

Status: As amended, this bill is no longer in the jurisdiction of the committee.

SB 208 (Lara) - Integrated regional water management plans: grants: advanced payment.

Allows the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to provide advance funding of Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) grants where the project proponent is a nonprofit organization or a disadvantaged community, or the project benefits a disadvantaged community.

Status: Chapter 675, Statutes of 2015

SB 223 (Galgiani) - Division of Boating and Waterways: oversight committee: invasive aquatic plants.

Requires the Division of Boating and Waterways (Division) within the Department of Parks and Recreation to establish an advisory committee to evaluate and monitor activities of the Division related to management and control of invasive aquatic species.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

SB 226 (Pavley) - Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater rights.

Integrates and streamlines the groundwater adjudication process for groundwater basins that are subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), primarily by adding a new chapter to SGMA.

Status: Chapter 676, Statutes of 2015

SB 551 (Wolk) - State water policy: water and energy efficiency.

Establishes a State policy to recognize the nexus between water and energy and requires that water use and water treatment be as energy efficient as feasible, and that energy use and generation be as water efficient as feasible.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

SB 552 (Wolk) - Public water systems: disadvantaged communities: consolidation or extension of service: administrative and managerial services.

Authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to contract with an administrator to provide administrative and managerial services to a designated public water system, as defined, to assist with the provision of an adequate and affordable supply of safe drinking water.

Status: Chapter 773, Statutes of 2016

SB 554 (Wolk) - Delta levee maintenance.

Extends the July 2018 sunset date on the current 75% state cost share reimbursement rate for Delta levee maintenance costs in excess of \$1,000 per mile to July 1, 2020.

Status: Vetoed

Governor's Veto Message:

I am returning Senate Bill 554 without my signature.

A number of efforts are underway to determine the levee protection needs in the Delta. The Delta Stewardship Council is currently in the middle of identifying state priorities for levee investments in the Delta, and the Department of Water Resources has been working with the Delta Protection Commission evaluating new financing mechanisms.

The existing 75 percent state cost share does not sunset until July 2018, and as such, consideration of this bill is premature.

SB 555 (Wolk) - Urban retail water suppliers: water loss management.

Requires each urban retail water supplier, on or before October 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, to submit annual water loss audit (WLAs) reports to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as specified, and requires DWR to post such WLAs and provide technical assistance.

Status: Chapter 679, Statutes of 2015

SB 564 (Cannella) - West Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act.

Would create the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency, specifies the Board composition of the Agency, and adds the Agency to the list of agencies created by statute to manage groundwater that are deemed the exclusive local agencies to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Status: Chapter 392, Statutes of 2016

SB 637 (Allen) - Suction dredge mining: permits.

Authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board or a regional water quality control board to adopt waste discharge requirements that address the water quality effects of suction dredge mining, and prohibits the Department of Fish and Wildlife from issuing a permit for suction dredge mining until the application is complete and includes all required permits.

Status: Chapter 680, Statutes of 2015

SB 664 (Hertzberg) - Water: urban water management planning.

Requires an urban water supplier to include a seismic risk assessment and mitigation plan in its urban water management plan or allows an urban water supplier to submit its most recent federal disaster mitigation plan as an alternative if that plan addresses seismic risk.

Status: Chapter 681, Statutes of 2015

SB 758 (Block) - Atmospheric Rivers Research and Mitigation Program.

Establishes the Atmospheric Rivers: Research, Mitigation and Climate Forecasting Program (AR Program) at the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in order to, contingent on appropriation of special fund monies, conduct research relating to climate forecasting and the causes and impacts that climate change has on atmospheric rivers. Directs the DWR to take all actions within its existing authority to operate reservoirs in a manner that improves flood control and increases water supply, hydropower, and water reliability.

Status: Chapter 682, Statutes of 2015

SB 814 (Hill) - Drought: excessive water use: urban retail water suppliers.

Prohibits excessive water use by a residential customer during statewide or local emergency drought conditions and requires urban retail water suppliers to establish a method to identify and discourage excessive water use.

Status: Chapter 230, Statutes of 2016

SB 919 (Hertzberg) - Water supply: creation or augmentation of local water supplies.

Requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to, before January 1, 2018, address the oversupply of renewable energy resources through a tariff or other economic incentive for electricity purchased for the operation of facilities that create or augment local water supplies.

Status: Vetoed

Governor's Veto Message:

I am returning Senate Bill 919 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Public Utilities Commission to create special tariffs or other economic incentives for facilities that create or augment local water supplies, including water desalination and water recycling facilities.

Reducing electricity costs for water supply facilities can be accomplished in a variety of ways, including time of use rates and demand response. This bill mandates one approach that does not fit all.

SB 1262 (Pavley, Wieckowski) - Water supply planning.

Would revise requirements that new developments must meet in order to demonstrate that its water supply is sufficient to include consideration of provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Status: Chapter 594, Statutes of 2016

SB 1263 (Wieckowski, Pavley) - Public water system: permits.

Would require a person submitting an application for a permit for a proposed new public water system to first submit a preliminary technical report to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). Authorizes the State Water Board to deny a permit for a new public water system if it determines that it is reasonably foreseeable that the proposed new public water system will be unable to provide affordable, safe drinking water.

Status: Chapter 843, Statutes of 2016

SB 1317 (Wolk) - Groundwater extraction permit.

Would require a city or county overlying a basin designated as a high- or medium-priority basin to, under specified conditions and with exceptions, prohibit the issuance of a permit for a new groundwater extraction facility, or establish a process which requires an applicant for a permit to demonstrate the extraction of groundwater from the proposed facility will not contribute to or create an undesirable result.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

SB 1328 (Lara) - Stormwater capture and treatment projects: funding.

Would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to use money from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide grants to public agencies, non-profits, public utilities, and mutual water companies to implement stormwater and dry weather runoff collection and treatment projects that are intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by decreasing the demand for fossil fuels needed to pump, transport, and deliver water to serve water consumers, as specified.

Status: Vetoed

Governor's Veto Message:

I am returning Senate Bill 1328 without my signature.

This bill creates a new Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund program for stormwater projects.

Rather than creating a potentially duplicative program, I am directing the

Resources Agency to work with the State Water Resources Control Board to ensure that stormwater projects are included in the Urban Greening Program.

SB 1340 (Wolk) - Water Conservation in Landscaping Act.

Requires a local agency, on or after July 1, 2018, to require a local permit, for water efficiency compliance purposes, for installation of large stand-alone landscaping irrigation systems. Applies to installation of an automatic irrigation system, or the expansion of an existing irrigation system to increase the irrigated area by 25% or more, for landscaping that is not already within the scope of another permit, and is either: a) nonresidential landscaping that is not a cemetery and is at least 2,500 square feet, or b) residential landscaping of 10,000 square feet or greater.

Status: Vetoed

Governor's Veto Message:

I am returning Senate Bill 1340 without my signature.

This bill requires a local permit for installation of large stand-alone landscaping irrigation systems.

The existing Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance program offers local governments a multitude of options to address water conservation in irrigated landscapes.

I have asked the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board to develop a permanent framework for water use reduction targets. This type of landscape permit will be considered in that framework.

GROUNDWATER

AB 452 (Bigelow) - Water Rights Fund: groundwater regulation.

Prohibits the State Water Resources Control Board from using water rights fees collected under the water rights program to fund Sustainable Groundwater Management Act enforcement.

Status: Died- Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 453 (Salas) - Extraction of groundwater: Semitropic Water Storage District.

Authorizes the Semitropic Water Storage District to impose fees on groundwater extraction, and require the reporting of groundwater extraction with the ability to verify the reported information to fund the cost of groundwater management projects which have completed environmental review before January 1, 2020.

Status: Chapter 439, Statutes of 2016

AB 454 (Bigelow) - Sustainable groundwater management.

Adds one year to each of the deadlines for forming a groundwater sustainability agency under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and adopting a groundwater sustainability plan.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

AB 455 (Bigelow) - Groundwater sustainability plans: environmental impact reports.

Requires the Judicial Council, on or before July 1, 2016, to establish procedures that would resolve all California Environmental Quality Act challenges within 270 days for all projects covered by a Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Also prohibits a court from staying or enjoining the construction or operation of a SGMA groundwater project unless the court makes a certain finding.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 617 (Perea) - Groundwater.

Modifies the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act to incorporate groundwater planning into regional planning, allow public-private partnerships, provide recourse for Groundwater Sustainability Agencies if state agencies are acting inconsistent to an adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plan, add the Public Utilities Commission to the list of entities receiving notice, as specified, and make other clarifying and technical changes.

Status: Chapter 666, Statutes of 2015

AB 647 (Eggman) - Beneficial use: diversion of water underground.

Adds to the legal definition of what constitutes a beneficial use of water by including water that is stored underground, under specified conditions.

Status: Died - Senate Natural Resources and Water

AB 936 (Salas) - Groundwater monitoring.

Authorizes the Department of Water Resources to allow projects and programs in disadvantaged communities currently ineligible for funding due to noncompliance with groundwater monitoring requirements, to receive state funding if the project includes actions necessary to meet groundwater monitoring requirements.

Status: Died - Assembly Appropriations

AB 937 (Salas) - Groundwater planning: technical assistance: disadvantaged communities.

Requires the Department of Water Resources to provide technical assistance to disadvantaged communities so that they may participate in groundwater planning with any county or local agency.

Status: Died – Senate Appropriations

AB 938 (Rodriguez) - Groundwater: basin reprioritization: establishment of groundwater sustainability agency.

Authorizes the watermaster or local agency administering an adjudicated basin to elect that the adjudicated basin be subject to the provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Authorizes the court with jurisdiction over the adjudicated basin to issue an order setting a hearing to determine whether the adjudicated basin shall be subject to SGMA, as prescribed. Requires the watermaster or local agency to provide

written notice to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) that the adjudicated basin is subject to SGMA, and would require the DWR to post that notice to its internet web site within 15 days.

Status: Died - Senate Natural Resources and Water

AB 939 (Salas) - Groundwater sustainability agency: financial authority.

Clarifies deadlines under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) for a Groundwater Sustainability Agency to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in those cases where a groundwater basin is reprioritized by the Department of Water Resources from low or very low to high or medium priority. Extends, from 10 days to 20 days, the review period during which data used for setting fees under SGMA is publicly available.

Status: Chapter 667, Statutes of 2015

AB 1242 (Gray) - Water quality: impacts on groundwater basins: mitigation measures.

Would require the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to increase statewide water storage capacity by 25% by January 1, 2025, and 50% by January 1, 2050, as specified. Would require the DWR, on or before January 1, 2017, to identify the current statewide water storage capacity and prepare a strategy and implementation plan to achieve those expansions in statewide water storage capacity, and to update the strategy and implementation plan on January 1, 2018, and every 2 years thereafter, until January 1, 2050. Would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to report to the Legislature on January 1, 2020, and every 5 years thereafter, until January 1, 2050, on the DWR's progress on achieving those required increases in statewide water storage capacity. Would, beginning in the 2016–17 fiscal year, continuously appropriate 25% of the annual proceeds of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to the DWR to comply with these requirements.

Status: Died - Senate Rules

AB 1243 (Gray) - Groundwater recharge: grants.

Requires that 50% of the fines collected by the State Water Resources Control Board when locals violate the provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act are deposited in a Groundwater Recharge Fund to fund local groundwater recharge projects.

Status: Died - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 1390 (Alejo, Gomez, Perea) - Groundwater: adjudication.

Adds a new Chapter 7 to Title 10 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure that establishes methods and procedures for comprehensive groundwater adjudications.

Status: Chapter 672, Statutes of 2015

AB 1587 (Mathis) - Groundwater.

Appropriates \$50 million from Proposition 1 funds for groundwater sustainability plans and projects, and requires that special consideration be given to projects that create groundwater recharge basins in areas of fallow farmland.

Status: Died - Assembly Appropriations

AB 2874 (Beth Gaines) - Groundwater sustainability agencies: fees.

Requires a groundwater sustainability agency, before imposing or increasing a fee authorized pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act relating to a groundwater basin that includes a water corporation regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, to notify the Public Utilities Commission.

Status: Chapter 139, Statutes of 2016

SB 13 (Pavley) - Groundwater.

Makes numerous technical and clarifying amendments to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and related sections of the Water Code.

Status: Chapter 255, Statutes of 2015

SB 37 (Vidak) - Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act.

Creates the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency, specifies the Board composition of the Agency, and adds the Agency to the list of agencies created by statute to manage groundwater that are deemed the exclusive local agencies to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Status: Chapter 391, Statutes of 2016

SB 226 (Pavley) - Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater rights.

Integrates and streamlines the groundwater adjudication process for groundwater basins that are subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), primarily by adding a new chapter to SGMA.

Status: Chapter 676, Statutes of 2015

SB 564 (Cannella) - West Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act.

Would create the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency, specifies the Board composition of the Agency, and adds the Agency to the list of agencies created by statute to manage groundwater that are deemed the exclusive local agencies to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Status: Chapter 392, Statutes of 2016

SB 1317 (Wolk) - Groundwater extraction permit.

Would require a city or county overlying a basin designated as a high- or medium-priority basin to, under specified conditions and with exceptions, prohibit the issuance of a permit for a new groundwater extraction facility, or establish a process which requires an applicant for a permit to demonstrate the extraction of groundwater from the proposed facility will not contribute to or create an undesirable result.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

WATER EFFICIENCY

AB 1928 (Campos) - Water efficiency: landscape irrigation equipment.

Extends the date from January 1, 2010, to January 1, 2019, by which the California Energy Commission (CEC) is required to adopt landscape irrigation equipment performance standards and labeling requirements. Additionally, prohibits the sale of new irrigation equipment on or after an effective date established by the CEC.

Status: Chapter 326, Statutes of 2016

AB 2515 (Weber) - Water Conservation in Landscaping Act: model water efficient landscaping ordinance.

Requires the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to update the model water-efficient landscape ordinance (MWELo), by January 1, 2020, and every three years thereafter, or make a finding that an update is not useful or effective. When the MWELo is updated it requires DWR to submit it to the Building Standards Commission (BSC) for consideration in the triennial revision of the California Green Building Standards (CALGreen).

Status: Chapter 576, Statutes of 2016

AB 2525 (Holden) - Water-efficient landscaping.

This bill requires the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to create the California Water Efficient Landscaping Program (Program), upon identification of a funding source.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

AB 2555 (Levine) - Fish and wildlife.

As introduced and heard in the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, this bill extended the operative date on several sections of the Fish and Game Code that were otherwise set to sunset on January 1, 2017. Most of the content of this bill was subsequently amended into AB 2594 which was enacted, and this bill was instead amended to deal with the topic of building standards, a subject outside the jurisdiction of this committee.

Status: Most of the content of this bill was amended into AB 2594, which was signed by the Governor.

AB 2617 (Mayes) - Water efficiency measures.

Requires the Department of Water Resources to develop and solicit comments on a proposed report, in consultation with subject matter experts at the University of California, the California State University, the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, and local water districts, by December 1, 2017, and, by July 1, 2018, to issue a final report that contains, among other things, recommendations to public entities to help them achieve water-resilient communities and prioritize cost-effective water efficiency measures with low adverse environmental impacts based on local conditions.

Status: Died – Senate Rules

SB 1340 (Wolk) - Water Conservation in Landscaping Act.

Requires a local agency, on or after July 1, 2018, to require a local permit for water efficiency compliance purposes, for installation of large stand-alone landscaping irrigation systems. Applies to installation of an automatic irrigation system, or the expansion of an existing irrigation system to increase the irrigated area by 25% or more, for landscaping that is not already within the scope of another permit and is either: a) nonresidential landscaping that is not a cemetery and is at least 2,500 square feet, or b) residential landscaping of 10,000 square feet or greater.

Status: Vetoed

Governor's Veto Message:

I am returning Senate Bill 1340 without my signature.

This bill requires a local permit for installation of large stand-alone landscaping irrigation systems.

The existing Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance program offers local governments a multitude of options to address water conservation in irrigated landscapes.

I have asked the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board to develop a permanent framework for water use reduction targets. This type of landscape permit will be considered in that framework.

PARKS AND RECREATION

AB 232 (Oberholte) - Parks and monuments: operating leases or agreements.

As heard and passed by the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, extended from 20 days to 30 days the time period the Legislature has to review a proposed state park operating lease, agreement or amendment before it can be approved by the State Public Works Board. As finally amended and enacted, the content of this bill deals instead with hospital seismic safety.

Status: As amended, this bill is no longer in the jurisdiction of the committee.

AB 240 (Wilk) - Department of Parks and Recreation: free day use entry.

Allows all vehicles bearing Pearl Harbor Survivor, Legion of Valor, Army Medal of Honor, Navy Medal of Honor, Air Force Medal of Honor, Air Force Cross, Navy Cross, Army Distinguished Service Class, Former Prisoner of War, Congressional Medal of Honor, Purple Heart Veteran, or Gold Star Family license plates to be allowed free day use entry to all units of the state park system.

Status: Died - Senate Appropriations

AB 530 (Rendon) - Lower Los Angeles River Working Group.

Requires the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) to staff, and the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to appoint, a working group that is tasked with developing a revitalization plan for the lower

Los Angeles River (Lower LA River).
Status: Chapter 684, Statutes of 2015

AB 549 (Levine) - State park system: revenue generation program: reports.

Authorizes the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to accept donations for support of state parks, requires proposed park concession contracts above a threshold to be provided to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for review prior to approval, clarifies DPR's authority to enter into agreements for acquisition and operation of cabins in state parks, and clarifies that concession contract renewals are subject to competitive bidding requirements.

Status: Chapter 559, Statutes of 2015

AB 988 (Mark Stone, Atkins) - Outdoor Environmental Education and Recreation Grants Program.

Requires the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to establish an Outdoor Environmental Education and Recreation Grants Program to increase the ability of underserved at-risk populations to participate in outdoor recreation and educational experiences.

Status: Died – Senate Appropriations

AB 1251 (Gomez) - Greenway Development and Sustainment Act.

Enacts the Greenway Development and Sustainment Act. Creates a new real property interest known as a greenway easement, defined as an interest in real property voluntarily created and freely transferable, for the purpose of developing greenways adjacent to urban waterways, by any lawful method for the transfer of interests in real property in the state. Provides that a greenway easement shall be perpetual in duration, and that the particular interests of a greenway easement shall be those granted or specified in the instrument creating or transferring the easement.

Status: Chapter 639, Statutes of 2015

AB 1579 (Travis Allen) - Parks and monuments: operating leases or agreements.

Extends from 20 days to 30 days the time period the Legislature has to review a proposed state park lease agreement before it can be approved by the State Public Works Board.

Status: Died – Senate Natural Resources and Water

AB 1972 (Chau) - Veterans: state park passes.

Requires the Department of Parks and Recreation to issue a park pass for free use of all state park facilities to any veteran of the United States Armed Forces who has a disability, was a prisoner of war, or received a Congressional Medal of Honor, and was honorably discharged, regardless of whether they served during war or peace time.

Status: Died – Senate Appropriations

AB 2148 (Holden) - Unmanned aircraft systems: regulation.

Prohibits the launching, landing, or operation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) from lands, waters and airspace managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) or the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), except as authorized by the DPR or the

DFW by regulation or permit.

Status: Vetoed

Governor's Veto Message:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2148 without my signature.

This bill prohibits the operation of a drone over lands managed by the Department of Parks and Recreation or the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

These departments have authority to promulgate regulations regarding drone use within their respective jurisdictions. In fact, the Department of Parks and Recreation is in the process of developing a regulatory approach to this issue.

I am directing both departments to explore how best to address the concerns raised by this bill.

AB 2249 (Cooley, Bigelow, Gray) - State parks.

Enacts the California Heritage Protection Act, which prohibits a concession contract from providing a contracting party with a trademark interest in the name or names associated with a state park.

Status: Chapter 413, Statutes of 2016

AB 2444 (Eduardo Garcia) - California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2016.

Enacts the California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize issuance of \$3.4975 billion in State General Obligation bonds to finance parks, water, climate adaptation, coastal protection, and outdoor access programs and facilities.

Status: Died – Senate Rules

AB 2549 (Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife) - State park system.

Extends the sunset clause on several provisions of the Fish and Game Code, requires the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to provide donors with accountings of donation expenditures, requires the DPR to make recommendations to improve the state park planning process, and makes other technical amendments.

Status: Chapter 201, Statutes of 2016

AB 2651 (Gomez) - Greenway easements: amenities.

Makes clarifying amendments to the Greenway Development and Sustainment Act.

Status: Chapter 471, Statutes of 2016

AB 2774 (Frazier) - Classification of state lands.

Makes non-substantive changes in provisions relating to the classification of state lands.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 2909 (Levine) - State parks: funding.

Would clarify the information that must be included in a projection of costs for activities funded by the State Parks Revenue Incentive Subaccount, and requires the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to provide an accounting to donors of expenditures of donations deposited in the State Park Contingent Fund. Was subsequently amended to require the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Department of Water Resources to develop and implement an expedited 30-day review process for petitions to transfer or exchange water or water rights, if the transfer is for a reoccurring water transfer.

Status: Died - Senate Appropriations

AJR 4 (Dodd) - Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

Urges the President of the United States and the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior to designate the area known as the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

Status: Resolution Chapter 19, Statutes of 2015

AJR 27 (Levine) - The Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Urges the Congress of the United States to permanently reauthorize and fully fund the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund in order to maintain and preserve land and water resources.

Status: Resolution Chapter 197, Statutes of 2015

SB 204 (Pavley) - State parks.

Declares the value of state parks to the state's historical, natural and cultural heritage, and expands and clarifies authorities of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) related to state park general plans, nonprofit operating agreements, construction contracts, and youth services.

Status: Chapter 573, Statutes of 2015

SB 1020 (Wieckowski) - Land use: mitigation lands.

Specifies alternative action that park and open space districts may take in order to meet mitigation obligations.

Status: Died – Assembly Local Government

SB 1027 (Nielsen) - Parks: property transfer.

Authorizes the County of Tehama to transfer certain park lands originally acquired with state park bond funding to the Evergreen Union School District, if certain conditions are met, including that the land be maintained as a public park.

Status: Chapter 232, Statutes of 2016

SB 1111 (Pavley) - State parks: operating agreements.

Authorizes the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into a statewide agreement with a qualified nonprofit park support organization, and makes other changes relative to state park operating agreements.

Status: Chapter 540, Statutes of 2016

SB 1333 (Block) - State beaches and parks: smoking ban.

Prohibits smoking, or disposing of used cigarette waste, on any state beach or in a state park.

Status: Vetoed

Governor's Veto Message:

I am returning Senate Bill 1333 without my signature.

This bill bans smoking at state beaches and parks. The complete prohibition in all parks and beaches is too broad. A more measured - and less punitive - approach might be warranted.

SB 1374 (Lara) - The Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District Act.

Authorizes the formation of the Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District (District) pursuant to existing law, and establishes the governing board structure and powers of the District.

Status: Chapter 486, Statutes of 2016

SCR 79 (McGuire) - Trione Annadel State Park.

Requests the State Park and Recreation Commission, working with the Department of Parks and Recreation, to rename Annadel State Park as Trione Annadel State Park.

Status: Resolution Chapter 179, Statutes of 2015

FISH AND WILDLIFE

AB 96 (Atkins) - Animal parts and products: importation or sale of ivory and rhinoceros horn.

Prohibits the importation or sale of elephant ivory or rhinoceros horn in California.

Status: Chapter 475, Statutes of 2015

AB 290 (Bigelow) - Game mammals: wild pig depredation.

Prohibits the release of pigs into uncontrolled areas, eliminates the requirement for a depredation permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or a hunting tag to take a wild pig and instead allows the unlimited take and possession of wild pigs as specified.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 298 (Gonzalez) - Fish and wildlife: violations.

Makes certain violations of regulations restricting activities in Marine Protected Areas punishable as either an infraction or a misdemeanor, unless the person who violates the regulation holds a commercial fishing license or a commercial passenger fishing boat license, or the violation occurs within two years of a prior violation of the same regulation, in which case the violation shall be a misdemeanor.

Status: Chapter 31, Statutes of 2015

AB 353 (Lackey) - Protected species: take: Bouquet Canyon: habitat restoration project.

Authorizes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to permit the take of a fully protected fish species, the unarmored threespine stickleback (UTS), in order to allow a habitat and flow restoration project in the Bouquet Canyon area of northern Los Angeles County, which will benefit UTS, to proceed.

Status: Chapter 620, Statutes of 2015

AB 367 (Dodd) - Clear Lake.

Appropriates \$2,400,000 to Lake County for the purpose of restoring wetlands, maintaining water quality, and preventing, controlling, and eradicating invasive species in Clear Lake.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

AB 395 (Gallagher) - Hunting: nonlead ammunition.

Repeals AB 711 (Rendon), Chapter 742, Statutes of 2013, and related provisions, which require the use of nonlead ammunition for the taking of all wildlife, including game mammals, game birds, nongame birds, and nongame mammals, with any firearm.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 498 (Levine) - Wildlife conservation: wildlife corridors.

Establishes a state policy to encourage, wherever feasible and practicable, voluntary steps to protect the functioning of wildlife corridors and habitat strongholds.

Status: Chapter 625, Statutes of 2015

AB 499 (Cooley) - Archery season: concealed firearms.

As heard by the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, authorized a person with a concealed weapons permit to have a firearm in his or her possession while engaged in the taking of deer with a bow and arrow during archery-only season, so long as they do not take or attempt to take deer with the firearm. As finally amended and passed, the content of this bill deals instead with earthquake insurance.

Status: As amended, this bill is no longer in the jurisdiction of the committee.

AB 559 (Lopez) - Monarch butterflies: conservation.

Authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to take feasible actions to conserve monarch butterflies and the habitats they depend on for migration, and requires the DFW to use best available science, as specified.

Status: Chapter 478, Statutes of 2015

AB 665 (Frazier) - Hunting or fishing: local regulation.

Provides that the state has fully occupied the field of the taking and possession of fish and game, and preempts any local ordinance or regulation regarding the taking or possession of fish and game.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

AB 1201 (Salas) - Fish and wildlife: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: predation by nonnative species.

Requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife, by June 30, 2016, to develop a science-based plan that addresses predation by nonnative species upon species of fish listed pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) that reside all or a portion of their lives in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and that considers predation reduction for all Chinook salmon and other native species not listed pursuant to CESA.

Status: Died – Senate Appropriations

AB 1259 (Levine) - Bees: apiculture: state-owned lands.

Authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife to allow the temporary placement of beehives on department-managed wildlife areas, through simple lease or permit agreements specifying appropriate conditions, and authorizes the Department of General Services to let public lands for apiary purposes for less than fair market rental if the lease for apiary purposes does not require exclusive use of the land.

Status: Chapter 380, Statutes of 2015

AB 1325 (Salas) - Delta smelt.

Enacts the Delta Smelt Preservation and Restoration Act of 2016, which would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a Delta smelt hatchery program, and to enter into mitigating banking agreements authorizing take of Delta smelt in exchange for funding of the hatchery program.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 1453 (Bloom) - Protection of orcas: unlawful activities.

Prohibits captive breeding of orcas in California; prohibits orcas, other than those currently in captivity, from being held in captivity; and prohibits use of orcas for purposes of display, performance or entertainment purposes, with specified exceptions.

Status: The content of this bill was amended into SB 839 (Budget and Fiscal Review), a resources trailer bill which was signed by the Governor.

AB 1470 (Alejo) - Safe Water and Wildlife Protection Act of 2016.

Requires the State Water Resources Control Board, until January 1, 2020, to establish and coordinate the Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force, comprised of specified representatives of state agencies, including the State Coastal Conservancy, in consultation with the Secretary for Environmental Protection, and would prescribe the functions and duties of the task force.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

AB 1527 (Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife) - Fish and wildlife.

Makes various nonsubstantive changes to the Fish and Game Code to improve organization and clarity, remove obsolete or redundant material, and make other technical clarifications and corrections.

Status: Chapter 154, Statutes of 2015

AB 1528 (Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife) - Public resources.

Makes conforming and other nonsubstantive changes to the Public Resources Code, and names the lace lichen as the official state lichen.

Status: Chapter 113, Statutes of 2015

AB 1792 (Wood) - Elk tags: Indian tribes.

Requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), upon request, to meet with individual federally recognized Indian tribes in California, including but not limited to, tribes located within the Pacific Northwest of California, to discuss elk-related issues for elk located within the territory of the individual tribe. Requires the DFW to work collaboratively and in good faith with the tribe to identify possible science-based solutions.

Status: Died – Senate Appropriations

AB 1844 (Gallagher) - Hunting and fishing licenses: reduced license fees: veterans.

Requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to reduce lifetime sportsman's, lifetime hunting, and lifetime fishing license fees by 25 percent for honorably discharged veterans.

Status: Died – Senate Appropriations

AB 1845 (Dahle) - Protected species: take: rough sculpin.

Authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife to authorize the take of rough sculpin, a fully protected fish, resulting from replacement of Spring Creek Bridge in Shasta County if specified conditions are met.

Status: Chapter 293, Statutes of 2016

AB 2001 (Mathis) - Fish: fully protected species: taking or possession.

Authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife to permit the taking of the Owens pupfish, a fully protected fish, in the Owens River and Mojave River watersheds if the take is authorized under a safe harbor agreement.

Status: Chapter 515, Statutes of 2016

AB 2087 (Levine) - Regional conservation frameworks.

Authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife to approve regional conservation investment strategies to identify and provide voluntary guidance for regional conservation, and to encourage investments in conservation through advance mitigation.

Status: Chapter 455, Statutes of 2016

AB 2148 (Holden) - Unmanned aircraft systems: regulation.

Prohibits the launching, landing, or operation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) from lands, waters and airspace managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) or the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), except as authorized by the DPR or the DFW by regulation or permit.

Status: Vetoed

Governor's Veto Message:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2148 without my signature.

This bill prohibits the operation of a drone over lands managed by the Department of Parks and Recreation or the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

These departments have authority to promulgate regulations regarding drone use within their respective jurisdictions. In fact, the Department of Parks and Recreation is in the process of developing a regulatory approach to this issue.

I am directing both departments to explore how best to address the concerns raised by this bill.

AB 2305 (Bloom) - Protection of orcas: unlawful activities.

Prohibits captive breeding of orcas in California; prohibits orcas, other than those currently in captivity, from being held in captivity; and prohibits use of orcas for purposes of display, performance or entertainment purposes, with specified exceptions.

Status: The content of this bill was amended into SB 839 (Budget and Fiscal Review), a resources trailer bill which was signed by the Governor.

AB 2488 (Dababneh) - Protected species: unarmored threespine stickleback: taking or possession.

Permits the Department of Fish and Wildlife to authorize the take of unarmored threespine stickleback, a fully protected fish species, attributable to maintenance of the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California's Foothill Feeder water supply facility.

Status: Chapter 387, Statutes of 2016

AB 2549 (Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife) - State park system.

Extends the sunset clause on several provisions of the Fish and Game Code, requires the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to provide donors with accountings of donation expenditures, requires the DPR to make recommendations to improve the state park planning process, and makes other technical amendments.

Status: Chapter 201, Statutes of 2016

AB 2555 (Levine) - Fish and wildlife.

As introduced and heard in the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, this bill extended the operative date on several sections of the Fish and Game Code that were otherwise set to sunset on January 1, 2017. Most of the content of this bill was subsequently amended into AB 2594 which was enacted, and this bill was instead amended to deal with the topic of building standards, a subject outside the jurisdiction of this committee.

Status: Most of the content of this bill was amended into AB 2594, which was signed by the Governor.

SB 165 (Monning) - Production or cultivation of a controlled substance: civil penalties.

Increases the civil penalties for various violations of the Penal Code, Fish and Game Code, and Public Resources Code, in connection with the production or cultivation of marijuana or other controlled substances on natural resource lands.

Status: Chapter 139, Statutes of 2015

SB 223 (Galgiani) - Division of Boating and Waterways: oversight committee: invasive aquatic plants.

Requires the Division of Boating and Waterways (Division) within the Department of Parks and Recreation to establish an advisory committee to evaluate and monitor activities of the Division related to management and control of invasive aquatic species.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

SB 233 (Hertzberg) - Marine resources and preservation.

Modifies the California Marine Resources Legacy Act regarding applications to allow the partial removal of a decommissioned offshore oil structure.

Status: Died – Assembly Appropriations

SB 345 (Berryhill) - The Sport Fishing Stimulus Act of 2015.

Allows, for a period of five years beginning in 2018 and until 2023, persons age 16 or 17 years old to purchase a junior fishing license at a reduced fee. Also allows a charitable organization to possess fish in excess of a possession limit if the fish was donated.

Status: Died - Assembly Appropriations

SB 798 (Committee on Natural Resources and Water) - Natural resources.

An omnibus committee bill, makes numerous substantive and non-substantive clarifying revisions to update the Fish and Game, Government, Public Resources, and Water Codes.

Status: Chapter 683, Statutes of 2015

SB 1020 (Wieckowski) - Land use: mitigation lands.

Specifies alternative action that park and open space districts may take in order to meet mitigation obligations.

Status: Died – Assembly Local Government

SB 1062 (Lara) - Elephants: prohibited treatment.

Prohibits any person who houses, possesses, manages, or is in direct contact with an elephant, from using, or authorizing or allowing an employee, agent or contractor to use, a bullhook, ankus, baseball bat, axe handle, pitchfork, or other device designed to inflict pain for the purpose of training or controlling an elephant. Use includes brandishing, exhibiting, or displaying the devices in the presence of an elephant.

Status: Chapter 234, Statutes of 2016

SB 1089 (Pavley) - Wildlife Conservation Board.

Adds four public members, one appointed by the Assembly Speaker, one by the Senate Rules Committee, and two by the Governor, to the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Status: Chapter 481, Statutes of 2016

SB 1188 (McGuire, Nielsen, Wolk) - Wildlife management areas: payment of taxes and assessments.

Requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife, when income is derived from wildlife management areas, to make payments in lieu of taxes to the counties in which the state wildlife management areas are located, subject to appropriation by the Legislature.

Status: Vetoed

Governor's Veto Message:

I am returning Senate Bill 1188 without my signature.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife's wildlife areas are a vast network of public lands that provide hunting, fishing and refuge for wildlife. Payments in lieu of taxes keep rural counties whole so that the Department can maintain and acquire wildlife areas for the public's benefit.

Last year, after twelve years of departure, I included these payments as part of the State's base budget, and I will continue to do so.

SB 1287 (McGuire) - Fishing.

Requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish a crab trap retrieval program, and makes other changes relative to Dungeness crab permits.

Status: Chapter 542, Statutes of 2016

SB 1396 (Wolk) - Wildlife Conservation Board: Inner Coast Range Program.

Establishes the Inner Coast Range Program under the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), and authorizes the WCB to undertake actions, in collaboration and cooperation with local governments, interested parties, and an advisory committee, to further the goals and purposes of the program. Defines the Inner Coast Range Region to include all or portions of the area lying within the Counties of Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Tehama, Trinity, and Yolo counties, within specified boundaries primarily drawn by watersheds in the region.

Status: Died – Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife

SB 1473 (Committee on Natural Resources and Water) - Natural resources.

Makes procedural and technical changes to update the Fish and Game Code, including conforming certain regulatory processes of the Fish and Game Commission to the State Administrative Procedures Act (APA), and deleting obsolete provisions.

Status: Chapter 546, Statutes of 2016

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