

Staff Report 52

DISCUSSION

The Legislature recently returned from a week-long spring recess and is processing the last round of bill referrals for amended spot bills. The first major policy committee deadline, the last day for policy committees to hear and report fiscal bills introduced in the house of origin, is in about three weeks.

Legislators introduced 2,214 bills this year, 674 of which were placeholder bills (481 spot bills and 193 intent bills). In late March, several offshore wind energy spot bills were amended with substantive language. One bill would put forward a \$1 billion dollar bond to support offshore wind energy development. Another, the Offshore Wind Training Facility Development Act, would require the California Energy Commission to oversee the allocation and use of funds to develop training for the offshore wind energy industry. There is also a bill to establish a local and tribal community offshore wind capacity building fund to award grants to build capacity in local and tribal communities for offshore wind energy development. Offshore wind energy is integral to meeting California's clean energy and carbon neutrality goals.

Other issues staff are following include aquaculture, California's goal to conserve 30 percent of land and coastal waters by 2030, idle oil and gas well remediation, plastic pollution reduction, lithium production, a climate bond, and the Tijuana River transboundary pollution crisis, among a host of other things.

The most dominant issue this year, however, is the roughly \$38 billion budget shortfall. The deficit will affect how a lot of the bills proposed this year will fare since so many of them hinge on funding. Senate Pro Tem Mike McGuire and the Senate Budget Committee Chair Scott Wiener recently announced [a plan](#) to reduce the shortfall by roughly \$17 billion through early action ahead of the May Revise and the June deadline to pass a state budget.

Below are summaries and status of bills affecting the State Lands Commission or issue areas relevant to the State Lands Commission's mission, vision, and responsibilities.

TRACKED BILLS

30 x 30 GOAL

AB 2440 (REYES D) 30x30 GOAL: PARTNERING STATE AGENCIES: DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION.

Status: Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

Summary: This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to prioritize promoting and supporting partnering state agencies and departments in the acquisition and responsible stewardship of state land. This bill would also require that a portion of an Agency report on California's 30x30 goal concerning state funding to include information on the amount of funding expended by each partnering state agency and department for land and water conservation, science and research, public outreach and engagement, and managing, monitoring, and restoring conserved lands and water.

AB 2285 (RENDON D) NATURAL RESOURCES: EQUITABLE OUTDOOR ACCESS: 30x30 GOAL: URBAN NATURE-BASED PROJECTS.

Status: Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

Summary: This bill would provide that the Governor's Office, state agencies, and the Legislature, when distributing resources, shall aspire to recognize the coequal goals and benefits of California's 30x30 goal and Outdoors for All, and to the extent practical, maximize investment in urban communities consistent with those initiatives.

AB 2320 (IRWIN D) WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACT OF 2024: WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.

Status: Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

Summary: Existing law requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to report to the Legislature annually on progress toward achieving California's 30x30 goals. This bill, the Wildlife Connectivity and Climate Adaptation Act of 2024, would require the report to identify key wildlife corridors, connections between large blocks of natural areas and habitats, progress on protecting additional acres of wildlife corridors, and goals for wildlife corridor protection in the next 5 years.

AB 3023 (PAPAN D) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: LANDS AND COASTAL WATERS: CONSERVATION GOALS: 30x30 GOAL.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to post on its website the criteria used to determine whether to approve plans submitted in pursuit of reaching the 30x30 goal.

SB 1402 (MIN D) 30x30 GOAL: STATE AGENCIES: ADOPTION, REVISION, OR ESTABLISHMENT OF PLANS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS.

Status: Senate Governmental Organization Committee

Summary: This bill would require all state agencies, departments, boards, offices, commissions, and conservancies to consider California's 30x30 goal when adopting, revising, or establishing plans, policies, and regulations.

AQUACULTURE

AB 3162 (BENNETT D) OCTOPUS: AQUACULTURE: SALE: PROHIBITION.

Status: Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

Summary: This bill would prohibit a person from engaging in an aquaculture activity that involves the propagation, cultivation, maintenance, or harvest of any species of octopus for human consumption. The bill would prohibit a business owner or operator from selling octopus that is the result of an aquaculture activity that involves the propagation, cultivation, maintenance, or harvest of any species of octopus. The bill would define "aquaculture activity" as including the use of land-based recirculating aquaculture systems.

AB 3220 (PAPAN D) MARINE RESOURCES: DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE: AUTHORITY: MARICULTURE.

Status: Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

Summary: This bill would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to consider and, if appropriate, investigate whether and how to seek state verification authority from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and any other appropriate federal agencies that offer state verification authority in order to streamline the review and approval of federal permits issued by the United States

Army Corps of Engineers or another federal agency that may be required by a mariculture project that intends to operate within California.

BLUE CARBON

[AB 1992](#) ([BOERNER D](#)) *COASTAL RESOURCES: COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMITS: BLUE CARBON DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.*

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Summary: This bill would enable the California Coastal Commission to authorize blue carbon demonstration projects to assess their carbon sequestration potential to help inform the state's natural and working lands and climate resilience strategies. The bill would authorize the California Coastal Commission to require an applicant with a project that impacts coastal wetland, subtidal, intertidal, or marine habitats or ecosystems to build or contribute to a blue carbon demonstration project.

BONDS

[AB 1567](#) ([GARCIA D](#)) *SAFE DRINKING WATER, WILDFIRE PREVENTION, DROUGHT PREPARATION, FLOOD PROTECTION, EXTREME HEAT MITIGATION, CLEAN ENERGY, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOND ACT OF 2024.*

Status: Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Summary: This bill would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Clean Energy, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize a nearly \$16 billion dollar bond to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, clean energy, and workforce development programs.

[SB 638](#) ([EGGMAN D](#)) *CLIMATE RESILIENCY AND FLOOD PROTECTION BOND ACT OF 2024.*

Status: Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

Summary: This bill would enact the Climate Resiliency and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024 which, if approved by the voters, would authorize a \$6 billion dollar bond for flood protection and climate resiliency projects.

[SB 867](#) ([ALLEN D](#)) *DROUGHT, FLOOD, AND WATER RESILIENCE, WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE, COASTAL RESILIENCE, EXTREME HEAT MITIGATION, BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS, CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE, PARK CREATION AND OUTDOOR ACCESS, AND CLEAN ENERGY BOND ACT OF 2024.*****

Status: Assembly Natural Resources and Water Committee

Summary: This bill would enact the Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate Smart Agriculture, Park Creation and Outdoor Access, and Clean Energy Bond Act of 2024, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize a \$15.5 billion bond to finance projects for drought, flood, and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate smart agriculture, park creation and outdoor access, and clean energy programs.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

[AB 1881](#) ([DAVIES R](#)) *CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION: SCIENTIFIC PANEL EXPERTISE: COASTAL EROSION.*****

Status: Assembly Floor

Summary: The bill would require that any scientific panel established by the Coastal Commission, under its existing authority, include persons with expertise and training on coastal erosion.

[AB 2560](#) ([ALVAREZ D](#)) *DENSITY BONUS LAW: CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT OF 1976.*****

Status: Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee and Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Summary: This bill would provide that any density bonus, concessions, incentives, waivers or reductions of development standards, and parking ratios to which an applicant is entitled under the Density Bonus Law, be permitted notwithstanding the California Coastal Act.

AB 3192 (MURATSUCHI D) MAJOR COASTAL RESORTS: COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMITS:

AUDITS: WASTE.

Status: 3/11/2024-Referred to Coms. on NAT. RES. and JUD.

Summary: This bill would establish the Major Coastal Resorts Environmental Accountability Act and define “major coastal resort.” The bill would require the California Coastal Commission, with the assistance of a consultant, to every 2 years audit a major coastal resort’s compliance with specified provisions, including coastal development permits. The bill would require the coastal resort to compensate the consultant for the cost of the audit. The bill would require the California Coastal Commission to document the audit’s investigation and findings in a public report. The bill would prohibit a major coastal resort from discriminating against or retaliating against any employee or applicant for employment for participating in the audit, investigation, or the report.

EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

ACA 16 (BRYAN D) ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: This measure would amend the California Constitution to declare that people have a right to clean air and water and a healthy environment.

SB 1050 (BRADFORD D) CALIFORNIA AMERICAN FREEDMEN AFFAIRS AGENCY: RACIALLY MOTIVATED EMINENT DOMAIN.

Status: Assembly Judiciary Committee

Summary: This bill would require the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, which would be established within the California American Freedmen Affairs Agency as provided by SB 490 of the 2023–24 Regular Session, to create and update a database of people who have had property taken from them by the state without just compensation because of racially motivated eminent domain. The bill would define racially motivated eminent domain to mean when the state acquires private property for public use and does not distribute just compensation because of racist or discriminatory motives. The bill would authorize the Office of the Chief Financial Officer to distribute just compensation to a person in that database for the present-day fair market value of the property that was taken if the Chief Financial Officer determines that issuing just compensation would redress past acts

of racial discrimination, prevent future acts of racial discrimination, and benefit the whole of the community and its general welfare.

SB 1403 (BRADFORD D) CALIFORNIA AMERICAN FREEDMEN AFFAIRS AGENCY.

Status: Senate Rules Committee

Summary: This bill would establish the California American Freedmen Affairs Agency in state government and require the agency to implement recommendations from the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States. The bill would require proof of an individual's descendant status to be a qualifying criterion for benefits authorized by the state for descendants. The bill would require the agency to oversee and monitor existing state agencies and departments tasked with engaging in direct implementation of the policies that fall within the scope of the agencies and departments' authority, including policies related to reparations.

GENERAL

AB 2572 (MURATSUCHI D) OCEAN CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL PROJECTS.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: This bill would require the Air Resources Board, among other things, to develop criteria to determine whether an ocean carbon dioxide removal project is environmentally safe and sustainable, and to qualify environmentally safe and sustainable projects for inclusion in carbon credit programs, including the Low Carbon Fuel Standard regulations and market-based compliance mechanism. The bill would require the state board and any agency with a relevant financial incentive program to consider an ocean carbon dioxide removal program to the extent the program achieves similar or better climate and environmental policy goals.

AB 2916 (FRIEDMAN D) ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: FLOATING DEVICES: EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE.

Status: Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee

Summary: This bill would prohibit a buoy, dock, pier, or other floating device that is comprised of expanded polystyrene from being installed, placed into, or used in state waters, except when encased in another material that prevents the release

of the expanded polystyrene into state waters or the environment. The bill would require a buoy, dock, pier, or other floating device that is installed, placed into, or used in state waters before January 2026, and that is repaired or maintained after that date, to comply with this requirement.

AB 3036 (RENDON D) LOS ANGELES RIVER: RIVER RANGER PROGRAM.

Status: Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

Summary: This bill would require the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to collaborate with the Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Conservation Corps, and the State Lands Commission to develop a river ranger program to provide a network of river rangers who assist the public at sites along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.

AB 3040 (BOERNER D) LIABILITY POLICIES: LAWSUITS.

Status: Assembly Insurance Committee and Assembly Judiciary Committee

Summary: This bill would clarify that environmental regulatory orders can trigger coverage under historic insurance liability policies, helping to fund and expedite legacy pollution caused by past industrial development.

GRANTED LANDS

AB 2393 (DIXON R) TIDELANDS AND SUBMERGED LANDS: COUNTY OF ORANGE AND NEWPORT BAY: FRANCHISES OR LEASES.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Summary: Current law grants Orange County all the right, title, and interest of the State of California in and to certain tide and submerged lands in Newport Bay, in trust, for certain purposes and subject to the Commission's oversight. Current law prohibits the county from granting franchises or leases for those tide and submerged lands for periods that exceed 50 years. This bill would extend to 66 years the maximum period for which the county may grant franchises or leases for the use of tide and submerged lands for trust purposes.

AB 2760 (MURATSUCHI D) LOWER EMISSIONS EQUIPMENT AT SEAPORTS AND INTERMODAL YARDS PROGRAM.

Status: Assembly Transportation Committee and Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: This bill would enact the Lower Emissions Equipment at Seaports and Intermodal Yards Program and require the Air Resources Board to administer it. The bill would require the Board to approve as covered equipment certain cargo handling equipment that will reduce emissions at seaports and intermodal yards. The bill would require the Board to establish an application fee, with the revenue deposited in the Air Pollution Control Fund and allow the Legislature to appropriate revenue in the Fund to the Board.

AB 2783 (ALVAREZ D) SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT.

Status: Assembly Local Government Committee and Assembly Judiciary Committee

Summary: The bill would require the Port of San Diego to appoint an ethics board to provide independent ethics advice to the Port board. The bill would require the board to submit ethics complaints to the board of ethics, would prohibit a commissioner from lobbying, contracting with, or being employed by the board or the district for 2 years after serving as a commissioner, and limit commissioner terms. The bill would require the board to fund infrastructure and capital projects that address maritime impacts by the port in cities with maritime terminals and dedicate a percent of the port's revenue to these and other projects. The bill would make the Commission the final arbiter of any disputes about project eligibility or approval.

SB 951 (WIENER D) CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT OF 1976: COASTAL ZONE: COASTAL DEVELOPMENT.

Status: Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Summary: This bill would amend state Housing Element Law to require any local government in the coastal zone, as part of updating its housing element, to complete all necessary local coastal program amendments by the applicable deadline for rezones. This would sync up coastal jurisdictions' housing element updates and any associated Local Coastal Permit amendments, helping prevent a situation where a local government's housing element and its Local Coastal Permit are inconsistent about whether or how a site should be developed for housing. The

bill would also significantly limit one of the categories of county Coastal Development Permit actions that can be appealed to the Commission.

MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES

[AB 2509](#) ([KALRA](#) D) *INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT: INVASIVE SPECIES: DEFINITIONS.*

Status: Assembly Agriculture Committee

Summary: This bill would define integrated pest management for purposes of the Food and Agricultural Code to mean, among other things, a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks.

[AB 2827](#) ([REYES](#) D) *INVASIVE SPECIES: PREVENTION.*

Status: Assembly Agriculture Committee and Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee

Summary: This bill would find and declare that it is a state goal to prevent the introduction, and suppress the spread, of invasive species within its borders. The bill would require state agencies to develop and implement strategies to detect, control, monitor, and eradicate invasive species to protect the state's agriculture, environment, and natural resources. The bill would require the Department of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with relevant state agencies, to allocate funds, if available, to implement and enforce these provisions.

OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY

[AB 80](#) ([ADDIS](#) D) *COASTAL RESOURCES: OCEAN RESEARCH: WEST COAST OFFSHORE WIND SCIENCE ENTITY.*

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee

Summary: This bill, which the Commission has a support position on, would require the Ocean Protection Council to oversee the establishment of a nonprofit West Coast Offshore Wind Science Entity for the purpose of directing comprehensive baseline and ongoing monitoring of California's ocean ecosystem as well as targeted research, and ensure that the research is available and used to inform state and federal decisions. The bill would require the entity to perform specified

functions, including reviewing and incorporating existing research, monitoring, data standardization methods, and data portals.

AB 2208 (ZBUR D) CALIFORNIA PORTS DEVELOPMENT AND OFFSHORE WIND INFRASTRUCTURE BOND ACT OF 2024.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee and Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee

Summary: This bill would enact the California Ports Development and Offshore Wind Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize a \$1 billion dollar bond to support offshore wind energy generation.

AB 2212 (LOWENTHAL D) ENERGY: OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee and Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee

Summary: This bill, the Offshore Wind Training Facility Development Act, would require the Energy Commission to oversee the allocation and use of funds allocated to develop training facilities and standardized training for the offshore wind industry, and require a follow up report to the Legislature and Governor.

AB 2235 (LOWENTHAL D) PUBLIC CONTRACTS: LOCAL AGENCIES: WIND INFRASTRUCTURE.

Status: Assembly Local Government Committee

Summary: This bill would authorize the City of Long Beach to procure contracts for its Pier Wind Project and to use any alternative project delivery method, including progressive design-build, for purposes of any contract related to this project. The bill would authorize the city to perform various duties regarding the procurement and administration of these contracts.

AB 2537 (ADDIS D) ENERGY: OFFSHORE WIND GENERATION: GRANT PROGRAM.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee and Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee

Summary: This bill would establish a Local and Tribal Communities Offshore Wind Capacity Building Fund to award grants to build capacity in local and tribal communities for purposes of offshore wind energy development, including for activities related to consultation, participation in project planning and development, programs connecting members of tribal nations and

underrepresented communities to careers in science, technology, engineering, and math, and the implementation of local and tribal benefit agreements. The bill would make local communities, California tribes, and nonprofit organizations eligible for the grants. The bill would require the Department of Water Resources, because of its central procurement role, to establish a grant application process for the fund, develop guidelines for the use of moneys awarded, and prepare and submit an annual report to the Legislature on the implementation and effectiveness of the fund.

AB 3006 (ZBUR D) ENERGY: OFFSHORE WIND GENERATION: WORKFORCE NEEDS.

Status: Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee and Assembly Labor and Employment Committee

Summary: This bill would amend the definition of "infrastructure" as it relates to the Governor's annual 5-year infrastructure plan to the Legislature, to include port infrastructure for offshore wind energy development and would require the 5-year infrastructure plan to assess port infrastructure funding needs for offshore wind energy development. The bill would require the Governor, in consultation with specified entities, including the State Lands Commission, to assess funding opportunities to help build port infrastructure for offshore wind energy development. This bill would require the Energy Commission and the California Workforce Development Board to jointly determine the immediate and long-term workforce needs for offshore wind generation. After the determination is made, the bill would require the Energy Commission and the Board to develop targeted and equitable hiring standards.

SB 1085 (NGUYEN R) OFFSHORE ENERGY PRODUCTION: WILDLIFE IMPACTS: REPORT.

Status: Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Summary: This bill would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature regarding the environmental impact on marine mammals and wildlife from offshore energy production off the California coast.

OIL AND GAS

AB 1866 (HART D) OIL AND GAS: IDLE WELLS.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Summary: This bill would eliminate the schedule of fees for idle wells and would instead require an idle well operator to file a plan with the supervisor to provide for the management and elimination of all idle wells. The bill would require the plan to require the operator to consider specified factors when prioritizing idle wells for testing or plugging and abandonment. The bill would also require operators to restore the surface of the wellpad to as near a natural state as practicable if there are no remaining unplugged wells on the wellpad, or to a condition suitable for alternative use. The bill would make an operator who fails to comply with the plan subject to an additional civil penalty equivalent to the average cost to plug a well, multiplied by the number of wells that the operator failed to plug.

AB 2716 (BRYAN D) OIL AND GAS: LOW-PRODUCTION WELLS: SENSITIVE RECEPTORS.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: This bill would require CalGEM to identify all low-production wells located within 3,200 feet of a sensitive receptor and determine the length of time each of those wells has continuously been a low-production well. The bill would define a low production well as an oil or gas well that averages fewer than 15 barrels of oil a day during 12 consecutive months or a natural gas well whose maximum daily average production does not exceed 60,000 cubic feet of gas, per day, during 12 consecutive months. The bill would include specified idle wells within the definition of a low-production well and exclude a natural gas storage well, a dedicated injection well, an active observation well, and a fully plugged and abandoned well from the definition of a low-production well.

AB 3019 (BAINS D) IDLE WELLS: HAZARDOUS AND IDLE-DESERTED WELL ABATEMENT

FUND: LEGACY OIL AND GAS WELLS: SKILLED AND TRAINED WORKFORCE.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: This bill would require CalGEM to make at least 25 percent of the funds in the Hazardous and Idle Deserted Well Abatement Fund available to a county in which there are at least 100 legacy oil and gas wells and that attests to the department that it can plug and abandon those wells more quickly than the

department can. The bill would also require the department, if it learns of liquid or gas leaking from a legacy oil and gas well, to immediately allocate at least 10 percent of the annual funds to the county in which the well is located if the county attests that it can plug and abandon the well more quickly than CalGEM can.

AB 3155 (FRIEDMAN D) OIL AND GAS WELLS: HEALTH PROTECTION ZONES: CIVIL LIABILITY.

Status: Assembly Judiciary Committee and Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: This bill would make an operator or owner of an oil or gas production facility or well with a wellhead presumptively, jointly and severally liable for a respiratory ailment in a senior or child, a preterm birth or high-risk pregnancy, and a person's cancer diagnosis if specified requirements are met, including that the person lived more than 24 months in a health protection zone and was diagnosed after January 2025.

AB 3233 (ADDIS D) OIL AND GAS: OPERATIONS: RESTRICTIONS: LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: This bill would revise the purpose of the oil and gas provisions within CalGEM to specify that they include protecting public health and safety and environmental quality, preserving air, water, environment, and natural resources, and advancing climate goals in a manner that meets the state's energy goals. And that these provisions create a mandate to minimize harm from oil and gas activities. This bill would authorize a local entity to enact an ordinance to limit or ban oil and gas operations or development in its jurisdiction.

SB 1304 (LIMÓN D) UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL: AQUIFER EXEMPTION.

Status: Senate Rules Committee

Summary: This bill would require a proposed aquifer exemption to meet criteria ensuring that fluid injection will not be in an area at risk for drinking water or groundwater threats. The bill would require the State Water Board to conduct an environmental review of a proposed aquifer exemption and establish associated public comment and hearing requirements.

SB 1425 (GONZALEZ D) OIL REVENUE: OIL TRUST FUND.

Status: Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Summary: This bill, an urgency measure, would increase the state's monthly contribution to the Oil Trust Fund from \$2 million to up to \$13 million to ensure that

the state can fund its share of the liability for the Long Beach Unit and tidelands operations.

[SB 1433](#) ([LIMÓN D](#)) **GRAVITY-BASED ENERGY STORAGE WELL PILOT PROGRAM.**

Status: Senate Rules Committee

Summary: This bill would establish a Gravity-Based Energy Storage Well Pilot Program and authorize the Oil and Gas Supervisor to convert idle and orphan wells to gravity-based energy storage wells, evaluate their use, and establish operating conditions and physical parameters to safely generate energy. The bill would require idle wells that are authorized for use as gravity-based energy storage wells to be identified as gravity-based energy storage wells in a plan or updates to the plan required to be filed with the supervisor. The bill would require the mechanical integrity of gravity-based energy storage wells to be assessed by the Geologic Energy Management Division not less than annually and impose requirements on gravity-based energy storage well operators.

[SJR 12](#) ([MIN D](#)) **OIL AND GAS LEASES: BANKRUPTCY.**

Status: Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Summary: This resolution would urge the President of the United States and the United States Congress to modify bankruptcy rules to provide, in the event of liquidation and termination of oil and gas leases under the United States Bankruptcy Code, that priority is given to plug and abandonment and restoration obligations, to protect the environment, over all secured creditor claims. The Commission adopted a [support position](#) on SJR 12 at its February 2024 meeting.

PLASTIC POLLUTION

[AB 2214](#) ([BAUER-KAHAN D](#)) **OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL: MICROPLASTICS.**

Status: Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee and Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee

Summary: This bill would require the Ocean Protection Council to establish and lead an interagency coordination group to identify and recommend statutory changes to implement recommendations in the statewide microplastics strategy. The bill would require the Council, in coordination with the interagency coordination group, to adopt a workplan and submit it to the Legislature. The Commission would be part of the interagency coordination group.

AB 2236 (BAUER-KAHAN D) SOLID WASTE: REUSABLE GROCERY BAGS: STANDARDS: PLASTIC FILM PROHIBITION.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Summary: This bill would revise the single-use carryout bag exception to include a bag provided before a customer reaches the point of sale that is designed to protect a purchased item from damaging or contaminating other purchased items in a checkout bag or to contain an unwrapped food item. This bill would revise the definition of recycled paper bag to require it be made from 100 percent postconsumer recycled materials, without exception. The bill would also require a reusable grocery bag sold by a store to a customer at the point of sale to meet different requirements than under existing law.

SB 1053 (BLAKESPEAR D) SOLID WASTE: REUSABLE GROCERY BAGS: STANDARDS: PLASTIC FILM PROHIBITION

Status: Senate Environmental Quality Committee

Summary: This bill would revise the single-use carryout bag exception to include a bag used solely to contain or wrap specified uncooked foods and other specified items to avoid contamination, prevent damage from moisture, or for sanitary, public health, or environmental protection purposes. The bill would revise the definition of recycled paper bag to require it be made from 100 percent postconsumer recycled materials, without exception.

SB 1231 (ALLEN D) PLASTIC POLLUTION PREVENTION AND PACKAGING PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ACT: ENVIRONMENTAL ADVERTISING.

Status: 3/12/2024-Set for hearing April 17.

Summary: The Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act covers certain single-use packaging and plastic single-use food service ware. The Act requires producers of those covered materials to reduce and recycle the covered plastic material and to ensure that covered materials that are offered for sale, distributed, or imported in or into the state on or after January 1, 2032, are recyclable or compostable. The act authorizes the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to identify materials that are trending toward meeting specified requirements and criteria to be considered recyclable and requires those material types and forms to be considered and labeled as recyclable if the material types and forms meet certain requirements. This bill would instead

authorize a producer or group of producers of products using covered materials to petition the department to identify material types and forms that meet those specified requirements and criteria to be considered as recyclable in the state.

PUBLIC LANDS

AB 2196 (CONNOLLY D) BEAVER RESTORATION.

Status: Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

Summary: This bill would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to consult with beaver restoration program partners to develop a beaver restoration program.

AB 2197 (ADDIS D) PERSONAL INCOME TAXES: PROTECT OUR COAST AND OCEANS VOLUNTARY TAX CONTRIBUTION FUND.

Status: Assembly Floor

Summary: This bill would extend California's beach and coastal access voluntary tax contribution fund until January 2032.

AB 2298 (HART D) COASTAL RESOURCES: VOLUNTARY VESSEL SPEED REDUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE SHIPPING PROGRAM.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: This bill would require the Ocean Protection Council to implement a voluntary vessel speed reduction and sustainable shipping program for the California coast in order to reduce air pollution, the risk of fatal vessel strikes on whales, and harmful underwater acoustic impacts.

SB 1226 (CORTESE D) HUNTING: NAVIGABLE WATERS.

Status: Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Summary: Existing law makes it unlawful to enter land for the purpose of discharging a firearm or taking or destroying any mammal or bird on that land, without obtaining written permission from the owner if the land belongs to, or is occupied by, another person and is either under cultivation or enclosed by a fence or there are signs forbidding trespass or hunting displayed along exterior boundaries and roads and trails entering those lands, including land temporarily inundated by water flowing outside the established banks of a waterway. This bill would restrict the application of the provisions regarding land temporarily inundated by water

flowing outside a waterway to non-navigable waters. The bill would also state that these provisions do not restrict the public's right to use navigable waters for hunting, fishing, or other public purposes under the California Constitution.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

[SB 974](#) ([GROVE R](#)) **LITHIUM EXTRACTION TAX: FUND DISTRIBUTION.**

Status: Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee

Summary: This bill would, instead of depositing 20 percent of the money in the Lithium Extraction Excise Tax Fund into the Salton Sea Lithium Fund, deposit 20 percent of the revenues collected in Imperial County into the Salton Sea Lithium Fund. The bill would also distribute 20 percent of the revenues collected in Kern County to communities that county that are most impacted by lithium extraction. The bill would remove a restriction on the Lithium Extraction Excise Tax Fund and would change the amount deposited into the Salton Sea Lithium Fund.

SALTON SEA

[AB 2610](#) ([GARCIA D](#)) **PROTECTED SPECIES: AUTHORIZED TAKE: SALTON SEA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: SYSTEM CONSERVATION IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT.**

Status: Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

Summary: This bill would authorize the Department of Fish and Wildlife to authorize the take of species resulting from impacts attributable to the implementation of the Salton Sea Management Program or implementation of any System Conservation Implementation Agreement between the United States Bureau of Reclamation and the Imperial Irrigation District to implement the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program.

[AB 2757](#) ([GARCIA D](#)) **SOUTHEAST CALIFORNIA ECONOMIC REGION.**

Status: Assembly Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy Committee

Summary: This bill would designate a southeast California economic region to better align state and federal programs, services, and funding in communities impacted by the extraction and processing of lithium and other minerals from the Salton Sea and clean energy development in the surrounding areas. The bill would require an inter-agency leadership team to prepare a list of state programs that

use the southeast California economic region designation for planning and funding purposes.

SEA LEVEL RISE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

[SB 1497 \(MENJIVAR D\)](#) **POLLUTERS PAY CLIMATE COST RECOVERY ACT OF 2024.**

Status: Senate Rules Committee

Summary: This bill would enact the Polluters Pay Climate Cost Recovery Act of 2024 and to require fossil fuel polluters to pay their fair share of the damage caused by their products during a specified time. The bill would require CalEP, the administering agency, to conduct and keep updated a climate cost study to quantify the damage amount. The revenue would go into polluters pay climate fund and be appropriated, by CalEPA, to mitigate, adapt, or respond to the damages and costs to the state from climate change.

TIJUANA RIVER

[AJR 12 \(ALVAREZ D\)](#) **TIJUANA RIVER: CROSS-BORDER POLLUTION.**

Status: Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee

Summary: This resolution would urge Congress to support President Biden's \$310 million supplemental funding request for the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission owing to the ongoing impacts on public health, the environment, and the local economy caused by cross-border pollution in the Tijuana River Valley and would urge President Biden to declare a national emergency. The Commission adopted a [support position](#) on this resolution at its February 2024 public meeting.

[SB 1178 \(PADILLA D\)](#) **CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION ACT.**

Status: Senate Rules Committee

Summary: This bill would require the State Water Board to establish regulations regarding water discharge compliance and reporting. The bill would require the Board to quantify the cost of mitigating contamination from a water discharge and notify compliance entities of these costs. The bill would establish mechanisms for mitigating compliance and create a water quality and public health impact fund to collect revenue from a new surcharge authorized by the bill. The money in the

fund could be used to mitigate contamination on state waters caused by reported water discharges.

[SB 1208](#) ([PADILLA D](#)) **WASTE DISCHARGE PERMITS: LANDFILLS.**

Status: Senate Environmental Quality Committee

Summary: This bill would prohibit a regional water board from issuing a waste discharge permit for a new landfill that is used to dispose of nonhazardous solid waste if the land is in the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve or a tributary to the Tijuana River.

[SB 1342](#) ([ATKINS D](#)) **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO.**

Status: Senate Environmental Quality Committee

Summary: Current law authorizes the Governor to certify projects meeting certain requirements as infrastructure projects and provides those certified projects with CEQA streamlining benefits, This bill would include the San Vicente Energy Storage Facility project proposed by the San Diego County Water Authority and a project for the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of the South Bay Sewage Treatment Plant, operated by the International Boundary and Water Commission, as infrastructure projects, providing CEQA streamlining benefits to those projects.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION

[AB 3183](#) ([ALVAREZ D](#)) **PUBLIC RESOURCES: NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION.**

Status: Assembly Natural Resources and Water Committee

Summary: This bill would revise the Native American Heritage Commission composition to require at least five of the nine members to be elders, traditional people, or spiritual leaders of California Native American tribes that are federally recognized or that are actively seeking federal recognition, nominated by Native American organizations or tribes within the state.

WETLANDS

[AB 2875](#) ([FRIEDMAN D](#)) **WETLANDS: STATE POLICY.**

Status: Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

Summary: This bill would declare that it is a state policy to ensure no net loss and long-term gain in the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetlands acreage and values in California.