

# Staff Report 59 (Informational)

## DISCUSSION

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Legislators introduced 4,821 bills introduced during the 2023-24 legislative session, 1,206 of which went to the Governor's desk. The Governor signed 1,017 bills and vetoed 189 bills. The Legislature is now in recess and will reconvene on December 2 at noon for the 2025-26 regular session. Statutes generally take effect on January 1, 2025, unless stated otherwise.

The Commission did not sponsor any legislation this year, but it supported two resolutions: [AJR 12](#) (Alvarez) and [SJR 12](#) (Min), and the following bills: [AB 2196](#) (Connolly) to facilitate beaver relocation, [SB 1053](#) (Blakespear) / [AB 2236](#) (Bauer Kahan) to address the plastic pollution crisis damaging the marine environment, [AB 2197](#) (Addis) to continue California's successful Protect our Coast and Oceans Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund, and [SB 1425](#) (Gonzalez) to increase the monthly revenue generated from the Long Beach tidelands oil and gas operations transferred to the state's Oil Trust Fund to \$5 million or 50 percent of the remaining oil revenue, whichever is greater, received from the City of Long Beach. The Governor signed all of these bills—save AB 2236 because it was identical to SB 1053.

Staff joined a coalition of proponents to advocate for the passage of SB 1053 and AB 2236, which require stores to offer only recycled paper bags at check-out instead of thicker non-recyclable plastic bags that have become ubiquitous in recent years. The Governor signed SB 1053 into law, and AB 2226 remained in the Assembly. The non-recyclable plastic bag ban will take effect in January 2026.

The Governor signed a [climate bond](#) that will go before voters in the November 2024 election and, if approved, enact a \$10 billion climate bond. The bond includes \$475 million for port infrastructure to support offshore wind energy development.

Legislators introduced six bills to facilitate offshore wind energy. Two of these bills made it to the Governor's desk—AB 2537 (Addis) to create a capacity-building grant program at the California Energy Commission and AB 2235 (Lowenthal), which authorizes the City of Long Beach and its Board of Harbor Commissioners to

procure contracts relating to the terminal development project at the Port of Long Beach, known as the [Pier Wind Project](#), and use alternative delivery methods for that purpose. The Governor vetoed AB 2537 and [signed](#) AB 2235.

At the local level, and in terms of our granted public trust lands, AB 2783 (Alvarez) sparked a lot of interest from various groups and communities in the San Diego area. This bill would have imposed requirements on the San Diego Unified Port District Board, such as a mandatory ethics code and lobbyist restrictions, and would have required the Port Board to establish a maritime industrial impact fund to fund projects that mitigate off-tideland impacts from the Port's maritime operations. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved AB 2783 with amendments to remove the maritime impact fund, but the bill did not come up for a vote in the final days of session and never made it to the Governor's desk.

The Governor signed legislation on Native American Day that encourages the Natural Resources Agency to enter into co-governance and co-management agreements with federally recognized tribes. The bill authorizes the Secretary or a delegate from one of the Agency's departments, boards, conservancies, or commissions to enter into agreements with federally recognized tribes to share responsibility and decision-making and partner in resource management and conservation within a tribe's ancestral lands and waters.

On a lighter note, the Governor signed [a trio of bills](#) that recognize the Dungeness crab as its official crustacean, the banana slug as the official slug, and the black abalone as its official seashell. The Governor also signed legislation banning octopus aquaculture for human consumption and the sale or possession of octopus resulting from aquaculture.

Concurrent with the end of session, the Governor called a [special session](#) to address gasoline price spikes at the pump. Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire released a statement following the call for a special session, saying that the Senate will not be convening a special session this fall but looks forward to continuing conversations with the Governor and Speaker about this critical issue. Senator McGuire later said the Senate would participate. On September 3, Assemblymembers Hart and Aguiar-Curry introduced [AB X1](#) to stabilize California's oil market. This bill would authorize the California Energy Commission to increase transportation fuel supply through various actions. AB X1 was followed by [AB X2](#) (Lackey), which would suspend California's motor vehicle fuel tax for a year. Seven additional bills were introduced last month, and special session proceedings started in the Assembly in late September.

Below are summaries and status updates for bills Commission staff tracked this past year.

## TRACKED BILLS

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### 30 x 30 GOAL

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

**Status:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill requires 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 requires that a portion of an Agency report on California's 30x30 goal concerning state funding 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:** Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have provided 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 maximize investment in urban communities consistent with those initiatives.

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

**Status:** Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have made it a state policy to increase connectivity between habitat areas to protect wildlife and requires California's annual 30x30 report to outline progress in protecting wildlife corridors.

**[SB 1402](#) ([Min D](#)) **30x30 GOAL: STATE AGENCIES: ADOPTION, REVISION, OR ESTABLISHMENT OF PLANS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS.****

**Status:** Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have required 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:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill prohibits a person from engaging in octopus aquaculture for human consumption and the sale or possession of octopus that is known to be the result of aquaculture.

**[AB 3220](#) ([Papan D](#)) **MARINE RESOURCES: DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE: AUTHORITY: MARICULTURE.****

**Status:** Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have required the Department of Fish and Wildlife to consider and potentially investigate whether and how to seek state verification authority from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies that offer state verification authority 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](#)) **CARBON SEQUESTRATION: BLUE CARBON AND TEAL CARBON DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.****

**Status:** [Vetoed](#)

**Summary:** This bill would have authorized the California Coastal Commission and the California Natural Resources Agency to authorize blue and teal carbon

demonstration projects in certain coastal areas and inland wetlands beginning in January 2028.

## **BONDS**

### **[SB 867](#) ([ALLEN D](#)) *SAFE DRINKING WATER, WILDFIRE PREVENTION, DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS, AND CLEAN AIR BOND ACT OF 2024.***

**Status:** Signed into law. Proposition 4 on the November 2024 ballot

**Summary:** This bill enacts the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize a \$10 billion dollar bond to finance projects for safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate-smart, sustainable, and resilient farms, ranches, and working lands, park creation and outdoor access, and clean air programs.

## **CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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

**Status:** Signed into law

**Summary:** The bill requires that any scientific panel established by the Coastal Commission include persons with expertise and training on coastal erosion.

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

**Status:** Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have provided 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.

## EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### **ACA 16 (BRYAN D) ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS.**

**Status:** Assembly Floor

**Summary:** This measure would have amended the California Constitution to declare that people have a right to clean air and water and a healthy environment considering general well-being and other needs of the people. The measure would have specified that the principles inherent in these rights shall serve as a guide to all branches of government in the performance of their official duties and that these rights shall inure to all people in equal measure and shall not be construed or applied in a manner inconsistent with state laws or other rights set forth in the California Constitution.

### **AB 3089 (JONES-SAWYER D) CHATTEL SLAVERY: FORMAL APOLOGY.**

**Status:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill affirms California's recognition of the harms caused by chattel slavery and issues a formal apology that will be memorialized with a plaque in the State Capitol.

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

**Status:** Vetoed

**Summary:** This bill would have established a procedure by which a dispossessed owner of property that was taken through racially motivated eminent domain may apply for the return of property, property of equal value, or compensation.

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

**Status:** Assembly Inactive File

**Summary:** This bill would have established the California American Freedmen Affairs Agency in state government and required 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 have required proof of an individual's descendant status to be a qualifying criterion for benefits authorized by the state for descendants. The bill would have required 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 2916](#) ([FRIEDMAN D](#)) *ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: FLOATING DEVICES: EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE.***

**Status:** Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have prohibited 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 have required 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:** Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have required 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

**Summary:** This bill would have clarified 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:** Signed into law

**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 extends 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:** Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have enacted the Lower Emissions Equipment at Seaports and Intermodal Yards Program and required 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 have required the Board to establish an application fee, with the revenue deposited in the Air Pollution Control Fund and allow the Legislature to appropriate the revenue to the Air Resources Board.

### **[AB 2783](#) ([ALVAREZ D](#)) *SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT.***

**Status:** Assembly Floor

**Summary:** The bill would have made changes to the San Diego Unified Port District Act, including requirements to establish a lobbyist registry and a board of ethics. The bill would have required the board of ethics to provide investigation findings to the State Lands Commission and to the city that appointed the commissioner that was subject to the investigation. The bill would have also placed requirements on the City of San Diego commissioners—among other things.



**[SB 951](#) ([WIENER D](#)) *CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT OF 1976: COASTAL ZONE: COASTAL DEVELOPMENT.***

**Status:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill clarifies a criterion to appeal a local jurisdiction's approval of a coastal development permit to the California Coastal Commission and authorizes local government notification of final action on a coastal development permit to the California Coastal Commission by email—among other things.

**MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES**

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

**Status:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill requires the Invasive Species Council of California to prioritize integrated pest management to control invasive species already established in California and define integrated pest management and invasive species for those purposes.

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

**Status:** Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have declared it a state goal to prevent the introduction and suppress the spread of invasive species. The bill would have required state agencies to develop and implement strategies to detect, control, monitor, and eradicate invasive species to protect California's agriculture, environment, and natural resources. The bill would have required the Department of Food and Agriculture to allocate funds, if available, to implement and enforce these provisions.

**OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY**

**[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 have enacted the California Ports Development and Offshore Wind Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024, which, if approved by the voters, would have authorized a \$1 billion dollar bond to support offshore wind energy generation.

**[AB 2212](#) ([LOWENTHAL](#) D) *ENERGY: WORKFORCE SAFETY TRAINING FACILITIES.***

**Status:** Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill, the Offshore Wind Training Facility Development Act, would have required the Energy Commission to oversee the allocation and use of funds allocated to develop training facilities and standardized training for the offshore wind industry.

**[AB 2235](#) ([LOWENTHAL](#) D) *PUBLIC CONTRACTS: LOCAL AGENCIES: WIND INFRASTRUCTURE.***

**Status:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill authorizes the City of Long Beach and its Board of Harbor Commissioners to procure contracts relating to the terminal development project at the Port of Long Beach, known as the [Pier Wind Project](#), and use alternative delivery methods for that purpose.

**[AB 2537](#) ([ADDIS](#) D) *ENERGY: OFFSHORE WIND GENERATION: GRANT PROGRAM.***

**Status:** [Vetoed](#)

**Summary:** This bill would have created an Offshore Wind Community Capacity Building Fund Grant Account and continuously appropriated money in the account to the California Energy Commission to award grants to local communities, California tribes, and nonprofit organizations to engage in the offshore wind energy development process. This bill would have required offshore wind energy developers to provide financial assistance to fund the capacity-building grants.

**[AB 3006](#) ([ZBUR](#) D) *ENERGY: OFFSHORE WIND GENERATION: WORKFORCE NEEDS.***

**Status:** Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have required the Governor's annual five-year infrastructure plan to assess port infrastructure funding needs to support offshore wind energy development and would have expanded the definition of

“infrastructure” for purposes of this plan to include port infrastructure for offshore wind energy development.

**[SB 1085](#) ([NGUYEN R](#)) *OFFSHORE ENERGY PRODUCTION: WILDLIFE IMPACTS: REPORT.***

**Status:** Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have required the Department of Fish and Wildlife to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature about 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:** [Signed into law](#)

**Summary:** This bill addresses the growing problem of idle oil and gas wells in California. Idle oil and gas wells are wells that are no longer in active use but have not been properly decommissioned. This bill increases idle well fees and increases the number of wells that must be eliminated under an idle well management plan.

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

**Status:** [Signed into law](#)

**Summary:** This bill prohibits the operation of low-production oil and gas wells in an oil field within the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (the largest urban oil field in California), requires CalGEM to identify these wells, imposes a \$10,000 per month penalty on these wells if certain criteria are not met, and provides for penalty revenue to fund projects such as park creation to benefit the nearby community.

**[AB 3019](#) ([BAINS D](#)) *OIL AND GAS WELLS: HAZARDOUS AND IDLE-DESERTED WELL ABATEMENT FUND.***

**Status:** Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have required CalGEM to make funding available to a county with at least 100 orphaned or deserted oil and gas wells and that attests that it can plug and abandon the wells quicker than CalGEM.

**[AB 3155 \(FRIEDMAN D\)](#) OIL AND GAS WELLS: HEALTH PROTECTION ZONES: CIVIL LIABILITY.**

**Status:** Assembly Inactive File

**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:** [Signed into law](#)

**Summary:** This bill gives cities and counties greater authority to impose restrictions on oil and gas operations, including limiting or prohibiting new oil and gas developments in their jurisdictions. It authorizes local jurisdictions to enact an ordinance that prohibits oil and gas operations or development within their jurisdiction or to impose regulations, limits, or prohibitions on oil and gas development that are more protective of public health, the climate, or the environment than those prescribed by state law.

**[SB 1304 \(LIMÓN D\)](#) UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL: AQUIFER EXEMPTION.**

**Status:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill requires the State Water Board to determine in a public meeting whether a proposed aquifer exemption for a Class II underground injection control program aquifer exemption merits consideration, and institutes certain public notice and comment requirements as well as requiring an analysis of all conduits.

**[SB 1425 \(GONZALEZ D\)](#) OIL REVENUE: OIL TRUST FUND.**

**Status:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill, an urgency measure, increases the state's monthly contribution to the Oil Trust Fund from \$2 million to \$5 million or 50 percent of remaining oil revenue, beginning on January 31, 2025, to help fund the state's share of liability for oil and gas operations in the City of Long Beach. The Commission adopted a [support position](#) on SB 1425 at its June 2024 meeting.

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

**Status:** Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have established a Gravity-Based Energy Storage Well Pilot Program and authorized 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 have required 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 filed with the supervisor. The bill would have required CalGEM to assess the mechanical integrity of gravity-based energy storage wells annually and impose requirements on their operation.

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

**Status:** Adopted

**Summary:** This resolution urges the President of the United States and 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 and to protect the environment, and that this priority is given over secured creditor claims. The Commission adopted a [support position](#) on this resolution in February 2024.

**PLASTIC POLLUTION**

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

**Status:** [Vetoed](#)

**Summary:** This bill would have required 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 have required the Council, in coordination with the coordination group, to adopt a workplan and submit it to the Legislature. The Commission would have been part of the interagency coordination group.

**AB 2236 (BAUER-KAHAN D) SOLID WASTE: REUSABLE PAPER BAGS: STANDARDS: CARRYOUT BAG PROHIBITION.**

**Status:** Assembly Floor

**Summary:** This bill revises California’s single-use carryout bag ban to eliminate the distribution of thicker film plastic bags and limit the distribution of carryout bags at the point of sale to recycled paper bags. This bill prohibits a store from providing, distributing, or selling a carryout bag to a customer at the point of sale. The Commission adopted a [support position](#) on AB 2236 in June 2024.

**SB 1053 (BLAKESPEAR D) SOLID WASTE: REUSABLE PAPER BAGS: STANDARDS: CARRYOUT BAG PROHIBITION.**

**Status:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill revises California’s single-use carryout bag ban to eliminate the distribution of thicker film plastic bags and limit the distribution of carryout bags at the point of sale to recycled paper bags. This bill prohibits a store from providing, distributing, or selling a carryout bag to a customer at the point of sale. The Commission adopted a [support position](#) on SB 1053 at its June 2024 meeting.

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

**Status:** Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

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

## PUBLIC LANDS

### **AB 2196 (CONNOLLY D) BEAVER RESTORATION.**

**Status:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to consult with beaver restoration program partners to develop a beaver restoration program. The Commission adopted a [support position](#) on AB 2196 in June 2024.

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

**Status:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill extends California's beach and coastal access voluntary tax contribution fund until January 2032. The Commission adopted a [support position](#) on AB 2197 in June 2024.

### **AB 2298 (HART D) COASTAL RESOURCES: PROTECTING BLUE WHALES AND BLUE SKIS PROGRAM.**

**Status:** Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have required the Ocean Protection Council to participate as a stakeholder, and in an advisory capacity, in the *Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program* with air pollution control districts and air quality management districts to support coastal air districts in their efforts to implement a statewide voluntary vessel speed reduction and sustainable shipping program to reduce air pollution, the risks of fatal vessel strikes on whales, and harmful underwater acoustic impacts.

### **SB 1226 (CORTESE D) HUNTING: NAVIGABLE WATERS.**

**Status:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill modifies a section of the Fish and Game Code that prohibits the use of certain temporarily inundated lands for hunting without permission to clarify that this applies to non-navigable waters only and authorize the use of navigable waters for hunting, fishing, or other public purposes.

**SB 1098 (BLAKESPEAR D) PASSENGER AND FREIGHT RAIL: LOSSAN RAIL CORRIDOR.**

**Status:** Signed into law

This bill requires the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary for Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, to submit a report to the Legislature regarding the LOSSAN Rail Corridor, and to submit a report every two years on the performance of the rail corridor. The bill also requires the California Transportation Agency to convene a working group comprised of LOSSAN Rail Corridor track owners; LOSSAN Rail Corridor passenger and freight rail operators; the county transportation commissions for the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura; the metropolitan planning organizations for those same counties; business, community, transportation, environmental, labor, and civic organizations, and the California Coastal Commission—that is to submit recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation for inclusion in the report that are developed after public engagement led by the working group

**RENEWABLE ENERGY**

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

**Status:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill amends the lithium extraction tax law to provide that 20 percent of the revenues collected in a county other than Imperial County is instead retained by the county where the extraction occurred for distribution to certain communities instead of being allocated to the Salton Sea Lithium Fund.

**AB 1359 (PAPAN D) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATORY PROJECTS: LEAD AGENCY.**

**Status:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill authorizes CalGEM to delegate lead agency authority under the California Environmental Quality Act for geothermal exploratory projects.



## SALTON SEA

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

**Status:** [Vetoed](#)

**Summary:** This bill would have created a Lithium Valley Commission to address challenges in the Imperial and Eastern Coachella Valleys. It would have also established the Southeast California Economic Region to align state and federal programs, services, and funding in communities most impacted by lithium and other mineral extraction and processing from the Salton Sea and to contribute to the nation's defense and security by stimulating local and equitable economic development activities that benefit residents, workers, and businesses.

### **[SB 583 \(PADILLA D\)](#) SALTON SEA CONSERVANCY.**

**Status:** [Signed into law](#)

**Summary:** This bill creates the Salton Sea Conservancy within the California Natural Resources Agency to operate, maintain, and manage projects that are planned or built under the authority of the Salton Sea Management Program. Enactment of this bill is contingent on the passage of the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, placed on the November 2024 ballot.

## SEA LEVEL RISE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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

**Status:** Senate Inactive File

**Summary:** This bill would have enacted the Polluters Pay Climate Cost Recovery Act of 2024 and would have established the Polluters Pay Climate Cost Recovery Program to be administered by CalEPA to require fossil fuel polluters to pay their fair share of the damage caused by the sale of their products between 2000 and 2020.

## TIJUANA RIVER

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

**Status:** Adopted

**Summary:** This resolution urges 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 urges President Biden to declare a national emergency. The Commission adopted a [support position](#) on this resolution in February 2024.

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

**Status:** Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have required 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 have established mechanisms to mitigate 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 would have been used to mitigate contamination on state waters caused by reported water discharges.

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

**Status:** Assembly Floor

**Summary:** This bill would have prohibited 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:** [Signed into law](#)

**Summary:** This bill makes two infrastructure projects eligible for California Environmental Quality Act streamlining certification. These include the San Vicente

Energy Storage Facility project proposed by the San Diego County Water Authority and the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of the South Bay Sewage Treatment Plant operated by the International Boundary and Water Commission.

## TRIBAL CONSULTATION

### **[AB 1284 \(RAMOS D\)](#) TRIBAL ANCESTRAL LANDS AND WATERS: COGOVERNANCE AND COMANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS.**

**Status:** [Signed into law](#)

**Summary:** This bill establishes the Tribal Cogovernance and Comanagement of Ancestral Lands and Waters Act to encourage the California Natural Resources Agency to enter into agreements with federally recognized tribes for the purposes of shared responsibility, decision-making, and partnership in resource management and conservation within a tribe's ancestral lands and waters.

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

**Status:** Assembly Natural Resources and Water Committee

**Summary:** This bill would have revised 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:** Signed into law

**Summary:** This bill declares 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.