

Staff Report 56 (Informational)

DISCUSSION

The bill introduction deadline for the 2025-26 California legislative session is February 21. The Legislature reduced the total number of bill introductions between the two houses this session to about 4,200 bills, a reduction of 1,400 bills compared to past years when legislators could introduce up to 5,600 bills between the two houses. This equates to a roughly 25 percent reduction in legislation. With two days to go before the bill introduction deadline, legislators have introduced roughly 1,300 bills. Several hundred more bills are expected to be introduced by the February 21 deadline.

This year's legislative landscape is heavily influenced by efforts to shore up California against an unfriendly federal Administration. It is also heavily focused on wildfire prevention and recovery in the wake of the devastating Altadena and Palisades wildfires, with legislators having introduced about 70 wildfire-related bills to date. The Governor expanded a special legislative session to help Los Angeles rebuild and, on January 23, signed legislation providing over \$2.5 billion in disaster relief to bolster emergency response and facilitate recovery.

Below are summaries of bills introduced to date affecting the State Lands Commission or issue areas relevant to its mission, vision, and responsibilities. Staff will continue to monitor and analyze these bills, and the remaining bills introduced, and report back to the Commission at its April 2025 meeting.

TRACKED BILLS

MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES

AB 773 (DIXON R) MARINE RESOURCES: COPPER-BASED ANTIFOULING PAINT.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would suspend enforcement of copper-based antifouling paint regulations until certain conditions are met. The State Water Board and the Department of Pesticide Regulation enforce these regulations.

30 x 30 GOAL

AB 900 (PAPAN D) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: 30X30 GOALS: LAND

CONSERVATION: SCIENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to update the Pathways to 30x30 Report to include recommendations to increase science-based management and stewardship of 30x30 lands and to develop strategies to reduce barriers and increase support for science-based management and stewardship of conserved lands. The bill would authorize land acquisition bond funding to be used for these purposes.

ARTIFICIAL REEFS

AB 807 (DIXON R) CONSERVATION AND MITIGATION BANK: MARINE ARTIFICIAL REEFS.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would expand the definition of "conservation bank" and "mitigation bank" to include marine artificial reefs and authorize a person to create a marine artificial reef to establish a mitigation or conservation bank. The bill would provide that if a marine artificial reef is located on state sovereign land, then a lease is required from the State Lands Commission and that this lease would satisfy the requirements for a bank enabling instrument and for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to grant a conservation easement.

BLUE CARBON

AB 399 (BOERNER D) COASTAL RESOURCES: COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMITS: BLUE CARBON DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would authorize the California Coastal Commission to authorize blue carbon demonstration projects to demonstrate and quantify 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 nonresidential project that impacts coastal wetland, subtidal, intertidal, or marine habitats or ecosystems to build or contribute to a blue carbon demonstration project. The bill would require the California Coastal Commission to consult with the State Lands Commission when developing the blue carbon program.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

AB 10 (ESSAYLI R) CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION: CONSISTENCY DETERMINATIONS: VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would void and nullify an [October 2024 California Coastal Commission consistency determination](#) regarding Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) Falcon 9 launch activities at Vandenberg Space Force Base and deem the increased launch activities as consistent with applicable California Coastal Act provisions.

AB 357 (ALVAREZ D) COASTAL RESOURCES: COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT: EXCLUSIONS.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: This bill would exempt student housing projects and faculty and staff housing projects from coastal development permit requirements.

AB 439 (ROGERS D) CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT OF 1976: LOCAL PLANNING AND REPORTING.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: ~~This bill would exempt student housing projects and faculty and staff housing projects from a coastal development permit. This bill would require Commission staff to prepare and present a written report to the full Commission every five years, instead of annually, about administrative penalty violations and require the report to address public access violations. The bill would require the report to include the number of violations referred to the Attorney General, the number of pending violations, and summaries of violations illustrative of the Commission's enforcement workload and that provided significant public benefit.~~

EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

AB 766 (SHARP-COLLINS D) STATE AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS: STRATEGIC PLANS: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would require agencies and departments subject to the Governor's authority to address racial equity in new or updated strategic plans and undertake a racial equity analysis before implementing their budget or regulations.

GENERAL

AB 452 (IRWIN D) COASTAL RECREATION: DESIGNATED STATE SURFING RESERVES.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would require the State Coastal Conservancy to establish criteria and an application process to designate a coastline area as a state surfing reserve. The bill would authorize a local government to apply to the Conservancy for a state surfing reserve designation and require the Conservancy to approve the application if it meets certain criteria.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

AB 462 (LOWENTHAL D) LAND USE: COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMITS: ACCESSORY

DWELLING UNITS.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would exempt the construction of an accessory dwelling unit in Los Angeles County and any county subject to a gubernatorial state of the emergency proclamation on or after February 1, 2015, from the need to obtain a coastal development permit.

OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY

AB 472 (ROGERS D) ENERGY: OFFSHORE WIND GENERATION.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would require the Governor's annual five-year infrastructure plan to assess port infrastructure funding needs to support offshore wind energy development and would expand the definition of "infrastructure," for purposes of this plan, to include port infrastructure for offshore wind energy development. The bill would require the Governor to consult with the State Lands Commission and others to ensure that the assessment accounts for federal, state, and local funding opportunities to help build port infrastructure for offshore wind energy development.

PLASTIC POLLUTION

SB 45 (PADILLA D) RECYCLING: BEVERAGE CONTAINERS: TETHERED PLASTIC CAPS.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would require beverage containers sold after January 2027 to have a tethered cap.

RENEWABLE ENERGY/ALTERNATIVE FUELS

AB 406 (BENNETT D) ENERGY: TRANSPORTATION FUELS ASSESSMENT.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would authorize the Energy Commission to request information from state agencies when it prepares its transportation fuel assessment. Existing law requires the fuels assessment to evaluate future petroleum product and crude oil import needs and identify steps to ensure that marine infrastructure and port facilities can accommodate moving those products. The Commission is required to consult with the State Lands Commission, ports and others as part of this evaluation.

AB 526 (PAPAN D) ENERGY: NEW IN-STATE GEOTHERMAL ENERGY GENERATION.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would require the Energy Commission, in consultation with other agencies, to develop a strategic plan and permitting roadmap for new in-state geothermal energy. The bill would require the State Lands Commission, in coordination with other state agencies and stakeholders, to establish state lands leasing goals for new in-state geothermal energy development for 2035 and 2045 to accommodate planning goals and identify opportunities to work with federal agencies on the timing, scope, and prioritization of geothermal lease sales to support geothermal development on federal lands in California. The bill would also require the Energy Commission, in coordination with the State Lands Commission and other agencies, to assess the level at which geothermal rents and royalties would best support California's long-term renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

SB 298 (CABALLERO D): STATE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION: SEAPORTS: PLAN: ALTERNATIVE FUELS.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would require the Energy Commission to develop a plan to use and deploy alternative fuels at public seaports in California.

AB 531 (ROGERS D): GEOTHERMAL POWERPLANTS AND GEOTHERMAL FIELD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: CERTIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would make geothermal powerplants and field development projects eligible for CEQA streamlining.

GRANTED PUBLIC TRUST LANDS

SB 304 (ARREGUIN D) PUBLIC LANDS: LEASING: GRANT OF TIDE OR SUBMERGED LANDS.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This spot bill would make a nonsubstantive change to [Public Resources Code section 6701](#) relating to granted lands leases.

SEA LEVEL RISE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

SB 285 (BECKER D) NET ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS GOAL: CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL: REGULATIONS.

Status: Senate Environmental Quality Committee

Summary: This bill would, for the purpose of meeting or tracking progress against any state requirement to achieve net zero emissions of greenhouse gases or for the purpose of reporting offsets against any of a reporting entity's greenhouse gas emissions as part of reporting required under the Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act, authorize only qualified carbon dioxide removal to be used to reduce the state's or an entity's greenhouse gas emissions and would require qualified carbon dioxide removal used for those purposes to meet certain requirements. This bill would also extend, indefinitely, the State Air Resources Board's authorization to adopt carbon capture, removal, utilization, and storage program protocols.

AB 491 (CONNOLLY D) CALIFORNIA GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2006: CLIMATE GOALS: NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would codify a state goal to achieve natural carbon sequestration and nature-based climate solution goals that reduce greenhouse

gas emissions by their target dates. The bill would prioritize activities that most rapidly, significantly, and cost-effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The bill would revise the definition of “natural carbon sequestration” to include improved forest management, among other things.

SALTON SEA

SB 369 (PADILLA D) SALTON SEA: RESTORATION PROJECTS: SKILLED AND TRAINED WORKFORCE.

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would require state agency contracts for Salton Sea restoration projects to include an enforceable commitment that every contractor, bidder, and subcontractor use a skilled and trained workforce for certain building and trades work.