

Staff Report 62 (Informational)

INTRODUCTION

The first half of the 2025-26 legislative session ended on September 13. The deadline for the Governor to act on legislation sent to his desk this year was October 13 at midnight. Legislators introduced nearly 2,400 bills this session between the two houses. About one-third of those passed the Legislature.

Below are summaries of bills from this past year that affected the State Lands Commission or involved issue areas relevant to its mission, vision, and responsibilities.

TRACKED BILLS

30 X 30 CALIFORNIA

AB 900 (PAPAN D) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: 30x30 GOALS: LAND CONSERVATION: STEWARDSHIP.

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill requires the California Natural Resources Agency to develop strategies to reduce barriers and increase support for stewardship of conserved lands to further findings in the Pathways to 30x30 Report. The bill also requires the California Natural Resources Agency to collaborate with tribes, state agencies, and stakeholders to prepare a section on stewardship as part of the 2027 annual progress report toward achieving California's 30x30 goals.

ABANDONED VESSELS

AB 274 (RANSOM D) ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS: INVENTORY.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held on Suspense

Summary: This bill would have required the State Lands Commission to inventory abandoned and derelict vessels in the Delta by January 2027.

ARTIFICIAL REEFS

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

Status: Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee – hearing postponed

Summary: This bill would have expanded the definition of a conservation or mitigation bank to include marine artificial reefs and authorized creating of a marine artificial reef to establish a mitigation or conservation bank. The bill would have provided that if a marine artificial reef is located on state sovereign land, 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: Vetoed

Summary: This bill would have authorized 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 have authorized 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 also would have required the California Coastal Commission to consult with the State Lands Commission and other agencies when developing the blue carbon program.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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

Status: Assembly Rules Committee

Summary: This bill would have voided and nullified an [October 2024 California Coastal Commission consistency determination](#) regarding Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) Falcon 9 launch activities at Vandenberg Space Force Base

and deemed the increased launch activities as consistent with applicable California Coastal Act provisions.

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

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill requires California Coastal Commission staff to prepare and present a written report to the Commission every five years, rather than annually, about administrative penalty violations and require the report to address public access violations. The bill requires the report to quantify violations referred to the Attorney General, pending violations, and violation summaries illustrative of the Commission's enforcement workload and that provide significant public benefit.

AB 462 (LOWENTHAL D) LAND USE: ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS.

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill exempts the construction of an accessory dwelling unit in Los Angeles County and any county subject to a gubernatorial state of emergency proclamation on or after February 1, 2025, from having to obtain a coastal development permit.

AB 996 (PELLERIN D) PUBLIC RESOURCES: SEA LEVEL RISE PLANS.

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill authorizes the California Coastal Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, when approving a local coastal plan or amendment thereof, to deem existing sea level rise information or plans prepared by a local government to satisfy the content requirements for a sea level rise plan. The bill also establishes an early consultation framework by encouraging local governments to consult with the California Coastal Commission early when preparing sea level rise plans.

EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

AB 62 (McKINNON D) CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT: RACIALLY MOTIVATED EMINENT DOMAIN.

Status: Vetoed

Summary: This bill would have established procedures by which a person who lost property because of racially motivated eminent domain may apply to the Civil Rights Department for the return of the property, other public property of equal value, or financial compensation. This bill would also have defined racially motivated eminent domain.

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

Status: Vetoed

Summary: This bill would have required agencies and departments subject to the Governor's authority to develop and report on designated strategic plan elements and to use inclusive practices in strategic plan updates to advance racial equity and respond to disparities with changes to the organization's policies, programs, and operations.

GENERAL

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

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held on Suspense

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

AB 721 (SORIA D) HURON HAWK CONSERVANCY.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held on Suspense

Summary: This bill would have created the Huron Hawk Conservancy in the California Natural Resources Agency and designated the State Lands Commission

as one of 12 Conservancy members. The Huron Hawk area, the largest publicly owned riparian habitat in the Tulare Basin, is a vacant 3,000-acre land plot in the Central Valley region.

AB 1086 (MURATSUCHI D) MARINE CARBON INITIATIVE.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held on Suspense

Summary: This bill would have required the State Air Resources Board to establish a marine carbon dioxide removal program and create a corresponding council to advance research and science on marine carbon dioxide removal and sequestration. The bill would have required the Program to award grants and financial incentives for eligible marine carbon dioxide removal projects.

SB 470 (LAIRD D) BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT: TELECONFERENCING.

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill extends, until January 1, 2030, the ability of state bodies, including the State Lands Commission, to conduct public meetings in a hybrid format. The existing authorization expires in January 2026.

GRANTED PUBLIC TRUST LANDS

SB 34 (RICHARDSON D) AIR POLLUTION: SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

DISTRICT: MOBILE SOURCES: PUBLIC SEAPORTS.

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill imposes conditions and limits on actions by the South Coast Air Quality Management District to impose new or additional emissions reduction requirements on air pollution sources associated with operation of the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles until 2031.

SB 304 (ARREGUIN D) PUBLIC LANDS: CITY OF OAKLAND: PORT OF OAKLAND: USES OF AFTER ACQUIRED LANDS.

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill temporarily lifts the public trust use restrictions on certain land at Jack London Square in the City of Oakland and allows the Port of Oakland to lease those lands for non-trust uses subject to certain conditions, including that the Port annually report specified information to the State Lands Commission.

SB 675 (PADILLA D) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: STREAMLINING.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee—pulled by the author

Summary: This bill would have established a new streamlined CEQA and Coastal Act review process for a Waterfront Environmental Development Leadership Project, the definition of which is such that it only applies to a proposed waterfront redevelopment project at Seaport Village that is primarily located on granted public trust lands owned and managed by the Port of San Diego. The bill would have required the California Coastal Commission, during the Port's preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, to review and respond with specific, substantive comments within 60 days. If the California Coastal Commission did not identify any impacts during that period, it would be prohibited from raising those issues later.

MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

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

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held on Suspense

Summary: This bill would have required the Department of Pesticide Regulation to reevaluate copper-based boat antifouling paint products and would have required CalEPA, the State Water Board, and the Department to determine the best methods to address elevated copper concentrations in marine water bodies.

SB 856 (SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER COMMITTEE) MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES ACT: BIENNIAL REPORTS: SEMIANNUAL UPDATES.

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill, sponsored by the State Lands Commission, requires the Commission's Marine Invasive Species Report submitted to the Legislature to be submitted triennially rather than biennially and requires the Commission to semiannually post ballast water management information on its website.

OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY

AB 472 (ROGERS D) ENERGY: INTEGRATED ENERGY POLICY REPORT: PORT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held on Suspense

Summary: This bill would have required the California Energy Commission to assess port infrastructure funding needs for offshore wind energy development in its biennial integrated energy policy report and consult with the State Lands Commission and other entities in developing the port infrastructure funding assessment.

AB 1417 (STEFANI D) ENERGY: VOLUNTARY OFFSHORE WIND AND COASTAL RESOURCES PROTECTION PROGRAM: COMMUNITY CAPACITY FUNDING ACTIVITIES AND GRANTS.

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill authorizes the California Energy Commission to allocate funds from its Voluntary Offshore Wind and Coastal Resources Protection Program for capacity-building activities and grants to strengthen community and tribal engagement in offshore wind energy development.

OIL AND GAS

AB 1448 (HART D) COASTAL RESOURCES: OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT.

Status: Senate Inactive File

Summary: This bill would have required the State Lands Commission and certain local governments to consider additional factors before approving an offshore oil and gas related lease assignment, extension, or modification.

SB 237 (GRAYSON D) OIL SPILL PREVENTION: GASOLINE SPECIFICATIONS: SUSPENSE: CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: EXEMPTIONS: COUNTY OF KERN: TRANSPORTATION FUELS ASSESSMENT: COASTAL RESOURCES.

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill makes several changes intended to safely and responsibly increase in-state oil production (such as by testing previously idled pipelines, greater disclosure of financial assurances, and resolving ongoing litigation in favor

of easier approval of drilling permits in Kern County) while soliciting additional information to mitigate rising fuel costs. This bill also requires oil produced offshore by new, expanded, or reactivated pipeline operations to be transported once onshore by pipelines using the best available technology and clarifying that those projects require a new Coastal Development Permit.

SB 542 (LIMÓN D) OIL SPILL PREVENTION: ADMINISTRATOR FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE:

DUTIES.

Status: Assembly Inactive File

Summary: This bill would have prohibited the restart of an existing oil pipeline that has not been in use for five or more years without a hydrostatic test to reduce the risk of an oil spill after returning to service. This bill would also have established a public notice and comment process before the Office of Spill Prevention and Response issues a certificate of financial responsibility and would have required the Office to revise formulas for calculating worst-case spills and the financial assurances necessary to respond to an oil spill.

SB 567 (LIMÓN D) GRAVITY-BASED ENERGY STORAGE WELL PILOT PROGRAM.

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill establishes a gravity-based energy storage well pilot program and authorizes the Oil and Gas Supervisor to convert 250 oil and gas wells to gravity-based energy storage wells.

PLASTIC POLLUTION

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

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee – Held on Suspense

Summary: This bill would have required certain beverage containers sold after January 2027 to have a tethered cap and would remove the quality incentive payment for curbside recycling.

RENEWABLE ENERGY/ALTERNATIVE FUELS

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

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held on Suspense

Summary: This bill would have required the California Energy Commission to develop a strategic plan and permitting roadmap for new in-state geothermal energy. The bill would have required the State Lands Commission, in coordination with other 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 lease sales to support geothermal development on federal lands in California. The bill would have required the California 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 renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

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

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill authorizes the California Energy Commission to certify geothermal powerplants and projects that comprise multiple geothermal powerplants on a single site as environmental leadership development projects, making them eligible for CEQA streamlining.

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

Status: Vetoed

Summary: This bill would have required the California Energy Commission, in coordination with the State Lands Commission, the Transportation Agency, and the State Air Resources Board, to develop a plan for the alternative fuel needs of oceangoing vessels that call at California's public seaports and that enables the seaports to meet their emission reduction goals.

SALTON SEA

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

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill requires certain 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.

SB 534 (PADILLA D) SALTON SEA: GREEN EMPOWERMENT ZONE FOR THE SALTON SEA AND SOUTHEASTERN DESERT VALLEYS.

Status: Assembly Economic Development, Growth, and Household Impact Committee

Summary: This bill would have authorized a green empowerment zone for the Salton Sea and Southeastern Desert valleys to support the development and equitable transition to a clean energy economy.

SEA LEVEL RISE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held on Suspense

Summary: This bill would have codified 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 have prioritized activities that most rapidly, significantly, and cost-effectively increase carbon stocks and net sequestration, protect and support ecosystem function, and reduce emissions.

AB 1243 (ADDIS D) POLLUTERS PAY CLIMATE SUPERFUND ACT OF 2025.

Status: Assembly Judiciary Committee

Summary: This bill would have established a Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Program, administered by CalEPA, to determine the damage caused to the state

by fossil fuel emissions from 1990 to 2045, and assessed a cost recovery demand against responsible parties to fund the Program.

SB 840 (LIMÓN D) GREENHOUSE GASES: GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND: STUDIES.

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill extends California's cap-and-trade program until 2045. The bill reconfigures the continuous appropriation for the greenhouse gas reduction fund and sets new legislative intent for how the fund revenue is spent. The bill also directs the Air Resources Board to assess and update compliance offset protocols and establishes a new unit within Legislative Counsel to support climate and environmental policymaking efforts.

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

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee – Held on Suspense

Summary: This bill would have required carbon removal done for net zero emission purposes to (1) be qualified carbon dioxide removal, and (2) counterbalance greenhouse gas emissions using only forms of carbon sequestration with substantially similar durations.

TRIBAL ISSUES

AB 52 (AGUIAR-CURRY D) NATIVE AMERICAN RESOURCES.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee – two-year bill

Summary: This bill would change tribal consultation and California Environmental Quality Act requirements for tribal consultation and easement acquisition. This bill would also require the Native American Heritage Commission to prepare and maintain an inventory of Native American sacred sites on public and private lands and make other related changes.