

Staff Report 54

INTRODUCTION

The 2026 legislative session adjourns on August 31. The Governor has until September 30 to sign or veto bills. This informational report summarizes legislation staff monitored or engaged in this year that may affect the Commission's authorities, programs, or areas of interest.

TRACKED BILLS

30 x 30 CALIFORNIA

[AB 946](#) (BRYAN D) *NATURAL RESOURCES: EQUITABLE OUTDOOR ACCESS: 30x30 GOAL: URBAN NATURE-BASED PROJECTS.*

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee – Held under submission

Summary: This bill would require the Governor's Office, state agencies, and the Legislature, when distributing resources, to aspire to recognize the coequal goals and benefits of the 30 x 30 goal and the Outdoors for All initiative, and, to the extent practical, maximize investment in historically underserved urban communities consistent with those initiatives. According to the author, California has made a strong commitment to protect and preserve its natural lands, but it is just as important to ensure that densely populated and underserved communities are not overlooked in this work. By urging the state to focus on greening and restoring land in heavily urbanized areas, this bill will ensure we take a comprehensive approach to environmental protection that supports vulnerable communities and expands access to nature throughout California. While this bill would not assign the Commission new duties, the shift in statewide investment priorities could influence Commission planning, funding alignment, and coordination on conservation and public access projects in urbanized areas.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

SB 1229 (ALLEN D) COASTAL RESOURCES: COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMITS: DISASTER EXEMPTION.

Status: Assembly Floor

Summary: This bill would limit an existing coastal development permit exemption enacted following last year's fires in Southern California to the replacement of a structure by the property owner of record for the property who was listed as the property owner of record immediately preceding the disaster. Although this bill focuses on disaster-related coastal permit exemptions, narrowing eligibility could affect inquiries or workload related to Commission jurisdictional questions.

GENERAL

AB 2360 (ARAMBULA D) STATE AGENCIES: GOVERNMENTAL LINGUISTICS.

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee – Held under submission

Summary: Current law requires each department, commission, office, or administrative agency of state government to write each document it produces in plain, straightforward language, avoiding technical terms as much as possible, and using a coherent and easily readable style. This bill would specify that the plain, straightforward language requirement applies to both digital and printed documents and would define "plain language". The bill would require each state agency to create, adopt, and post on its website a plain language policy that identifies how the agency will incorporate or strengthen plain language writing and design principles and practices. This bill would likely require the Commission to develop and post a plain-language policy and ensure all digital and print documents adhere to expanded plain-language standards, creating administrative work for staff.

SB 1337 (RICHARDSON D) TRANSPORTATION FUELS: INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

Status: Assembly Floor

Summary: This bill would require the California Energy Commission to enter into a memoranda of understanding with air districts and local governments with transportation fuels refining facilities in their jurisdictions to enable the coordination necessary to ensure that the transportation fuels sector is successfully managed

and maintains environmental, public health, labor, economic and consumer protections.

GRANTED LANDS

AB 2312 (ÁVILA FARÍAS D) STATE PROPERTY: TIDELANDS TRANSFER: CITY OF MARTINEZ: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Status: Governor's Desk

Summary: This bill would extend the maximum lease length term on public trust lands in the City of Martinez from 49 to 66 years or, subject to Commission approval, for longer than 66 years if the Commission finds that a longer lease term is in the best interest of the state.

AB 2525 (WARD D) SURPLUS LANDS: MISSION BAY PARK.

Status: Assembly Inactive File

Summary: Current law requires a local agency, before disposing or negotiating to dispose of surplus land, to provide a written notice of the availability of the surplus land to specified entities and housing sponsors. Under current law, land declared by an agency of the state or any local agency as "exempt surplus land" is not subject to these requirements. This bill would exempt land in Mission Bay Park in the City of San Diego from these requirements. While the Commission is not responsible for surplus land decisions in Mission Bay Park, changes to exempt surplus land designations may affect Commission coordination with local grantees and local agencies on land uses adjacent to state tidelands.

SB 1317 (ARREGUÍN D) EXEMPT SURPLUS LAND: LOCALLY OWNED LAND.

Status: Senate Local Government Committee

Summary: This bill would define "exempt surplus land" to include surplus land owned by a local agency and within a property and business improvement district designated under the Property and Business Improvement District Law of 1994 and a disadvantaged community identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency under the above-referenced provisions.

LOS ANGELES RIVER

SB 832 (ALLEN D) UPPER LOS ANGELES RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES WORKING GROUP:

MEMBERSHIP: REVITALIZATION PLAN.

Status: Senate Floor

Summary: This bill would add a new member to the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group and require one member to represent the city council district in the City of Los Angeles with the most upper Los Angeles river miles. The bill would require the working group to meet annually to evaluate and report on implementation of the revitalization plan and propose amendments to it. The bill would require any amendments to be submitted to the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee and the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. Changes to membership and annual reporting could indirectly influence the Commission's coordination on river-related land use, access, or habitat projects where the Commission has jurisdiction.

MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

AB 1691 (DIXON R) MARINE RESOURCES: COPPER-BASED ANTIFOULING PAINT:

STANDARDS, STUDIES, AND BEST METHODS.

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee – Held under submission

Summary: This bill would require the Department of Pesticide Regulation to reevaluate copper-based antifouling boat paint products and decide whether to retain, modify, or suspend its standards or to place new standards on the chemical composition or use of copper-based antifouling paints. The bill would require CalEPA and other agencies to collaborate on studies related to the effectiveness of low-leach-rate paint and elevated copper concentrations in saltwater harbors, bays, and marinas that are primarily a result of the use of copper-based antifouling paint. The bill would also require CalEPA, the State Water Board, and the Department of Pesticide Regulation to determine the best way to address elevated copper concentrations in saltwater harbors, bays, and marinas that are a result of the use of this paint.

The Commission administers the state's Marine Invasive Species Program. Expanded studies and possible regulatory shifts relating to antifouling paints could affect Commission rulemaking and coordination with other state agencies.

AB 1772 (PAPAN D) FISH AND WILDLIFE: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES: GOLDEN MUSSELS.

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee – Held under submission

Summary: This bill would establish standards and licensing for a statewide network of recreational vessel inspection and decontamination stations staffed by trained inspectors to prevent the spread of invasive mussels. The bill would establish the use of a recreational vessel tracking system, and a new biannual nonmotorized recreational vessel invasive mussel infestation prevention fee to help fund invasive mussel prevention efforts. Previous versions of this bill included intent language directing fee assessments on commercial shipping to support invasive species prevention—essentially aligning with the current Marine Invasive Species Program funding model. The amended bill excludes a commercial shipping fee and establishes an invasive mussel prevention fee on non-motorized recreational vessels. Although the Commission's Marine Invasive Species Program regulates biofouling and ballast water discharges from large commercial ships, the new infrastructure and tracking systems could require coordination between the Commission and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and State Parks to ensure consistency.

SB 1428 (COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER) PUBLIC LANDS: MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES: WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE TASK FORCE.

Status: Signed into law

Summary: This bill makes statutory changes to ensure that the State Lands Commission has authority to revise existing regulations to align with federal regulations and comply with the federal Vessel Incidental Discharge Act. Existing law authorizes the Commission to adopt federally consistent ballast water discharge standards and specifically points to federal standards and an implementation schedule contained in Title 33, section 151.025 and 151.030 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Those sections will become defunct once regulations adopted by the U.S. EPA and U.S. Coast Guard to implement the Vessel Discharge Act become effective, likely in late 2026 or early 2027. The changes will redirect the Commission's authority away from the soon-to-be defunct sections and toward the regulations adopted by the U.S. EPA and to-be adopted by the U.S. Coast Guard.

OCEAN PROTECTION

AB 1744 (ADDIS D) ENVIRONMENTAL ADVERTISING: SUNSCREEN.

Status: Senate Floor

Summary: This bill would make it illegal to represent in advertising or on the label or container of a sunscreen product sold in the state that the product is “reef safe,” “reef friendly,” “ocean safe,” “marine safe,” or any term implying the product does not harm marine ecosystems unless the product is free of chemical ultraviolet filters. Misleading standards for sunscreen products related to reef and ocean safety could harm coastal and ocean lands managed by the Commission.

OIL AND GAS

AB 1536 (ADDIS D) OFFSHORE OIL.

Status: Assembly Emergency Management Committee

Summary: This bill would require a public hearing on any requested exemption from the State Fire Marshal's hazardous liquid pipeline safety regulations; require additional environmental review for regulatory exemptions; establish new safety requirements for pipelines that have spilled certain amounts of oil; establish new leak detection and response plan requirements for oil pipelines; and create geographical restrictions on where certain oil pipelines can operation.

AB 1448 (HART D) COASTAL RESOURCES: CALIFORNIA COASTAL SANCTUARY: TIDELANDS AND SUBMERGED LANDS: OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT.

Status: Senate Floor

Summary: This bill modifies requirements for the transfer, assignment, or modification of leases for oil and gas infrastructure on tide and submerged lands associated with federal leases; prohibits leases and oil- and gas-related infrastructure on tide and submerged lands from being used to support federal leases issued after January 1, 2026; requires the Commission to consider additional factors when determining whether to approve a lease assignment, renewal, modification, or amendment; and limits the exception that authorizes new oil- and gas-leasing on tide and submerged lands in the California Coastal Sanctuary if state oil deposits are being drained from wells on federal lands to areas not in marine protected areas or national marine sanctuaries. At its June 2026 meeting, the Commission directed

staff to work with Assemblymember Hart's office on amendments to AB 1448 to facilitate implementation of the bill.

AB 2461 (HART D) OIL AND GAS: BONDING REQUIREMENTS.

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee – Held under submission

Summary: This bill would expand the requirement for an oil and gas operator, upon transfer, purchase, or other conveyance of an oil or gas well and production facility, to provide an individual indemnity bond for the full cost of well plug and abandonment, facility decommissioning, and site restoration to include a change in control of the operator. The changes may affect operators of offshore oil and gas leases overseen by the State Lands Commission.

AB 2716 (ÁVILA FARIÁS D) OIL AND GAS: BONDING REQUIREMENTS.

Status: Senate Rules Committee – Held under submission

Summary: This bill would raise the maximum additional financial surety certain high risk oil and gas operators are required to provide to the Geological Energy Management Division to \$80 million; codify self-insurance requirements for low risk operators; remove the ban on self-insurance or a corporate guarantee for the full bond required under the transfer, acquisition, or other conveyance of a well or production facility; and exempt from the full bond requirement the transfer, acquisition or other conveyance of a well or facility purely to plug and abandon or decommission as part of a redevelopment pilot program.

Changes to acceptable financial assurance mechanisms may affect lessees operating on Commission-managed lands, requiring staff to update review processes and ensure compliance with revised bonding frameworks.

PLASTIC POLLUTION

AB 2226 (RUBIO, BLANCA D) REUSABLE GROCERY BAGS.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: This bill would repeal requirements governing the types of bags that stores may provide to customers and remove requirements that bags be compostable or made of recycled paper. Changes to plastic bag rules could be detrimental to beaches and waterways under the Commission's jurisdiction.

SB 1180 (ALLEN D) PLASTIC POLLUTION PREVENTION AND PACKAGING PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ACT: CALIFORNIA PLASTIC POLLUTION MITIGATION FUND.

Status: Assembly Floor

Summary: This bill would establish new spending requirements and guidelines for the California Plastic Pollution Mitigation fund and expand the list of entities that are eligible for those funds. Expanding eligibility and guidance for mitigation funding could result in new opportunities for projects addressing shoreline pollution and marine debris.

PUBLIC LANDS

AB 1548 (PELLERIN D) THE MONTEREY BAY AREA STEWARDSHIP AUTHORITY.

Status: Senate Rules Committee

Summary: This bill would establish the Monterey Bay Area Stewardship Authority to raise and allocate funds to restore, enhance, protect, steward, and improve access to natural and working lands in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties. The creation of a new stewardship authority could affect the Commission's coordination on public land management and restoration projects in these central coast regions.

AB 1624 (ZBUR D) PUBLIC LANDS PROTECTION ACT.

Status: Assembly Rules Committee

Summary: This bill, the Public Lands Protection Act, would establish new rules governing the land-use designation and development of certain federal lands transferred to private or nonfederal entities in California after January 1, 2025. The bill is intended to preserve conservation uses for lands that were previously publicly owned by applying protective zoning designations to transferred land to limit future development. Protective zoning for transferred federal lands could influence land use patterns and require enhanced intergovernmental coordination.

AB 2216 (AGUIAR-CURRY D) SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY.

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee – Held under submission

Summary: This bill would expand the geographic area covered by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy beyond the Delta to include the Sacramento valley, rename the conservancy the Valley and Delta Conservancy

and make other changes and authorize the conservancy to partner with and award grants and loans to tribal organizations. Expanding the Conservancy's geographic scope to the Sacramento Valley may increase collaboration demands for the Commission on Delta projects, including abandoned vessel removal.

AB 2566 (SORIA D) HURON HAWK CONSERVANCY.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held under submission

Summary: This bill would establish the Huron Hawk Conservancy in the Natural Resources Agency to acquire, manage, and restore land in the Huron Hawk area for conservation, recreation, and educational purposes. Implementation would be contingent on a legislative appropriation or approval of a general obligation bond. The Executive Officer of the State Lands Commission would be a member of the new Conservancy's governing board, creating additional workload for Commission staff.

SB 949 (BECKER D) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY: LANDSCAPE OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE: SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS.

Status: Assembly Floor

Summary: This bill would designate the Santa Cruz Mountains as a landscape of statewide significance that requires special protection. The bill would require the Natural Resources Agency and its boards, departments, and conservancies, to encourage collaborative stewardship approaches that support the protection, restoration, and preservation of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Designation of the Santa Cruz Mountains as a landscape of statewide significance could influence the Commission's stewardship priorities or involvement in regional collaboration and collaboration with relevant grantees of public trust lands.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

AB 2234 (PAPAN D) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATORY PROJECTS.

Status: Senate Floor

Summary: This bill would revise the definition of a geothermal exploratory project under CEQA to include certain aboveground equipment and activities and would specify that exploratory wells can be located within one-half mile from a

commercial scale geothermal development well so long as the owner and operator of the commercial scale geothermal development well provide written consent. Broader definitions and eased siting restrictions for geothermal exploration may increase CEQA-related coordination when exploratory projects intersect with Commission managed lands and resources.

AB 2464 (WICKS D) ENERGY: FIRM ZERO-CARBON RESOURCES.

Status: Senate Energy, Utilities, and Commerce Committee

Summary: This bill would require the California Energy Commission, working with the California Public Utilities Commission, to complete a statewide assessment on the role and necessity of zero-carbon resources and report findings to the Legislature by January 2028. Although this bill does not impose additional responsibilities on the Commission, the assessment could shape future energy policies affecting Commission managed lands, offshore energy planning, or permitting frameworks.

SEA LEVEL RISE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

AB 2051 (WICKS D) PUBLIC RESOURCES: COASTAL RESILIENCE PERMITTING WORKING GROUP.

Status: Senate Floor

Summary: This bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, in consultation with the Secretary for the California Environmental Protection Agency, to convene a coastal resilience permitting working group to develop a permitting roadmap for coastal resilience projects. The bill would designate members of a coastal resilience permitting working group and include the Commission as a member.

AB 2184 (WILSON D) CAP-AND-INVEST PROGRAM: NATURE-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS: FUNDING.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held under submission

Summary: This bill would annually appropriate up to \$300 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund in the annual Budget Act, until fiscal year 2045-46, to achieve nature-based climate solutions, including \$150 million to the Natural Resources Agency for nature-based climate solutions. Should funding be appropriated, Commission related restoration, climate resilience, or land

stewardship projects may become eligible, potentially expanding capacity and funding for nature-based climate solutions on Commission managed lands.

SB 1048 (BECKER D) STATE SEAL OF CLIMATE LITERACY.

Status: Assembly Floor

Summary: This bill would establish the state seal of climate literacy to recognize high school graduates who have mastered climate literacy disciplines and attained green or technical green skills. Although there is no direct impact on the Commission, increased climate literacy among Californians could enhance engagement with the Commission's coastal resiliency work and raise awareness about Commission managed land and resources.

TIJUANA RIVER

SB 58 (PADILLA D) AIR QUALITY: STANDARD: HYDROGEN SULFIDE.

Status: Assembly Floor

Summary: This bill would require the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to develop health-based threshold levels for hydrogen sulfide and authorize the Office to develop threshold levels for additional air pollutants to better protect public health, particularly in sensitive and overburdened communities. The bill would require the Office to conduct at least three public workshops, including one in the Tijuana River Valley region. While focused on air quality, new thresholds could influence environmental oversight or collaborative efforts involving the Commission related to the Tijuana River transboundary pollution crisis.

TRIBAL ISSUES

AB 2115 (RAMOS D) CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICANS: FORMAL APOLOGY.

Status: Senate Floor

Summary: This bill would provide that the State of California recognizes and accepts responsibility for the harms and atrocities committed by its representatives who promoted, permitted, facilitated, and enforced policies of violence against California Native Americans. The bill would provide that the State of California apologizes for perpetuating the harms California Native Americans as a result of

policies enacted, sanctioned, or tolerated by the Legislature. The bill would require a plaque memorializing this apology to be publicly and conspicuously installed and maintained in the State Capitol Building. This action may strengthen expectations for culturally informed engagement and may indirectly influence Commission consultation practices with tribes.

AB 1881 (RAMOS D) CALIFORNIA INDIAN FREEDOM ACT OF 2026.

Status: Senate Floor

Summary: This bill would enact the California Indian Freedom Act of 2026 that prohibits a government agency from substantially burdening a California Native American tribe from exercising religious beliefs or spiritual practices on state lands unless it is in the furtherance of a compelling government interest and by the least restrictive means. Restricting state agencies from burdening tribal spiritual practices on state lands and requiring agencies to seek and document written consent of any affected tribes before undertaking a project that may pose a risk to sacred sites may impact the Commission's decision-making process.

AB 2507 (NGUYEN D) OFFICE OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS.

Status: Senate Floor

Summary: This bill would establish the Office of Tribal Affairs in the Governor's Office headed by a Secretary of Tribal Affairs. The bill would require each state agency that engages, or has programs, services, or responsibilities affecting tribal governments to designate a tribal liaison. The bill would require the office to be advised by a Tribal Advisory Committee that would provide recommendations and tribal perspectives to strengthen government-to-government engagement and improve the design, access, and implementation of state programs and services affecting tribal governments. This bill would require the Commission to designate a tribal liaison (which it already has done) and engage with a new statewide tribal advisory committee, increasing coordination responsibilities and standardizing tribal engagement practices.

SB 1326 (WAHAB D) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES: MITIGATION MEASURES.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held under submission

Summary: This bill would modify the definition of tribal cultural resource for purposes of CEQA to include a site, feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place, or

object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that is identified by the Native American Heritage Commission as a sacred place or included in a local tribal register. Changing the definition of tribal cultural resources could increase CEQA obligations for Commission projects, leading to additional review, consultation, and mitigation requirements.