

Staff Summary for April 16-17, 2025

31A. Administrative Items - Legislative Report**Today's Item**Information Action

Receive updates on legislative activity and consider providing direction to staff on potential actions.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background**

Staff has identified state legislation that may affect the Commission's resources and workload, or may be of interest to commissioners, and provides the status of those bills during this legislative session as of April 7, 2024. The Department has provided a report on active bills it is tracking during the legislative session (Exhibit 1).

At any meeting, the Commission may direct staff to provide information to, or share concerns with, bill authors. Today is an opportunity for the Commission to provide direction to staff concerning proposed legislation.

Legislative Calendar Highlights

Commission staff has identified state legislation that may affect the Commission's resources and workload during this legislative session, as of April 7, 2025. The Department has provided a report on active bills it is tracking during the legislative session (Exhibit 1).

The legislature reconvened for the second half of the 2024-2025 session on January 6, 2025. February 21 was the last day for new bills to be introduced for the session and, on April 10 the legislature began spring recess. Other calendar highlights include:

- April 21: Legislature reconvenes from spring recess
- May 16: Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 9
- June 6: Last day for bills to be *passed out of the house of origin*
- June 9: Committee meetings may resume
- June 15: Budget Bill must be passed by *midnight*
- July 18: Last day for *policy committees* to meet and report bills
- July 18: *Summer recess* begins at the end of this day's session if the budget bill has been passed

Bills Introduced During the 2024-2025 Session

Staff has identified 3 senate bills (SB) and 11 assembly bills (AB) that may affect the Commission's authority or workload, or may be of potential interest to the Commission.

- SB 609 (Laird) – Fish: commercial fishing. Status: 4/01/2025 - Set for hearing April 8.
This bill would require certain landing receipts and records of fishing activities to be confidential and to not be public records, except for fish business identification numbers,

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fish business names, commercial fishing license numbers, commercial fisher names, vessel registration identification numbers, and vessel names, as provided.

- SB 718 (Dahle) – Hunting and sport fishing licenses: reduced fees. Status: 4/04/2025 - Set for hearing April 22.

Current law requires the Department to issue reduced fee hunting and sport fishing licenses to specified individuals as provided. This bill would require the Department to issue a reduced fee hunting license to a qualified recipient who has not been convicted of a violation of the Fish and Game Code and has provided adequate documentation to the Department, as specified.

- SB 818 (Alvarado-Gil) – Mountain lions: pilot program: permitted houndspersons. Status: 4/04/2025 - Set for hearing April 22.

This bill would require the Department to, by January 1, 2027, establish a pilot program known as “Tree and Free” in the County of El Dorado in order to collect data on the efficacy of authorizing permitted private houndspersons to proactively haze mountain lions deemed to be a potential threat to public safety, livestock, or other domestic animal by the Department, animal damage control officer, or local enforcement agency. The bill would require the program to be operative for five years from the date of commencement and, once concluded, would require the Department to, no later than January 1, 2033, provide a report to the legislature and the Commission on the efficacy the program and feasibility on expanding the program to other areas, as specified.

- AB 454 (Kalra) – Migratory birds: California Migratory Bird Protection Act. Status: 3/27/2025 - Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.

This bill would, indefinitely, make unlawful the taking or possessing of any migratory bird, as designated in the federal act before January 1, 2025, any additional migratory nongame birds that may be designated in the federal act after that date, or any part of those migratory nongame birds, except as provided.

- AB 764 (Gonzalez, Jeff) – Birds and mammals: nongame birds. Status: 3/25/2025 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Committee on Appropriations (Ayes 13. Noes 0.) (March 25). Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.

This bill would allow mute swans to be taken or possessed under the same circumstances as other listed nongame birds.

- AB 807 (Dixon) – Conservation and mitigation bank: marine artificial reefs. Status: 4/04/2025 – In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

This bill would expand the definition of “conservation bank” and “mitigation bank” to include marine artificial reefs. The bill would authorize a person to, after completion of a full environmental review in compliance with applicable California and federal laws and regulations, create a marine artificial reef for purposes of establishing a mitigation or conservation bank.

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- AB 846 (Connolly) – Endangered species: incidental take: wildfire preparedness activities. 3/28/2025 - Re-referred to Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife.

This bill would authorize a city, county, city and county, special district, or other local agency to submit to the Department a wildfire preparedness plan to conduct wildfire preparedness activities on land designated as a fire hazard severity zone, as defined, that minimizes impacts to wildlife and habitat for candidate, threatened, and endangered species. The bill describes what would be required to include in a wildfire preparedness plan, and authorize the Department to impose a fee on a local agency for the cost of reviewing a wildfire preparedness plan. The bill would require the Department to notify the local agency within 90 days of receipt if an incidental take permit or other permit is needed, or if there are other considerations, exemptions, or streamlined pathways that the wildfire preparedness activities qualify for. The bill would require the Department to provide the local agency with guidance that includes, among other things, a description of measures to avoid, minimize, and fully mitigate the take of candidate, threatened, and endangered species.

- AB 892 (Schultz) – Captive animals: direct contact: prohibition. Status: 4/02/2025 - Re-referred to Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife.

This bill would prohibit a person from allowing any member of the public to come into direct contact with wild animals held in captivity under a restricted species permit. The bill would provide that this prohibition does not apply to direct contact between those animals and certain individuals. A person who violates this prohibition would be subject to certain civil penalties, and any restricted species permit for the animal would be subject to immediate suspension or revocation by the Department.

- AB 1024 (Harabedian) – Department of Fish and Wildlife: San Gabriel Valley Bear Management and Community Safety Act. Status: 3/10/2025 - Referred to Com. on Water, Parks & Wildlife.

Would require, on or before January 1, 2027, the Department to develop a regional plan specific to cities located within the San Gabriel Valley in the County of Los Angeles to address issues relating to bears in the community. The bill would require the plan to include various components, including, among other things, an overview of the behaviors of the bears in the San Gabriel Mountains, and measurable performance goals for reducing bear encounters within the cities located in the San Gabriel Valley. The bill would require the Department to tag and track any bear that enters a residential neighborhood in a city located within the San Gabriel Valley using innovative technologies, as specified.

- AB 1038 (Hadwick) – Bears: hunting: use of dogs. Status: 3/10/2025 - Referred to Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife.

This bill would require the Commission to establish seasons during which a person would be authorized to allow dogs to pursue a bear if the person does not injure or kill the bear or allow the bear to be injured or killed while engaging in the activity, as specified.

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- AB 1056 (Bennett) – Gill nets: permits. Status: 3/18/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on Water, Parks & Wildlife.

This bill would prohibit the Department from renewing a permit unless at least 1,000 pounds of halibut or 1,000 pounds of white seabass were landed under the permit between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2024, inclusive.

- AB 1089 (Carillo) – Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: industrial projects and commercial projects. Status: 3/25/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on Water, Parks & Wildlife.

This bill would authorize the department to enter into an agreement with any city to delegate to the city the ability to authorize the taking of western Joshua trees associated with developing commercial and industrial projects. The bill would, relative to other project types subject to delegated local mitigation authority, limit the bases for commercial or industrial projects to pay specified fees in lieu of satisfying the mitigation obligation, as provided.

- AB 1169 (Gonzalez, Jeff) – Wildlife grants: Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) program. Status: 3/10/2025 - Referred to Com. on Water, Parks & Wildlife.

Current law authorizes the Department, as part of the SHARE program, to make grants to, or enter into agreements with, nonprofit organizations, governmental entities, or any other entities for purposes of carrying out the SHARE program. This bill would instead require the Department to make those grants to, or enter into agreements with, the above described entities, including a nonprofit conservation organization, when the department finds the grants or agreements are necessary for carrying out the purposes of the SHARE program.

- AB 1456 (Bryan) – California Environmental Quality Act: vegetation fuel management project exemption. Status: 3/13/2025 - Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

This bill would exempt from CEQA a vegetation fuel management project, as defined, undertaken or funded by a public agency, or the adoption of an ordinance requiring the implementation of a vegetation fuel management project. The bill would require a lead agency that determines to carry out or approve an activity that is within the exemption to file a notice of exemption with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, as specified.

Legislative bills, their history and their status, may be found at www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation (N/A)

Exhibits

1. [Department legislative report, dated April 7, 2025](#)

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Motion (N/A)



Department of Fish & Wildlife Legislative Report

April 2025

(As of April 7, 2025)

[AB 66](#)

([Tangipa](#) R) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: egress route projects: fire safety.

Status: 03/25/2025 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 10. Noes 0.) (March 24). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary: Would, until January 1, 2032, exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) egress route projects undertaken by a public agency to improve emergency access to and evacuation from a subdivision without a secondary egress route if the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has recommended the creation of a secondary access to the subdivision and certain conditions are met. The bill would require the lead agency to hold a noticed public meeting to hear and respond to public comments before determining that a project is exempt. The bill would require the lead agency, if it determines that a project is not subject to CEQA and approves or carries out that project, to file a notice of exemption with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation and with the clerk of the county in which the project will be located.

[AB 317](#)

([Jackson](#) D) California First Time Homeowner Dream Act.

Status: 04/07/2025 - VOTE: Do pass and be re-referred to the Committee on [Revenue and Taxation]

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. Current law exempts various projects from CEQA, including projects related to the conversion of a structure with a certificate of occupancy as a motel, hotel, residential hotel, or hostel to supportive or transitional housing, as defined, that meet certain conditions. This bill would exempt from CEQA the new construction of a single-family dwelling that meets specified conditions, including that the project contains one single-family dwelling that is 1,500 square feet or less with no more than 3 bedrooms, the property is intended to be sold to a first-time homebuyer, and the lead agency determines that the developer of the project or the property owner provided sufficient legal commitments to meet the requirements of the exemption. The bill would require the lead agency, if it determines that a project qualifies for the exemption, to file a notice of exemption with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, formerly known as the Office of Planning and Research, and the county clerk, as specified. By placing additional requirements on the lead agency to make a determination on whether the CEQA

exemption applies, and on local agencies to determine whether the project developer provided sufficient legal commitments, as described, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

[AB 400](#)

([Pacheco](#) D) Law enforcement: police canines.

Status: 03/11/2025 - Coauthors revised. From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 8. Noes 0.) (March 11). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary: Current law requires law enforcement agencies to maintain a policy on the use of force, as specified. Current law establishes the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) and charges it with, among other duties, developing uniform, minimum guidelines for adoption and promulgation by law enforcement agencies for use of force. This bill would require, on or before January 1, 2027, every law enforcement agency, as defined, with a canine unit to maintain a policy for the use of canines by the agency that, at a minimum, complies with the most recent standards established by POST.

[AB 442](#)

([Hadwick](#) D) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: prescribed fire, thinning, and fuel reduction projects.

Status: 02/18/2025 - Referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exempts from its requirements prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects, and certain related activities, undertaken in whole or in part on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire, if those projects and activities meet certain requirements. This bill would exempt from CEQA prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken within a community with a single ingress and egress evacuation route

[AB 454](#)

([Kalra](#) D) Migratory birds: California Migratory Bird Protection Act.

Status: 03/27/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary: The California Migratory Bird Protection Act, until January 20, 2025, made unlawful the taking or possession of any migratory nongame bird designated in the federal act before January 1, 2017, any additional migratory nongame bird that may be designated in the federal act after that date, or any part of those migratory nongame birds, except as provided. Current law, as of January 1, 2026, repeals this provision. This bill would, indefinitely, make unlawful the taking or possessing of any migratory bird, as designated in the federal act before January 1, 2025, any additional migratory nongame birds that may be designated in the federal act after that date, or any part of those migratory nongame birds, except as provided.

[AB 526](#)

([Papan](#) D) Energy: new in-state geothermal energy generation.

Status: 04/07/2025 - Read second time and amended.

Summary: Current law establishes a state policy that eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources supply 90% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2035, 95% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2040, 100% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use

customers by December 31, 2045, and 100% of electricity procured to serve all state agencies by December 31, 2035, as provided. Current law requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission), and State Air Resources Board to issue a joint report to the Legislature by January 1, 2021, and every 4 years thereafter, that includes specified information relating to the implementation of that state policy. Current law requires the PUC and the Energy Commission to undertake various actions in furtherance of meeting the state's clean energy and pollution reduction objectives. This bill would require the Energy Commission, in coordination with specified agencies, to develop a strategic plan for new in-state geothermal energy in California, as specified.

[AB 581](#)

([Bennet](#) D) State shrub.

Status: 03/28/2025 - Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 61. Noes 0.) In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Summary: Would establish the bigberry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) as the official state shrub.

[AB 623](#)

([Dixon](#) D) Fuel modification and reduction projects: California Environmental Quality Act: coastal development permits: exemptions.

Status: 03/18/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. This bill would exempt a fuel modification project to maintain defensible space of 100 feet from each side and from the front and rear of a building or structure and a fuel reduction project to prevent and contain the spread of wildfires from the requirements of CEQA. Because a lead agency would be required to determine whether a project qualifies for this exemption, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

[AB 687](#)

([Patterson](#) R) Forestry: timber operations: maintenance of timberlands for fuels reduction.

Status: 04/07/2025 – VOTE: Do pass as amended and be re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Summary: The Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 prohibits a person from conducting timber operations unless a timber harvesting plan prepared by a registered professional forester has been submitted to, and approved by, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The act provides that any person who willfully violates any provision of the act or rule or regulation of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is guilty of a misdemeanor. This bill would authorize projects exclusively for noncommercial wildfire fuels reduction in timberland, paid for in part or in whole with public funds, to prepare a timber harvesting plan as an alternative to complying with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and would require these projects to be regulated as timber operations, as provided. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

[AB 697](#)

(Wilson D) Protected species: authorized take: State Route 37 improvements.

Status: 03/17/2025 - Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: Would permit the Department of Fish and Wildlife to authorize, under the California Endangered Species Act, the incidental take of specified fully protected species resulting from impacts attributable to certain improvements on the State Route 37 corridor, if certain conditions are met, including, among others, the conditions required for the issuance of an incidental take permit.

[AB 717](#)

(Aguiar-Curry D) Water rights: appropriation: small restoration use.

Status: 03/11/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: The Water Rights Permitting Reform Act of 1988 authorizes any person to obtain a right to appropriate water for a small domestic, small irrigation, or livestock stockpond use, as defined, upon registering the use with the State Water Resources Control Board, as prescribed, payment of a registration fee, and application of the water to reasonable and beneficial use with due diligence. Current law requires a person, in registering their water use to the board, to set forth a certification that the registrant has contacted the Department of Fish and Wildlife and to include a copy of any conditions required by the department. This bill would authorize any person to also obtain a right to appropriate water for a small restoration use, as defined. The bill would also authorize a person to apply for a restoration management permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, as provided, and if the permit is issued, the person would be required to include a copy of any conditions required by the restoration management permit with the required certification.

[AB 734](#)

(Jackson D) Environmental protection: biological resources data: reporting.

Status: 03/28/2025 - Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: The California Public Records Act requires state and local agencies to make their records available for public inspection, unless an exemption from disclosure applies. Current law requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to establish a standardized electronic format and protocol for the exchange of electronic data for the purposes of meeting environmental data reporting or other usage requirements, as provided. This bill would require any biological resources data, as defined, submitted to a regional, local, or state public agency to be posted on that public agency's internet website and made publicly available within 2 weeks of submission to the public agency, as provided.

[AB 763](#)

(Ward D) Timber harvesting: streambed agreement: waste discharge requirements.

Status: 04/04/2025 – In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

Summary: The Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 prohibits a person from conducting timber operations unless a timber harvesting plan prepared by a registered professional forester has been submitted to, and approved by, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Current law provides that an entity submitting a timber harvesting plan, as prescribed, is deemed to have given notice to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Current law

specifies that the Department of Fish and Wildlife is not required to issue an agreement fewer than 60 days from the date the notification is complete. This bill would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue an agreement within 5 working days of the approval of a timber harvesting plan by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

AB 764

(Gonzalez, Jeff R) Birds and mammals: nongame birds.

Status: 03/25/2025 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 13. Noes 0.) (March 25). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary: Current law provides for taking and possession of listed nongame birds without a hunting license if taken in compliance with specified requirements. This bill would allow mute swans to be taken or possessed under the same circumstances as other listed nongame birds.

AB 807

(Dixon R) Conservation and mitigation bank: marine artificial reefs.

Status: 04/04/2025 – In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

Summary: Current law provides that mitigation banks and conservation banks provide for the conservation of important habitats and habitat linkages, take advantage of economies of scale that are often not available to individualized mitigation projects, and simplify the state regulatory compliance process while achieving conservation goals. Current law provides that no conservation bank, mitigation bank, or conservation and mitigation bank is operative, vested, or final, nor bank credits issued, until the Department of Fish and Wildlife has approved in writing and a conservation easement has been recorded on the site. Current law authorizes banks to issue and sell bank credits to private and public entities. Current law defines “conservation bank” and “mitigation bank” for these purposes. This bill would expand the definition of “conservation bank” and “mitigation bank” to include marine artificial reefs. The bill would authorize a person to, after completion of a full environmental review in compliance with applicable California and federal laws and regulations, create a marine artificial reef for purposes of establishing a mitigation or conservation bank.

AB 846

(Connolly D) Endangered species: incidental take: wildfire preparedness activities.

Status: 03/28/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: The California Endangered Species Act prohibits the taking of an endangered, threatened, or candidate species, except as specified. Under the act, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) may authorize the take of listed species by certain entities through permits or memorandums of understanding for specified purposes. Current law requires the State Fire Marshal to identify areas in the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on consistent statewide criteria and based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas. Existing law requires a local agency to designate, by ordinance, moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones in its jurisdiction within 120 days of receiving recommendations from the State Fire Marshal, as provided. This bill would authorize a city, county, city and county, special district, or other local agency to submit to the department a wildfire preparedness plan to conduct wildfire preparedness activities on land designated as a fire hazard severity zone, as defined, that minimizes impacts to wildlife and

habitat for candidate, threatened, and endangered species. The bill would require the wildfire preparedness plan to include, among other things, a brief description of the planned wildfire preparedness activities, the approximate dates for the activities, and a description of the candidate, endangered, and threatened species within the plan area. The bill would authorize the department to impose a fee on a local agency for the cost of reviewing a wildfire preparedness plan submitted by that local agency, as specified. The bill would require the department, if sufficient information is included in the wildfire preparedness plan for the department to determine if an incidental take permit is required, to notify the local agency within 90 days of receipt of the wildfire preparedness plan if an incidental take permit or other permit is needed, or if there are other considerations, exemptions, or streamlined pathways that the wildfire preparedness activities qualify for, including, but not limited to, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's California Vegetation Treatment Program. The bill would require the department to provide the local agency, in its notification, with guidance that includes, among other things, a description of the candidate, endangered, and threatened species within the plan area and measures to avoid, minimize, and fully mitigate the take of the candidate, threatened, and endangered species, as provided.

[AB 880](#)

([Bennett D](#)) State government grants and contracts: payment of claims and grantees' indirect costs.

Status: 04/03/2025 – From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary: The California Prompt Payment Act requires a state agency that awards a grant or that acquires property or services pursuant to a contract to make timely payments pursuant to the grant or contract. If a state agency or the Controller fails to take certain timely actions and payment is not issued within 45 calendar days from the state agency receipt of an undisputed invoice, the act requires the state agency or the Controller, as applicable, to pay certain penalties. The act provides an exception to certain penalty provisions applicable to services or equipment under the Medi-Cal program if the grant or contract was awarded to a nonprofit organization in an amount less than \$500,000. The act defines the term "grant" to mean a signed final agreement between any state agency and a local government agency or organization authorized to accept grant funding for victim services or prevention programs administered by any state agency or restoration activities performed by a resource conservation district. The act also defines "nonprofit service organization" to mean a nonprofit entity that is organized to provide services to the public, but the act does not use that term in its provisions. This bill would revise the definition of "grant" to also mean a signed final agreement between a state agency and a nonprofit organization and would delete the \$500,000 exception described above.

[AB 892](#)

([Schultz D](#)) Captive wild animals: direct contact: prohibition.

Status: 04/02/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: Current law prohibits the importation, transportation, or possession of specified wild animals into this state, except under a revocable, nontransferable permit, known as a restricted species permit, issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, in cooperation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, and only if certain requirements are met. Current law

exempts specified entities from this permit requirement under certain circumstances. Current law requires the Fish and Game Commission, in cooperation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, to adopt regulations governing, among other things, the confinement of a wild animal possessed under a restricted species permit and the possession of all other wild animals. Current law requires those regulations to be designed to, among other things, provide for the welfare of wild animals and the safety of the public. This bill would prohibit a person from allowing any member of the public to come into direct contact with specified animals held in captivity. The bill would provide that this prohibition does not apply to direct contact between those animals and certain individuals. A person who violates this prohibition would not be subject to criminal penalty but would be subject to certain civil penalties and any restricted species permit for the animal would be subject to immediate suspension or revocation by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

[AB 902](#)

([Schultz](#) D) Transportation planning and programming: barriers to wildlife movement.

Status: 03/17/2025 - Referred to Coms. on TRANS. and L. GOV.

Summary: Current law requires certain transportation planning agencies to prepare and adopt regional transportation plans directed at achieving a coordinated and balanced regional transportation system. Current law requires that each regional transportation plan include a sustainable communities strategy prepared by each metropolitan planning organization in order to, among other things, achieve certain regional targets established by the State Air Resources Board for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks in the region for 2020 and 2035, respectively. This bill would require the regional transportation plan or sustainable communities strategy, upon the adoption or next revision on or after January 1, 2028, to, among other things, identify and analyze connectivity areas, permeability, and natural landscape areas that are partially or fully within the region of the metropolitan planning organization or transportation planning agency, and consider the impacts of development and the barriers caused by transportation infrastructure and development to wildlife and habitat connectivity. The bill would also require metropolitan planning organizations and regional transportation agencies, in implementing those requirements, to, among other things, incorporate appropriate standards, policies, and feasible implementation programs, consult with certain entities, and consider relevant best available science as appropriate.

[AB 929](#)

([Connolly](#) D) Sustainable groundwater management: managed wetlands.

Status: 03/25/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans, except as specified. Existing law defines various terms for purposes of the act. This bill would add various defined terms for purposes of the act, including the terms “managed wetland” and “small community water system.”

[AB 975](#)

(Gallagher R) California Environmental Quality Act: lake and streambed alteration agreements: exemptions: culverts and bridges.

Status: 03/19/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

Summary: Current law prohibits a person, a state or local governmental agency, or a public utility from substantially diverting or obstructing the natural flow of, or substantially changing or using any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake, or depositing or disposing of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake, unless prescribed requirements are met, including written notification to the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the activity. Current law requires the department to determine whether the activity may substantially adversely affect an existing fish and wildlife resource and, if so, to provide a draft lake or streambed alteration agreement to the person, agency, or utility. Current law prescribes various requirements for lake and streambed alteration agreements. Current law also establishes various exemptions from these provisions. This bill would exempt from these provisions emergency projects undertaken, carried out, or approved by a state or local government agency to maintain, repair, restore, or reconstruct a bridge 30 feet long or less or reconstruct a culvert 70 feet long or less, that has been damaged as a result of fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide, within one year of the damage.

[AB 1000](#)

(Gallagher R) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: Five-Mile Basin

Status: 03/18/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. This bill would exempt from the requirements of CEQA a project to remove sediment from the Five-Mile Basin in the City of Chico. This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the City of Chico.

[AB 1007](#)

(Rubio, Blanca D) Land use: development project review.

Status: 03/25/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on L. GOV.

Summary: The Permit Streamlining Act requires a public agency that is the lead agency for a development project to approve or disapprove a development project within specified time periods. The act requires a public agency, other than the California Coastal Commission, that is a responsible agency for specified development projects to approve or disapprove the project within 90 days of the date on which the lead agency has approved the project or within 90 days of the date on which the completed application has been received and accepted as complete by the lead agency, whichever is longer. This bill would reduce the time period that a responsible agency is required to approve or disapprove a project, as described above, from 90 days to 45 days. By increasing the duties of local officials, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

[AB 1024](#)

([Harabedian](#) D) Department of Fish and Wildlife: San Gabriel Valley Bear Management and Community Safety Act.

Status: 03/10/2025 - Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: Would establish the San Gabriel Valley Bear Management and Community Safety Act, which would require, on or before January 1, 2027, the department to develop a regional plan specific to the cities located within the San Gabriel Valley in the County of Los Angeles to address issues relating to bears in the community. The bill would require the plan to include various components, including, among other things, an overview of the behaviors of the bears in the San Gabriel Mountains. The bill would require the department to establish measurable performance goals for reducing bear encounters within the cities located in the San Gabriel Valley in the County of Los Angeles, and to report those goals to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2027. The bill would require the department to tag and track any bear that enters a residential neighborhood in a city located within the San Gabriel Valley in the County of Los Angeles using innovative technologies, as specified. This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for County of Los Angeles.

[AB 1038](#)

([Hadwick](#) R) Bears: hunting: use of dogs.

Status: 03/10/2025 - Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: Current law delegates to the Fish and Game Commission the power to regulate the taking or possession of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and reptiles in accordance with prescribed laws. Current law authorizes the commission to establish, extend, shorten, or abolish open seasons and closed seasons for the taking of game mammals, including bears. Current law makes it unlawful to take any bear with a firearm, trap, or bow and arrow without first procuring a tag authorizing the taking of that bear, as specified. Current law makes it unlawful to permit or allow a dog to pursue a bear at any time. Existing law establishes various exceptions to that prohibition including the use of dogs to pursue a bear pursuant to a depredation permit if certain conditions are met. This bill would require the commission to establish seasons during which a person would be authorized to allow dogs to pursue a bear if the person does not injure or kill the bear or allow the bear to be injured or killed while engaging in the activity, as specified.

[AB 1039](#)

([Hart](#) D) State-funded assistance grants and contracts: advance payments.

Status: 03/10/2025 - Referred to Com. on G.O.

Summary: Current law authorizes a state agency administering a grant program or contract to advance a payment to a recipient entity, subject to specified requirements. Current law defines "recipient entity" for these purposes to mean a private, nonprofit organization qualified under federal law, or a federally recognized Indian tribe whose territorial boundaries lie wholly or partially within the State of California, as specified. Current law requires the administering state agency, among other things, to prioritize recipient entities and projects serving disadvantaged, low-income, and under-resourced communities, and to ensure an advance payment to the recipient entity does not exceed 25% of the total grant or contract amount, except as specified. This bill would limit the requirement to prioritize recipient entities and projects to grants and contracts advertised before January 1, 2026. The bill would require, rather than authorize, an

administering state agency to advance a payment to a recipient entity in accordance with the above requirements for all grants and contracts advertised on or after January 1, 2026.

[AB 1056](#)

([Bennett D](#)) Gill nets: permits.

Status: 03/18/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: Current law prohibits gill nets and trammel nets from being used for commercial purposes, except under a revocable, nontransferable permit issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Current law requires the Fish and Game Commission to adopt regulations for the issuance of gill net and trammel net permits as necessary to establish an orderly gill net and trammel net fishery. Current law prohibits the department from issuing any new gill net or trammel net permits and authorizes the department to renew an existing gill net or trammel net permit. Current law authorizes the transfer of a gill net or trammel net permit to another person under limited circumstances. This bill would prohibit the department from renewing a permit unless at least 1,000 pounds of halibut or 1,000 pounds of white seabass were landed under the permit between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2024, inclusive.

[AB 1086](#)

([Muratsuchi D](#)) Marine Carbon Initiative.

Status: 04/01/2025 – Re-Referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

Summary: Would require the State Air Resources Board to establish the Marine Carbon Initiative and would set forth the objectives of the initiative, including advancing the body of research and scientific understanding of marine carbon dioxide removal and sequestration. The bill would require the initiative to include the Marine Carbon Council (council), the Marine Carbon Research Program (program), and an expedited marine carbon research program permitting process, as provided. The bill would require the state board, on or before April 2, 2026, to establish the council to advance the science and understanding of marine carbon dioxide removal and sequestration methods and technologies. The bill would require the council to consist of 7 members chosen by the state board who would be selected on or before July 1, 2026, and would specify the selection process for, and the qualifications and duties of, the council. The bill would require the state board, on or before July 1, 2027, to establish the program, and would require the state board to administer the program in coordination with the council. The bill would require the program to award grants on a competitive basis, and other financial incentives the state board may designate, for eligible marine carbon dioxide removal and sequestration projects, as specified. The bill would require the council, on or before January 1, 2027, and biennially thereafter, to submit a report to the Legislature that, at minimum, summarizes the findings and progress of the council in its work, as provided. The bill would require, upon appropriation by the Legislature, the sum of \$2,000,000 to be allocated to the state board annually for no less than 7 years to fund the program.

[AB 1089](#)

([Carrillo D](#)) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: industrial projects and commercial projects.

Status: 03/25/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: Current law authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into an agreement with any county or city to delegate to the county or city the ability to authorize the

taking of a western Joshua tree associated with developing single-family residences, multifamily residences, accessory structures, and public works projects concurrent with its approval of the project if certain conditions are met. Current law authorizes any person or public agency receiving a take authorization for a project to pay specified fees in lieu of satisfying the mitigation obligation on several bases, including if the project receives a permit issued by a county or city. This bill would additionally authorize the department to enter into an agreement with any city to delegate to the city the ability to authorize the taking of western Joshua trees associated with developing commercial and industrial projects. The bill would, relative to other project types subject to delegated local mitigation authority, limit the bases for commercial or industrial projects to pay specified fees in lieu of satisfying the mitigation obligation, as provided.

[AB 1169](#)

([Gonzalez, Jeff](#) D) Wildlife grants: Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement program.

Status: 03/10/2025 - Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: Current law establishes various programs and authorizes various projects related to wildlife-dependent recreational activities and the protection of wildlife, including projects to benefit upland game bird species and waterfowl and the Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) program. Current law provides that it is the intent of the SHARE program to encourage private landowners to voluntarily make their land available to the public for wildlife-dependent recreational activities, as specified. Current law requires a cap on financial compensation offered to a private landowner of \$30 per acre, or \$50 per public participant per day. Current law authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife, as part of the SHARE program, to make grants to, or enter into agreements with, nonprofit organizations, governmental entities, or any other entities for purposes of carrying out the SHARE program. This bill would instead require the department to make those grants to, or enter into agreements with, the above described entities, including a nonprofit conservation organization, when the department finds the grants or agreements are necessary for carrying out the purposes of the SHARE program.

[AB 1311](#)

([Hart](#) D) California Rangeland, Grazing Land, and Grassland Protection Program.

Status: 04/01/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

Summary: Current law establishes the California Rangeland, Grazing Land, and Grassland Protection Program to protect California's rangeland, grazing land, and grasslands through the use of conservation easements, for specified purposes. Current law authorizes, under the program, funds to be expended by the Wildlife Conservation Board for the acquisition of conservation easements over qualified property, as defined, and authorizes the board to make grants of funds to a state agency, local public agency, or nonprofit organization for the acquisition of conservation easements over qualified property. The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, approved by the voters as Proposition 4 at the November 5, 2024, statewide general election, authorized the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law 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. The act makes available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, \$870,000,000 to the board for grant programs to protect and enhance fish and wildlife resources and habitat and achieve the state's biodiversity, public access, and conservation goals. This bill would appropriate, from the above-described bond funds made available to the board, \$400,000,000 to the board to award under the program as grants to eligible entities, as defined, to acquire conservation easements on qualified property that is privately owned and supports the production of food and fiber and ecosystem services, including, but not limited to, wildfire fuel reduction, groundwater recharge, wildlife habitat, and open vistas.

[AB 1316](#)

([Addis](#) D) Hunting licenses: information on firearms.

Status: 03/10/2025 - Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: Would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife, beginning July 1, 2027, to ensure that every person who purchases a hunting license receives, at minimum, information on certain topics related to firearms, including the safe storage of firearms, liability for parents and guardians who should have known their child could access a firearm at home, basic California firearm laws, and how to legally transfer or relinquish a firearm. The bill would authorize the department, in cooperation with the Department of Justice, to promulgate regulations regarding the implementation of this requirement, and to include additional information to be provided with a hunting license.

[AB 1319](#)

([Schultz](#) D) Protected species: California Endangered Species Act.

Status: 03/24/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: Would make it unlawful for a person in California to transport, sell, offer for sale, possess with the intent to sell, receive, acquire, or purchase any fish, wildlife, or plant that was taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of any law, treaty, regulation, policy, or finding of the United States with regard to national or international trade of fish, wildlife, or plants in effect on January 19, 2025. The bill would make these provisions inoperative on December 31, 2031, and would repeal them on January 1, 2032.

[AB 1425](#)

([Arambula](#) D) San Joaquin River Parkway: pit dewatering.

Status: 04/01/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

Summary: The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 prohibits a person, with exceptions, from conducting surface mining operations unless, among other things, a permit is obtained from, a specified reclamation plan is submitted to and approved by, and financial assurances for reclamation have been approved by the lead agency for the operation of the surface mining operation. This bill would prohibit pit dewatering, as defined, in areas with subsurface river flow or groundwater levels shallower than 50 feet below ground anywhere within the San Joaquin River Parkway, as defined.

[AB 1426](#)

([Kalra](#) D) Diablo Range Conservation Program.

Status: 03/11/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947 establishes the Wildlife Conservation Board within the Department of Fish and Wildlife to investigate, study, and determine what areas within the state are most essential and suitable for wildlife production and preservation, among other things. Under existing law, the board administers various habitat conservation programs. This bill would require the board to establish and administer, through the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Diablo Range Conservation Program and, pursuant to the program, to approve projects to acquire, preserve, restore, and enhance habitat within the Diablo Range, as defined, consistent with conservation strategies approved by the department. The bill would authorize the board to establish an ad hoc advisory committee, as specified. The bill would authorize the board to provide grants to local public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and tribes to be used for various purposes, including the acquisition, restoration, enhancement, and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources within and adjacent to the Diablo Range.

AB 1456

(Bryan D) California Environmental Quality Act: vegetation fuel management project exemption.

Status: 03/13/2025 - Referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of an environmental impact report on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. This bill would exempt from CEQA a vegetation fuel management project, as defined, undertaken or funded by a public agency, or the adoption of an ordinance requiring the implementation of a vegetation fuel management project. The bill would require a lead agency that determines to carry out or approve an activity that is within the exemption to file a notice of exemption with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, as specified.

AB 1520

(Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife D) Public resources: conservation.

Status: 03/24/2025 - Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.

Summary: Current law prohibits a conservation bank, mitigation bank, or conservation and mitigation bank from being operative, vested, or final unless the Department of Fish and Wildlife has approved the bank in writing and, if applicable, a conservation easement has been recorded on the site. Current law requires a person interested in establishing any bank with the department to submit a bank prospectus to the department, as specified, and if the department determines the bank prospectus is acceptable, allows the person to submit a bank agreement package that, among other things, is required to contain estimates of financial assurances and proposed forms of security, as specified. This bill would authorize performance bonds to be proposed forms of security for the above purposes.

SB 70

(Seyarto R) Public contracts: Small Business Procurement and Contract Act.

Status: 04/07/2025 - April 7 hearing: Placed on APPR. suspense file.

Summary: The Small Business Procurement and Contract Act allows California state agencies, including the California State University, to directly award contracts for goods, services, or IT to certified small businesses, microbusinesses, and disabled veteran business enterprises without needing competitive bidding, as long as the contract value is between \$5,000 and \$250,000. This bill would increase this maximum contract value to \$350,000.

SB 73

(Cervantes D) California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions

Status: 03/13/2025 - March 19 set for second hearing canceled at the request of author.

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a negative declaration for projects with potential significant environmental effects. Certain projects, such as residential and mixed-use developments in transit priority areas, are exempt if they align with an existing specific plan with a certified EIR. This bill would expand exemptions to projects in areas of very low vehicle travel and mandates they follow specific planning guidelines, including development on previously used or qualified vacant sites. It also changes rules for exemptions related to agricultural employee housing, affordable housing, and infill residential projects, potentially allowing these within state conservancy boundaries and adjusting project size and location criteria. Additionally, exemptions for sustainable transit priority projects located in low vehicle travel areas are revised, requiring previous development or specific vacant site criteria. Lead agencies must file notices of exemption for qualifying projects, imposing additional local program requirements.

SB 247

(Smallwood-Cuevas D) State agency contracts: bid preference: equity metrics.

Status: 04/02/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on G.O.

Summary: Current law establishes bid preferences and participation goals in public contracting for certain types of bidders. The Small Business Procurement and Contract Act establishes a minimum goal of 25% procurement participation for small businesses, including microbusinesses, in the provision of goods, information technology, and services to the state, and in the construction of state facilities. The Small Business Procurement and Contract Act requires that state agencies awarding contracts for goods, information technology, services, and construction give 5% bid preferences, as specified, to small business and microbusiness bidders. The California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program requires state departments that award contracts to establish 3% participation goals for certain types of contracts for certified disabled veteran business enterprises, as defined. This bill would require an awarding department, defined to include a state agency or department, to provide a bid preference of 10% in the award of contracts to contractors that set equity metrics, as prescribed. The bill would prohibit awarding a preference to a noncompliant bidder and would also prohibit the preference from being used to achieve any applicable minimum requirements.

[SB 369](#)

([Padilla](#) D) Salton Sea: restoration projects: skilled and trained workforce.

Status: 04/04/2025 – Set for hearing April 21.

Summary: Current law requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, in consultation and coordination with the Salton Sea Authority, to lead Salton Sea restoration efforts. Current law, to the extent that funding is appropriated to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for Salton Sea restoration activities, authorizes the Department of Water Resources, in coordination and under agreement with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, to undertake certain restoration efforts. This bill would require, except as provided, specified state agencies undertaking a Salton Sea restoration project to obtain, as part of a contract entered into on or after January 1, 2026, an enforceable commitment that every bidder, contractor, subcontractor, or other entity at every tier, as defined, shall use a skilled and trained workforce, as provided, to perform all work that falls within an apprenticeship occupation in the building and construction trades.

[SB 375](#)

([Grove](#) R) Wildfire prevention activities: Endangered Species Act: California Environmental Quality Act: California Coastal Act of 1973

Status: 04/03/2025 - April 8 set for second hearing canceled at the request of author.

Summary: Would authorize a city, county, city and county, special district, or other local agency to submit to the Department of Fish and Wildlife a wildfire preparedness plan to conduct wildfire preparedness activities on land designated as a fire hazard severity zone, as defined, that minimizes impacts to wildlife and habitat for candidate, threatened, and endangered species. The bill would require the wildfire preparedness plan to include, among other things, a brief description of the planned wildfire preparedness activities, the approximate dates for the activities, and a description of the candidate, endangered, and threatened species within the plan area. The bill would require the department, if sufficient information is included in the wildfire preparedness plan for the department to determine if an incidental take permit is required, to notify the local agency within 90 days of receipt of the wildfire preparedness plan if an incidental take permit or other permit is needed, or if there are other considerations, exemptions, or streamlined pathways that the wildfire preparedness activities qualify for, including, but not limited to, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's California Vegetation Treatment Program. The bill would require the department to provide the local agency, in its notification, with guidance that includes, among other things, a description of the candidate, endangered, and threatened species within the plan area and measures to avoid, minimize, and fully mitigate the take of the candidate, threatened, and endangered species, as provided. The bill would require the department, on or before July 1, 2026, to make a standard wildfire preparedness plan submission form publicly available on its internet website. The bill also would require the department, commencing January 1, 2027, to annually post on its internet website a summary of the wildfire preparedness plans submitted and include specified information in that summary.

[SB 427](#)

([Blakespear](#) D) Habitat Conservation Fund.

Status: 03/24/2025 - Set for hearing April 8.

Summary: The California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 requires the Controller, until June 30, 2020, to annually transfer \$30,000,000 from the General Fund to the Habitat Conservation Fund, less any amount transferred to the Habitat Conservation Fund from specified accounts and funds. The act, until July 1, 2020, continuously appropriates specified amounts from the Habitat Conservation Fund to the Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Coastal Conservancy, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the California Tahoe Conservancy, and continuously appropriates the balance of the fund to the Wildlife Conservation Board. Chapter 31 of the Statutes of 2019 requires the Controller to continue to annually transfer \$30,000,000 from the General Fund, less any amount transferred to the Habitat Conservation Fund from specified accounts and funds, to the Habitat Conservation Fund until June 30, 2030, and continuously appropriates that amount on an annual basis in the same proportions to the specified entities until July 1, 2030. This bill would require the Controller to continue to annually transfer \$30,000,000 from the General Fund, less any amount transferred to the Habitat Conservation Fund from specified accounts and funds, to the Habitat Conservation Fund indefinitely, and would continuously appropriate that amount on an annual basis in the same proportions to the specified entities described above, indefinitely.

[SB 487](#)

([Grayson](#) D) Workers' compensation.

Status: 04/02/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on L., P.E. & R.

Summary: Current law establishes a workers' compensation system, administered by the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation, to compensate an employee for injuries sustained in the course of employment. Existing law requires an employer to provide all medical services reasonably required to cure or relieve the injured worker from the effects of the injury. Existing law establishes a Workers' Compensation Appeals Board and sets forth various proceedings that are required to be brought forth before the board. This bill would make these provisions inapplicable to employees that are peace officers, as defined, and firefighters.

[SB 542](#)

([Limon](#) D) Oil spill prevention: administrator for oil spill response: duties.

Status: 04/04/2025 – Set for hearing April 22.

Summary: Under current law, the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act, there is an administrator for oil spill response. Under this act, the owner or operator of a facility where a spill could impact waters of the state shall apply for and obtain a certificate of financial responsibility issued by the administrator for, among other things, the facility or oil to be handled. This bill would require there to be an unspecified public process before the administrator issues the certificate of financial responsibility.

[SB 556](#)

(Hurtado D) Habitat enhancement and restoration: floodplains.

Status: 03/28/2025 - From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

Summary: The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, approved by the voters as Proposition 4 at the November 5, 2024, statewide general election, authorized the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law 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. The act makes available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, \$870,000,000 to the Wildlife Conservation Board for grant programs to protect and enhance fish and wildlife resources and habitat and achieve the state's biodiversity, public access, and conservation goals. This bill would, from the above-described bond funds made available to the board, appropriate \$43,000,000 to the board to support projects in the Counties of Kern, Kings, and Tulare for floodplain acquisition, habitat restoration, and associated conservation on floodplains, as provided.

[SB 609](#)

(Laird D) Fish: commercial fishing.

Status: 04/01/2025 - Set for hearing April 8.

Summary: Current law requires the receipts, reports, or other records filed with the department pursuant to specified laws, and the information contained therein, to, except as provided, be confidential and to not be public records, as specified. This bill would revise and recast the above-described provision to additionally require certain landing receipts and records of fishing activities to be confidential and to not be public records, except for fish business identification numbers, fish business names, commercial fishing license numbers, commercial fisher names, vessel registration identification numbers, and vessel names, as provided.

[SB 718](#)

(Dahle R) Hunting and sport fishing licenses: reduced fees.

Status: 04/04/2025 - Set for hearing April 22.

Summary: Current law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement and administer various wildlife protection and habitat conservation programs and to enforce the state's hunting and fishing laws. Existing law sets the fees for those licenses at specified rates and requires those fees to be adjusted annually for inflation. Current law requires the department to issue reduced fee hunting and sport fishing licenses to specified individuals as provided. This bill would require the department to issue a reduced fee hunting license to a qualified recipient who has not been convicted of a violation of the Fish and Game Code and has provided adequate documentation to the department, as specified.

[SB 765](#)

[\(Niello R\)](#) State snake.

Status: 03/28/2025 - Set for hearing April 8.

Summary: Existing law establishes the state flag and the state's emblems, including, among other things, the poppy as the official state flower, the California redwood as the official state tree, and the California desert tortoise as the official state reptile. This bill would establish the giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) as the official state snake.

[SB 818](#)

[\(Alvarado-Gil R\)](#) Mountain Lions: pilot program: permitted houndspersons.

Status: 04/04/2025 - Set for hearing April 22.

Summary: Proposition 117, an initiative measure approved by the voters at the June 5, 1990, statewide primary election, enacted the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990. The act establishes that the mountain lion is a specially protected mammal under the laws of this state, and makes it unlawful to take, injure, possess, transport, import, or sell any mountain lion or any part or product thereof. The act authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife, or a specified appropriate local agency authorized by the department, to remove or take any mountain lion that is perceived to be an imminent threat to public health or safety or that is perceived by the department to be an imminent threat to the survival of certain sheep species. This bill would require the department to, by January 1, 2027, establish a pilot program known as "Tree and Free" in the County of El Dorado in order to collect data on the efficacy of authorizing permitted private houndspersons to proactively haze mountain lions deemed to be a potential threat to public safety, livestock, or other domestic animal by the department, animal damage control officer, or local enforcement agency. The bill would require the program to be operative for 5 years from the date of commencement and, once concluded, would require the department to, no later than January 1, 2033, provide a report to the Legislature and the Fish and Game Commission on the efficacy the program and feasibility on expanding the program to other areas, as specified.

[SB 839](#)

[\(Laird D\)](#) Oil spills: fishing: water closure: grants: liability.

Status: 04/03/2025 - Set for hearing April 8.

Summary: Existing law requires the Director of Fish and Wildlife, within 24 hours of notification of a spill or discharge, to close certain waters to the take of all fish and shellfish. Existing law provides that closure is not required if the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) finds, within 24 hours of the notification, that a public health threat does not or is not likely to exist. Existing law requires the director to seek full reimbursement from the responsible parties for the spill or discharge for all reasonable costs incurred by the department in carrying out these provisions. This bill would revise those provisions by, among other things, authorizing, instead of requiring, after a notification of a spill or discharge the director to close certain waters to the take of all fish or shellfish or to otherwise restrict the take and possession of all fish or shellfish in those waters. The bill would require closure if OEHHA finds that a public health threat exists or is likely to exist, and would require the director, in determining the need for a closure, to consult with OEHHA within 24 hours after a notification of a spill or discharge regarding the likelihood of a public health threat, if specified conditions

are met. The bill would also authorize OEHHA to seek full reimbursement for all reasonable costs it incurs. The bill would make it unlawful to take any fish or shellfish from any waters closed pursuant to these provisions or to otherwise violate any restriction imposed pursuant to these provisions. Existing law authorizes the administrator for oil spill response to offer grants to a local government, Native American tribe, or other public entity with jurisdiction over or directly adjacent to waters of the state to provide oil spill response equipment to be deployed by a certified local spill response manager, as provided. This bill would provide that a federally recognized tribe, instead of a Native American tribe, is eligible to receive those grants. Existing law requires the administrator for oil spill response, taking into consideration the California oil spill contingency plan, to promulgate regulations regarding the adequacy of oil spill elements of area plans adopted pursuant to specified existing law. Existing law authorizes the administrator to offer, to a unified program agency with jurisdiction over or directly adjacent to waters of the state, a grant to complete, update, or revise an oil spill element of the area plan. Existing law establishes the Environmental Enhancement Grant Program and requires grants to be awarded to nonprofit organizations, cities, counties, cities and counties, districts, state agencies, and departments. This bill would provide that a federally recognized tribe is also eligible to receive the above-described grants. Existing law makes a responsible party absolutely liable without regard to fault for any damages incurred by any injured person that arise out of, or are caused by, a spill, with specified, exemptions including the discharge or leaking of oil or natural gas from a private pleasure boat or vessel. This bill would remove the discharge or leaking of oil or natural gas from a private pleasure boat or vessel from those exemptions from liability.

SB 856

(Committee on Natural Resources and Water) Marine Invasive Species: biennial reports: semiannual updates.

Status: 04/04/2025 - Set for hearing April 22.

Summary: The Marine Invasive Species Act requires the State Lands Commission, in consultation with specific entities, to biennially submit to the Legislature a report that includes certain information, including, among other things, a summary of the information provided in the ballast water discharge report forms submitted to the commission, as provided. This bill would require the biennial report submitted to the Legislature to instead be submitted triennially and would require that report to instead include a summary of the information provided in the ballast water management report forms submitted to the commission, as provided.

For more information call:

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You can also find legislative information on the web at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/> and follow the prompts from the 'bill information' link.