

Staff Summary for June 11-12, 2025

30A. Administrative Items – Legislative Report**Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

Receive updates on state and federal legislation and regulatory activity and consider providing direction to staff on potential actions.

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

Commission 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 June 1, 2025. 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

Staff has identified state legislation that may affect the Commission's resources and workload during this legislative session, as of June 6, 2025. The Department has provided a report on active bills it is tracking during the legislative session (Exhibit 1).

The legislature reconvened from spring recess on April 21, 2025. June 6 was the last day for bills to be passed out of the house of origin, and on June 9 committee meetings resumed. Other calendar highlights include:

- 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
- August 18: Legislature reconvenes from summer recess
- August 29: Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills to the floor
- September 2-12: Floor session only, with September 5 last day to amend on the floor
- September 12: Last day for each house to pass bills, and interim study recess begins at end of day's session
- October 12: Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the legislature on or before September 12 and in his possession after September 12

Bills Introduced During the 2024-2025 Session

Two senate bills (SB) and six assembly bills (AB) that may affect the Commission's authority or workload, or may be of potential interest to the Commission, remain active this legislative session as of June 1, 2025.

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- SB 609 (Laird) – Fish: commercial fishing. Status: 05/28/2025 – Read third time. Passed. Ordered to Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Existing law requires the receipts, reports, or other records filed with the department pursuant to specified laws, and the information contained therein, to be confidential and to not be public records, except as provided. 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.

- SB 718 (Dahle) – Hunting and sport fishing licenses: reduced fees. Status: 05/27/2025 – Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

This bill would require the department, until January 1, 2031, to issue a reduced fee hunting license to a qualified recipient who is a resident of the state and has not been convicted of a violation of the Fish and Game Code and has provided adequate documentation to the department, as specified. The bill would prohibit the department from providing a reduced fee hunting license to a person unless satisfied that the person provided adequate documentation of eligibility. The bill would also require the department, until January 1, 2031, to issue reduced fee sport fishing licenses in accordance with these provisions. The bill would require the Director of Fish and Wildlife to submit a report to the Legislature on or before October 1, 2029, that evaluates the effect of the reduced fee for hunting and sport fishing licenses, as specified.

- AB 454 (Kalra) – Migratory birds: California Migratory Bird Protection Act. Status: 5/28/2025 - Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

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: 5/07/2025 - Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

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

- AB 1056 (Bennett) – Gill nets: permits. Status: 05/28/2025 – In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS for assignment.

This bill would eliminate the provisions that authorize the transfer of a gill or trammel net permit to another qualified individual upon the disability or death of the original permitholder. The bill would, on and after January 1, 2027, only allow a permitholder to transfer a permit under the other transfer authorization described above to a family member pursuant to regulations adopted by the commission, as specified.

- AB 1089 (Carillo) – Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: industrial projects and commercial projects. Status: 05/07/2025 - Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

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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: 05/27/2025 – Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

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 require, rather than authorize, 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. The bill would increase the required cap on financial compensation offered to private landowners pursuant to the SHARE program to \$52 per acre, or \$87 per public participant per day, and would require those figures to be adjusted annually for inflation, as provided. The bill would authorize the department to reimburse a nonprofit organization, a private landowner, or other entity for its services related to the implementation of the program.

- AB 1319 (Schultz, D) – Protected species: California Endangered Species Act. Status: 05/27/2025 – Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Status: 05/27/2025 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Summary: This bill mandates considering emergency regulations to list federally recognized species native to California if federal protections decrease after January 19, 2025. If an emergency listing occurs, a status review is required to decide on further listings. This provision also expires on January 1, 2032.

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

Significant Public Comments

About a half dozen comments, some in support and some opposed, were received on AB 1038, related to bear hunting and the use of dogs. The bill is no longer active and cannot be reconsidered during this legislative session.

Recommendation (N/A)

Exhibits

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

Motion (N/A)



Department of Fish & Wildlife Legislative Report

June 2025

(As of June 1, 2025)

[AB 66](#)

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

Status: 05/27/2025 – Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

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: 05/28/2025 – In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

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. 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: 05/27/2025 – Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

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 411

(Papan D) Livestock carcasses: disposal: composting.

Status: 05/27/2025 – Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Summary: Current law requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to adopt and revise minimum standards for solid waste handling, transfer, composting, transformation, and disposal, as prescribed. Pursuant to this authority, the department has adopted a regulation that prohibits the composting of unprocessed mammalian tissue except when received from certain sources. This bill would, notwithstanding those prohibitions, authorize any part of a livestock carcass resulting from a routine livestock mortality event or on-farm processing to be composted if certain requirements are met, including, among others, that the composting is conducted in accordance with best management practices for livestock composting adopted by the Secretary of Food and Agriculture, as specified.

AB 454

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

Status: 05/28/2025 – Referred to Com. on N.R.&W.

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 550

(Petrie-Norris D) The California Endangered Species Act: take of species: renewable electrical generation facilities.

Status: 05/27/2025 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

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 may authorize the take of listed species by certain entities through permits or memorandums of understanding for specified purposes. The act allows take by permit if, among other things, the impact of the authorized take is fully minimized and mitigated. This bill

would provide that if an at-risk species, as defined, becomes listed as an endangered, threatened, or candidate species, further authorization or approval shall not be required for a take of that species, if specified conditions are met, including that the potential listing of the at-risk species was anticipated in a permit previously issued by the department for incidental take caused by a renewable electrical generation facility. The bill would authorize the department, in partnership with a permit applicant for an incidental take caused by a renewable electrical generation facility, to develop a research project that evaluates specified factors. The bill would authorize a research project reviewed and approved by the department to contribute to a renewable electrical generation project's mitigation, as provided.

AB 581

(Bennet D) State shrub.

Status: 05/07/2025 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

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

AB 687

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

Status: 05/27/2025 – Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

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 up to 35 projects per year that are exclusively for noncommercial wildfire fuels reduction in timberland, paid for in part or in whole with public funds, to prepare a timber harvesting plan to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would create a state-mandated local program. These provisions would be repealed on January 1, 2031.

AB 697

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

Status: 05/15/2025 -Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Summary: This bill 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 734

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

Status: 05/27/2025 – Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Summary: Current law vests the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission with the power to certify locations on which an electrical transmission line or thermal powerplant is constructed, or is proposed to be constructed, except as provided.

Current law authorizes the commission to exempt from certification a thermal powerplant with a generating capacity of up to 100 megawatts, and modifications to existing generating facilities that do not add capacity in excess of 100 megawatts, if the commission finds that no substantial adverse impact on the environment or energy resources will result from the construction or operation of the proposed facility or from the modifications. This bill would require any biological resources data submitted to the commission in an application for certification or small powerplant exemption pursuant to the above-described provisions to be made publicly available on the commission's docket as part of the certification proceeding unless the Department of Fish and Wildlife makes a written determination that the data to be made public includes specified location data, the disclosure of which would pose a significant risk to individuals of the species. The bill would require the department, if it makes that determination, to include in the written determination an assessment of the maximum amount of the specified data that can be released without posing a risk to the species.

AB 764

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

Status: 05/07/2025 – Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

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 846

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

Status: 05/27/2025 – Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

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: 05/27/2025 – Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

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 902

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

Status: 05/27/2025 – Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Summary: Current law requires the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), for any project on the state highway system in a connectivity area that adds a traffic lane or that has the potential to significantly impair wildlife connectivity, to perform an assessment, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), to identify potential wildlife connectivity barriers and any needs for improved permeability, as specified. Current law requires the implementing agency to remediate barriers to wildlife connectivity in conjunction with the project if any structural barrier to wildlife connectivity exists or will be added by the project for target species in the connectivity area, as provided. Current law authorizes Caltrans to use compensatory mitigation credits to satisfy this requirement if DFW concurs with the use of those credits. This bill would require a lead agency to incorporate appropriate wildlife passage features into a transportation infrastructure project in a connectivity area, as specified. By requiring a lead agency to expand the scope of its transportation project, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would exempt a project on the state highway system from this requirement if Caltrans is the lead agency.

AB 929

(Connolly D) Sustainable groundwater management: managed wetlands.

Status: 05/29/2025 – In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Summary: The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires high- or medium-priority groundwater basins to be managed through sustainability plans. This bill restricts groundwater sustainability agencies from setting extraction limits for small community water systems serving disadvantaged communities and managed wetlands, with these restrictions expiring on January 1, 2029. Additionally, the bill mandates that sustainability plans include data on water supply and economic effects on managed wetlands and small community water systems serving disadvantaged communities, with this requirement also ending in 2029. Furthermore, the bill prohibits sustainability agencies from charging fees to these small community water systems or for managed wetland purposes, provided the historical water use is not exceeded, and this prohibition will also be repealed on January 1, 2029.

AB 975

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

Status: 05/23/2025 – In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

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. This bill would, until January 1, 2027, exempt from these provisions projects to repair or reconstruct a bridge 30 feet long or less or a culvert 70 feet long or less within the County of Sutter that has been damaged or destroyed as a result of fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide, in, or after, 2021.

AB 1007

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

Status: 05/23/2025 - In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

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 1039](#)

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

Status: 05/27/2025 – Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

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: 05/28/2025 - In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

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 a gill or trammel net permitholder to transfer that permit to any person qualified under the regulations adopted by the commission if the permitholder presents to the department satisfactory evidence that they have taken and landed fish for commercial purposes in at least 15 of the preceding 20 years. Current law authorizes the transfer of a gill or trammel net permit to another qualified individual upon the disability or death of the original permitholder, as specified. This bill would eliminate the provisions that authorize the transfer of a gill or trammel net permit to another qualified individual upon the disability or death of the original permitholder. The bill would, on and after January 1, 2027, only allow a permitholder to transfer a permit under the other transfer authorization described above to a family member pursuant to regulations adopted by the commission, as specified.

[AB 1089](#)

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

Status: 05/07/2025 - Referred to Com. on N.R. & 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 1127

(Gabriel D) Firearms: converter pistols.

Status: 05/27/2025 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Summary: Current law prohibits any person from selling, leasing, or transferring any firearm unless the person is licensed as a firearms dealer. Current law prescribes certain requirements and prohibitions for licensed firearms dealers. A violation of any of these requirements or prohibitions is grounds for forfeiture of a firearms dealer's license. For purposes of these provisions, existing law defines "machinegun" to mean, among other definitions, any weapon that shoots or is designed to shoot automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger. This bill would prohibit a licensed firearms dealer to sell, offer for sale, exchange, give, transfer, or deliver any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol, except as specified. For these purposes, the bill would define "machinegun-convertible pistol" as any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar that can be readily converted by hand or with common household tools into a machinegun by the installation or attachment of a pistol converter, as specified, and "pistol converter" as any device or instrument that, when installed in or attached to the rear of the slide of a semiautomatic pistol, replaces the backplate and interferes with the trigger mechanism and thereby enables the pistol to shoot automatically more than one shot by a single function of the trigger.

AB 1169

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

Status: 05/27/2025 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Summary: Existing law establishes the Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) program to encourage private landowners to voluntarily make their land available to the public for wildlife-dependent recreational activities, as specified. Existing law requires a cap on financial compensation offered to a private landowner of \$30 per acre, or \$50 per public participant per day. Existing 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 require, rather than authorize, 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. The bill would increase the required cap on financial compensation offered to private landowners pursuant to the SHARE program to \$52 per acre, or \$87 per public participant per day, and would require those figures to be adjusted annually for inflation, as provided. The bill would authorize the department to reimburse a nonprofit organization, a private landowner, or other entity for its services related to the implementation of the program.

[AB 1227](#)

([Ellis](#) R) Wildfire safety: fuels reduction projects.

Status: 05/27/2025 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Summary: Under the authority of the California Emergency Services Act, on March 1, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation of a state of emergency that suspends applicable state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdiction of boards, departments, and offices within the California Environmental Protection Agency or the Natural Resources Agency to the extent necessary for expediting critical fuels reduction projects, as provided. The proclamation requires an individual or entity desiring to conduct a critical fuels reduction project to request the secretary of the appropriate agency to make a determination that the proposed project is eligible for the suspension and requires the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Agency to maintain on their respective internet website a list of all suspensions approved. This bill would, on or before January 31, 2026, require the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Agency to each report to the Legislature information on the implementation of the above-described proclamation of emergency, as provided.

[AB 1319](#)

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

Status: 05/27/2025 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Summary: Existing law prohibits the unauthorized taking of certain animals. This bill extends the law in California, making it illegal to transport, sell, or possess fish, wildlife, or plants in violation of U.S. statutes regarding trade, effective until January 1, 2032. Violations would be criminal acts under the Fish and Game Code, creating a state-mandated local program. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) requires listing endangered and threatened species and prevents their capture. This bill mandates considering emergency regulations to list federally recognized species native to California if federal protections decrease after January 19, 2025. If an emergency listing occurs, a status review is required to decide on further listings. This provision also expires on January 1, 2032.

[AB 1520](#)

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

Status: 05/27/2025 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Summary: Current law requires the approval of the Department of Fish and Wildlife for any conservation or mitigation bank, and potentially a recorded conservation easement. To establish a bank, one must first submit a prospectus and, if accepted, a bank agreement package including financial assurances and security. The bill allows performance bonds as proposed security. Funds from state duck hunting validations and stamps are allocated to the State Duck Stamp Account, to be used for waterfowl habitat projects and research as approved by the Fish and Game Commission. The bill mandates that the Department of Fish and Wildlife adhere to these provisions when making grants or agreements. The Water Conservation District Law of 1931 allows districts to levy groundwater charges and mandates annual reports on groundwater conditions. The "water year" is redefined by the bill to start on October 1 and end on September 30. The Department of Parks and Recreation can contract with various entities for concessions in state parks, with contracts over three years requiring notice to bidders. The bill mandates public notice for contracts longer than three years and requires concessionaires to submit annual audited financial statements. This bill includes

updates to outdated place names and other nonsubstantive revisions, including the repeal of obsolete laws.

SB 70

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

Status: 5/29/2025 – Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at desk.

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 369

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

Status: 05/23/2025 - From committee: Do pass. Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

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 427

(Blakespear D) Habitat Conservation Fund.

Status: 05/27/2025 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Summary: Proposition 117 enacted the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990. The act creates the Habitat Conservation Fund and requires the moneys in the fund to be used for specified purposes generally relating to the acquisition, enhancement, or restoration of wildlife habitat. The act 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. 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 until June 30, 2035, and would continuously appropriate that amount on an annual basis in the same proportions to the specified entities described above until July 1, 2035.

SB 487

(Grayson D) Workers' compensation.

Status: 05/28/2025 - Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Summary: The workers' compensation system, overseen by the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation, provides compensation for employees injured during employment. Employers must provide necessary medical services to aid the injured employee. The system includes a Workers' Compensation Appeals Board to manage various proceedings. Employers who have paid compensation can claim against third parties responsible for the employee's injury, but once they cover litigation expenses and attorney's fees, their compensation obligations end. Any settlement of claims must be approved by both the employer and employee. Employers can also enforce liens for expenses against third parties. This bill specifies that injured peace officers or firefighters are entitled to at least two-thirds of a third-party defendant's liability insurance if their damages exceed the net recovery after the employer's claims and the insurance is insufficient. The bill limits employers' reimbursement or lien rights to a minimum threshold and bars them from using an employee's recovery as a credit against future benefits. Settlements must limit employer reimbursement claims to unallocated portions.

SB 542

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

Status: 05/27/2025 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Summary: Under existing 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, for an existing oil pipeline that has not been in use for 5 or more years, there to be a public notice and comment process before the administrator issues the certificate of financial responsibility. The bill would require the administrator to review and revise the formulas for calculating reasonable worst-case spills and the financial assurances necessary to respond to an oil spill, as provided.

SB 556

(Hurtado D) Habitat enhancement and restoration: floodplains.

Status: 05/27/2025 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Summary: Existing law establishes the Wildlife Conservation Board within the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Under existing law, the board administers various habitat conservation and restoration programs. This bill would require, upon appropriation by the Legislature, the sum of \$21,500,000 to be allocated to the board for floodplain acquisition, habitat restoration, and associated conservation projects on floodplains in the Counties of Kern, Kings, and Tulare.

SB 609

(Laird D) Fish: commercial fishing.

Status: 05/28/2025 - Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Summary: Existing 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. 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.

SB 718

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

Status: 05/27/2025 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Summary: Existing law requires the department to issue hunting licenses that authorize the take of birds and mammals, and sport fishing licenses that authorize the take of fish, reptiles, or amphibians, in accordance with prescribed laws. Existing law sets the fees for those licenses at specified rates and requires those fees to be adjusted annually for inflation. Existing law requires the department to issue reduced fee hunting and sport fishing licenses to specified individuals, as provided. This bill would require the department, until January 1, 2031, to issue a reduced fee hunting license to a qualified recipient who is a resident of the state and has not been convicted of a violation of the Fish and Game Code and has provided adequate documentation to the department, as specified. The bill would prohibit the department from providing a reduced fee hunting license to a person unless the department is satisfied that the person provided adequate documentation of eligibility. The bill would also require the department, until January 1, 2031, to issue reduced fee sport fishing licenses in accordance with these provisions. The bill would require the Director of Fish and Wildlife to submit a report to the Legislature on or before October 1, 2029, that evaluates the effect of the reduced fee for hunting and sport fishing licenses, as specified

SB 765

(Niello R) State snake.

Status: 05/28/2025 - In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

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 839

(Laird D) Oil spills: fishing: water closure: grants: liability.

Status: 05/28/2025 - Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 32. Noes 0.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

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: 05/29/2025 – Referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

Summary: The California Coastal Act of 1976 established the California Coastal Commission, which mandates obtaining a coastal development permit for any development in the coastal zone, in addition to any other necessary permits. This bill clarifies that the commission can waive the filing fee for both initial coastal development permits and amendments to these permits. The commission may specify if the fee waiver for an initial project also applies to future amendments. Additionally, existing provisions under the Marine Invasive Species Act require the State Lands Commission to submit a report to the Legislature, which now must be submitted every three years instead of biennially. This report must include a summary of information from ballast water management report forms, which will also be updated and published online semiannually starting April 30, 2026, including vessel inspection and compliance rates.

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.