

Staff Summary for October 8-9, 2025

27A. 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 September 29, 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

The legislature has recessed for its interim study recess and is expected to return on January 5, 2026 for the second half of the two-year session. Other calendar highlights include:

- October 12: Last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the legislature on or before September 12 and in his possession after September 12
- January 1, 2026: Most statutory changes take effect

Bills Introduced During the 2024-2025 Session

Four senate bills (SB) and sixteen assembly bills (AB) that may affect the Commission's authority or workload, or may be of potential interest to the Commission, remained active this legislative session (signed or enrolled) as of September 29, 2025, or may be considered again in January 2026.

- SB 609 (Laird) – Fish: commercial fishing. Status: 9/3/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 11 a.m.

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. Contact information and commercial catch data will remain confidential. The bill also clarifies that licensed marine aquaria receivers are not required to report electronically and are to continue reporting on paper landing receipts.

Staff Summary for October 8-9, 2025

- SB 718 (Dahle) – Hunting and sport fishing licenses: reduced fees. Status: 8/28/2025-Failed deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). Last location was Committee on Appropriations. (May be acted upon January 2026)

This bill would require the department, until January 1, 2032, to issue, beginning no later than January 1, 2027, 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. This bill defines qualified recipients as any person who is receiving public benefits through California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Act (CalWORKs), a federal Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF) grant program, and/or federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The bill requires the Commission to adopt regulations to establish which material demonstrates receipt of public benefits under CalWORKs, Tribal TANF, and SNAP.

- SB 765 (Niello) – State snake. Status: 9/9/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 2 p.m.

This bill would establish the giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) as the official state snake.

- SB 839 (Laird) – 9/13/2025-Joint Rule 61(a)(14) and 51(a)(4) suspended. Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. In Senate. Concurrence in Assembly amendments pending. Assembly amendments concurred in. (Ayes 32. Noes 0.) Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.

This bill would modify fishery closure requirements during an oil spill, ensure oil spill penalties are deposited correctly, delete an exemption for private vessels related to oil spills, and expand eligibility for some grants awarded by the OSPR to include federally recognized tribes. According to the author, this bill enables data-driven collaborative decision making to uphold the protection of the public, wildlife, and environment, while avoiding unnecessary impacts on commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing.

- AB 454 (Kalra) – Migratory birds: California Migratory Bird Protection Act. Status: 9/11/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.

This bill would reestablish the California Migratory Bird Protection Act, which became inactive on January 20, 2025. It would prohibit the take or possession of migratory birds designated under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act unless the take is authorized under rules and regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior prior to January 1, 2025. According to the author, this bill will ensure that California can continue to enforce effective migratory bird protections, even in the event of federal rollbacks.

- AB 550 (Petrie-Norris) – The California Endangered Species Act: take of species: renewable electrical generation facilities. Status: 7/17/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was Senate Natural Resources & Water on 6/11/2025) (May be acted upon January 2026)

Staff Summary for October 8-9, 2025

This bill would amend the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) so that a renewable electrical generation facility would not need further take authorization from the Department for the incidental take of an “at-risk species” when that “at-risk species” become listed or a candidate for listing under CESA if the Department has anticipated the potential listing of the species in an incidental take permit issued before the listing. This bill would also allow the Department, in coordination with a permit applicant, to develop research projects that contribute to meeting the required mitigation for renewable electrical generation facilities. Lastly, the the Department would be required to submit a report to the legislature by January 1, 2030.

- AB 581 (Bennett) – State shrub. Status: 9/9/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3 p.m.

This bill establishes the bigberry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) as the official state shrub.

- AB 697 (Wilson) – Protected species: authorized take: State Route 37 project. Status: 9/11/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.

This bill would authorize the incidental take of certain fully protected species resulting from impacts attributable to improvement projects on the State Route 37 corridor. We believe the author introduced this bill to facilitate legal permitting options for this high-profile infrastructure improvement project.

- AB 717 (Aguiar-Curry) – Water rights: appropriation: small restoration use. Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/30/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

This bill creates a new type of water right registration for small restoration use, not to exceed 20 acre-feet of water annually. Small restoration registrations would be used in connection with a project whose primary purpose is to restore, enhance, or provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Additionally, this bill would remove an exemption for registrations on stream segments where the director of the Department has established proposed streamflow requirements until the State Water Resources Control Board has established instream flow requirements as a part of the general conditions for that stream segment.

- AB 764 (Gonzalez, Jeff) – Birds and mammals: nongame birds: mute swans. Status: 9/13/2025-Joint Rules 62(a)(14) and 51(a)(4) suspended. Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.

This bill would, until January 1, 2031, add mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) to the list of nongame birds (currently English sparrow and Starling) that can be taken or possessed at any time. The bill encourages the public to report taking or possessing of mute swans to the Department and requires the Department to collect enforcement action data related to the take and possession of mute swans.

Staff Summary for October 8-9, 2025

- AB 766 (Sharp-Collins) – State agencies and departments: strategic plans: diversity, equity, and inclusion. Status: 9/23/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.

This bill requires state agencies that report to the Governor to update their long-term strategic plans to make sure they are fair and inclusive to all Californians. Agencies must use data to find gaps, disparities, or problems and get feedback from communities that have often been excluded. At minimum, the Legislature, client groups served, suppliers, and contractors must be consulted during the development of new or updated strategic plans. Agencies, departments, offices, and commissions subject to the Governor's authority must also submit a report annually to the Governor and members of the Legislature beginning April 1, 2026. The report must detail steps to develop and adopt the strategic plan, new elements being added to the plan, performance measures, and a timeline to completion.

- AB 846 (Connolly) – Endangered species: incidental take: wildfire preparedness activities. Status: 8/29/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was Committee on Appropriations Suspense File on 7/14/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

This bill would establish a new process for local agencies to undertake "wildfire preparedness activities" with the intent to streamline permitting under the CESA. The bill authorizes the Department to impose a fee for this process.

- AB 892 (Schultz) – Captive wild animals: direct contact: prohibition. Status: 5/1/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was W.,P. & W. on 3/10/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

This bill would prohibit the public from having direct contact with specific captive animals. The bill defines "direct contact" as physical contact or proximity where physical contact is possible, including, but not limited to, any proximity without a permanent physical barrier. Violators would be subject to civil penalties and owners of the animals could face revocation or suspension of the permit which allows them to have those animals.

- AB 1024 (Harabedian) – Department of Fish and Wildlife: San Gabriel Valley Bear Management and Community Safety Act. Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was Committee on Appropriations Suspense File on 4/23/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

This bill would establish the San Gabriel Valley Bear Management and Community Safety Act for communities located within the San Gabriel Valley in Los Angeles County. The bill requires the Department to develop a regional bear management plan to reduce human-bear encounters. The bill would also require the Department to tag, relocate, and track any bear that enters a residential neighborhood. We believe the author introduced this bill to better protect native biodiversity, human health and safety, and agricultural interests; and to foster safe coexistence with black bears by addressing human-wildlife conflict, depredation, and potential public safety incidents.

Staff Summary for October 8-9, 2025

- AB 1038 (Hadwick) – Bear: hunting: use of dogs. Status: 5/1//2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife on 3/10/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

This bill would require the California Fish and Game Commission (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. In addition, the bill, following the publication of the Department's Black Bear Conservation and Management Plan for California, would authorize the Commission to establish a bear hunting season during which a person, in accordance with a bear tag, would be authorized to allow dogs to pursue bears in any area determined by the Commission.

- AB 1056 (Bennett) – Gill nets: permits. Status: 9/23/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.

This bill authorizes the Commission to promulgate regulations narrowing the authority to transfer a gill/trammel net permit. On and after January 1, 2027, this bill would limit the transfer of a gill/trammel net permit, pursuant to regulations adopted by the Commission, from the permit holder to a family member, at which point the permit then becomes nontransferable, if the current permitholder has taken and landed fish for commercial purposes in at least 15 of the preceding 20 years.

- AB 1089 (Carrillo) – Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: industrial projects and commercial projects. Status: 9/12/2025-In Assembly. Concurrence in Senate amendments pending. Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.

The Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act authorizes the Department to enter into an agreement with any county or city and delegate limited authority to permit the taking of a western Joshua tree associated with developing single-family residences, multifamily residences, accessory structures, and public works projects. This bill would expand the authority delegated to cities to include commercial and industrial projects taking fewer than 10 trees. This bill would also expand the Department's authority to issue permits to trim or remove live and dead western Joshua trees within 100 feet of existing single-family homes and accessory structures when necessary to meet state or local defensible space requirements.

- AB 1169 (Gonzalez, Jeff) – Wildlife grants: Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) program. Status: 8/29/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was Committee on Appropriations Suspense File on 8/18/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

This bill would increase the current cap on financial compensation for landowners participating in the Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Program. This bill would also require the Department to enter into grants or agreements with nonprofit conservation organizations, governmental entities or any other entities for purposes of carrying out the SHARE program when appropriate. This bill caps compensation for landowners at \$52 per acre or \$87 per public participant per day.

Staff Summary for October 8-9, 2025

These amounts will be adjusted annually using calculations described in Fish and Game Code Section 713.

- AB 1232 (Avila Farias) – Administrative Procedure Act: proposed regulations: cost of living impact on residents of the state. Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was Committee on Appropriations Suspense File on 5/21/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026).

This bill would amend the Administrative Procedure Act by requiring state agencies promulgating regulations to assess and report “cost of living impacts on residents of the state” from proposed regulations. Specifically, it mandates that agencies analyze and disclose the potential cost-of-living impact on small businesses and individuals. According to the author, “AB 1232 helps achieve the state’s affordability goals by requiring state agencies to specifically examine what impacts their proposed regulation would have on the cost of living for Californians.”

- AB 1319 (Schultz, D) – Protected species: California Endangered Species Act. Status: 9/23/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.

This bill would make it unlawful for a person in California to violate any law or statute of any state or any law, treaty, or statute of the United States in effect January 19, 2025, regarding national or international trade of fish, wildlife, or plants. This bill requires the Department to monitor federal government actions for a decrease in protection for native Californian species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act and determine if the species should be listed under the CESA as a provisional candidate species. The Department would report the list of provisional candidate species to the Commission and if the Commission determines ongoing protections are warranted, the Department would be required to prepare a status review. Provisional candidate species would have the same protections as candidate species and would remain provisional candidates until December 31, 2031, or until removed from the list by the Commission.

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

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation (N/A)

Exhibits

1. [Department legislative report, dated September 29, 2025](#)

Motion (N/A)



Department of Fish & Wildlife Legislative Report

October 2025

(As of September 29, 2025)

[AB 62](#)

([McKinnor](#) D) Civil Rights Department: racially motivated eminent domain.

Status: 9/16/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 2 p.m.

Summary: The bill establishes procedures by which a person who had property taken from them by the state or political subdivision of the state without just compensation because of racially motivated eminent domain may apply for the return of the property, other public property of equal value, or financial compensation as determined by the Civil Rights Department, established under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act.

[AB 66](#)

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

Status: 7/17/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was N.R. & W. on 7/2/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would create a new California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption for egress route projects undertaken by a public agency. This bill aims to improve emergency access to and evacuation from subdivisions that lack a secondary egress route when the State Board of Forestry and Fire Projection recommends the creation of a secondary egress route and certain conditions are met. This exemption would sunset on January 1, 2032.

[AB 317](#)

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

Status: 7/17/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was E.Q. on 6/4/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would create a new CEQA statutory exemption for the construction of individual single-family dwellings that meet certain requirements. The primary criteria are that the home is 1,500 square feet or less, that it be under \$400,000 in value, and that it is to be sold or transferred to a first-time homebuyer. According to the author, "AB 317 seeks to address the profound challenges that California's housing crisis has placed on first-time buyers."

[AB 411](#)

([Papan](#) D) Livestock carcasses: disposal: composting.

Status: 9/16/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 2 p.m.

Summary: This bill establishes the Caring About the Terrain, Livestock, and Ecosystems (CATTLE) Act, which permits livestock carcasses to be composted under specific circumstances. This bill requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

(CalRecycle) to adopt regulations establishing minimum standards for solid waste handling, transfer, composting, transformation, and disposal.

AB 454

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

Status: 9/11/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.

Summary: This bill would reestablish the California Migratory Bird Protection Act, which became inactive on January 20, 2025. It would prohibit the take or possession of migratory birds designated under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act unless the take is authorized under rules and regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior prior to January 1, 2025. According to the author, this bill will ensure that California can continue to enforce effective migratory bird protections, even in the event of federal rollbacks.

AB 526

(Papan D) Energy: in-state geothermal energy generation.

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/14/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would require the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission) to evaluate and quantify the maximum feasible capacity of new in-state geothermal energy to achieve reliability, ratepayer, employment, decarbonization benefits, and establish megawatt in-state next-generation geothermal planning goals by June 1, 2026, and planning goals for 2035 and 2045. It would also require the Energy Commission to coordinate with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and other relevant agencies, to develop a strategic plan for the development of new-in state geothermal energy by June 30, 2027.

AB 550

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

Status: 7/17/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was N.R. & W. on 6/11/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would amend the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) so that a renewable electrical generation facility would not need further take authorization from the Department for the incidental take of an “at-risk species” when that “at-risk species” become listed or a candidate for listing under CESA if the Department has anticipated the potential listing of the species in an incidental take permit issued before the listing. This bill would also allow the Department, in coordination with a permit applicant, to develop research projects that contribute to meeting the required mitigation for renewable electrical generation facilities. Lastly, the Department would be required to submit a report to the legislature by January 1, 2030.

AB 581

(Bennett D) State shrub.

Status: 9/9/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3 p.m.

Summary: This bill establishes the bigberry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) as the official state shrub.

AB 623

(Dixon R) Fire prevention projects: California Environmental Quality Act: coastal development permits: exemptions.

Status: 5/1/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was NAT. RES. on 3/3/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would create a CEQA statutory exemption for a fuel modification project to maintain defensible space around a structure or any “fuel reduction project to prevent and contain the spread of wildfires.”

AB 687

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

Status: 7/17/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was N.R. & W. on 6/18/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: AB 687 allows wildfire fuels reduction projects paid for with public funds to prepare and submit a Timber Harvesting Plan in lieu of complying with the CEQA. This bill would require environmental analysis of such projects under the California Forest Practice Rules’ Certified Regulatory Program.

AB 697

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

Status: 9/11/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.

Summary: This bill would authorize the incidental take of certain fully protected species resulting from impacts attributable to improvement projects on the State Route 37 corridor. We believe the author introduced this bill to facilitate legal permitting options for this high-profile infrastructure improvement project.

AB 717

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

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/30/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill creates a new type of water right registration for small restoration use, not to exceed 20 acre-feet of water annually. Small restoration registrations would be used in connection with a project whose primary purpose is to restore, enhance, or provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Additionally, this bill would remove an exemption for registrations on stream segments where the director of the Department has established proposed streamflow requirements until the State Water Resources Control Board has established instream flow requirements as a part of the general conditions for that stream segment.

AB 734

(Schultz D) Environmental protection: biological resources data: State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission: powerplants: power lines: applications.

Status: 9/9/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3 p.m.

Summary: This bill would require that any biological resources data submitted to the Energy Commission in an application for certification or small powerplant exemption be made publicly

available on the Energy Commission's docket. The bill includes a provision allowing the Department to determine the amount of data derived from the California Natural Diversity Database that may be released without posing a significant risk to individuals of the species.

AB 763

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

Status: 5/1/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was W.,P. & W. on 3/24/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: AB 763 would require the Department to issue a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement for timber harvesting projects within five working days of CAL FIRE approving a timber harvesting plan. According to the author, this bill "simplifies the process for responsibly harvesting timber while ensuring strong environmental protections. It helps prevent wildfires, supports local jobs, and keeps California's forests healthy for the long run."

AB 764

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

Status: 9/13/2025-Joint Rules 62(a)(14) and 51(a)(4) suspended. Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.

Summary: This bill would, until January 1, 2031, add mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) to the list of nongame birds (currently English sparrow and Starling) that can be taken or possessed at any time. The bill encourages the public to report taking or possessing of mute swans to the Department and requires the Department to collect enforcement action data related to the take and possession of mute swans.

AB 766

(Sharp-Collins D) State agencies and departments: strategic plans: diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Status: 9/23/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.

Summary: This bill requires state agencies that report to the Governor to update their long-term strategic plans to make sure they are fair and inclusive to all Californians. Agencies must use data to find gaps, disparities, or problems and get feedback from communities that have often been excluded. At minimum, the Legislature, client groups served, suppliers, and contractors must be consulted during the development of new or updated strategic plans. Agencies, departments, offices, and commissions subject to the Governor's authority must also submit a report annually to the Governor and members of the Legislature beginning April 1, 2026. The report must detail steps to develop and adopt the strategic plan, new elements being added to the plan, performance measures, and a timeline to completion.

AB 807

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

Status: 5/1/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was W.,P. & W. on 3/10/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would expand the definition of "conservation bank" and "mitigation bank" (bank) to include marine artificial reefs. Under this bill, receiving a lease from the State Lands Commission for an artificial reef would satisfy existing requirements for a bank enabling instrument and for the Department to grant a conservation easement prior to a site being approved for a bank. At the end of the lease, the State Lands Commission would be required

to manage the area in perpetuity. According to the author, “a bank would allow a private enterprise to create the mitigation credits needed without burdening the developers and regulators reviewing the developers’ projects with evaluating a new mitigation project.”

AB 846

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

Status: 8/29/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 7/14/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would establish a new process for local agencies to undertake “wildfire preparedness activities” with the intent to streamline permitting under the CESA. The bill authorizes the Department to impose a fee for this process.

AB 854

(Petrie-Norris D) California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions.

Status: 5/1/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was U. & E. on 4/24/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would add a new CEQA statutory exemption for reconductoring of transmission line projects throughout the State.

AB 869

(Irwin D) State agencies: information security: Zero Trust architecture.

Status: 8/29/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/18/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would require every state agency to implement sweeping changes to better defend against cyber threat by implementing a secure environment. More importantly it requires departments to implement a Zero Trust security architecture which is a proactive measure of preventing cyber-attacks and compromise. The policies to implement these changes would be developed no later than January 1, 2026, by the State Office of Information Security. We believe the author introduced this bill to require all users, whether in or outside the organization’s network, to be authenticated, authorized, and continuously validated before being granted or retaining access to applications and data.

AB 880

(Bennett D) State government grants and contracts: payment of claims and grantees’ indirect costs.

Status: 8/28/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. on 6/24/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill expands the definition of a grant for the purposes of the California Prompt Payment Act to include nonprofit organizations and eliminates the cap on grants or contracts eligible for penalty payments. This bill would require a discrepancy greater than \$250 or 5% of the invoice or claimed amount, whichever is less, for a state agency to dispute an invoice or claim for reasonable cause. This bill also requires state agencies administering a grant program to reimburse grantee’s indirect costs.

AB 892

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

Status: 5/1/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was W.,P. & W. on 3/10/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would prohibit the public from having direct contact with specific captive animals. The bill defines “direct contact” as physical contact or proximity where physical contact is possible, including, but not limited to, any proximity without a permanent physical barrier. Violators would be subject to civil penalties and owners of the animals could face revocation or suspension of the permit which allows them to have those animals.

AB 902

(Schultz D) Transportation projects: barriers to wildlife movement.

Status: 8/29/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/18/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would require a CEQA lead agency to incorporate appropriate wildlife passage features to feasibly avoid, minimize, and mitigate projects that may significantly impair wildlife connectivity located within connectivity areas. This bill identifies connectivity areas as lands ranked as terrestrial connectivity 3, 4, or 5 within the Department’s Areas of Conservation Emphasis, or a connectivity area identified in a general plan. This requirement would be applicable for any transportation project initiated on or after January 1, 2028.

AB 929

(Connolly D) Sustainable groundwater management: managed wetlands.

Status: 9/11/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(14). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on 9/10/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would revise the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to limit a Groundwater Sustainability Agency’s (GSA) ability to establish groundwater extraction allocations and impose fees on small community water systems serving disadvantaged communities and on managed wetland extractors. The bill also adds related definitions to SGMA and repeals the provisions prohibiting GSAs from establishing groundwater extraction allocations and fees on disadvantaged communities and managed wetland extractors on January 1, 2029.

AB 975

(Gallagher R) Lake and streambed alteration agreements: exemptions: culverts and bridges.

Status: 9/13/2025-Joint Rules 61(a)(14) and 51(a)(4) suspended. Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.

Summary: This bill would exempt projects to repair or reconstruct a bridge or culvert within Sutter County from having to comply with lake and streambed alteration agreement requirements. This exemption could only be used for bridges, up to 30 feet long, and culverts, up to 70 feet long, that were damaged, since 2022, by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide. Projects described in Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement No. SUT-53568-R2, executed on January 31, 2025, are excluded from being eligible for the proposed exemption, and entities undertaking exempt projects are

required to conduct biological surveys, consult with the Department on appropriate species protection measures, and implement those measures.

AB 1000

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

Status: 5/8/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was NAT. RES. on 3/17/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would create a new CEQA exemption for a project to remove sediment from the 5-Mile Basin within the City of Chico in the Butte County.

AB 1007

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

Status: 9/12/2025-In Assembly. Concurrence in Senate amendments pending. Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.

Summary: This bill would shorten the review timeline for a responsible public agency, except the California Coastal Commission or the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, to approve or disapprove permits for residential and mixed-use development projects, from 90 days to 45 days, thus increasing the duties of local officials. The review timeline would start on either the lead agency's project approval date or the date on which the responsible agency receives and accepts a completed application, whichever is longer.

AB 1024

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

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/23/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would establish the San Gabriel Valley Bear Management and Community Safety Act for communities located within the San Gabriel Valley in Los Angeles County. The bill requires the Department to develop a regional bear management plan to reduce human-bear encounters. The bill would also require the Department to tag, relocate, and track any bear that enters a residential neighborhood. We believe the author introduced this bill to better protect native biodiversity, human health and safety, and agricultural interests; and to foster safe coexistence with black bears by addressing human-wildlife conflict, depredation, and potential public safety incidents.

AB 1038

(Hadwick R) Bears: hunting: use of dogs.

Status: 5/1/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was W.,P. & W. on 3/10/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: The bill would require the California Fish and Game Commission (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. In addition, the bill, following the publication of the Department's Black Bear Conservation and Management Plan for California, would authorize the Commission to establish a bear hunting season during which a person, in accordance with a bear tag, would be authorized to allow dogs to pursue bears in any area determined by the Commission.

[AB 1039](#)

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

Status: 8/28/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. on 7/8/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would require an administering state agency to advance payment to a nonprofit organization or a federally recognized tribe (recipient entity) for all grants and contracts advertised on or after January 1, 2026. It would limit the existing requirement to prioritize projects serving disadvantaged, low-income, and underserved communities to grants and contracts advertised before January 1, 2026. The bill limits the requirement to deposit advanced funds into a federally insured account to grants and contracts in excess of \$10,000, eliminate the requirement for an administering state agency to stipulate an advance payment structure and request process, require the administering agency to consider using advance payment best practices and processes, and omit the requirement for a nonprofit to demonstrate its "good" status as a 501(c)(3) organization.

[AB 1056](#)

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

Status: 9/23/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.

Summary: This bill authorizes the Commission to promulgate regulations narrowing the authority to transfer a gill/trammel net permit. On and after January 1, 2027, this bill would limit the transfer of a gill/trammel net permit, pursuant to regulations adopted by the Commission, from the permit holder to a family member, at which point the permit then becomes nontransferable, if the current permitholder has taken and landed fish for commercial purposes in at least 15 of the preceding 20 years.

[AB 1086](#)

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

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/14/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill 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. Among other things, the State Air Board would be required to establish a Marine Carbon Council and Marine Carbon Research Program to support this initiative.

[AB 1089](#)

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

Status: 9/12/2025-In Assembly. Concurrence in Senate amendments pending. Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.

Summary: The Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act authorizes the Department to enter into an agreement with any county or city and delegate limited authority to permit the taking of a western Joshua tree associated with developing single-family residences, multifamily residences, accessory structures, and public works projects. This bill would expand the authority delegated to cities to include commercial and industrial projects taking fewer than 10 trees. This bill would also expand the Department's authority to issue permits to trim or remove

live and dead western Joshua trees within 100 feet of existing single-family homes and accessory structures when necessary to meet state or local defensible space requirements.

AB 1169

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

Status: 8/29/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/18/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would increase the current cap on financial compensation for landowners participating in the Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Program. This bill would also require the Department to enter into grants or agreements with nonprofit conservation organizations, governmental entities or any other entities for purposes of carrying out the SHARE program when appropriate. This bill caps compensation for landowners at \$52 per acre or \$87 per public participant per day. These amounts will be adjusted annually using calculations described in Fish and Game Code Section 713.

AB 1227

(Ellis R) Wildfire safety: fuels reduction projects.

Status: 8/29/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/25/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would create, until January 1, 2028, an exemption from the CEQA for a set of critical fuels reduction projects in very high fire hazard severity zones. The bill also includes requirements for the California Natural Resource Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency to report to the Legislature on the implementation of the Governor's March 1, 2025 proclamation of a state of emergency that suspends applicable state laws to the extent necessary for expediting critical fuels reduction projects.

AB 1232

(Ávila Fariás D) Administrative Procedure Act: proposed regulations: cost of living impact on residents of the state.

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/21/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: The bill would amend the Administrative Procedure Act by requiring state agencies promulgating regulations to assess and report "cost of living impacts on residents of the state" from proposed regulations. Specifically, it mandates that agencies analyze and disclose the potential cost-of-living impact on small businesses and individuals. According to the author, "AB 1232 helps achieve the state's affordability goals by requiring state agencies to specifically examine what impacts their proposed regulation would have on the cost of living for Californians."

AB 1311

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

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/7/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would appropriate \$400 million of the \$870 million allocated to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) from The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4) for conservation easement

projects on private rangeland, grassland, and grazing land. WCB would be required to disburse these funds through grant agreements by June 30, 2028. Grantees would then have until June 30, 2029, to expend the funds to acquire conservation easements.

AB 1316

(Addis D) Hunting licenses: information on firearms.

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/14/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would require the Department to guarantee individuals purchasing hunting licenses receive information on safe storage of firearms, California's child access prevention laws, liability for parents/guardians who should have known their child could access a firearm, basic California firearm laws, and the legal relinquishing or transferring of firearms.

AB 1319

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

Status: 9/23/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.

Summary: This bill would make it unlawful for a person in California to violate any law or statute of any state or any law, treaty, or statute of the United States in effect January 19, 2025, regarding national or international trade of fish, wildlife, or plants. This bill requires the Department to monitor federal government actions for a decrease in protection for native Californian species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act and determine if the species should be listed under the CESA as a provisional candidate species. The Department would report the list of provisional candidate species to the Commission and if the Commission determines ongoing protections are warranted, the Department would be required to prepare a status review. Provisional candidate species would have the same protections as candidate species and would remain provisional candidates until December 31, 2031, or until removed from the list by the Commission.

AB 1425

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

Status: 5/1/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was NAT. RES. on 4/1/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would prohibit pit dewatering in areas with subsurface river flow or groundwater levels shallower than 50 feet below ground within the San Joaquin River Parkway.

AB 1426

(Kalra D) Diablo Range Conservation Program.

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/7/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would establish the Diablo Range Conservation Program within the WCB. The intent of the Diablo Range Conservation Program is for WCB to support projects focused on the unique habitats within and adjacent to the Diablo Range. Additionally, the bill establishes the Diablo Range Conservation Fund within the State Treasury and authorizes WCB to accept fund contributions from public and private entities, which would be deposited in the fund.

AB 1520

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

Status: 9/22/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3 p.m.

Summary: This bill makes several changes to the Fish and Game Code, Water Code, and Public Resources Code. Among other things, this bill would expand the forms of financial security that can be used by mitigation and conservation banks, clarify and eliminate uncertainty for Duck Stamp funded habitat enhancement project agreements, and revise the start and end dates for the water year. This bill exempts all water right registrations from the Public Resources Code filing fee and allows registrations in compliance to be automatically renewed upon expiration. It also adds provisions specific to the contracting process for the Department of Parks and Recreation.

SB 70

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

Status: 8/28/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/20/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill will permit a state agency to award a contract for goods, services or information technology with an estimated value between \$5,000 and \$350,000 to a certified small business (SB), including a microbusiness (MB) and a disabled veteran business enterprise (DVBE), without needing to solicit using competitive bidding, as long as the agency obtains quotes from two or more certified SBs, MBs, or DVBEs. This bill proposes an increase from the current limit of \$250,000 to reflect changes to the California Consumer Price Index. This bill will also require the Department of General Services (DGS) to conduct a biennial review of the maximum value of this competitive bidding exemption and adjust the value as the California Consumer Price Index changes.

SB 73

(Cervantes D) California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions.

Status: 5/1/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was E.Q. on 1/29/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would expand an existing CEQA exemption for infill projects located in transit priority areas to include projects in very low vehicle travel areas. This bill directs the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation to define what a very low vehicle travel area is and to maintain statewide maps of these newly defined areas. This bill also removes language protecting biological resources that limits where CEQA exemptions can be used for certain housing projects. In essence, this bill expands the CEQA exemptions for infill housing projects by increasing where these projects can be sited and simultaneously reduces protective measures for fish and wildlife habitat. We believe the author introduced this bill to stimulate housing development.

SB 237

(Grayson D) Oil spill prevention: gasoline specifications: suspension: California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions: County of Kern: transportation fuels assessment: coastal resources.

Status: 9/19/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 118, Statutes of 2025.

Summary: This bill requires the Department Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) to post on its website a list of all applications for certificates of financial responsibility submitted by facility owners and operators. The bill requires OSPR to solicit public input every 10 years on the appropriateness of the reasonable worst-case spill volumes and financial responsibility requirements of facilities. The bill requires OSPR, based on this public feedback and its own review, to review and, as appropriate, revise the criteria and formulas for calculating reasonable worst-case spill volume and criteria and formulas for calculating financial assurances, including setting the maximum amount of financial responsibility necessary to respond to an oil spill.

SB 369

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

Status: 9/17/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 2 p.m.

Summary: The bill would require a state agency, when undertaking a Salton Sea restoration project, to include a requirement in its contracts that all bidders, contractors, subcontractors, and associated entities use a skilled and trained workforce to perform any work that falls within an apprenticeship occupation in the building and construction trades. This requirement would go into effect on January 1, 2026.

SB 375

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

Status: 5/1/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was N.R. & W. on 2/26/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would establish a new process for local agencies to undertake “wildfire preparedness activities” with the intent to streamline permitting under the CESA. This bill would also establish a CEQA statutory exemption and a coastal development permit exemption for all fuels reduction projects within moderate, high, and very high fire severity zones.

SB 427

(Blakespear D) Habitat Conservation Fund.

Status: 9/17/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 2 p.m.

Summary: This bill extends the Habitat Conservation Fund created by the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 (Proposition 117) to July 1, 2035, by removing the existing sunset date of July 1, 2030. The bill would require annual transfers of \$30 million from the State General Fund to the Habitat Conservation Fund until July 1, 2035, and continually appropriate that amount on an annual basis until July 1, 2035.

SB 542

(Limón D) Oil spill prevention: administrator for oil spill response: duties: pipeline inspections.

Status: 9/11/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(14). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on 9/12/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would require the Administrator of the Department, OSPR to include public engagement in the process of determining spill severity and financial responsibility for oil spill incidents. The Administrator would be required to post information regarding certificate of

financial responsibility applications to the OSPR website and review established standards for determining a facility's reasonable worst case spill volume. Every 10 years, the Administrator would also be required to solicit and review public input on the financial responsibility requirements for facilities and the formulas for calculating reasonable worst-case spill volumes, then, if appropriate, revise those requirements and formulas. These reviews and any resultant rule-making actions must be combined.

SB 556

(Hurtado D) Habitat enhancement and restoration: floodplains.

Status: 8/28/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/20/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill, upon appropriation by the Legislature, would require \$21.5 million to be allocated to the WCB for floodplain acquisition, habitat restoration, and associated conservation projects on floodplains in Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties. The bill also makes findings and declarations about the necessity of a special statute for Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties due to the unique uncontrolled flooding and groundwater depletion circumstances existing at the various waterways in these counties.

SB 609

(Laird D) Fish: commercial fishing.

Status: 9/3/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 11 a.m.

Summary: All commercial fishing license information and commercial catch data are currently confidential. This bill will improve the accuracy and tracking of commercial landings and fishing activity record data by identifying name and identification number fields as nonconfidential for commercial fishermen, vessels and fish businesses. Name and identification numbers being nonconfidential will allow fish businesses and vessel captains to select the correct industry member from a series of dropdown lists in electronic fisheries reporting systems. Contact information and commercial catch data will remain confidential. The bill also clarifies that licensed Marine Aquaria Receivers are not required to report electronically and are to continue reporting on paper landing receipts.

SB 718

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

Status: 8/28/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/20/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill would require the Department to issue reduced-fee sport fishing and hunting licenses to qualified recipients who are California residents, have not been convicted of a violation of Fish and Game Code, and have provided adequate documentation of eligibility to the Department. This bill defines qualified recipients as any person who is receiving public benefits through California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Act (CalWORKs), a federal Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF) grant program, and/or federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This bill also requires the Commission to adopt regulations to establish which material demonstrates receipt of public benefits under CalWORKs, Tribal TANF, and SNAP, and requires the Department to issue reduced-fee licenses beginning no later than January 1, 2027, through January 1, 2032.

SB 765

(Niello R) State snake.

Status: 9/9/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 2 p.m.

Summary: This bill would establish the giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) as the official state snake.

SB 818

(Alvarado-Gil R) Mountain Lions: human-mountain lion conflicts program: scientific research: County of El Dorado.

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/19/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: This bill requires the Department to maintain and expand its human-wildlife conflicts program; develop and implement a non-lethal deterrent grants program; and expand its scientific research in El Dorado County to mitigate human-mountain lion conflict and depredation. We believe the author introduced this bill to reduce human-mountain lion conflicts.

SB 839

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

Status: 9/13/2025-Joint Rule 61(a)(14) and 51(a)(4) suspended. Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. In Senate. Concurrence in Assembly amendments pending. Assembly amendments concurred in. (Ayes 32. Noes 0.) Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.

Summary: This bill would modify fishery closure requirements during an oil spill, ensure oil spill penalties are deposited correctly, delete an exemption for private vessels related to oil spills, and expand eligibility for some grants awarded by the OSPR to include federally recognized tribes. According to the author, this bill enables data-driven collaborative decision making to uphold the protection of the public, wildlife, and environment, while avoiding unnecessary impacts on commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing.

SB 856

(Committee on Natural Resources and Water) California Coastal Act of 1976: filing fee waiver: Marine Invasive Species Act: biennial reports: semiannual updates.

Status: 8/28/2025-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 102, Statutes of 2025

Summary: This bill would change the frequency of a report by the State Lands Commission regarding the state's efforts to stop nonindigenous species from entering the state by vessel ballast water. Currently the report is required biennially; this bill would make it a triennial requirement. This bill would also require the Commission to publish and keep an updated summary of the report on its website.

For more information call:

Clark Blanchard, CDFW Deputy Director at (916) 591-0140

Erika Fiske-Sanders, CDFW Legislative Representative at (916) 539-2912

Kristin Goree, CDFW Legislative Coordinator at (916) 809-4579

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