

Staff Summary for April 15-16, 2026

25A. Administrative Items - Legislative Report**Today's Item**Information Action

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

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

Staff has identified state legislation that may affect the Commission's resources and workload, or may be of interest to commissioners, and provides the status of those bills during this legislative session as of April 6, 2026. 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 reconvened from spring recess on April 6, 2026.

- May 8: Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 1
- May 29: Last day for bills to be *passed out of the house of origin*
- June 1: Committee meetings may resume
- June 15: Budget Bill must be passed by *midnight*
- July 2: Last day for *policy committees* to meet and report bills, and *Summer recess* begins at the end of this day's session if the budget bill has been passed
- August 3: Legislature reconvenes from *Summer Recess*

Bills Introduced During the 2025-2026 Session

Staff has identified eight 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.

- SB 1021 (Choi). Fishing and hunting: youth program.
This bill would require the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), to establish a program increasing opportunities for youth with life-threatening illnesses or who have lost a parent in service to state or country. The increased opportunities include fishing and hunting big game, upland game birds and migratory game birds.
- SB 1061 (Ochoa Bogh). Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: take: relocation.
The act authorizes, in lieu of completing mitigation measures, a permittee to elect to satisfy the mitigation obligation by paying fees pursuant to a specified fee schedule, as provided. This bill would exempt from the act the relocation of a western Joshua tree that

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is relocated within the same parcel or relocated to a contiguous parcel that is owned by the same owner of the parcel where the western Joshua tree is being relocated from.

- SB 1062 (Ochoa Bogh). Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: life-sustaining services: project-specific conditions.

The act authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife to permit the taking of a western Joshua tree if specified conditions are met, including, but not limited to, that the permittee mitigates all impacts to, and taking of, the western Joshua tree through measures that are roughly proportional in extent to the impact of the authorized taking of the western Joshua tree. The act authorizes, in lieu of completing the mitigation measures, a permittee to elect to satisfy the mitigation obligation by paying fees pursuant to a specified fee schedule, as provided. This bill would authorize the department to, upon the request from a state or local public agency, establish project-specific conditions for a project related to a life-sustaining service, as defined.

- SB 1063 (Ochoa Bogh). Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: life-sustaining services: take permit.

This bill would authorize the Department to permit the take of Western Joshua trees with no mitigation requirements or fees for projects related to the maintenance, operation, or construction of a “life-sustaining service,” as defined in the bill. This bill would require the department to grant or deny the permit within 30 days of a request, or within 10 days of a request if the project demonstrates a threat to health or safety. The bill would allow the permittee 60 days to complete the taking authorized by that permit and would further allow the Department to extend this 60-day period at its discretion.

- SB 1135 (Blakespear). California Wildlife Coexistence Act.

Would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish the Wildlife Coexistence Program to manage and promote wildlife coexistence by conducting specified activities, including maintaining a statewide wildlife incident reporting tool. The bill would rename the California Wolf-Livestock Compensation Pilot Program to the Wolf-Livestock Coexistence and Compensation Program and would require the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish the program to provide resources to eligible participants for purposes relating to wolves and livestock. The bill would authorize the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, including the cost for implementation, to provide resources to wildlife coexistence partners, as defined, to support efforts required for the Wildlife Coexistence Program and the Wolf-Livestock Coexistence and Compensation Program. The bill would require the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish the Wildlife Coexistence Technical Advisory Committee to provide technical guidance, public input, and programmatic recommendations related to the department’s wildlife coexistence efforts. The bill would require the department, on or before July 1, 2028, to include specified information on its internet website, as provided.

- SB 1305 (Richardson) Wildlife: bears.

This bill would establish state policy to restore grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) to California and require the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to prepare and publicly post a roadmap for possible reintroduction. Although the bill does not immediately authorize grizzly bear reintroduction, it sets an affirmative policy direction and would drive

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substantial near-term and ongoing workload for the Department, including scientific assessment, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, tribal consultation, peer review, community engagement, training, cost estimates, proposed regulations, and ongoing efforts to manage the species.

- SB 1393 (McGuire) Commercial fishing: steelhead trout: Dungeness crab.
This omnibus fisheries bill would 1) extend the operation of the Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Program until January 1, 2037 and increase the fee to \$15, 2) extend sunset dates for the operation of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery for an additional ten years, 3) establish requirements to allow a vessel to transit closed areas with Dungeness crab on board, and 4) establish a new Dungeness Crab Fleet Subaccount that would be funded by the surplus funds in the Dungeness crab trap limit account.
- SB 1393 (McGuire) Commercial fishing: steelhead trout: Dungeness crab.
This bill requires the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to maintain, enhance, and expand its statewide human-wildlife conflicts program with an emphasis on mountain lions; and to maintain, enhance, and expand its scientific research, public education and outreach with a focus on non-lethal methods to effectively deter and/or exclude mountain lions. The author introduced this bill to reduce human-wildlife conflicts in communities throughout the state, with an emphasis on human-mountain lion interactions.
- AB 1663 (Wallis) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: single-family residence: exemption.
This bill would exempt from the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act a project or activity located within a parcel that contains, or will contain, a single-family residence that has been continuously owned by the same person, as specified, on or before July 10, 2023, and the parcel owner complies with applicable local ordinances regarding western Joshua trees as those local ordinances read on July 10, 2023.
- AB 1722 (Hadwick). California Endangered Species Act: take prohibition: self-defense.
This bill would prohibit the imposition of a civil, administrative, or criminal penalty for a violation of the take prohibition if the defendant committed the act based on a good faith belief that they were acting to protect themselves, a member of their family, or any other individual from bodily harm from an animal listed under the act.
- AB 1808 (Carrillo). Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: industrial projects and commercial projects: single-family residences: public works projects.
This bill expands the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) authority to enter into a delegated agreement with any city to authorize a western Joshua tree take permit associated with developing commercial and industrial projects taking fewer than 10 trees. In addition, this bill would authorize the Department to issue western Joshua tree take permits without fees or mitigation requirements for qualifying single-family residences and public works projects, provided the specific conditions outlined in the bill are met.

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- AB 1912 (Hadwick). Deer: archery season: concealed firearms.
This bill would allow people hunting deer during archery season to carry a concealable firearm. As amended March 25, 2026, the amendments are technical in nature and align the archery code section with that of other big game code sections.
- AB 2360 (Arambula). State agencies: governmental linguistics.
This bill would specify that the plain, straightforward language requirement applies to both digital and printed documents, and would define “plain language” for purposes of that provision. The bill would require each state agency, as described above, to create, adopt, and post on its internet website a plain language policy that identifies how the state agency will incorporate or strengthen plain language writing and design principles and practices.
- AB 2366 (Ávila Farías). Administrative Procedure Act: proposed regulations: cost-of-living impact on residents of the state.
This bill would include, among existing requirements for assessing the potential for adverse economic impact, the consideration of the proposal’s cost-of-living impacts on residents of the state, as defined. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

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

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. [Department legislative report, dated April 6, 2026](#)

Motion (N/A)



Department of Fish & Wildlife Legislative Report

April 2026

(As of April 6, 2026)

AB 35 (Alvarez D) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.

Location: 1/27/2026-S. RLS.

Summary: The Administrative Procedure Act outlines how state agencies should adopt and implement regulations. The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, passed as Proposition 4, approved issuing \$10 billion in bonds for various environmental and agricultural projects. Typically, regulations required for such programs can be adopted as emergency regulations, needing to be filed with the Office of Administrative Law. However, this bill exempts the adoption of regulations for these programs from the Administrative Procedure Act. Instead, state entities receiving funding must develop draft project guidelines and submit them to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, who will post them online. The bill permits the use of existing guidelines and criteria and is set to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

AB 946 (Bryan D) Natural resources: equitable outdoor access: 30x30 goal: urban nature-based projects.

Location: 1/27/2026-S. RLS.

Summary: This bill would direct state funding agencies, including the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), to allow for urban nature-based projects on degraded lands to be eligible and competitive for state funds. The January 5 amendments replace the entirety of the previous language, which was related to Section 27771 of the Government Code regarding Chief Probation Officer and **Designee**.

AB 1382 (Castillo R) Ethics Over Aesthetics Act.

Location: 1/29/2026-S. RLS.

Summary: The bill would prohibit the for-profit importation, sale, or offering for sale of genetically modified pet animals when the genetic modification is made primarily for cosmetic or aesthetic purposes rather than the animal's health or welfare. Violations would be subject to civil penalties of at least \$5,000 per animal, with each unlawfully sold or offered animal constituting a separate offense. Overall, the measure is intended to address ethical and animal welfare concerns associated with "designer" or novelty pets created through cosmetic genetic engineering. The January 5, 2026 amendments add definitions for transgenic trait and transgenic pet animal, among other things.

AB 1536 (Addis D) Offshore oil.

Location: 3/19/2026-A. NAT. RES.

Summary: The Elder California Pipeline Safety Act of 1981 requires the State Fire Marshal to administer provisions regulating the inspection of intrastate pipelines that transport hazardous liquids. The act requires the State Fire Marshal to adopt hazardous liquid pipeline safety regulations in compliance with the federal law relating to hazardous liquid pipeline safety, as

provided. The act authorizes the State Fire Marshal to exempt the application of those regulations to any pipeline, or portion thereof, when it is determined that the risk to public safety is slight and the probability of injury or damage remote. The act requires any new or replacement pipeline near environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas in the coastal zone to use best available technology based on a risk analysis conducted by the operator to reduce the amount of oil released in an oil spill to protect state waters and wildlife. A person who willfully and knowingly violates the act or a regulation issued pursuant to the act is, upon conviction, subject to a fine, imprisonment, or both a fine and imprisonment, as provided. This bill would prohibit the State Fire Marshal from exempting the application of those regulations to any pipeline, or portion thereof, unless it is determined that the exemption is necessary to address a threat to public safety or the environment or other emergency. The bill would make an application for a specified exemption pursuant to these provisions subject to a 60-day public comment period and, upon request of any interested person, require it to be considered at a public hearing. The bill would make a project that has received an exemption pursuant to these provisions subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. The bill would make any repaired pipeline near environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas in the coastal zone subject to the requirement to use best available technology based on a risk analysis conducted by an independent expert, rather than the operator, and require that analysis to address prevention, as well as reduction, of the amount of oil released in an oil spill, as described above, and make related changes.

[AB 1537 \(Bryan D\)](#) Peace officers: secondary employment.

Location: 3/4/2026-A. APPR.

Summary: Existing law provides that every executive or ministerial officer, employee, or appointee of the State of California, or any county or city therein, or any political subdivision thereof, who knowingly asks, receives, or agrees to receive any emolument, gratuity, or reward, or any promise thereof excepting such as may be authorized by law for doing an official act, is guilty of a misdemeanor. Existing law exempts from that offense certain employment by a peace officer while off duty, as specified. Existing law also provides that a peace officer shall not be prohibited from engaging in other employment while off duty, as specified. This bill would, notwithstanding those provisions, prohibit a peace officer from being employed by, or being an independent contractor of or volunteer for, the United States Department of Homeland Security or its contractors or any other entity that assists with or engages in immigration enforcement. The bill would provide that failure to comply with this provision constitutes, for certain purposes, an act of dishonesty and that it is grounds for decertification as a peace officer.

[AB 1593 \(Dixon R\)](#) State agencies: revenue: report.

Location: 3/18/2026-A. APPR.

Summary: Existing law imposes various reporting requirements on state agencies. This bill would require state agencies that impose monetary charges, as defined, to report the revenue generated from those charges on their internet website on or before January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter. The bill would require the reports to be made available for download in machine-readable format, as specified.

[AB 1663 \(Wallis R\)](#) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: single-family residence: exemption.

Location: 3/16/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: The Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act prohibits any person or public agency from importing into the state, exporting out of the state, or taking, possessing, purchasing, or selling within the state, a western Joshua tree or any part or product of the tree, except as specified. The act authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife to permit the taking of a

western Joshua tree if specified conditions are met, including, but not limited to, that the permittee mitigates all impacts to, and taking of, the western Joshua tree through measures that are roughly proportional in extent to the authorized taking of the western Joshua tree. This bill would exempt from the act a project or activity located within a parcel that contains, or will contain, a single-family residence that has been continuously owned by the same person, as specified, on or before July 10, 2023, and the parcel owner complies with applicable local ordinances regarding western Joshua trees as those local ordinances read on July 10, 2023.

AB 1673 (Hadwick R) County fish and wildlife propagation fund: expenditure.

Location: 3/24/2026-A. APPR.

Summary: The bill would allow for additional expenditures from County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund (Fund) to cover the cost incurred by county Sheriffs for investigating, issuing citations, and making arrests related to violations of the Fish and Game Code. This bill would add expenditures related to wildlife coexistence programs. The Fund is derived from fines within local counties resulting from violations of the Fish and Game Code.

AB 1722 (Hadwick R) California Endangered Species Act: take prohibition: self-defense.

Location: 3/19/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: The California Endangered Species Act requires the Fish and Game Commission to establish a list of endangered species and a list of threatened species and to add or remove species from either list if it finds, upon the receipt of sufficient scientific information, as specified, that the action is warranted. The act prohibits the taking of an endangered or threatened species, except under certain circumstances. This bill would prohibit the imposition of a civil, administrative, or criminal penalty for a violation of the take prohibition if the defendant committed the act based on a good faith belief that they were acting to protect themselves, a member of their family, or any other individual from bodily harm from an animal listed under the act.

AB 1772 (Papan D) Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels.

Location: 3/23/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: Existing law, until January 1, 2030, generally prohibits a person from possessing, importing, shipping, or transporting in the state, or from placing, planting, or causing to be placed or planted in any water in the state, invasive mussels. Existing law requires a public or private agency that operates a water supply system to cooperate with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement measures to avoid infestation by invasive mussels and to control or eradicate any infestation that may occur in a water supply system. Existing law requires, if invasive mussels are detected, the operator of a water supply system to, in cooperation with the department, prepare and implement a plan to control or eradicate invasive mussels within the system, and eliminate or minimize any potential downstream transport of an invasive mussel. Existing law requires, on or before December 31, 2026, the department to review all approved plans and require all plans that do not specifically address all invasive mussel species known to be present in bodies of water in the state as of January 1, 2026, to be updated or revised appropriately to include all invasive mussel species, on or before September 30, 2027. Existing law requires every invasive mussel species to be addressed in a plan no later than 180 days from the date that the species is listed in a certain regulation. Existing law defines "invasive mussel" for these purposes as any nonnative detrimental mussel, as provided. Under existing law, except as otherwise provided, any violation of the Fish and Game Code, or of any rule, regulation, or order made or adopted under the code, is a crime. This bill would require the department to require water supply system operators to update their plans to address all invasive mussel species present in the operator's water system as of January 1, 2026, as provided.

[AB 1802 \(Stefani D\)](#) Land use: mitigation lands.

Location: 3/16/2026-A. L. GOV.

Summary: This bill would remove the sunset date from Government Code section 65968. This Government Code Section establishes who can hold mitigation endowment funds (endowments) and requires third-party mitigation fund holders to certify their ability to manage mitigation funds.

[AB 1808 \(Carrillo D\)](#) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: industrial projects and commercial projects: single-family residences: public works projects.

Location: 3/16/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: This bill expands the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) authority to enter into a delegated agreement with any city to authorize a western Joshua tree take permit associated with developing commercial and industrial projects taking fewer than 10 trees. In addition, this bill would authorize the Department to issue western Joshua tree take permits without fees or mitigation requirements for qualifying single-family residences and public works projects, provided the specific conditions outlined in the bill are met.

[AB 1881 \(Ramos D\)](#) California Indian Freedom Act of 2026.

Location: 3/2/2026-A. JUD.

Summary: This bill prohibits a local or state government agency from taking any action, including but not limited to permitting decisions, land use approvals, and enforcement actions that would substantially burden a California Native American tribe's exercise of religious beliefs or spiritual practices, including access and use of sacred sites and objects, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability. A California Indian or tribe can assert a violation of this requirement as a claim or defense in any proceeding. The bill also requires government agencies to avoid adverse impacts to sacred sites; exempts information identifying sacred sites, cultural landscapes, or religious practices from disclosure under the Public Records Act; and requires governmental agencies to engage in government-to-government consultation with an affected tribe before taking any action that may impact a sacred site or cultural landscape.

[AB 1885 \(Carrillo D\)](#) Public contracts: retention proceeds.

Location: 3/16/2026-A. G.O.

Summary: Existing law requires state agencies to include a provision in solicitations and contracts, if the estimated amount to be retained exceeds \$10,000 and the retention continues for a period of 60 days beyond the completion of phased services, to permit, upon written request and the expense of the contractor, the payment of retentions earned directly to a state- or federally chartered bank in this state, as the escrow agent. Existing law also provides an escrow agreement form for a contractor and state agency to use for security deposits, and defines a "state agency" for purposes of these provisions. This bill would repeal those provisions, including the escrow agreement form, and instead prohibit a state agency, as defined, from withholding retention proceeds when making progress payments to a contractor, as defined, for work performed on a public works contract. The bill would require a state agency to promptly notify the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature if the state agency's best interests are compromised because retention was not withheld on a state agency public works contract.

[AB 1894 \(Rubio, Blanca D\)](#) Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels.

Location: 3/16/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: Existing law, until January 1, 2030, generally prohibits a person from possessing, importing, shipping, or transporting in the state, or from placing, planting, or causing to be placed or planted in any water within the state, invasive mussels, and authorizes the Director of Fish and Wildlife, or the director's designee, to engage in various enforcement activities with

regard to invasive mussels. Existing law, until January 1, 2030, requires a public or private agency that operates a water supply system to cooperate with the department to implement measures to avoid infestation by invasive mussels and to control or eradicate any infestation that occurs in a water supply system. Existing law requires any person, or federal, state, or local agency, district, or authority that owns or manages a reservoir, where specified activities are permitted, except as specified, to develop and implement a program designed to prevent the introduction of invasive mussel species, as provided. Existing law requires any entity that discovers invasive mussels within the state to immediately report the discovery to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. This bill would provide that, notwithstanding any other law, the state has exclusive authority to regulate invasive mussels. The bill would prohibit a city, county, district, or other local agency from adopting, enforcing, or implementing any ordinance, rule, regulation, policy, or other declaratory action pertaining to invasive mussels unless expressly authorized by state law.

AB 1912 (Hadwick R) Deer: archery season: concealed firearms.

Location: 3/24/2026-A. PUB. S.

Summary: This bill would allow people hunting deer during archery season to carry a concealable firearm. As amended March 25, 2026, the amendments are technical in nature and align the archery code section with that of other big game code sections.

AB 1987 (Aguiar-Curry D) Department-managed lands: wildlife areas: hunting.

Location: 3/24/2026-A. APPR.

Summary: This bill would specifically allow the Department to enter into agreements with partners for the purposes of administering hunting and other public use programs, require the Department to utilize revenue generated as a result of agricultural and grazing leases to support the management, maintenance, restoration and operations of department-managed lands and specify wetland flood-up as one of the topics to be discussed at hunter outreach meetings for Type A and B wildlife areas. It would also require that all funds generated by waterfowl reservation fees and hunter pass sales to be deposited into a new Waterfowl Management Areas Operations and Maintenance Account within the Fish and Game Preservation Fund, and that funding in the account be used for the operation and maintenance of Type A and Type B Wildlife Areas and the reasonable administrative costs related to the public hunting programs on those areas. The March 25, 2026 amendments make technical, non-substantive changes to the bill.

AB 1997 (Lee D) Land use: housing development approvals: timelines and processes.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. L. GOV.

Summary: This bill would amend various sections of the Government Code, including the Permit Streamlining Act. This bill would limit changes to permits or entitlements unless there are material changes in the project, define new terms, and add some quality assurance and quality control for projects by requiring certain cities and counties to assign a project development director and a lead inspector to oversee development projects. This bill would also shorten the time the lead agency has to either approve or disapprove of development projects after certification of an environmental impact report (EIR) for development projects.

AB 2026 (Aguiar-Curry D) Water diversion: groundwater recharge: permit.

Location: 3/19/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: Existing law declares that all water within the state is the property of the people of the state, but the right to the use of the water may be acquired by appropriation in the manner provided by law. Existing law requires the appropriation to be for some useful or beneficial purpose. Existing law provides, however, that the diversion of floodflows for groundwater recharge does not require an appropriative water right if certain conditions are met, including

that a local or regional agency that has adopted a local plan of flood control or has considered flood risks as part of its most recently adopted general plan has given notice, as provided, of imminent risk of flooding and inundation of lands, roads, or structures. Existing law defines “floodflow” for these purposes to include circumstances in which flows would inundate ordinarily dry areas in the bed of a terminal lake to a depth that floods dairies and other ongoing agricultural activities, or areas with substantial residential, commercial, or industrial development. Existing law applies those requirements to diversions commenced before January 1, 2029. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of an environmental impact report on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. Existing law prohibits an entity 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 from depositing or disposing of certain material where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake, without first notifying the Department of Fish and Wildlife of that activity, and entering into a lake or streambed alteration agreement if required by the department to protect fish and wildlife resources, except as specified. This bill would revise and recast those conditions required for the appropriative water right exemption for a diversion of floodflows for groundwater recharge, would apply the requirements to a diversion commenced at anytime, and would further exempt those diversions from the requirements of CEQA and requirements relating to lake or streambed alteration agreements if tribal consultation has been conducted, as provided.

[AB 2032 \(Ransom D\) Fish and wildlife: golden mussels.](#)

Location: 3/26/2026-A. E.S. & T.M.

Summary: Existing law, until January 1, 2030, generally prohibits a person from possessing, importing, shipping, or transporting in the state, or from placing, planting, or causing to be placed or planted in any water within the state, invasive mussels, as defined. Existing law requires a public or private agency that operates a water supply system to cooperate with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement measures to avoid infestation by invasive mussels and to control or eradicate any infestation that may occur in a water supply system, and, if invasive mussels are detected, to prepare and implement a plan, as specified, to control or eradicate invasive mussels within the system. Existing law prohibits the importation, transportation, possession, or live release of specified wild animals, except under a revocable, nontransferable permit, known as a restricted species permit, issued by the department, in cooperation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, and only if certain requirements are met. Existing law authorizes the department to issue permits, commonly known as scientific collecting permits, to take or possess any form of plant or animal life for scientific, educational, or propagation purposes. This bill would exempt from the requirement to obtain a restricted species permit a public or private agency that operates a water supply system for maintenance and operational activities to control the spread of golden mussels in the water supply system, as specified. This bill would require the department’s Invasive Species Program, through the Golden Mussel Task Force convened by the department, to develop and adopt, by April 1, 2027, best management practices for public and private agencies that operate water supply systems to control the spread of golden mussels, as specified, and would encourage those public and private agencies to comply with those best management practices.

[AB 2045 \(Connolly D\) Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act.](#)

Location: 3/2/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: This bill would repeal the sunset provision of the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act (Fish & G. Code, §1650 et seq.), extending its operation indefinitely.

[AB 2051 \(Wicks D\)](#) Public resources: Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group.

Location: 3/24/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: This bill would require the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to create a Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group (Working Group) for the purpose of developing a Coastal Resilience Permitting Roadmap (Roadmap). The bill would also create a Coastal Resilience Permit Advisory Group (Advisory Group) composed of both permitting agencies and regulated public and private permittee groups to assist the Working Group. The bill would task the California Coastal Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and Regional Water Quality Control Boards, to conduct a series of public workshops.

[AB 2102 \(DeMaio R\)](#) Wildfire: vegetation management: fuel reduction activities.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. NAT. RES.

Summary: This bill, the "Force State and Local Government to be Firewise Neighbors Act," would create a new property owner right and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) statutory exemption covering wildfire fuels reduction activities on private property. This bill would preemptively exempt defined wildfire fuels reduction activities from all state and local ordinances, regulations, and policies, including discretionary review and permitting, and any other environmental requirements, without establishing a maximum for acres treated or impacted. The bill also requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and local entities to establish and maintain a 200-foot firebreak perimeter around all portions of undeveloped public land under their control that borders privately owned land.

[AB 2143 \(Irwin D\)](#) Invasive species: noxious weeds: online marketplaces.

Location: 3/25/2026-A. P. & C.P.

Summary: Existing law designates the Department of Food and Agriculture as the lead department in noxious weed management and requires the department, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, to implement provisions relating to noxious weed management. Existing law prohibits a person from selling, distributing, or transporting into, or within, a weed-free area any seed of a noxious weed that the Secretary of Food and Agriculture has declared the area to be practically free from. Under existing law, a violation of certain provisions relating to plant quarantine and pest control is a misdemeanor. This bill would prohibit an online marketplace, as defined, from accepting payment for a noxious weed for delivery to an address located in the state.

[AB 2170 \(Boerner D\)](#) California Environmental Quality Act: overburdened communities: documents and information: translations.

Location: 3/19/2026-A. NAT. RES.

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of an environmental impact report on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. Existing law requires a lead agency to be responsible for determining whether the project is exempt from CEQA and whether an environmental impact report, negative declaration, or mitigated negative declaration is required, as provided. Existing law, for certain projects, establishes a ministerial review process with modified environmental assessment procedures, as provided. This bill,

notwithstanding the above-described provisions relating to determinations by a lead agency, would require an environmental impact report, negative declaration, or mitigated negative declaration for the development, operation, substantial modification, or substantial expansion of a project on land that is zoned to allow industrial uses and is in or within 1 / 2 mile of an overburdened community, as defined.

[AB 2207 \(Hadwick R\)](#) Hunting tags: transfer: youth participation programs.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. W., P. & W.

Summary: Under existing law, a hunting license grants the privilege to take birds and mammals. Existing law provides for the issuance by the Department of Fish and Wildlife of tags that are required in addition to a hunting license to take specified animals, including antelope, elk, deer, bears, and bighorn rams. Existing law prohibits the transfer of a tag issued by the department. The bill would require the department to establish a hunting tag transfer program that authorizes a person to transfer a tag issued for the take of one of those species to their child or grandchild, subject to specified conditions. In addition, the bill would require the department to establish a hunting tag transfer program that authorizes a person to transfer a tag issued for the take of one of those species to a nonprofit hunting organization for that organization to provide a hunting opportunity with that tag to a child with a life-threatening medical condition or permanent physical disability, subject to specified conditions.

[AB 2260 \(Connolly D\)](#) Water: restoration management: small restoration use.

Location: 3/24/2026-A. APPR.

Summary: The bill would add a “small restoration use” category to the existing streamlined process for acquiring new water rights for a small domestic use, small irrigation use, or livestock stockpond. Small restoration use registrations would be limited to twenty acre-feet of water annually and would have to be in connection with a project to restore, enhance, or provide habitat for fish and wildlife. The March 17 amendments remove the proposed changes to Fish and Game Code section 1672 and add “small restoration” to the heading of Water Code Article 2.7.

[AB 2360 \(Arambula D\)](#) State agencies: governmental linguistics.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. G.O.

Summary: Current law requires each department, commission, office, or other administrative agency of state government to write each document, as defined, that it produces in plain, straightforward language, avoiding technical terms as much as possible, and using a coherent and easily readable style. This bill would specify that the plain, straightforward language requirement applies to both digital and printed documents, and would define “plain language” for purposes of that provision. The bill would require each state agency, as described above, to create, adopt, and post on its internet website a plain language policy that identifies how the state agency will incorporate or strengthen plain language writing and design principles and practices.

[AB 2366 \(Ávila Fariás D\)](#) Administrative Procedure Act: proposed regulations: cost-of-living impact on residents of the state.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. E.D., G., & H.I.

Summary: Existing law, the Administrative Procedure Act, governs the procedure for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of regulations by state agencies and for the review of those regulatory actions by the Office of Administrative Law. The act requires a state agency proposing to adopt, amend, or repeal any administrative regulation to assess the potential for adverse economic impact on California business enterprises and individuals and requires the state agency to adhere to specified requirements in making that assessment. This bill would include among those requirements for assessing the potential for adverse economic impact the

consideration of the proposal's cost-of-living impacts on residents of the state, as defined. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[AB 2370 \(Arambula D\)](#) Public Safety Communications Division.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Summary: The California Emergency Services Act sets forth the duties of the Office of Emergency Services with respect to specified emergency preparedness, mitigation, and response activities within the state. Current law establishes the Public Safety Communications Division within the office and prescribes certain duties in regard to statewide public safety communications systems, including providing for coordination of, and comment on, plans, policies, and operational requirements from departments that utilize public safety communications in support of their principal function. This bill would make the above-described duties the exclusive responsibility of the division and prohibit a state public agency from performing those duties, subject to certain exceptions. The bill would require the division to serve as the primary authority for all statewide and interjurisdictional public safety communications, and to provide oversight, management, and ongoing coordination of all statewide public safety communications systems. The bill would require state public agencies to utilize the public safety communications systems established and maintained under these provisions. The bill would prohibit the division, a state public agency, or a local public agency from entering into a contract for a technical, maintenance, or system support services without approval by the office. The bill would also prohibit a state or local public agency participating in the statewide public safety communications system from delegating, assigning, or entering into a contract for essential operation, duties, or functions of public safety communications, without approval or authorization from the office, as specified.

[AB 2410 \(Ellis R\)](#) Wildfire safety: fuels reduction projects: California Environmental Quality Act: California Coastal Act.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. NAT. RES.

Summary: AB 2410 would create an exemption from CEQA for a set of critical fuels reduction projects in very high fire hazard severity zones. Eligible project types include: (1) removal of hazardous, dying, or dead trees, (2) removal of vegetation for the creation of strategic fuel breaks as identified by approved fire prevention plans, (3) removal of vegetation along roads, highways, and freeways for safer ingress and egress, (4) removal of vegetation via cultural burning or prescribed fire, and (5) maintenance of previously established fuel breaks or fuel modification projects. For project types (2) and (3), there are additional eligibility requirements: the vegetation must be non-native, eight inches or less in diameter, and a common species. This bill also includes requirements for the California Natural Resource Agency (CNRA) and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) 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 2578 \(Rogers D\)](#) Public recreation access and outdoor economy support organizations.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary

This bill would authorize the California Natural Resources Agency (Agency) to enter into a statewide agreement with a "public recreation access and outdoor economy support organization" (Organization) to help expand outdoor recreation opportunities in California through fundraising, supporting marketing and outreach, assisting with recreational access projects, and providing research and technical assistance to communities and partners.

Agency and the Organization would work together to identify annual statewide priorities for outdoor recreation initiatives.

[AB 2627 \(Hart D\)](#) California Rangeland, Grazing Land, and Grassland Protection Program.

Location: 3/9/2026-A. NAT. RES.

Summary: This bill would appropriate \$90 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 2728 \(Soria D\)](#) Open and Transparent Water Data Act.

Location: 3/19/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: Existing law, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act, requires the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to coordinate and integrate existing water and ecological data from local, state, and federal agencies for specified purposes, including, among others, improving the management of the state's water resources. This bill would specify for purposes of that provision that improving the management of the state's water resources includes improving the efficacy of management actions. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[AB 2787 \(Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife\)](#) Water, parks, and wildlife: omnibus bill.

Location: 3/16/2026-A. W.,P. & W.

Summary: Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish the Nesting Bird Habitat Incentive Program to encourage landowners to cultivate or retain certain plants to provide waterfowl and other game bird nesting habitat cover and authorizes the department to enter into grants or contracts with landowners and other specified entities to implement the program, as specified. Existing law authorizes the department, except for specified types of contracts, to enter into contracts with, or grant funds to, public and private entities for fish and wildlife habitat preservation, restoration, and enhancement whenever the department finds that the contract will assist in meeting the department's duty to preserve, protect, and restore fish and wildlife. Existing law, for purposes of this authorization, provides for certain public contract rules and establishes exemptions from certain labor requirements. This bill would, except as specified, apply those last described provisions to contracts and other agreements for the management and operation of department-managed lands and contracts and grants under the Nesting Bird Habitat Incentive Program, as provided.

[SB 575 \(Laird D\)](#) California Sea Otter Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund.

Location: 1/26/2026-A. DESK

Summary: This bill would create the California Sea Otter Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund and allow taxpayers to contribute to the fund via voluntary designation on their tax returns. This fund is for sea otter conservation work, including investigation, prevention, and enforcement actions related to sea otter mortality, competitive grants/contracts to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for research, protection, projects or programs related to the Federal Sea Otter Recovery Plan or improving the nearshore ocean ecosystem, and for public outreach to encourage contributions. Fund allocation is split between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and the State Coastal Conservancy. The

January 15, 2026, amendments exempt the fund from the \$250,000 minimum contribution requirement and change the sunset date to 2033.

[SB 986 \(Seyarto R\)](#) Major regulations.

Location: 2/18/2026-S. G.O.

Summary: The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) governs the procedures for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of regulations by state agencies and for the review of those regulatory actions by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The APA requires a state agency proposing to adopt, amend, or repeal an administrative regulation to, among other things, assess the potential for adverse economic impact on California business enterprises and individuals, and requires a state agency proposing to adopt, amend, or repeal a major regulation to prepare and submit to the Department of Finance for review, a standardized regulatory impact analysis, as provided. The APA defines “major regulation,” for purposes of the act, to mean any proposed adoption, amendment, or repeal of a regulation subject to review by the OAL that will have an economic impact on California business enterprises and individuals in an amount exceeding \$50,000,000, as provided. The APA provides exceptions for emergency regulations in the case of a situation that calls for immediate action to avoid serious harm to the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare. This bill would prohibit a major regulation from taking effect until the Legislature enacts a law to approve the regulation, except as provided for emergency regulations.

[SB 1004 \(Wiener D\)](#) Law enforcement: masks.

Location: 2/18/2026-S. PUB. S.

Summary: This bill seeks to add state law enforcement to existing law prohibiting the wearing of facial coverings, to include any opaque mask, garment, balaclava, tactical mask, gator, ski mask, or similar, or other item that conceals or obscures the face, under most circumstances. This bill would require agencies employing peace officers in the state of California to adopt policies to regulate the use of facial coverings and describe the specific and limited circumstances under which facial coverings may be worn.

[SB 1021 \(Choi R\)](#) Fishing and hunting: youth program.

Location: 3/24/2026-S. APPR.

Summary: This bill would require the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), to establish a program increasing opportunities for youth with life-threatening illnesses or who have lost a parent in service to state or country. The increased opportunities include fishing and hunting big game, upland game birds and migratory game birds.

[SB 1061 \(Ochoa Bogh R\)](#) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: take: relocation.

Location: 2/12/2026-S. RLS.

Summary: The Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife to permit the taking of a western Joshua tree if specified conditions are met, including, but not limited to, that the permittee mitigates all impacts to, and taking of, the western Joshua tree through measures that are roughly proportional in extent to the impact of the authorized taking of the western Joshua tree. The act authorizes, in lieu of completing the mitigation measures, a permittee to elect to satisfy the mitigation obligation by paying fees pursuant to a specified fee schedule, as provided. This bill would exempt from the act the relocation of a western Joshua tree that is relocated within the same parcel or relocated to a contiguous parcel that is owned by the same owner of the parcel where the western Joshua tree is being relocated from.

SB 1062 (Ochoa Bogh R) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: life-sustaining services: project-specific conditions.

Location: 2/26/2026-S. N.R. & W.

Summary: The Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act prohibits any person or public agency from importing into the state, exporting out of the state, or taking, possessing, purchasing, or selling within the state, a western Joshua tree or any part or product of the tree, except as specified. The act authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife to permit the taking of a western Joshua tree if specified conditions are met, including, but not limited to, that the permittee mitigates all impacts to, and taking of, the western Joshua tree through measures that are roughly proportional in extent to the impact of the authorized taking of the western Joshua tree. The act authorizes, in lieu of completing the mitigation measures, a permittee to elect to satisfy the mitigation obligation by paying fees pursuant to a specified fee schedule, as provided. This bill would authorize the department to, upon the request from a state or local public agency, establish project-specific conditions for a project related to a life-sustaining service, as defined.

SB 1063 (Ochoa Bogh R) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: life-sustaining services: take permit.

Location: 2/26/2026-S. N.R. & W.

Summary: This bill would authorize the Department to permit the take of Western Joshua trees with no mitigation requirements or fees for projects related to the maintenance, operation, or construction of a "life-sustaining service," as defined in the bill. This bill would require the department to grant or deny the permit within 30 days of a request, or within 10 days of a request if the project demonstrates a threat to health or safety. The bill would allow the permittee 60 days to complete the taking authorized by that permit and would further allow the Department to extend this 60-day period at its discretion.

SB 1108 (Caballero D) Grassland Ecological Area Conservancy.

Location: 3/24/2026-S. APPR.

Summary: This bill would create the Grassland Ecological Area Conservancy within the Natural Resources Agency. The goal of the conservancy would be to protect, conserve, and restore the physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources of the Grassland Ecological Area and to provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation. The conservancy would be governed by a board of nine voting members, one of which would be the director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) or their designee. The creation of this conservancy could potentially provide additional focus and financial resources to a critically important wetland region within California. However, it is unclear at this time exactly what those collective benefits would be to the region, how the funding would be generated, and how it may impact the Department.

SB 1135 (Blakespear D) California Wildlife Coexistence Act.

Location: 2/17/2026-S. RLS.

Summary: Would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish the Wildlife Coexistence Program to manage and promote wildlife coexistence by conducting specified activities, including maintaining a statewide wildlife incident reporting tool. The bill would rename the California Wolf-Livestock Compensation Pilot Program to the Wolf-Livestock Coexistence and Compensation Program and would require the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish the program to provide resources to eligible participants for purposes relating to wolves and livestock. The bill would authorize the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, including the cost for implementation, to provide resources to wildlife coexistence partners, as defined, to support

efforts required for the Wildlife Coexistence Program and the Wolf-Livestock Coexistence and Compensation Program. The bill would require the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish the Wildlife Coexistence Technical Advisory Committee to provide technical guidance, public input, and programmatic recommendations related to the department's wildlife coexistence efforts. The bill would require the department, on or before July 1, 2028, to include specified information on its internet website, as provided.

[SB 1159 \(Cabaldon D\)](#) Artificial intelligence: transparency and governance.

Location: 3/24/2026-S. P., D.T., & C.P.

Summary: The California Constitution provides that people have the right of access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business. Various provisions of existing law, including the California Public Records Act, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, and the Ralph M. Brown Act, provide, with some exceptions, for public access to government records and meetings of government bodies. Among those acts, the California Public Records Act defines "person" to include any natural person, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, firm, or association. This bill would specify that, for purposes of the California Public Records Act, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Political Reform Act of 1974, the Administrative Procedure Act, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), "person," "interested person," "participant," "member of the public," as applicable, and any other similar terms under each act referring to those who may engage with governmental agencies, do not include artificial intelligence, as defined, systems, autonomous agents, robots, or other nonhuman entities, whether physical or digital. The bill would make findings and declarations related to these provisions.

[SB 1212 \(Jones R\)](#) Endangered wildlife: kangaroos.

Location: 2/19/2026-S. RLS.

Summary: Existing law makes it a misdemeanor to import into the state for commercial purposes, to possess with intent to sell, or to sell within the state the dead body, or a part or product thereof, of a polar bear, leopard, ocelot, tiger, cheetah, jaguar, sable antelope, wolf, zebra, whale, cobra, python, sea turtle, colobus monkey, kangaroo, vicuna, sea otter, free-roaming feral horse, dolphin or porpoise, Spanish lynx, or elephant. This bill would exempt from that prohibition the import into the state for commercial purposes, possession with intent to sell, or sale within the state of kangaroos if they are harvested in accordance with Australian law, the federal Endangered Species Act, and applicable international conventions, as specified.

[SB 1250 \(Cortese D\)](#) State highway system: wildlife connectivity.

Location: 3/4/2026-S. TRANS.

Summary: This bill would require that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopt targets and performance measures reflecting transportation goals and objectives for wildlife connectivity assets. These goals and objectives would reflect the need for new assets and the conditions of existing assets that improve or maintain wildlife crossings. This bill would require the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to include wildlife connectivity assets in the asset management plan.

In addition to this, this bill would require Caltrans and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to jointly establish and update the inventory of connectivity needs introduced by AB 2344 in 2022 and required by the Streets and Highway Code Section 158.1 subdivision (b).

SB 1305 (Richardson D) Wildlife: bears.

Location: 3/4/2026-S. N.R. & W.

Summary: SB 1305 would establish state policy to restore grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) to California and require the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to prepare and publicly post a roadmap for possible reintroduction. Although the bill does not immediately authorize grizzly bear reintroduction, it sets an affirmative policy direction and would drive substantial near-term and ongoing workload for the Department, including scientific assessment, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, tribal consultation, peer review, community engagement, training, cost estimates, proposed regulations, and ongoing efforts to manage the species.

SB 1326 (Wahab D) California Environmental Quality Act: tribal cultural resources: mitigation measures.

Location: 3/4/2026-S. E.Q.

Summary: This bill would require lead agencies under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to adopt mitigation measures that avoid or minimize a project's significant effects on tribal cultural resources.

SB 1393 (McGuire D) Commercial fishing: steelhead trout: Dungeness crab.

Location: 3/4/2026-S. N.R. & W.

Summary: This omnibus fisheries bill would 1) extend the operation of the Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Program until January 1, 2037 and increase the fee to \$15, 2) extend sunset dates for the operation of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery for an additional ten years, 3) establish requirements to allow a vessel to transit closed areas with Dungeness crab on board, and 4) establish a new Dungeness Crab Fleet Subaccount that would be funded by the surplus funds in the Dungeness crab trap limit account.

SB 1397 (Alvarado-Gil R) Mountain Lions: human-mountain lion conflicts program: scientific research.

Location: 3/4/2026-S. N.R. & W.

Summary: This bill requires the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to maintain, enhance, and expand its statewide human-wildlife conflicts program with an emphasis on mountain lions; and to maintain, enhance, and expand its scientific research, public education and outreach with a focus on non-lethal methods to effectively deter and/or exclude mountain lions. The author introduced this bill to reduce human-wildlife conflicts in communities throughout the state, with an emphasis on human-mountain lion interactions.

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