

## Staff Summary for June 17-18, 2026

**26A. 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.

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

Commission staff has identified state legislation that may affect the Commission's resources and workload, or may be of interest to commissioners, and provides the status of those bills during this legislative session as of June 3, 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 29 was the last day for bills to be passed out of the house of origin, and on June 1 committee meetings resumed. Other calendar highlights include:

- June 15: Budget Bill must have been passed by midnight
- July 2: Last day for policy committees to meet and report bills; summer recess begins at the end of this day's session if the budget bill has passed
- August 3: Legislature reconvenes from summer recess
- August 14: Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills to the floor
- August 17-31: Floor session only, with August 21 the last day to amend on the floor
- August 31: Last day for each house to pass bills, and final recess begins at end of day's session
- September 30: Last day for Governor Newsom to sign or veto bills passed by the legislature on or before September 1 and in his possession on or after September 1

***Bills Introduced During the 2025-2026 Session***

Staff has identified seven senate bills (SB) and five assembly bills (AB) that are still in process and 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 Commission, in consultation with the Department, to establish a program increasing opportunities for youth with life-threatening illnesses or who have

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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 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 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 request from a state or local public agency, establish project-specific conditions for a project related to a life-sustaining service, as defined.
- SB 1135 (Blakespear). California Wildlife Coexistence Act.  
Would require the Department, 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 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 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

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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 1397 (Alvarado-Gil) Mountain Lions: human-mountain lion conflicts program: scientific research.  
This bill requires the 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’s 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.

Legislative bills, their history, and their current status may be found at [www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov).

### Significant Public Comments

1. A commenter opposes SB 1021 — Fishing and Hunting: Youth Program — expressing concern that the measure promotes youth hunting and diverts focus from coexistence, outdoor education, and conservation efforts. The writer states the bill is inappropriate given declining wildlife populations and climate-related pressures and recommends investing in non-lethal coexistence programs instead. (Exhibit 2)
2. A commenter urges the Commission to formally support SB 1135 — the California Wildlife Coexistence Act — calling for science-based, non-lethal wildlife coexistence programs, greater accountability, opposition to expanding bear hunting, and broader policies that protect wildlife, ecosystems, and surrounding communities (Exhibit 3).
3. A commenter addresses members of the California Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, and Assemblymember James Gallagher, opposing SB 1305. They cite concerns about existing predator management challenges, including wolf depredation, mountain lion conflicts, declining deer populations, and black bear management limitations. The commenter urges the legislature to strengthen the Department’s management authority, improve and fully fund the livestock compensation program, restore effective black bear hunting tools, and require measurable progress in managing current predator species before considering grizzly bear reintroduction. (Exhibit 4)

### Recommendation (N/A)

### Exhibits

1. [Department legislative report](#), dated June 3, 2026
2. [Email from Ana Gonzales-Perez](#), received April 23, 2026
3. [Email from Somar Zaragoza](#), received April 15, 2026
4. [Email from Jason Paiva](#), received April 16, 2026

### Motion (N/A)



# Department of Fish & Wildlife Legislative Report

June 2026  
(As of June 3, 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.**

**Status:** 5/6/2026-Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

### **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.**

**Status:** 5/6/2026-Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

### **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 1537](#)

**([Bryan](#) D) Peace officers: secondary employment.**

**Status:** 5/28/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

### **Summary**

The bill explicitly states that records related to secondary employment of peace officers are public records for the purposes of the California Public Records Act.

## [AB 1663](#)

**([Wallis](#) R) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: removal: trimming.**

**Status:** 5/21/2026-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 72. Noes 0.) In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

## Summary

This bill would authorize the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to issue western Joshua tree permits for removal of up to 10 western Joshua trees without fees or mitigation requirements for qualifying single-family residences, provided the specific conditions are met. The April 27 amendments completely changed the scope of the bill.

### [AB 1673](#)

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

**Status:** 5/6/2026-Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

#### Summary

The bill would allow for additional expenditures from County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund (Fund) add expenditures related to wildlife coexistence programs, if approved by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department). The Fund is derived from fines within local counties resulting from violations of the Fish and Game Code. The April 9, 2026 amendments removed the expenditure category related to sheriff expenses for investigating, issuing citations, or making arrests for Fish and Game Code violations, and added "as approved by the department" to the expenditure for wildlife coexistence programs.

### [AB 1722](#)

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

**Status:** 6/1/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

#### Summary

The bill would establish an affirmative defense against the imposition of civil and criminal penalties for the take of species listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), if that take occurred in self-defense (i.e., to protect themselves, a member of their family, or any other individual from bodily harm). The April 16 amendments make it clear the bill addresses take of candidate species (in addition to those listed as threatened or endangered under CESA), change the standard by which an action is determined to have been in self-defense, and add a notification requirement for anyone that takes a CESA-listed species to protect themselves or others.

### [AB 1772](#)

**(Papan D) Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels.**

**Status:** 5/28/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

#### Summary

This bill directs the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) implementation of a program to prevent the overland movement of invasive mussels on conveyances that includes decontamination of every conveyance removed from water infested with invasive mussels. Additionally, the bill revises wording relating to requirements of invasive mussel control plans, clarifies which invasive mussel species must be addressed in invasive mussel control plans, clarifies deadlines for the submission and review of control plan, and revises the definition of "invasive mussel." As amended April 27, 2026, the bill adds the process for the decontamination of a conveyance for the Department to follow.

### [AB 1802](#)

**(Stefani D) Land use: mitigation lands.**

**Status:** 5/22/2026-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 74. Noes 0.) In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

## 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.**

**Status:** 5/22/2026-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 67. Noes 0.) In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

#### Summary

This bill expands the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) authority to enter into a delegation agreement with a city to authorize take of western Joshua tree for commercial and industrial projects taking less than 10 trees and authorizes the Department to issue permits without fees or mitigation for take and trimming of trees for single-family residences and public works projects. The April 16 amendment limits the removal of up to 10 trees for single-family residential and up to 40 trees for public works projects and narrows eligible public works projects. The April 22 amendment revises the CEQA exemption to apply only until the Department certifies a programmatic environmental impact report.

### [AB 1881](#)

**(Ramos D) California Indian Freedom Act of 2026.**

**Status:** 5/28/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

#### Summary

This bill prohibits a state agency from taking actions that substantially burden a California Native American tribe's exercise of religious beliefs or spiritual practices on state public lands, 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 state agencies to seek and document free, prior, and informed written consent from affected tribes before undertaking any project action that may pose a risk to sacred sites. Finally, the bill exempts information identifying sacred sites, cultural landscapes, or religious practices from public record laws. The April 16 amendment specifies that the provisions of the bill apply to state public lands.

### [AB 1894](#)

**(Rubio, Blanca D) Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water.**

**Status:** 5/28/2026-From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

#### Summary

This bill would prohibit a public agency from denying imported water for groundwater replenishment due to invasive mussel presence unless there is a public health and safety risk as a result of the invasive mussels. As amended April 16, 2026, the bill shifted to address groundwater and invasive mussels.

### [AB 1896](#)

**(González, Mark D) Public employment: disqualifications.**

**Status:** 5/28/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

## **Summary**

Individuals previously employed by an entity that enforces or investigates federal immigration law between January 20, 2025, and January 20, 2029, may be disqualified from becoming California Peace Officers. However, departments may not disqualify individuals who conducted immigration enforcement while working for specified California public entities, including local agencies, local law enforcement, California law enforcement agencies, and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

## **AB 1912**

**(Hadwick R) Deer: archery season: concealed firearms.**

**Status:** 5/6/2026-Referred to Coms. on N.R. & W. and 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.**

**Status:** 5/6/2026-Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

### **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.**

**Status:** 5/27/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

### **Summary**

This bill would reduce the time a lead agency has to either approve or disapprove certain housing development projects after certification of an environmental impact report (EIR). Eligible housing development projects are those with at least 90% of the units designated as affordable for very low or extremely low-income households. For these projects the lead agency would have to approve or disapprove the project within 30 days of EIR certification.

## **AB 2026**

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

**Status:** 5/28/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

### **Summary**

This bill refines existing operational requirements for diverting floodflows for groundwater recharge and adds conditions for diverting from tributaries to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). It exempts some diversions for groundwater recharge from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Lake and Streambed Alteration permitting requirements. The bill codifies several definitions and water availability determination criteria. Finally, it allows for delayed initiation of diversion activities and permit term modification following permit issuance. The April 22 amendments limit proposed exemptions to CEQA and Lake and Streambed Alteration permitting requirements under Water Code section 1242.1 to actions that do not require a discretionary permit and add that a decision-making authority may impose conditions of approval to avoid or mitigate tribal cultural resource impacts.

### [AB 2032](#)

#### **([Ransom](#) D) Fish and wildlife: golden mussels.**

**Status:** 5/27/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

#### **Summary**

This bill exempts operators of water supply systems with a submitted Invasive Mussel Control Plan (control plan) from Department permits to possess invasive mussels during operations and maintenance activities. The bill proposes the Department develop guidance for water managers to control the spread of mussels and guidance for golden mussel scientific research. It proposes permit exemptions for agencies conducting golden mussel research that do not have a Department approved control plan. Lastly, the bill tasks the Department to produce and maintain maps of golden mussel reports and confirmed detections. As amended April 16, 2026, the bill adds an urgency clause and narrows some of the provisions related to the exemptions for water managers. As amended May 18, 2026, the bill changes wording for the Department to develop and publish, instead of adopt, guidance for scientific research.

### [AB 2045](#)

#### **([Connolly](#) D) Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act.**

**Status:** 5/21/2026-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 73. Noes 0.) In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

#### **Summary**

This bill would extend the sunset provision of the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act until January 1, 2032 and require the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to submit a report to the Legislature by December 31, 2029. The April 16 amendments extend rather than remove the sunset date and require an additional legislative report.

### [AB 2051](#)

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

**Status:** 6/1/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

#### **Summary**

This bill would require the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to create a Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group (Working Group) to develop 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. CNRA, in consultation with specified state agencies, would be required to conduct a series of public workshops. The March 25 amendments remove an entity from the Working Group, clarify language for several required Roadmap topics, add two new topics to the Roadmap, and define "coastal resilience project."

### [AB 2143](#)

**(Irwin D) Invasive species: noxious weeds: online marketplaces.**

**Status:** 5/27/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

#### **Summary**

This bill prohibits the online sale and delivery of noxious weeds to any California address. The bill provides clear definitions for "online marketplaces" and "third-party sellers," and declares that an online marketplace may not accept payment for the purchase of a noxious weed for delivery to an address located in the state. The April 6, 2026 amendments add administrative penalties for those found in violation of the statute.

### [AB 2207](#)

**(Hadwick R) Hunting tags: transfer: youth and disabled veteran participation programs.**

**Status:** 5/27/2026-Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

#### **Summary**

The bill would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to establish a big game hunting tag transfer program that would allow a person to transfer a tag to a child or grandchild. Additionally, the program would allow for tags to be transferred to a nonprofit organization that provides hunting opportunities to children with life-threatening medical conditions or permanent physical disabilities or disabled veterans. As amended April 6, 2026, the bill adds specificity to the transfer program, especially as it relates to nonprofit organizations.

### [AB 2218](#)

**(Kalra D) Water policy: California Native American tribes.**

**Status:** 5/28/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

#### **Summary**

This bill establishes state policy to recognize and address inequities regarding access to, and control over, water caused by state-sanctioned acts of violence against tribes through financial assistance, protection of tribal water uses, consultation on water projects, plans, and policies, and incorporation of indigenous knowledge to restore and protect ecosystems. Certain state agencies, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), would be required to consider and incorporate this policy when revising, adopting, or establishing rights, policies, regulations, permits, or grant criteria to address identified inequities.

### [AB 2254](#)

**(Addis D) Coastal resources: monarch butterfly habitat.**

**Status:** 5/28/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

#### **Summary**

This bill would require a local government, upon the next amendment to its local coastal plan, to include monarch butterfly overwintering habitat site protection policies. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), in consultation with the California Coastal Commission (Coastal Commission), would be required to identify monarch overwintering habitat sites and develop and provide guidance on model policies for local governments to use for the protection monarch overwintering sites. The bill also encourages local governments to apply for pollinator rescue grants from the Wildlife Conservation Board. The April 8 amendments add requirements for the Department and extend the deadline for local governments to begin incorporating monarch habitat into their local coastal plan updates.

## [AB 2260](#)

### **(Connolly D) Water: restoration management: small restoration use.**

**Status:** 5/27/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

#### **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 May 18 amendments allow multiple small restoration use registrations to be in effect concurrently at the same facility and exempt the adoption of general conditions by the State Water Board from the requirement to complete economic and regulatory impact analyses. The May 18 amendments do not address the California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (Department) concerns.

## [AB 2360](#)

### **(Arambula D) State agencies: governmental linguistics.**

**Status:** 5/27/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

#### **Summary**

This bill would require all state agencies to implement and formalize the use of plain, straightforward language in both digital and printed state agency documents. Additionally, the bill defines the terms “plain language,” “state agency,” and “state agency document.” The May 18 amendments authorize state agencies to use plain language standards created by the Office of Data and Innovation when incorporating plain language principles and practices and specify that the bill applies to all documents produced after January 1, 2027.

## [AB 2412](#)

### **(Ta R) State agencies or departments: public communications.**

**Status:** 5/13/2026-Referred to Coms. on G.O. and P., D.T., & C.P.

#### **Summary**

This bill seeks to ensure the public is aware when generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) is used to directly communicate with a person regarding government services and benefits.

## [AB 2506](#)

### **(Hart D) Cannabis: tribal-state agreements.**

**Status:** 5/27/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

#### **Summary**

This bill would allow Tribal Governments to integrate into California’s licensed cannabis market. The bill requires Tribes to meet or exceed the state of California’s standards for commercial cannabis licenses and adds a requirement for the state to enter into an agreement with Tribal Governments before transactions can occur between licensed entities. The April 8, 2026 amendments revise the scope and approach of the bill and remain consistent with the bill’s original intent.

## [AB 2521](#)

### **(Papan D) California Council on Science and Technology: water availability study: Central Valley.**

**Status:** 5/28/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

## **Summary**

This bill would direct the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to consult with the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to select two watersheds within or draining into the Central Valley. The California Council on Science and Technology (CCST), in consultation with DWR and the State Water Board, would be required to conduct a study to determine water availability in the two selected watersheds. The results of this study are intended to then serve as water availability determinations for future standard or temporary permit applications to divert to underground storage in the two selected watersheds. The April 15 amendment was a gut and amend.

### **[AB 2728](#)**

#### **([Soria](#) D) Open and Transparent Water Data Act.**

**Status:** 5/27/2026-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

#### **Summary**

This bill expands upon the existing Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB 1755 (Dodd, Chapter 506, Statutes of 2016), by expanding the description of data sent by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to include hatchery production, release and escapement. The March 19, 2026 amendments add content to a previous spot bill.

### **[AB 2787](#)**

#### **(Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife) Water, parks, and wildlife: omnibus bill.**

**Status:** 5/20/2026-Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

#### **Summary**

This bill would, among other changes, clarify the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) ability to enter into agreements with nonprofit organizations or resource conservation districts for management and operation of Department-managed lands using exemptions from certain public contract rules and labor requirements. The bill would also apply those provisions to agreements under the Nesting Bird Habitat Incentive Program (NBHIP).

### **[SB 575](#)**

#### **([Laird](#) D) California Sea Otter Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund.**

**Status:** 6/1/2026-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on REV. & TAX.

#### **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 691](#)**

#### **([Wahab](#) D) Body-worn cameras: policies.**

**Status:** 5/26/2026-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on PUB. S.

### **Summary**

This bill would require law enforcement agencies to update their body-worn camera policies to include a procedure for emergency service personnel to request redaction of recordings prior to any public release. The May 26 amendment requires law enforcement agencies to maintain an unredacted copy of body-worn camera recordings.

### **SB 938**

#### **(Menjivar D) Peace officers: qualifications.**

**Status:** 5/27/2026-Amendments by Senator Strickland tabled on motion of Senator Ashby. (Ayes 29. Noes 9.) Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 30. Noes 9.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

### **Summary**

The bill adds a new disqualification for becoming a peace officer in California. It bars sworn federal law enforcement officers who have personally assisted with immigration enforcement from becoming a California Peace Officer after January 20, 2025, unless they meet specific exceptions. Individuals who are disqualified under this bill may only reapply to be peace officers after a 10-year cooling-off period. This bill, as amended, also adds an exemption for the disqualification of members of the military or National Guard, if they were required to assist with immigration enforcement.

### **SB 1004**

#### **(Wiener D) Law enforcement: masks.**

**Status:** 5/26/2026-Referred to Com. on 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 1013**

#### **(Cervantes D) Automated license plate recognition systems.**

**Status:** 5/26/2026-Referred to Coms. on TRANS. and P. & C.P.

### **Summary**

This bill would require ALPR operators and end-users to strengthen their protocols regarding employee access and use of ALPR systems. It requires employees using ALPR systems to take data security and data privacy trainings. Additionally, the bill places retention limits on ALPR data. The May 14 revision provides additional exceptions to the retention limit for information retained in the evidence file of an active investigation or criminal proceeding. Finally, the bill requires DOJ to audit agencies to ensure compliance with the bill.

### **SB 1021**

#### **(Choi R) Fishing and hunting: youth program.**

**Status:** 5/27/2026-Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 35. Noes 4.) Ordered to the Assembly. In

Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

### **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: relocation.**

**Status:** 6/1/2026-Referred to Com. on W., P., & W.

### **Summary**

This bill would amend the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (Act) to allow the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to issue relocation permits that authorize the relocation of up to 10 western Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) per parcel without payment or additional mitigation under specified conditions. The April 23 amendments were a gut and amend of the bill.

### **[SB 1062](#)**

#### **[\(Ochoa Bogh R\)](#) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: fees.**

**Status:** 6/1/2026-Referred to Com. on W., P., & W.

### **Summary**

The April 22 amendment to this bill removes prior amendments to Fish and Game Code section 1927.1 and 1927.3 and instead seeks to amend Section 1927.8 requiring the Department to consider making fees proportional to the impact of the project through a tiered fee structure based on the project type, size, or other criteria.

### **[SB 1108](#)**

#### **[\(Caballero D\)](#) Grassland Ecological Area Conservancy.**

**Status:** 6/1/2026-Referred to Coms. on NAT. RES. and W., P., & W.

### **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.**

**Status:** 6/1/2026-Referred to Com. on W., P., & W.

### **Summary**

The California Wildlife Coexistence Act would require the California Department of Fish and

Wildlife (Department), upon appropriation, to establish the Wildlife Coexistence Program (Coexistence Program) and Wildlife Coexistence Technical Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). It would rename the California Wolf-Livestock Compensation Pilot Program as the Wolf-Livestock Coexistence and Compensation Program (Compensation Program) and provide resources to eligible participants for impacts to livestock caused by wolves. The bill would require the Department to post specific information, including reported human-wildlife conflicts and coexistence activities, on its website by July 1, 2028.

### **SB 1250**

#### **(Cortese D) State highway system: wildlife connectivity.**

**Status:** 5/26/2026-Referred to Coms. on TRANS. and W., P., & W.

#### **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 1268**

#### **(Gonzalez D) Outdoor public recreation spaces: equitable access.**

**Status:** 5/26/2026-Referred to Coms. on W., P., & W. and NAT. RES.

#### **Summary**

The bill would establish an initiative to be administered by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), in consultation with state entities, to advance certain priorities, including establishing outdoor public recreation spaces, connecting people and the outdoors, and aligning funding to achieve the initiative's goals. To coordinate implementation of this initiative, CNRA would be required to maintain a position for a Deputy Secretary for Access. Finally, CNRA would be required to submit a progress report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2028, and annually after that. The April 23 amendments codify the Outdoors for All initiative and establish a process to update the Outdoors for All Strategy on or before December 31, 2028, and every five years thereafter.

### **SB 1305**

#### **(Richardson D) Wildlife: bears.**

**Status:** 5/27/2026-Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 29. Noes 9.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

#### **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.**

**Status:** 6/1/2026-Referred to Com. on NAT. RES.

#### **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.**

**Status:** 5/28/2026-Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 39. Noes 0.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

#### **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.**

**Status:** 5/28/2026-Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 39. Noes 0.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

#### **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.

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.

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## I'm opposed to SB 1021

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**From** Ana Gonzalez-Perez

**Date** Thu 04/23/2026 02:26 PM

**To** FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Hello,

This measure is nothing but an attempt to indoctrinate children like they do in other states to take up hunting. In a time when climate change and loss of habitat is severely damaging wildlife numbers and genetic diversity, the last thing we need is children indoctrinated into hunting just because it's a dying sport and with good reason. You should invest in coexistence programs, hiking and camping programs and "leave no trace" classes . Not this. Many people oppose this. It is shameful and disgusting. You're trying to turn us into Montana or Wyoming where they don't respect wildlife and allow individuals to lure wildlife out of national parks to be killed, abundance of poachers (including the MT Governor) and they even allow people to run wildlife over with snowmobiles. We don't want that mentality for our kids in CA. That is what hunting does to people. As an avid hiker and backpacker, I oppose this. I hope whoever is making these terrible decisions in your agency steps down because you are not making decisions that will protect our wildlife and therefore our natural environment. I oppose SB 1021, to save the soul of our children.

Disgusted and disturbed by all of this. Do better.

Sincerely,

Ana. Gonzalez

Sent from my iPhone

**Please support SB 1135, etc**

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**From** Zara Ramos

**Date** Wed 04/15/2026 05:14 PM

**To** FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

To Whom it May Concern:

Good Afternoon,

I hope you are doing well.

I am reaching out today to urge you to please stand and support SB 1135, a bill that would support and fund non-lethal coexistence programs with wildlife.

Further, I urge you to please support and demand for science -based, non lethal management of wildlife and that we hold agencies accountable for their impact on wildlife and the environment.


And in addition, to please oppose the expansion of bear killing.

Please, we need to take steps towards coexistence with our wildlife and natural ecosystems and environments. In doing so, not only do we protect and help our wild neighbors thrive, we learn and pass on a culture of compassion and coexistence, take steps to protect our world from climate change, and protect the health of our surrounding communities and the people and animals in them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Somar Zaragoza



**SB 1305**

Jason Paiva

You

RE: Senate Bill 1305 — Grizzly Bear Feasibility Study — Public Comment

To the Members of the California Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, and to Assemblymember James Gallagher:

My name is Jason Lee Paiva. I came to Susanville in the fall of 2001, drawn to Lassen Community College to study gunsmithing in the aftermath of September 11th — and I never left. Over two decades later I am a long-time resident of this community, a hunter, and a conservationist. I write to you from the heart of Lassen County — wolf country, mountain lion country, and black bear country. I live with these realities every day, not as an abstract policy question, but as a neighbor to these animals and to the ranchers and rural communities who share this landscape.

I am not categorically opposed to Senate Bill 1305. The idea of restoring ecological balance to California's wildlands is not something I dismiss. But I am deeply concerned that this Legislature is attempting to build a second floor before the first floor is finished.

California currently cannot effectively manage the predators it already has.

The evidence begins right here in Lassen County. The Harvey Pack alone has been responsible for 45 documented depredation incidents, 42 of them confirmed wolf attacks. The Hansen family on Willow Creek Ranch has suffered 11 attacks on their property. On New Year's Day 2026, wolves attacked a horse named Smoke in a pasture just yards from a children's playground — the horse had to be euthanized. A calf was killed the same day. Two days later the Harvey Pack struck again at Hagata Ranch. Sheriff John McGarva first formally requested state intervention with the Harvey Pack in March 2025. He was told by CDFW that Lassen County's situation was not pressing enough to address. It took a New Year's Day attack next to a playground before Sacramento paid attention. In neighboring Sierra County, the Beyem Seyo pack killed over 100 livestock animals before the state was finally compelled to act. In February 2026 a wolf was filmed just 10 feet from a residence in the Sierra Valley. A pregnant ewe was killed near a home. A wolf was photographed crossing Highway 49 heading directly into cattle fields. These are not wolves hunting to survive. Sheriff McGarva's own investigators found no evidence the attacks were for food — characterizing the behavior as purely for the act of killing. Meanwhile the wolf range is actively expanding into Plumas, Nevada, and Truckee area counties with confirmed attacks continuing into early 2026.

Against this backdrop the state's response has been to offer a compensation program that still hasn't resolved its own eligibility rules — years after wolves arrived in California.

The mountain lion situation tells a similar story of management neglect. California's deer population has dropped from 850,000 in 1990 to 475,000 today — a 44 percent decline. In 2025 alone CDFW issued 220 mountain lion depredation permits. Here is the irony that Sacramento should be forced to reckon with — California now kills approximately 100 mountain lions per year reactively through conflict permits. That is more than the annual average of 39 lions killed in the final years before Proposition 117 banned sport hunting in 1990. We are killing more lions than we ever did under a regulated season, with none of the population data, none of the license revenue, and none of the management framework that a regulated hunting season would provide. That is not conservation. That is chaos with paperwork.

Our black bear numbers complete this picture. California now holds the largest black bear population in the lower 48 states — between 49,000 and 71,000 animals. Yet our hunters have not once reached the 1,700 bear season cap since hound hunting was banned by SB 1221 in 2013, with success rates sitting at just 4 percent. Compare that to Michigan, which manages roughly 12,500 bears — one fifth of California's population — and harvested nearly 2,000 bears in 2025 with a 40 percent success rate. Michigan just celebrated 100 years of regulated bear hunting. North Carolina, with perhaps one third

of California's bear population, set an all time harvest record of over 4,000 bears in 2022. The difference is not bear population. The difference is political will and proper management tools. I note that CDFW is currently proposing a second bear tag and an expansion of the hunt area to include the Northeastern California Bear Conservation Region — an area containing an estimated 2,225 bears that is currently closed to hunting entirely. I cautiously welcome this as a step in the right direction. But a second tag without restoring the proven tools removed by SB 1221 is largely symbolic. A 4 percent hunter success rate tells you everything you need to know about the effectiveness of the current season structure.

Look at what Idaho has built. Idaho Fish and Game conducts targeted wolf removals when predation threatens elk and livestock. They compensate ranchers promptly for confirmed, probable and possible losses. They fund preventative measures, range riders, electric fencing, and carcass removal programs. They manage grizzly bears with a comprehensive framework built around actual bear ecology and local land use. Idaho manages its wildlife with the full range of tools that science and experienced wildlife managers say are necessary. California manages its wildlife with one hand tied behind its back — and then asks rural communities to absorb the consequences in silence.

We do not speak only for ourselves. The wildlands of Lassen County are shared daily by a broad and diverse community — ranchers, hunters, anglers, hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers, and wildlife photographers alike. These are people across the full spectrum of outdoor life who share the same landscape, the same safety concerns, and the same firsthand knowledge that Sacramento too often lacks when making decisions that fall heaviest on those of us who actually live here. With respect, the wildlife experience of some legislators may begin and end with whatever passes outside the window on the drive down Garden Highway to the Capitol — perhaps glimpsed between a stoplight and a quick bite at Frank Fat's. The people signing this letter have spent decades in these wildlands. We know this landscape. We are asking you to listen to people who do.

SB 1305 should not advance until California commits to the following:

First, provide CDFW with the full range of adaptive management tools — including regulated hunting seasons and targeted lethal removal authority — for wolves, mountain lions, and black bears, modeled on the science-based frameworks used successfully in Idaho, Michigan, North Carolina and other western states.

Second, establish a fully funded, streamlined and timely livestock compensation program for all large predator depredation — with clear eligibility rules, prompt payment timelines, and funding that reflects actual economic losses rather than political gestures.

Third, restore the effectiveness of California's black bear hunting season by revisiting the restrictions that have hampered harvest management since 2013.

Fourth, and most critically — before any grizzly bear feasibility study moves forward, require CDFW to demonstrate measurable, documented progress on the management of the three large predators already occupying California's wildlands. When your own county sheriff cannot get a response from the state about wolves attacking livestock next to a children's playground, the answer to adding a fourth apex predator is no.

California's wildlife belongs to all of us. But the costs of mismanagement fall hardest on those of us who live alongside it every day. Get the foundation right before adding to the structure.

Respectfully,

Jason Lee Paiva

Long-time Resident, Hunter & Conservationist

