

Staff Summary for August 12-13, 2026

22A. 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 July 30, 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 California State Legislature returned from its summer recess on August 3; August 14 will be the last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills to the floor. Other calendar highlights include:

- August 17-31: Floor session only, with August 21 the last day to amend bills on the floor of the senate and assembly
- August 31: Last day for each house to pass bills, and interim study recess begins at end of day's session
- September 30: Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the legislature before September 1 and in the Governor's possession on or after September 1

Bills Introduced During the 2025-2026 Session

Seven senate bills (SB) and five assembly bills (AB) that may affect the Commission's authority or workload, or may be of potential interest to the Commission, remain active this legislative session as of July 31, 2026.

- *SB 1021 (Choi). Fishing and hunting: youth program.* Status: 7/1/2026 – From Assembly Appropriations Committee: July 1 for first hearing. Placed on suspense file.
- *SB 1061 (Ochoa Bogh). Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: take: relocation.* Status: 7/1/2026 – From Assembly Appropriations Committee: July 1 set for first hearing. Placed on suspense file.
- *SB 1062 (Ochoa Bogh). Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: life-sustaining services: project-specific conditions.* Status: 7/1/2026 – From Assembly Appropriations Committee: July 1 set for first hearing. Placed on suspense file.

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- SB 1135 (Blakespear). California Wildlife Coexistence Act. Status: 6/30/2026 – From Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife: Do pass and re-refer to Assembly Appropriations Committee. (Ayes 8. Noes 2.) (June 30). Re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- SB 1305 (Richardson) Wildlife: bears. Status: 7/2/2026 – From Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife: Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- SB 1393 (McGuire) Commercial fishing: steelhead trout: Dungeness crab. Status: 7/6/2026 - From Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife: Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- SB 1397 (Alvarado-Gil) Mountain Lions: human-mountain lion conflicts program: scientific research. Status: 7/1/2026 - From Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife: Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- AB 1663 (Wallis) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: single-family residence: exemption. Status 6/25/26 – From Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee: Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.
- AB 1722 (Hadwick). California Endangered Species Act: take prohibition: self-defense. Status 7/1/2026 – From Senate Judicial Committee: Do pass and re-refer to Senate Appropriations Committee (Ayes 12. Noes 0.) (June 30). Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.
- AB 1808 (Carrillo). Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: industrial projects and commercial projects: single-family residences: public works projects. Status 7/2/26 – From Senate Environmental Quality Committee: Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.
- AB 1912 (Hadwick). Deer: archery season: concealed firearms. Status 7/2/26 – From Senate Public Safety Committee: Read second time. Ordered to Consent Calendar.
- AB 2360 (Arambula). State agencies: governmental linguistics. Status 6/23/26 – From Senate Governmental Organization Committee: Do pass and re-refer to Senate Appropriations Committee with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 14. Noes 0.) (June 23). Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

Legislative bills, their history, and current status are found at www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation (N/A)

Exhibits

1. [Department legislative report, dated July 30, 2026](#)

Motion (N/A)



Department of Fish & Wildlife Legislative Report

August 2026
(As of July 30, 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: 07/16/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State – Chapter 89, Statutes of 2026.

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 550](#)

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

Status: 06/25/2026 - Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

This bill would allow the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to issue incidental take permits to renewable electrical generation facilities for "species proposed for listing" if specific conditions are met. This bill would also require the Department to post on its website a table including information on projects permitted under the provisions of this bill and the status of "species proposed for listing" covered by those permits. The June 25 amendments make substantial changes to the bill including replacing "at risk species" with "species proposed for listing," narrowing the scope of non-candidate, non-listed species that may be covered by an incidental take permit, and removing the option to use research to satisfy mitigation requirements. These changes resolve the Department's previous concerns.

[AB 880](#)

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

Status: 07/23/2025 - In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author. (Set for hearing on 08/03/2026)

Summary

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

AB 1039

(Hart, D) State-funded assistance grants and contracts: advance payments.

Status: 08/07/2025 - In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author. (Set for hearing on 08/03/2026)

Summary

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

AB 1663

(Wallis, R) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: removal: trimming.

Status: 06/25/2026 - Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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 June 25 amendments updated language about which activities may qualify for this new type of permit and requires the Department to develop and maintain guidance for property owners. The amendments also added a limit to permits for specified situations, removed the requirement for signed attestations, updated what activities may be authorized for tribes, and allows an agent to apply for these permits on behalf of the applicant.

AB 1722

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

Status: 07/01/2026 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 12. Noes 0.) (June 30). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

AB 1722 would establish an affirmative defense against the imposition of civil and criminal penalties for the take of species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), if that take occurred in self-defense. The bill requires anyone that takes, or attempts to take, a CESA-protected species in self-defense to report it to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) within 24 hours. The June 25 amendment adds a requirement that the Department submit a legislative report by July 1, 2032.

[AB 1772](#)

(Papan, D) Fish and wildlife: invasive species: invasive mussels.

Status: 07/01/2026 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 13. Noes 0.) (June 30). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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: endowments.

Status: 07/02/2026 - From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (July 1). Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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. The July 2 amendment requires the Department, every five years, to post a summary table on its website to publicly provide certain information on the status of endowments. Additionally, the Department must notify relevant legislative policy and fiscal committees that the information is available online.

[AB 1808](#)

(Carrillo, D) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: industrial projects and commercial projects: single-family residences: public works projects.

Status: 07/02/2026 - From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (July 1). Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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: 07/22/2026 - In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

Summary

The bill would prohibit state governmental agencies from substantially burdening a California Indian or Native American tribe's exercise of religious beliefs or spiritual practices on state lands unless the agency demonstrates the restriction is the least restrictive means and in furtherance of a compelling government, and requires government agencies to allow California Indians access to sacred sites for religious, ceremonial, or cultural activities, except where public safety or resource protection makes access impossible. The May 19 amendments specify that the bill is limited to government actions on state lands.

AB 1894

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

Status: 06/23/2026 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

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. As amended May 28, 2026, the bill specified the importation of water be in compliance with a Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) approved control plan.

AB 1896

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

Status: 07/01/2026 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 4. Noes 1.) (July 1). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

Individuals previously employed by an entity that enforces or investigates federal immigration law between January 20, 2025, and January 20, 2029, if they personally assisted with immigration enforcement, 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. As amended June 24, 2026, the bill specifies that it only applies to those who personally assisted with immigration enforcement.

AB 1912

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

Status: 07/02/2026 - Read second time. Ordered to Consent Calendar.

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 1997

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

Status: 07/01/2026 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 8. Noes 1.) (June 30). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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. The June 18 amendments define “housing development project” for the purposes of the Permit Streamlining Act and makes conforming changes.

AB 2026

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

Status: 07/02/2026 - From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 5. Noes 0.) (July 1). Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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 July 2 amendments²⁰³⁷, clarify that dam releases must pose an imminent threat of flooding to be diverted, define “imminent” as occurring within 72 hours, add CDFW consult for diversions to groundwater recharge under flood condition, restrict certain CEQA exemptions to previous permits that underwent CEQA review, add a sunset date of January, 1 2037 to multiple sections, and add an operative date of January 1, 2037 to multiple sections.

AB 2032

(Ransom, D) Fish and wildlife: golden mussels.

Status: 07/02/2026 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (July 1). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

This bill exempts operators of water supply systems with a submitted Invasive Mussel Control Plan (control plan) from Department of Fish and Wildlife (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 June 11, 2026, the bill makes a technical change requested by the Department.

[AB 2045](#)

(Connolly, D) Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act.

Status: 07/06/2026 - From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (July 1). Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

This bill would extend the sunset provision of the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act (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. It also makes technical changes to the Act, which reflect technical assistance from the Department. The July 6 amendments revise the application fee and authorize the Department to establish a graduated schedule of fees. The Department's more substantive amendments have not yet been incorporated into the bill.

[AB 2051](#)

(Wicks, D) Public resources: Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group.

Status: 07/06/2026 - From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (July 1). Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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 July 6 amendments add two new legislative declarations to promote the use of natural infrastructure and to reference a 2025 Assembly report on permitting reform; add new entities to the Working Group and Advisory Group; provide softening or clarifying language to a few Roadmap topics; and add a clause that project alternatives should be developed that use existing natural features and ecosystem processes or attempt to restore these features.

[AB 2143](#)

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

Status: 06/23/2026 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 9. Noes 0.) (June 22). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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 May 18, 2026 amendments limit the scope of the bill, introduce a written notification procedure, and revise definitions.

[AB 2207](#)

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

Status: 06/25/2026 - Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

The bill would require the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) 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 June 25, 2026, the bill amends the authority of this program to be under the Commission instead of the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department).

AB 2218

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

Status: 07/02/2026 - From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 4. Noes 0.) (July 1). Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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 implement this policy “when revising, adopting, or establishing rights, policies, regulations, permits, or grant criteria to address identified inequities.” The July 2 amendments require any dispute over implementation of the policy to be referred to the Governor’s Office of Tribal Affairs for mediation and stay the state agency action in dispute until the mediation ends.

AB 2254

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

Status: 07/02/2026 - From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (July 1). Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

This bill would require the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), in collaboration with the California Coastal Commission (Coastal Commission), to identify monarch overwintering habitat in the Coastal Zone and to identify current local government overwintering habitat management policies and plans. Once these actions are completed a local government with monarch butterfly overwintering habitat in its jurisdiction, must develop and implement enforceable policies to protect that habitat. The May 18 amendments remove the requirement that monarch habitat protection be incorporated into Local Coastal Programs and instead require local governments to develop and implement monarch overwintering site protection policies. These amendments also specify the policies must be enforceable and have measurable outcomes.

AB 2260

(Connolly, D) Water: restoration management: small restoration use.

Status: 06/24/2026 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (June 23). Re-referred to Com. on 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 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 2318

(Elhawary, D) Law enforcement: facilitating medical care.

Status: 06/25/2026 - Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

This bill would make it unlawful for a law enforcement officer to deny, delay, obstruct, or fail to facilitate access to medical evaluation or treatment for an individual under law enforcement control, but who is not in the custody of, or detained in, a county jail or the state prison, if it is safe and reasonable to provide access to treatment and a medical professional is present and is willing to render care or has been requested. Should a law enforcement officer fail to comply with this provision by denial or delay, they have 72 hours to complete a report indicating the basis for such action, if such report does not compromise an ongoing criminal investigation or officer safety. As amended June 25, 2026, the bill changes the definition of medical professional to an individual who is qualified by education, training, licensure, or regulation to perform a professional medical service within their scope of practice, among other things.

AB 2360

(Arambula, D) State agencies: governmental linguistics.

Status: 06/23/2026 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 14. Noes 0.) (June 23). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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 2410

(Ellis, R) Wildfire safety: fuels reduction projects: California Environmental Quality Act.

Status: 07/09/2026 - From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (July 1). Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

AB 2410 would create exemptions from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for specified critical fuels reduction projects that address extremely flammable species in high fire hazard severity zones. The July 9 amendments change the projects allowed under the

exemption to removal of non-native vegetation under 12 inches diameter at breast height or common vegetation under 8 inches diameter at breast height and adds a requirement for the lead agency to consult with the Department and document, after project completion, how measures requested by the Department were implemented.

AB 2521

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

Status: 07/02/2026 - Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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 July 2 amendments require the study to be completed within two years of receiving an appropriation for that purpose. This change does not impact the Department's position or recommended amendments.

AB 2656

(Petrie-Norris, D) Public employees: notice: artificial intelligence performing service within scope of work.

Status: 07/01/2026 - Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

This bill will require departments to notify a recognized employee organization at least 45 days before taking action to develop, purchase, or require the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI).

SB 575

(Laird, D) California Sea Otter Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund.

Status: 06/25/2026 - Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

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 June 1, 2026 amendments add back in the minimum \$250,000 contribution per calendar year to keep the fund active.

SB 1013

(Cervantes, D) Automated license plate recognition systems.

Status: 07/02/2026 - Coauthors revised. From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 9. Noes 2.) (July 1). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

This bill would require automated license plate recognition (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 June 15 amendments define “case file number,” and add the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to authorized hot lists.

SB 1108

(Caballero, D) Grassland Ecological Area Conservancy.

Status: 07/01/2026 - Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on 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. The July 1 amendments included reorganization and subsequent renumbering of sections, and clarity on the lands east of State Highway Route 99 that will be included in the “Grassland Focus Area.”

SB 1135

(Blakespear, D) California Wildlife Coexistence Act.

Status: 06/30/2026 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 8. Noes 2.) (June 30). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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. The June 3 amendment adds Senator Richardson as a coauthor.

SB 1250

(Cortese, D) State highway system: wildlife connectivity.

Status: 06/30/2026 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 9. Noes 1.) (June 30). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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, this bill would require Caltrans and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to jointly establish and update the inventory of connectivity needs as first required by AB 2344 (2022). As amended May 14, 2026, the bill is only intended for the State highway system and changed the definition of the wildlife connectivity assessment.

SB 1268

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

Status: 06/30/2026 - Coauthors revised. From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 12. Noes 0.) (June 29). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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: 07/02/2026 - Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

This bill would require the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to prepare and publicly post a roadmap evaluating whether, and under what conditions, reintroduction of grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) is feasible and advisable, and the extent to which ecological functions once provided by grizzly bears may be restored through human-mediated landscape restoration. The July 2 amendments delete prior provisions that would have amended existing Fish and Game Code sections related to grizzly bears. The Department remains opposed.

SB 1326

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

Status: 06/23/2026 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 13. Noes 0.) (June 22). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

This bill would require lead agencies under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to adopt, when feasible, mitigation measures that avoid or minimize a project's significant effects on tribal cultural resources. The June 11 amendments require a lead agency to explain its

decision if it opts to use archeological methods and standards instead of tribal methods and standards.

[SB 1370](#)

(Stern, D) Covered wildfire mitigation projects: consolidated and expedited review.

Status: 07/02/2026 - Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

This bill proposes to create a consolidated review and expedited approval process by building on the emergency process established by the March 1, 2025 State of Emergency and December 31, 2025 Executive Order which suspended environmental regulations to expedite wildfire prevention projects in response to the January 2025 Los Angeles Fires. SB 1370 would limit applicants to utility companies and projects under the purview of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), and consolidate the review agencies' permitting, environmental review, and approval authorities under a review team led by that same department.

[SB 1393](#)

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

Status: 07/06/2026 - From committee: Do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (June 30). Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

This omnibus fisheries bill would 1) extend the operation of the Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Program until January 1, 2032 and increase the fee to \$15, 2) extend sunset dates for the operation of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery for an additional 10 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. As amended on July 6, 2026, the bill defines the non-return fee for the Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Program at \$20, which is consistent with the fee recommended by the Department. The amendment also makes grammatical changes to the spelling of "non-return" to nonreturn. As amended it changes the sunset date to align all crab-related provisions to sunset in 2037, adds clarifying edits to the creation of the Dungeness Crab Fleet Subaccount and minor technical/grammatical changes to the transiting allowance during an area closure for the Dungeness crab fishery. These amendments resolve the Department's concerns related to the crab sections of the bill but do not resolve the Department's concerns with the steelhead sections.

[SB 1397](#)

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

Status: 07/01/2026 - Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

This bill requires the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to maintain, enhance, and expand its human-wildlife conflicts program with an emphasis on mountain lions in one region of the state. It also requires the Department 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 address human-wildlife conflict specific to mountain lions with a focus on El Dorado County. The July 1

amendments clarifies that the Department Director shall appear before relevant legislative committees when requested, rather than on an annual basis.

SB 1423

(Stern, D) Regional planning: standardized spatial planning datasets.

Status: 07/02/2026 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 8. Noes 1.) (July 1). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Summary

This bill would require that the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) collect, maintain, and make publicly available through a consolidated online platform a core set of statewide standardized spatial planning datasets. The datasets must include specific hazard risk data, natural resource sensitivity data, and agricultural value data. Additionally, LCI must provide guidance for agencies on how to utilize these datasets in regional planning processes and update the datasets every three years. The June 22 amendments remove the state mandate by specifying that the datasets are intended as tools to support voluntary data-informed planning and stating that nothing in the bill creates new regulatory requirements.

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.