

Staff Summary for October 13-16, 2026

25A. 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 the legislative session as of October 1, 2026. The Department has provided a report on all the bills it was 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's 2025-2026 session ended on September 1, 2026. The legislature is now in recess until December 7, 2026. All bills that passed out of the legislature were enrolled with the Governor, who had until September 30, 2026 to sign or veto bills. Most chaptered bills will become law on January 1, 2027, unless otherwise indicated in the bill.

Bills Introduced During the 2025-2026 Session

Three senate bills (SB) and four assembly bills (AB) that may affect the Commission's authority or workload, or may be of potential interest to the Commission, were signed or vetoed by Governor Newsom as of October 1, 2026.

- SB 1062 (Ochoa Bogh). Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: life-sustaining services: project-specific conditions. Status 9/27/2026 – Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 673, Statutes of 2026.
- SB 1135 (Blakespear). California Wildlife Coexistence Act. Status 9/29/2026 – Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 820, Statutes of 2026.
- SB 1393 (McGuire) Commercial fishing: steelhead trout: Dungeness crab. Status 9/27/2026 – Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 707, Statutes of 2026.
- AB 1663 (Wallis) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: single-family residence: exemption. Status 9/29/2026 – Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 813, Statutes of 2026.

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- AB 1808 (Carrillo). Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: industrial projects and commercial projects: single-family residences: public works projects. Status 9/29/2026 – Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 816, Statutes of 2026.
- AB 1912 (Hadwick). Deer: archery season: concealed firearms. Status 8/27/2026 – Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 132, Statutes of 2026.
- AB 2207 (Hadwick) Hunting tags: youth program. Status 9/27/2026 – Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 589, Statutes of 2026.

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

November Election Insights

All 80 California State Assembly seats are up for election in November. Of those seats, 67 incumbents are seeking reelection, while 13 (16%) are open because the incumbent is not running or the seat is currently vacant.

In the California State Senate, 20 of the 40 seats are up for election, consisting of the even-numbered districts. Eleven incumbents are seeking reelection, while nine seats (45%) are open, creating substantially more turnover proportionally than in the Assembly.

Given the potential number of newly elected legislators, the Commission may wish to consider increased legislative outreach and education in 2027 to highlight the Commission's role and the importance of protecting and conserving California's fish and wildlife resources while also supporting the state's hunting, fishing, conservation, and broader natural resource interests. Staff will assist with outreach and education as directed.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation (N/A)

Exhibits

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

Motion (N/A)



Department of Fish & Wildlife Legislative Report

October 2026
(As of October 1, 2026)

Chaptered

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: 09/20/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 357, Statutes of 2026.

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, on or before January 31, 2033, 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 for calendar years 2027 to 2032.

AB 1663 (Wallis, R) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: removal: trimming.

Status: 09/29/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 813, Statutes of 2026.

Summary:

This bill clarifies the authority of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to issue permits or enter into memoranda of understanding to provide for the taking, possession, purchase, or sale of western Joshua trees for conservation, recovery, or tribal cultural purposes. This bill also removes an unnecessary requirement, allows an agent of a property owner to apply for and implement hazard management permits, and corrects the name of the International Society of Arboriculture. The August 13 amendments removed all provisions from

this bill related to creating a new no-fee, no-mitigation permitting pathway for the removal of up to 10 live western Joshua trees.

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

Status: 09/18/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 274, Statutes of 2026.

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. This bill 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: 09/29/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 816, Statutes of 2026.

Summary:

This bill expands the California 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. The bill creates a reduced fee schedule for certain authorized projects and allows a city or county operating under approved delegation agreements to authorize permits without mitigation. The bill extends the fee adjustment regulations adoption timeline and makes the bill effective immediately if passed. The bill provides a CEQA exemption for certain projects that applies until the Department certifies a programmatic environmental impact report.

[AB 1912](#) ([Hadwick, R](#)) Deer: archery season: concealed firearms.

Status: 08/27/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 132, Statutes of 2026.

Summary:

This bill would repeal the prohibition of firearm possession while hunting deer during an archery-only hunting season.

[AB 1987](#) ([Aguilar-Curry, D](#)) Department-managed lands: wildlife areas: hunting.

Status: 09/30/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 913, Statutes of 2026.

Summary:

This bill would allow the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to enter into agreements with partners to administer hunting and other public use programs, require the Department to utilize agriculture and grazing lease revenue to support the management of department-managed lands, and specify wetland flood-up as one of the topics to be discussed at hunter outreach meetings for certain wildlife areas. It would also require that all funds generated by waterfowl reservation fees and hunter pass sales to be deposited into a new fund and be used for the operation and maintenance of wildlife areas and the reasonable administrative costs related to the public hunting programs on those areas.

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

Status: 09/29/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 817, Statutes of 2026.

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, dead or alive, during operations and maintenance activities. The bill directs the Department to develop guidance for water managers to control the spread of mussels and guidance for invasive mussel scientific research. Lastly, the bill tasks the Department to produce and maintain maps of invasive mussel reports and confirmed detections. The bill includes an urgency clause and includes a specific exemption for dead invasive mussel permits.

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

Status: 09/29/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 818, Statutes of 2026.

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. Additionally, the Department would be required to establish a new graduated fee schedule for habitat restoration or enhancement projects by January 1, 2030. The bill makes several other changes to the Act, which reflect technical assistance from the Department.

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

Status: 09/27/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 575, Statutes of 2026.

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). It would create a Coastal Resilience Permit Advisory Group (Advisory Group) composed of permitting agencies and regulated permittee groups to assist the Working Group. CNRA, in consultation with specified state agencies, must conduct a series of public workshops. The bill would authorize the Coastal Commission to retroactively extend the deadline for a local government to act on suggested modifications to a land use plan amendment to advance affordable housing.

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

Status: 09/18/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 290, Statutes of 2026.

Summary:

This bill prohibits the online sale and delivery of noxious weeds to any California address beginning April 1, 2027. 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.

[AB 2207](#) ([Hadwick, R](#)) **Hunting tags: transfer: youth program.**

Status: 09/27/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 589, Statutes of 2026.

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. The bill requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to collect a fee to cover the reasonable costs of transferring a tag and deposit the revenues into the Big Game Management Account.

[AB 2318](#) (Elhawary, D) Law enforcement: facilitating medical care.

Status: 09/29/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 747, Statutes of 2026.

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 by, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 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. The bill defines a medical professional as 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.

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

Status: 08/27/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 145, Statutes of 2026.

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. There is a minimum \$250,000 contribution per calendar year to keep the fund active.

[SB 691](#) (Wahab, D) Body-worn cameras: policies.

Status: 09/20/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 416, Statutes of 2026.

Summary:

This bill would require law enforcement agencies to maintain an unredacted copy of body-worn camera recordings and 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.

[SB 1062](#) (Ochoa Bogh, R) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: fees.

Status: 09/27/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 673, Statutes of 2026.

Summary:

This bill seeks to amend the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act, specifically Section 1927.8 of the Fish and Game Code, to require the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (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 1135 (Blakespear, D) California Wildlife Coexistence Act.

Status: 09/29/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 820, Statutes of 2026.

Summary:

This bill 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 also authorizes the Department to adopt regulations, allows for the use of livestock-guardian dogs, and makes several technical changes recommended by the Department.

SB 1250 (Cortese, D) State highway system: wildlife connectivity.

Status: 09/29/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 821, Statutes of 2026.

Summary:

This bill would require the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to prepare and publish a supplemental list of wildlife connectivity improvements on the State Highway System every four years. This list would be created using only projects included in the inventory of connectivity needs or projects identified as needing to address wildlife connectivity through a wildlife connectivity assessment. The list would then be reviewed and approved by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) during the regular revision of the State Highway System Management Plan (Plan). The bill would also require Caltrans to include wildlife connectivity as an objective in the Plan. The bill establishes a coordination process between Caltrans and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to develop the inventory of connectivity needs.

SB 1268 (Gonzalez, D) Outdoor public recreation spaces: equitable access.

Status: 09/29/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 822, Statutes of 2026.

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. The bill also requires CNRA to update the Outdoors for All Strategy by December 31, 2031, and requires updates to the Strategy every eight years.

SB 1370 (Stern, D) Covered wildfire mitigation projects: consolidated and expedited review.

Status: 09/29/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 777, Statutes of 2026.

Summary:

This bill proposes to create a short-term consolidated review and expedited approval process by building on the emergency process established by the March 1, 2025 State of Emergency which suspended environmental regulations to expedite wildfire prevention. The bill directs the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) to adopt a suite of emergency regulations to create a long-term certified regulatory program to manage vegetation for the purpose of reducing wildfire risk.

[SB 1393](#) (McGuire, D) Commercial fishing: steelhead trout: Dungeness crab.

Status: 09/27/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 707, Statutes of 2026.

Summary:

This omnibus fisheries bill would 1) extend the operation of the Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Program until January 1, 2032 and adds a non-return fee of \$20, 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.

[SB 1423](#) (Stern, D) Regional planning: standardized spatial planning datasets.

Status: 09/30/2026 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 1039, Statutes of 2026.

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. Additionally, LCI must provide guidance for agencies on how to utilize these datasets in regional planning processes and update the datasets "as new or revised data becomes available from the originating state or federal source agencies." The bill requires LCI to make the consolidated online platform publicly available by July 1, 2028 and provide guidance for agencies by January 1, 2029.

Vetoed

[AB 880](#) (Bennett, D) State government grants and contracts: payment of claims and grantees' indirect costs.

Status: 09/27/2026 - Vetoed by Governor.

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, not to exceed 35% of the total grant award.

[AB 1039](#) (Hart, D) State-funded assistance grants and contracts: advance payments.

Status: 09/27/2026 - Vetoed by Governor.

Summary:

This bill authorizes 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 total award value to \$150,000 or less if the recipient meets specified criteria, provides opt-out criteria and requires the Strategic Growth Council to work with the Department of Finance and the Department of General Services to develop a Statewide Advance Funds and Reconciliation guide.

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

Status: 09/18/2026 - Vetoed by Governor.

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 bill also requires the Department to submit a report to the Legislature by July 1, 2032.

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

Status: 09/30/2026 - Vetoed by Governor.

Summary:

This bill prohibits state agencies from substantially burdening a California Indian or Native American tribe's exercise of religious beliefs or spiritual practices on state lands. State agencies would be required to allow California Indians access to sacred sites for religious, ceremonial, or cultural activities, unless public safety needs make access impossible. State agencies would be required to seek and document free, prior, and informed written consent from affected tribes before undertaking any physical change to a state land if the agency has knowledge that land is a sacred site. The bill would exempt certain information about sacred sites and religious practices from public record laws beginning January 1, 2028.

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

Status: 09/18/2026 - Vetoed by Governor.

Summary:

This bill would prohibit a public agency from denying imported water for groundwater replenishment due to invasive mussel presence unless there is public health and safety risk as a result of the invasive mussels. The bill specifies 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: 09/30/2026 - Vetoed by Governor.

Summary:

This bill will prohibit anyone who personally engaged with immigration enforcement and was previously employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor from any public employment with a city, county, district, or state. This would include but is not limited to law enforcement officers. However, the bill also provides that an individual shall not be disqualified if they are subsequently approved to enter a POST basic course, based on a determination of suitability through a comprehensive background review. Suitability criteria will be determined by the commission on criteria they deem relevant. This bill has been triple joined with AB 1627 (Avila Farias) and AB 2337 (Lackey) and will only become law if those bills also become law.

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

Status: 09/30/2026 - Vetoed by Governor.

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 2218 (Kalra, D) Water policy: California Native American tribes.

Status: 09/30/2026 - Vetoed by Governor.

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 beneficial uses, consultation, and incorporation of indigenous knowledge to restore and protect ecosystems. Certain state agencies, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), must implement this policy “when revising, adopting, or establishing rights, policies, regulations, permits, or grant criteria.” The bill creates a mediation process through the Governor’s Office of Tribal Affairs for disputes over implementation of the policy; disputed agency actions would be stayed until the mediation concludes.

For more information call:

Clark Blanchard, CDFW Deputy Director at (916) 591-0140
Erika Fiske-Sanders, CDFW Legislative Representative at (916) 539-2912
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You can also find legislative information on the web at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/> and follow the prompts from the ‘bill information’ link.