

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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DATE: June 9, 2022

TO: Coastal Commission and Interested Persons

FROM: John Ainsworth, Executive Director
Sarah Christie, Legislative Director
Sean Drake, Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR JUNE 2022

CONTENTS: This report provides summaries and status of bills affecting the Coastal Commission and California's Coastal Program, and coast-related legislation identified by staff.

Note: Information contained in this report is accurate as of June 1, 2022. Bills added since the previous report are marked by an *asterisk. Substantive amendments are summarized in *italics*. Bill text, votes, analyses, and the current status of any bill may be viewed on the California Legislature's homepage at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>. This report can also be accessed through the Commission's homepage at www.coastal.ca.gov.

2022 Legislative Calendar

Jan 1	Statutes take effect.
Jan 3	Legislature reconvenes.
Jan 10	Budget Bill must be submitted by Governor.
Jan 14	Last day for policy committees to hear and report fiscal bills introduced in their house during the 2021 session.
Jan 21	Last day for any committee to hear and report to the floor bills introduced in that house during the 2021 session. Last day to submit bill requests to Legislative Counsel.
Jan 31	Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house during the 2021 session.

Feb 18	Last day for bills to be introduced.
March 16	Gut and amend deadline
April 7	Spring Recess begins upon adjournment.
April 18	Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess.
April 29	Last day for policy committees to hear and report fiscal bills introduced in their house.
May 6	Last day for policy committees to hear and report non-fiscal bills introduced in their house.
May 13	Last day for policy committees to meet prior to May 31.
May 20	Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report to the floor bills introduced in their house.
May 23-27	Floor session only.
May 27	Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house.
May 31	Committee meetings may resume.
June 15	Budget Bill must be passed by midnight.
June 30	Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the November 8 General Election ballot.
July 1	Last day for policy committees to meet and report bills. Summer Recess begins upon adjournment.
Aug 1	Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess.
Aug 12	Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills.
Aug 15-31	Floor session only.
Aug 25	Last day to amend bills on the floor.
Aug 31	Last day for each house to pass bills. Final Recess begins upon adjournment.
Sept 30	Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills.

PRIORITY LEGISLATION

COASTAL ACT AMENDMENTS

[SB 1423 \(Stern\) Coastal resources: industrial developments: oil and gas facilities](#)

This bill would amend the Coastal Act to specify that new or expanded oil and gas facilities shall not be considered a coastal-dependent industrial use and may only be permitted if found to be consistent with Chapter 3. The bill also revises the statutory findings in Coastal Act Section 30001.2 to eliminate existing references to offshore oil and gas facilities, liquefied natural gas, electrical generating facilities, and refineries, and adds a reference to renewable energy facilities.

Introduced	02/18/22
Status	Senate Appropriations Committee, Held Under Submission

[SB 1497 \(Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee\) California Coastal Act](#)

This bill would amend the Coastal Act to remove gendered language from the Act and make various non-substantive amendments.

Introduced 03/21/22
Status Assembly Natural Resources Committee

[AB 2160 \(Bennett\) Coastal resources: coastal development permits: fees](#)

This bill would add Section 30600.6.1 to the Coastal Act, authorizing a city or county to waive or reduce the permit fee for a restoration or public access project, at the request of the applicant. If a city or county rejects the request, the bill would authorize the applicant to submit the coastal development permit application directly to the commission. *Amendments of 03/29/22 specify that the provisions of the bill apply only to non-profits and public agencies.*

Introduced 02/15/22
Last Amended 03/29/22
Status Senate Natural Resources Committee
Position Support

[AB 2593 \(Boerner Horvath\) Coastal resources: coastal development permits: blue carbon projects: new development: greenhouse gas emissions](#)

This bill would add Section 30275 and 30276 to the Coastal Act, requiring the Commission to place a requirement on applicants seeking a coastal development permit for any public project to mitigate greenhouse gas emission by building or contributing to a blue carbon project, where feasible. A blue carbon project is defined as the creation or restoration of coastal wetland, intertidal, or marine habitats or ecosystems, including, but not limited to, kelp forests, seagrasses, and wetlands, that capture carbon. State grant programs may be used to contribute toward the project. *Amendments of 04/18/22 amend Section 30253 to require that new development mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.*

Introduced 02/18/22
Last Amended 04/18/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

PUBLIC ACCESS AND RECREATION

[ACR 116 \(Nguyen\) California Surfing Day](#)

This measure would recognize September 20 of every year as California Surfing Day.

Introduced 01/03/22
Status Assembly Rules Committee

[AB 1645 \(Petrie-Norris\) State parks: concession contracts: Crystal Cove SP](#)

This bill would authorize the existing concession agreement at Crystal Cove State Park to be replaced with a new concession agreement that may be awarded for up to 55 years in length for the construction, development, and operation of overnight visitor-serving facilities at Crystal Cove State Park. This bill has an urgency clause. *Amendments of 02/14/22 make technical, clarifying changes.*

Introduced 01/12/22
Last Amended 02/14/22
Status Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

AB 1789 (Bennett) Outdoor recreation: California Recreational Trails System Plan: California Trails Commission: Trails Corps Program: grant program

This bill would create the California Trails Commission to promote policies and investment opportunities that maximize the public health and social benefits of trails; create the Trails Corps Program to provide training, education, and skills for designing, building, and managing sustainable trails; appropriate \$75,000,000 from the General Fund for competitive grants; and provide \$15,000,000 from the General Fund for the program annually after June 30, 2023. At least 40% of those grant moneys directly benefit under resourced communities. *Amendments of 04/06/22 require DPR to provide a full update of the California Recreational Trail System Plan to the Legislature by January 1, 2024, and a report to the Legislature every three years after that. Amendments of 05/19 gut the bill, and instead authorize the State Parks Commission to coordinate trail planning and development among cities, counties and districts, and require the Recreational Trails Plan to include recommendations to expand non-motorized trails.*

Introduced 01/05/22
Last Amended 04/06/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

AB 2177 (Irwin) Coastal recreation: designated state surfing reserves

This bill would establish a process and criteria for the establishment of “surfing reserves” that would feature protected waves, surf zones, and surrounding environments, and the area’s environmental, cultural, and historical significance. *Amendments of 03/24/22 relocate the program from the Coastal Act to Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, pertaining to the State Coastal Conservancy, and set a deadline of July 1, 2023 for the Conservancy to establish criteria for the program.*

Introduced 02/15/22
Last Amended 03/24/22
Status Assembly Appropriations Committee, Held Under Submission

AB 2975 (Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee) Department of Parks and Recreation: community access agreements: interpretive services and visitor services

This bill would authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into community access agreements with non-profit organizations to provide interpretive and visitor services to underserved populations at state parks. It would authorize a community access agreement to offer free or reduced-cost access to members of the public participating in interpretive services and visitor services offered by the organization.

Introduced 03/24/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

NATURAL AND MARINE RESOURCES

SB 1036 (Newman) California Conservation Corps: California Ocean Corps Program

This bill would authorize the Orange County Conservation Corps to establish the California Ocean Corps to provide opportunities for young people to develop technical skills related to ocean conservation work in Orange County, and appropriate \$40,000,000 from the General Fund for implementation. *Amendments of 03/23/22 shift responsibility for establishing the California Ocean Corps to the California Conservation Corps, and change the purpose of the California Ocean Corps to providing competitive grants to local conservation corps in coastal communities to develop skills and professional preparation to pursue careers in coast and ocean conservation.*

Introduced 02/15/22
Last Amended 03/23/22
Status Assembly Rules Committee

SB 1077 (Bates) Coastal resources: Climate Ready Program: nonnative and invasive plants: removal and restoration

This bill would require the Resources Agency to identify drought-tolerant native plant species within coastal hazard mitigation zones. The bill would also appropriate \$7 million from the General Fund for grants to remove nonnative species from coastal bluffs and to replace them with appropriate native species. Priority would be given to projects where nonnative species threaten coastal bluffs. *Amendments of 03/23/22 relocate the bill from the Coastal Act to the Climate Ready Program in Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, pertaining to the State Coastal Conservancy.*

Introduced 02/15/22
Last Amended 03/23/22
Status Assembly Rules Committee

AB 2109 (Bennett) White sharks: prohibition on use of attractants

This bill would prohibit the use of bait, lures, chum, or chemical attractants in ocean waters where white sharks are present, except when permitted by the Department of Fish and Wildlife for scientific, educational or propagation purposes. *Amendments of 05/23 would prohibit the use of bait, chum or other attractants within one mile of a contemporary shark siting.*

Introduced 02/14/22
Last Amended 05/23
Status Senate Rules Committee

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE

SB 852 (Dodd) Climate resilience districts: formation: funding mechanisms

This bill would authorize local governments and special districts to form climate resilience districts to raise and allocate funds for capital projects that address sea level rise, extreme heat and cold, wildfire and flood risk, and drought. Eligible projects to address sea level rise include sea walls, levies, erosion control and wetland restoration. *Amendments of 03/09/22 deem the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority to be a climate resilience district with all the legally available powers. Amendments of 05/02/22 add project priorities, including that projects utilize natural infrastructure, and authorize districts to establish additional priorities.*

Introduced 01/18/22
Last Amended 05/02/22
Status Assembly Local Government and Natural Resources Committees

SB 867 (Laird) Sea level rise planning: database

This bill would extend the sunset date of the Planning for Sea Level Rise data base, from January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2028. *Amendments of 05/31 would delete the sunset extension, and instead require:*

- *Every LCP that doesn't currently include SLR policies to include them by Jan 1, 2026, and update them every 5 years, using best available science*
- *LCPs that currently include SLR policies to be updated by Jan 1, 2028, and every 5 years thereafter, using best available science*
- *The Commission to develop guidelines for the required updates, in close coordination w OPC and SLR Support Collaborative, by Dec 31, 2023.*

Introduced 01/24/22
Last Amended 05/31/22
Status Assembly Natural Resources Committee

SB 989 (Hertzberg) Climate Change Preparedness, Resiliency, and Jobs for Communities Program: climate-beneficial projects: grant funding

This bill would establish the Climate Change Preparedness, Resiliency, and Jobs for Communities Program, to be administered by the Strategic Growth Council, requiring the council to fund grants for multi-benefit, community-level, climate-beneficial projects to support community and landscape resiliency and workforce development. Joint Powers Authorities, Tribes, Special Districts, and NGOs would be among the entities eligible to apply for competitive grants. *Amendments of 04/18/22 prioritize grants for projects in underresourced communities, as defined, and make other clarifying changes.*

Introduced 01/18/22
Last Amended 04/18/22
Status Assembly Natural Resources Committee

SB 1078 (Allen) Sea level rise: revolving loan pilot program

This bill would establish the Sea Level Rise Revolving Loan Fund and direct the OPC to develop the Sea Level Rise Revolving Loan Program to provide low-interest loans to local governments for the purchase of coastal properties vulnerable to sea level rise in communities of color, low-income and tribal communities, and other disproportionately affected communities and populations who bear the brunt of impacts from climate changes. Subject to a “vulnerable coastal property plan,” local jurisdictions would be able to lease the properties out for the useful life of the structure in order to repay the loan. The bill requires the OPC to adopt guidelines and eligibility for the program in consultation with several other departments, including the Coastal Commission. *Amendments of 03/23/22 make technical, non-substantive changes.*

Introduced 02/15/22
Last Amended 03/23/22
Status Assembly Rules Committee

AB 1640 (Ward) Office of Planning and Research: regional climate networks: regional climate adaptation and resilience action plans

This bill would authorize public entities and Tribes to establish regional climate networks. The bill would authorize a regional climate network to engage in activities to address climate change, and to develop regional climate adaptation and resilience action plans. The bill would require OPR to develop guidelines on how eligible entities may establish regional climate networks and how governing boards may be established within regional climate networks on or before July 1, 2023. *Amendments of 03/23/22 authorize a regional climate network to develop a regional climate adaptation and resilience action plan. Amendments of 05/19 eliminate the July 1, 2023 deadline.*

Introduced 01/12/22
Last Amended 03/23/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

AB 1902 (Aguiar-Curry) Resource conservation: resource conservation districts

Relevant to the Commission, this bill would expand the authorized role of resource conservation districts to include, among other things, planning, preparing for, and addressing sea level rise, storm surge, beach and bluff erosion, saltwater intrusion, and flooding to preserve and enhance coastal wetlands and natural lands, and to conserve biodiversity. *Amendments of 03/22/22 renumber the bill and authorize RCDs to enter into interagency agreements with a state agency and to administer and manage specified projects. Amendments of 04/04/22 authorize RCDs to construct on privately or publicly owned lands any necessary works for the protection, conservation, restoration, or enhancement of natural resources, adaptation or resilience to climate change, or mitigation or sequestration of carbon emissions; and to develop projects and programs for these purposes.*

Introduced 02/09/22
Last Amended 04/04/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

AB 2348 (Mullin) Sea level rise planning: database

This is a spot bill would make a non-substantive change to the Public Resources Code, relating to sea level rise.

Introduced 02/16/22
Status Assembly Rules Committee. Failed deadline

AB 2362 (Mullin) Environmentally beneficial projects: interagency coordination: permits

As amended, this bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to evaluate applicant and agency staff perspective on existing interagency collaboration, and would require the Agency to provide, at the request of an applicant of an environmentally beneficial project, a preapplication consultation that includes permit analysts from all state agencies with permitting authority over the project. The bill would further require the Agency to prepare guidance for meeting all statutory and regulatory permit requirements, and to develop and administer an online permit portal that allows applicants of environmentally beneficial projects to submit and track all relevant state agency permits. *Amendments of 05/19 authorize the SWRCB to accept grants, donations and contributions for the purpose of planning, permitting, or providing technical support for public benefit projects.*

Introduced 02/07/22
Last Amended 05/19/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

AB 2734 (Petrie-Norris) Coastal resources: research: landslides: advanced warning system: County of Orange

This bill would require the Scripps Institute to conduct research on coastal bluff erosion and flooding, including the feasibility of an early warning system. The bill would be

operative upon appropriation and would require a report to the Legislature on the findings by January 1, 2027.

Introduced 02/18/22
Last Amended 03/30/22
Status Assembly Appropriations Committee, Held Under Submission

ENERGY AND OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS

[AJR 24 \(Nguyen\) Oil spill: unified command centers: location](#)

This measure would request that the United States government locate an oil spill unified command centers based on proximity and access to the spill, to make the center easily accessible to local agencies and local governments directly affected by the oil spill.

Introduced 01/14/22
Status Assembly Emergency Management Committee

[AJR 25 \(Nguyen\) Regulation of vessel anchorages](#)

This measure would request Congress and the President to increase resources for the enforcement of regulating vessel anchorages for regulating the backlog of cargo ships and preventing future oil spills related to anchor strikes.

Introduced 01/14/22
Status Assembly Transportation Committee

[SB 953 \(Min\) Oil and gas leases: state waters: State Lands Commission](#)

As amended, this bill would require the State Lands Commission (SLC) to conduct an amortization study by December 31, 2023 of its oil and gas leases in state waters in order to determine the market value of the leases and to provide recommendations to phase out the production of oil and gas production. The bill would also require SLC, before completing the study, to initiate negotiations with the lessees toward reaching an agreement for voluntary relinquishment of the leases and termination of all associated oil and gas production. If SLC is unable to reach an agreement with the lessees before December 31, 2024, the bill would require SLC to terminate the leases and provide fair compensation, as calculated by the study.

Introduced 02/09/22
Last Amended 04/18/22
Status Senate Appropriations Committee, Held Under Submission

SB 1274 (McGuire) Environmental quality: environmental leadership development projects: clean energy transmission projects: offshore wind

This bill would provide that a clean energy transmission project that upgrades existing transmission infrastructure to bring renewable energy from an offshore wind project located within or adjacent to the County of Humboldt is qualified for CEQA streamlining measures as an “Environmental Development Leadership Project” pursuant to PRC Section 21180.

Introduced 02/18/22
Status Senate Environmental Quality Committee. Failed deadline

AB 1611 (Davies) Oil spills: potential casualties with submerged oil pipelines: vessels: reporting

This bill would require a person to notify state and federal entities that a vessel has hit or likely hit to a pipeline in waters of the state, within 24 hours. The bill would subject a person to civil penalties of up to \$50,000 for failure to comply. *Amendments of 3/15/22 make a vessel operator who fails to report a collision or possible collision to a submerged oil pipeline subject to civil penalties of \$10,000 to \$1 million. Amendments of 04/06/22 require a court to consider specific factors when determining the amount of civil penalty to assess.*

Introduced 01/05/22
Last Amended 04/06/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

AB 1657 (Nguyen) Oil spills: reporting: waters of the state

This bill would require any party responsible for the discharge or threatened discharge of oil in waters of the United States to report the discharge immediately to the Office of Emergency Services. Failure to do so would be a crime. *Amendments of 03/14/22 limit the bill to waters of the state, and further define a “threatened discharge” of oil. Amendments of 04/28/22 limit the scope of the bill to offshore oil facilities.*

Introduced 01/14/22
Last Amended 04/28/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

AB 1658 (Nguyen) Oil spill response and contingency planning: oil spill elements: area plans

This bill would require the Office of Spill Prevention and Response to develop best practices create and post on its internet website best practices, which may include, but are not limited to, a model ordinance, for local jurisdictions that would like to adopt a local oil spill response plan. *Amendments of 03/15/22 delete the requirement for oil spill response plans to also be consistent with LCPs, the California Oil Spill Contingency Plan, and the National Contingency Plan.*

Introduced 03/15/22
Last Amended 04/28/22

Status Senate Rules Committee

[AB 1832 \(L. Rivas\) Waters subject to tidal influence: hard mineral extraction](#)

This bill would repeal the State Lands Commission's authority to authorize leases or permits for the extraction or removal of hard minerals, such as metals, precious metals, gemstones, ores, and other types of hard minerals from tidelands and submerged lands of the state. This does not include rock, gravel, sand, silt, hydrocarbons, or coal. *Amendments of 04/28/22 revise the scope of the bill to state waters subject to tidal influence, and exclude waters east of the Carquinez Bridge.*

Introduced 02/07/22
Last Amended 04/28/22
Status Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

[AB 2140 \(Muratsuchi\) Once-through cooling policy: powerplants](#)

This bill would prohibit the State Water Resources Control Board from granting an operator of a powerplant a time extension to comply with the Board's once-through cooling policy if a local government with jurisdiction over the powerplant objects to the extension. *Amendments of 04/18/22 add the requirement that an advisory committee convened by the Board determine that the extension is not necessary to ensure electricity reliability. Amendments of 05/02/22 remove the requirement that the Board, the Public Utilities Commission, the Energy Commission, and the California Independent System Operator collaboratively identify alternatives to offset the powerplants that cease operation as a result of the once-through cooling policy.*

Introduced 02/15/22
Last Amended 05/02/22
Status Assembly Appropriations Committee, Held Under Submission

[AB 2257 \(Boerner Horvath\) State lands: oil and gas leases: cost study](#)

This bill would direct the State Lands Commission to develop a cost study to determine the fiscal impact of a voluntary lease buy-out of all active offshore oil and gas leases as of January 1, 2023, and appropriate \$1 million from General Fund to cover the cost of the study. *Amendments of 03/21/22 specify a deadline of December 31, 2024 for the study. Amendments of 05/19 delete the \$1 million appropriation and instead make the funding subject to appropriation by the Legislature.*

Introduced 02/17/22
Last Amended 05/19/22
Status Senate Rules Committee
Position Recommend Support, Analysis Attached

[AB 2609 \(Petrie-Norris\) Oil: facility response plan](#)

This bill would require the State Lands Commission to post on its website all Facility Response Plans provided by onshore or offshore facilities that pose a risk of discharging oil into the environment, and to hold at least two public hearings on the plans to receive public comment.

Introduced 02/18/22
Status Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Failed deadline

HOUSING

[SB 897 \(Wieckowski\) Accessory dwelling units: junior accessory dwelling units](#)

This bill would increase the minimum height of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to 25 feet; provide that the construction of an ADU does not constitute an occupancy change; prohibit the construction of an ADU from triggering the installation of fire sprinklers; prohibit a local government from denying a permit for a constructed, but unpermitted ADU because it is in violation of building standards unless it endangers the health and safety of the occupants, and require the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish a grant program to fund the construction of ADUs and junior ADUs (JADUs). *Amendments of 03/14/22 require local governments to use objective standards when establishing regulations for ADUs and prohibit requirements for applicants to post notices when demolishing a detached garage to construct an ADU. Amendments of 04/18/22 limit the increased minimum height standard to ADUs within ½ mile of a major transit stop or transit corridor and ADUs attached to a primary dwelling.*

Introduced 02/01/22
Last Amended 05/19/22
Status Assembly Rules Committee

[SB 930 \(Wiener\) Housing Accountability Act](#)

As amended, this bill would clarify that specified existing provisions of the Housing Accountability Act which currently apply to very low, low, or moderate-income households also apply to extremely low-income households.

Introduced 02/07/22
Last Amended 04/18/22
Status Assembly Rules Committee

[SB 1292 \(Stern\) Land use: development restriction: fire hazard severity zones](#)

As amended, this bill would authorize local governments to restrict new development in moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones if they adopt a plan to at least double the amount of potential lost housing in other areas.

Introduced 02/18/22
Last Amended 03/16/22
Status Senate Housing Committee. Failed deadline.

[SB 1369 \(Wieckowski\) Adaptive reuse projects: by-right: funding](#)

This bill would specify that an adaptive reuse project, defined as converting any commercial, public, industrial, or office building with an occupancy rate of 25% or less into a mixed use or residential housing development project, shall be considered a use by right regardless of zoning. A local government would not be able to require additional on-site parking beyond what is already available, and the applicant could add one additional story to the roof of the existing structure.

Introduced 02/18/22
Status Senate Governance and Finance Committee. Failed Deadline.

AB 1910 (Garcia) Publicly owned golf courses: conversion: affordable housing

This bill would authorize a public agency to convert a publicly owned golf course into affordable housing and public open space. The bill would direct the Department of Housing and Community Development to develop and administer a program to provide grants to projects that meet the specifications of the bill, including that 25% of the units shall be occupied by lower income households; no more than 1/3 of the property shall be used for non-residential purposes; affordable rental and ownership units shall be deed restricted for 55 and 45 years, respectively; and at least 15% of the development shall be publicly accessible open space.

Introduced 02/09/22
Status Assembly Appropriations Committee, Held Under Submission
Position Support

AB 2011 (Hicks) Affordable Housing and High Road Jobs Act of 2022

This bill would make housing units that meet specified urban infill development and affordability criteria a ministerial “use by right” in zones where “office”, “retail” or “parking” are the principally permitted use, thus providing for an exemption from CEQA.

Introduced 02/14/22
Last Amended 05/11/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

AB 2097 (Friedman) Residential and commercial development: remodeling, renovations, and additions: parking requirements

This bill would prohibit a public agency from imposing minimum parking standards on residential or commercial development if it is located on a parcel within ½ mile of public transit. The bill would not reduce or eliminate requirements to provide handicapped parking or EV charging equipment. *Amendments of 05/19 add a definition of a public agency to include and state agency, board or commission, city, county, special district, joint powers authority or other political subdivision, and adds a definition of a public transit to include a major transit stop that is included in a Regional Transportation Plan.*

Introduced 02/14/22

Last Amended 05/19/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

AB 2430 (Grayson) Tiny homes

This bill would add “tiny homes on wheels” to the definition of an ADU. A tiny home on wheels is defined as a recreational, tow-behind vehicle on a wheeled chassis that provides living facilities for one or more persons and is no larger than 400 square feet. *Amendments of 04/06/22 modify the subject of the bill from “tiny homes on wheels” to “movable tiny homes.”*

Introduced 02/18/22
Last Amended 04/06/22
Status Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee.
Failed Deadline.

AB 2762 (Bloom) Housing: parking lots

This is an intent bill that would authorize local governments to build affordable housing on parking lots that serve parks and recreational facilities.

Introduced 02/18/22
Status Assembly Rules Committee. Failed deadline.

WATER AND MARINE DEBRIS

SB 890 (Nielsen) Department of Water Resources: Water Storage and Conveyance Fund: water shortage and conveyance

This bill would establish the Water Storage and Conveyance Fund, to be managed by the Department of Water Resources. This measure is an urgency statute.

Introduced 01/31/22
Status Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. Failed passage.

SB 1065 (Eggman) California Abandoned and Derelict Commercial Vessel Program

This bill would create a new program administered by the State Lands Commission to identify, prioritize, and fund the removal of abandoned and derelict commercial vessels from waters of the state. The Commission would also be required to create a plan to prevent, reduce and remove abandoned and derelict commercial vessels.

Introduced 02/15/22
Last Amended 04/28/22
Status Assembly Rules Committee

AB 1690 (L. Rivas) Tobacco products: single-use electronic cigarettes

This bill would prohibit the sale, purchase, or conveyance of cigarettes with single-use filters, or the sale purchase or conveyance of detachable single-use device for the filtration of tobacco products, or the sale, purchase or conveyance of single use-cigarettes, or vaping devices, punishable by a \$500 civil fine. *Amendments of 4/20/22 limited the scope of the bill to single-use electronic cigarettes.*

Introduced 01/25/22
Last Amended 04/20/22
Status Assembly Inactive File

AB 1724 (Stone) State-owned washing machines: microfiber filtration

This bill would require, on or before January 1, 2024, that all new washing machines sold in California contain a microfiber filtration system. The bill would also require all state-owned washing machines to contain a microfiber filtration system. *Amendments of 04/21/22 remove the requirement regarding sale of washing machines, and specify that all state-owned washing machines contain a filtration system with a mesh size of 100 microns or smaller.*

Introduced 01/27/22
Last Amended 04/21/22
Status Assembly Appropriations Committee, Held Under Submission

AB 2016 (Bauer-Kahan) State Water Resources Control Board: desalination plants: feasibility study

As amended, this bill would amend the Water Code to delete an obsolete reporting requirement related to the opportunities and impediments to seawater desalination, and instead request the California Council on Science and Technology, in consultation with the SWRCB, to complete a feasibility study of the desalination of ocean water, brackish water, and groundwater and the potential impact of desalination plants along the San Francisco Bay and inland lakes and streams by January 1, 2025, if the California Council on Science and Technology agrees to undertake and complete the study. *Amendments of 05/19 make the study contingent upon appropriation by the Legislature.*

Introduced 02/14/22
Last Amended 03/31/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

AB 2026 (Friedman) Recycling: plastic packaging and carryout bags

This bill would prohibit online retailers that ship purchased items into the state from using single-use plastic or polystyrene packaging. The bill would also establish the At-Store Recycling Program, which allows customers to return clean plastic carryout and single-use plastic bags. *Amendments of 04/06/22 revises the definition of “primary packaging” and “reusable,” and exempts materials used in the shipping of fresh meat and produce. Amendments of 05/19 eliminate the reference to the “At-Store Recycling Program.”*

Introduced 02/14/22
Last Amended 05/19/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

AB 2740 (Dahle) Water resources: desalination

This bill would repeal a provision of the Water Code that required the SWRCB to produce a report by July 1, 2044, on the existing impediments to seawater and brackish water desalination projects. It would also eliminate the Water Desalination Task Force.

Introduced 02/18/22
Status Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee. Failed deadline

TRANSPORTATION

SB 894 (Jones) Off-highway vehicles

This bill would make multiple changes to the rules, requirements, and fee structure for the licensing of competition motorcycles and ATVs operated on public lands.

Introduced 01/03/22
Last Amended 03/28/22
Status Assembly Rules Committee

AB 2344 (Friedman) Wildlife connectivity: transportation projects

This bill would require CDFW, in coordination with Caltrans, to develop a wildlife connectivity action plan by January 1, 2024. Among other requirements, the plan must include input from relevant state and federal agencies. The bill would also require Caltrans, in consultation with CDFW, to develop by January 1, 2024, a list of wildlife passage projects where the implementation of wildlife passage features would reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and enhance wildlife connectivity. Further, the bill would require Caltrans to develop a programmatic environmental review process with state and federal regulatory agencies for remediating barriers to wildlife movement. *Amendments of 04/06/22 add a reference to the 2020 California Wildlife Barriers Report. Amendments of 05/19 make the provisions of the bill addressing a PEIR for fish improving fish passage permissive, rather than mandatory, and delete the requirement to implement at least 10 projects per year from the Wildlife Connectivity Project List.*

Introduced 02/16/22
Last Amended 05/19/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

AB 2438 (Friedman) Transportation funding: alignment with state plans and greenhouse gas emissions reduction standards

This bill would require all transportation projects funded at the local or state level to align with the California Transportation Plan and the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure. *Amendments of 03/21/22 modify the scope of this requirement to projects funded by specified state funding programs, and requires specified transportation agencies to submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2025 that evaluates aligning funding programs with the goals of those plans.*

Introduced 02/17/22
Last Amended 03/21/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

AB 2719 (Fong) CEQA exemptions: highway safety improvement projects

This bill would exempt state or local “highway safety projects” from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Introduced 02/07/22
Status Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Failed Deadline

ADMINISTRATION

SB 1122 (Allen) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy: territory

This bill would authorize the State Coastal Conservancy to elect a vice-chair by a majority vote of the Board. *Amendments of 03/07/22 change the subject matter of the bill to expanding the boundary of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to include the Dominguez Channel watershed, and the coastal watersheds of Manhattan Beach and the Palos Verdes Peninsula.*

Introduced 02/16/22
Last Amended 03/07/22
Status Assembly Natural Resources Committee

AB 1795 (Fong) Open meetings: remote participation

This bill would require state bodies to provide an opportunity for participants to address the body both in-person and remotely in any public meeting.

Introduced 02/07/22
Status Assembly Governmental Organization Committee. Failed Deadline

AB 1996 (Cooley) State government: administrative regulations: review

This bill would require all state agencies to review and identify any regulations that are duplicative, overlapping, inconsistent, or out of date, revise those identified regulations, and report to the Legislature and Governor, by January 1, 2026.

Introduced 02/10/22
Status Assembly Appropriations Committee, Held Under Submission

AB 2370 (Levine) Public records: state agency retention

This bill would require all state agencies to retain every public record subject to the Public Records Act, including emails, for a period of at least 2 years.

Introduced 02/16/22
Last Amended 03/23/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

AB 2387 (E. Garcia) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Bond Act

This bill would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$7,430,000,000 to finance eligible projects. *Amendments of 03/21/22 move the election date of the bond from June 7 to November 9.*

Introduced 02/17/22
Last Amended 03/21/22
Status Assembly Appropriations Committee, Held Under Submission

AB 1733 (Quirk) State bodies: open meetings

This bill would make changes to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act related to remote participation and public notice requirements for teleconferenced meetings of state agencies. It would require all state body open meetings to be held by teleconference, without the need to make the remote locations of each board member accessible to the public. In addition to providing for the public to participate remotely, the bill would also require agencies to provide a physical location for members of the public to observe, hear and participate remotely in the meeting. If the ability to provide remote participation fails during a meeting and cannot be restored, the bill would require the state agency to

adjourn the meeting and notify the public of when it plans to reconvene. The bill would allow for closed sessions to be conducted remotely.

Introduced 01/03/22
Status Assembly Government Organization Committee. Failed Deadline

AB 1655 (Jones-Sawyer) State holidays: Juneteenth

This bill would add June 19, known as “Juneteenth,” to the list of state holidays. *Amendments of 05/19 would authorize state employees to elect to take paid time off; authorize public schools to close in observance if the governing board of the school agrees to do so; authorizes schools to use state resources to commemorate the contributions of African Americans, and authorizes the State Board of Education to develop model curriculum.*

Introduced 01/14/22
Last Amended 05/19/22
Status Senate Rules Committee

PRIORITY LEGISLATION: TWO-YEAR BILLS

SB 6 (Caballero) Local planning: housing: commercial zones

This bill would deem a housing development an allowable use in retail commercial zoning that is not adjacent to an industrial use, if certain density requirements are met. This bill is a re-introduction of SB 1385 (Caballero) from 2020. *Amendments of 3/8/21 sunset the provisions of the bill on January 1, 2029. Amendments of 8/23/21 require the developer to certify that all contractors and sub-contractors will pay prevailing wage.*

Introduced 12/09/20
Last Amended 08/23/21
Status Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee

SB 12 (McGuire) Local government: planning and zoning: wildfires

This bill would require local governments to amend their land use plans to include maps of any very high fire hazard areas within its jurisdictions upon each revision of its housing element after July 1, 2024. Within 12 months of any update, the local government must adopt a very high fire hazard risk overlay zone or otherwise amend its zoning ordinance to be consistent with the land use plan. *Amendments of 5/4/21 require the State Fire Marshal to adopt wildfire risk reduction standards for developments in very high fire risk areas. Amendments of 7/1/21 narrow the bill to apply to residential structures only, as opposed to “development” generally. Amendments of 05/24 require water purveyors and waste water treatment facilities to use only heat-resilient water conveyance infrastructure components in areas designated as very high fire hazard severity zones.*

Introduced 12/07/20

Last Amended 05/24/22
Status Failed passage in Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee. Reconsideration granted.

SB 17 (Pan) Office of Racial Equity

This bill would establish the Office of Racial Equity, and task the office with developing strategies for advancing racial equity across state agencies. The office would be required to develop a statewide Racial Equity Framework, in coordination with other agencies, to provide guidelines for inclusive policies and practices that reduce racial inequities, and to establish goals and strategies to advance racial equity and address structural racism. The bill would direct the Secretary of each state agency to adopt and implement a Racial Equity Action Plan and would require the office to provide technical assistance to agencies and to approve each agency's Racial Equity Action Plan.

Amendments of 7/1/21 add a requirement for the Office to develop a Statewide Racial Equity Framework and to establish a Chief Equity Officer appointed by the Governor.

Introduced 12/07/20
Last Amended 07/01/21
Status Assembly Appropriations Committee. Hearing cancelled at request of author.

AB 30 (Kalra) Outdoor access to nature: environmental equity

As amended, this bill would establish a state policy that all Californians have safe and affordable access to nature and its benefits. The bill would require all relevant state agencies and departments, including the Natural Resources Agency and its respective departments, boards, and commissions to incorporate this state policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria.

Introduced 12/07/20
Last Amended 01/24/22
Status Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

SB 54 (Allen) Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Act

This bill would prohibit producers of single-use, disposable packaging or single-use, disposable food service ware products from selling or distributing such products that are after January 1, 2032, unless they are recyclable or compostable.

Introduced 12/07/20
Last Amended 02/25/21
Status Assembly Rules Committee

SB 307 (McGuire) North Coast Railroad Authority: County of Humboldt: state moneys

As amended, this bill would prohibit use of state moneys for any project designed to rehabilitate, maintain, or repair an existing rail facility, including any rail terminal or other rail infrastructure, on the North Coast Railroad Authority's right-of-way north of the City of Willits in Mendocino County. The bill also specifically prohibits state moneys from being spent for any new bulk coal terminal project in Humboldt County. *Amendments of 05/25 change the focus to the Great Redwood Trail Agency, and would allow for state monies to be expended on rail work only for necessary trail design and construction.*

Introduced 02/04/21
Last Amended 05/25/22
Status Assembly Rules Committee

AB 343 (Fong) California Public Records Act Ombudsperson

This bill would create a Public Records Act Ombudsperson within the office of the State Auditor. The Ombudsperson's office would receive requests to investigate cases where a member of the public believes a Public Records Act request has been improperly denied. The Ombudsman would have the authority to require the release of records found to be improperly denied. Agencies found to have improperly withheld records would be required to reimburse the Ombudsman's office for its expenses. The bill would require the Ombudsperson to submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2023. *Amendments of 5/24/21 revise the deadline for submitting the report to January 1, 2024.*

Introduced 01/28/21
Last Amended 05/24/21
Status Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 396 (Dahle) Forestry: electrical transmission or distribution lines: clearance: notice and opportunity to be heard

As amended, this bill would authorize utility line operators, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to access private property to trim, cut or fell any hazardous trees to maintain safe clearance. The bill would also require the utility to notify the landowner, provide an opportunity to protest, preserve timber value of felled trees if possible, and leave wood on site unless asked to remove it. The bill would also require the California Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, by July 1, 2024, to develop standardized landowner notice materials, and would require utilities to make a good faith effort to communicate with landowners about trimming activities.

Introduced 02/02/21
Last Amended 09/03/21
Status Assembly Third Reading

AB 500 (Ward) Local planning: coastal development: affordable housing

This bill would have amended Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 30213 to reinstate the Commission's previous authority over housing for people of low and moderate income; add PRC Section 30252.2 to preserve and enhance higher density residential

development in non-hazardous areas of the coastal zone; repeal PRC Section 30500.1 prohibiting the inclusion of housing policies and programs in LCPs; and add PRC Section 30514(f) to require local governments to amend their LCPs to include streamlined measures for approving ADUs, JADUs, and supportive housing projects by January 1, 2024. *Amendments of 8/31/21 limit the scope of the bill to only require LCP amendments, and to add 100% affordable housing project, transitional housing, and low barrier navigation centers to the housing types to be included.*

Introduced	02/09/21
Last Amended	08/31/21
Status	Senate Inactive File
Position	Support

[AB 897 \(Mullin\) Office of Planning and Research: regional climate networks: climate adaptation and resilience action plans](#)

This bill would authorize local jurisdictions to establish regional climate networks, in consultation with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR). It would also require OPR to develop guidelines for regional climate networks prepare regional climate adaptation action plans by July 1, 2022. The bill would direct OPR to establish geographic boundaries for regional climate networks, and publish guidelines on its website, and to provide technical assistance to regional climate networks in developing regional climate adaptation action plans. *Amendments of 04/19/21 require a regional climate network to develop an action plan and submit it to OPR for review and comment. Amendments of 07/14/21 broaden the scope of the required plans to also include climate resilience and hazard mitigation planning, require OPR’s responsibilities under the bill to be carried out in consultation with the Office of Emergency Services, add tribes as entities eligible to participate in regional climate networks, add definitions of “under-resourced community” and “vulnerable community,” and make various technical amendments.*

Introduced	02/17/21
Last Amended	07/14/21
Status	Senate Appropriations Committee

[AB 916 \(Salas\) Zoning: accessory dwelling units: bedroom addition](#)

This bill would prohibit a local government from requiring a public hearing for adding an additional bedroom to a single-family structure. It would require a local government to ministerially approve and application for not more than two ADUs on a lot with an existing multi-family building, with a height limit of 18 feet, provided the units are not attached to the main building.

Introduced	02/01/21
Last Amended	01/03/22
Status	Senate Housing Committee

AB 923 (Ramos) Government-to-Government Consultation Act: state-tribal consultation

This bill would require the Executive Branch to consult on a government-to-government basis with a Tribe within 60 days of a request. It would require Agency directors to consider the need for tribal consultation before approving any agency policy. The bill would specify who is authorized to represent the state in Tribal consultation, and would require a training to be developed by June 1, 2023 on government-to-government consultations for agency directors, chairs, executive officers, and chief counsels. Training would be completed by January 1, 2024.

Introduced 02/17/21
Last Amended 01/24/22
Status Senate Governmental Organization Committee

AB 989 (Gabriel) Housing Accountability Act: appeals: Office of Housing Appeals

This bill would create the Housing Accountability Committee within the Housing and Community Development Department. It would authorize the committee to hear appeals of proposed housing developments, and to vacate a local denial if it finds that the local agency disapproved or conditioned the project in violation of the Housing Accountability Act *Government Code Section 65598.5. Amendments of 7/5/21 provide that the measure would sunset on January 1, 2029; specify that the appeal hearings shall be heard by a panel of 5 administrative law judges; provide that panel decisions are subject to judicial review; and specify the procedures for filing an appeal of a local agency action. Amendments of 8/18/21 limit the bill to housing developments of 5 units or more; specify that the statute of limitations does not begin until the final administrative action; reduce the size of the panel to 3 administrative law judges; and require the panel to render a written decision within 14 days of the appeal hearing.*

Introduced 02/18/21
Last Amended 08/18/21
Status Senate Inactive File

AB 1279 (Muratsuchi) Coastal resources: sustainable kelp

This bill would require the Ocean Protection Council to work with private and non-profit entities to promote sustainable kelp projects, and to review and assess data from ongoing research and pilot projects to identify knowledge gaps related to kelp forest ecosystems.

Introduced 02/19/21
Last Amended 03/25/21
Status Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. Hearing cancelled at request of author.

AB 1323 (Chiu) Department of Technology: modernization: state information technology contracts

This bill would require state agencies and entities to submit their IT service contracts to the Department of Technology by May 1, 2022. The Department would be required to analyze the contracts to identify candidates for statewide contracts for common uses and would prioritize legacy IT system modernization efforts across state government. It would require the Department to work with the Legislature and the Legislative Analyst's Office to modernize state government IT project approval and oversight.

Introduced	02/19/21
Last Amended	03/26/21
Status	Senate Governmental Organization Committee

AB 1384 (Gabriel) Resiliency Through Adaptation, Economic Vitality, and Equity Act of 2022

This bill would require the Strategic Growth Council to develop a strategic resiliency framework that makes recommendations and identifies actions that are necessary to prepare the state for the most significant climate change impacts. The bill would require state agencies to engage with regional entities to implement regional solutions, and to proactively engage vulnerable communities who have been disproportionately impacted by climate change. The bill would authorize the Treasurer, and the financing authorities that the Treasurer chairs, to assist state agencies by leveraging public and private capital investment to help with loans and other incentives to attain the goals identified in the strategic resiliency framework. *Amendments of 07/14/21 reassign the requirements of the bill from the Strategic Growth Council to the Natural Resources Agency in coordination with the Office of Planning and Research, require the Natural Resources Agency to develop timetables and metrics for measuring the state's progress in implementing the Safeguarding California Plan, and require agencies to prioritize equity in climate change adaptation expenditures. Amendments of 08/26/21 require CNRA to release an updated draft of the Safeguarding California plan by January 1, 2017, and update it every 3 years thereafter, and to identify opportunities to improve policy and budget coordination across jurisdictions.*

Introduced	02/19/21
Last Amended	08/26/21
Status	Senate Third Reading

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BILL ANALYSIS
AB 2257 (Boerner-Horvath)
05/19/22

SUMMARY

This bill would require the State Lands Commission to conduct a comprehensive cost study/analysis to measure the fiscal impact of negotiating voluntary buyouts of the remaining offshore oil and gas leases in state waters. The report would be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2024.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move the Commission **Support** AB 2257, and I recommend a **Yes** vote.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to provide the fiscal and economic information necessary for the state to consider whether and how to negotiate successful agreements with offshore leaseholders effectuate an early buy-out of oil and gas operations, while avoiding additional legal costs, uncertainties, and delays.

EXISTING LAW

Prior to the creation of the State Lands Commission (SLC) in 1938, offshore oil and gas production on and off state tidelands was largely unregulated. The Legislature held, and still holds, the authority to grant state tidelands directly to third parties for specific uses, including oil and gas production.

The SLC was created in 1938 to oversee all state-owned tidelands and submerged lands and assume administrative control over remaining state interest in granted tide lands. Since then, the SLC has maintained jurisdiction over the use of ungranted tidelands and submerged lands owned by the state, including the leasing of offshore state lands for oil and gas production. The SLC also issues right-of-way leases for pipelines necessary to support offshore oil and gas infrastructure, and leases for onshore oil and gas infrastructure located on state tidelands.

In 1955, the Legislature enacted the Cunningham Shell Act. This Act established the conditions that apply to offshore oil and gas production in state waters, including that the lease terms are indefinite so long as the lease is producing.

The California Coastal Sanctuary Act of 1994 (Public Resources Code (PRC) §§6240 et seq.) prohibits SLC from issuing new oil and gas leases for offshore oil and gas production, with limited exceptions. In passing the Sanctuary Act, the Legislature found that “offshore oil and gas production in certain areas of state waters poses an unacceptably high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment of the state.” (PRC §6241) 9). However, the Act did not affect existing leases or ongoing production. If a lease is terminated or quitclaimed back to the state, the areas returned become part of the coastal sanctuary and cannot be re-leased for oil and gas production.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Approximately 20% of the state's current offshore oil production in state waters is generated under leases administered by SLC. The rest comes from granted tidelands: primarily the City of Long Beach and the Port, which administer their own leases. CalGEM and SLC retain regulatory jurisdiction over the oil wells and support infrastructure, respectively.

There are eleven active state offshore leases that continue to produce oil and gas today. Eight of those leases — all of which were issued in the 1940s and 1950s and are managed by SLC — support the three remaining platforms in state waters; Esther, Eva, and Emmy offshore Orange County. Two of the offshore leases are unassociated with a platform, as they are drilled from onshore operations in Ventura County. The remaining lease is for Island Chafee in Long Beach. In FY 2020.2021, the state received \$20.7 million in royalties from these leases.

These leases have no termination dates. They can be operated to produce oil and gas in perpetuity so long as “paying quantities” of oil and gas are produced and the lessees continues to maintain the leases in compliance with their terms.

ANALYSIS

The occasional, but catastrophic damage to coastal resources resulting from offshore oil spills has long been one of California's most visceral and galvanizing environmental issue. The 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill that fouled the Central Coast horrified the nation, and was central to the passage of Proposition 20 and the Coastal Act. The recent spill off the coast of Huntington Beach in October of 2021, which released approximately 25,000 gallons of oil that was recovered from as far away as the US/Mexico border, has renewed public dialog about how to accelerate the phase-out of offshore oil. The urgency reflects the larger context where climate change is necessitating a shift away from carbon-based fuels in favor of renewable energy sources. Although the spill originated from a cracked pipeline that transports oil produced in federal waters, this bill seeks to facilitate the early termination of active leases in state waters.

But leases can't be terminated or amended by legislative fiat. Because of the statutory framework, the terms of the existing leases, and contract law, the state's offshore oil and gas lessees/operators have the legal right and obligation to continue to produce oil and gas so long as it is economically viable for them to do. As unwise as this approach may seem today, the state is bound by the terms of these old contracts. While SLC does have the existing authority to pursue voluntary relinquishment, and the terms of the leases can be changed by mutual agreement, no unilateral offshore oil and gas lease terminations are possible without a negotiated agreement between the SLC and its lessees. The cost to the state of a comprehensive buy-out is unknown.

AB 2257 would require the SLC to undertake a cost study that measures the fiscal impact of a voluntary buy-out of any lease interests remaining as of January 1, 2023, in actively producing offshore oil and gas leases in state waters. The study would consider unrealized state revenues, reasonably anticipated lost profits, life of the reservoir based on proven reserves, and decommissioning costs. The intent of the bill is that SLC would use this information to successfully negotiate an end to offshore oil production with individual operators, subject to appropriation by the Legislature. AB 2257 appropriates \$1 million for SLC to develop the cost study.

The SLC, which supports the bill, has experience with assessing complex oil and gas reservoir information and the associated economic and fiscal implications.

Anthropogenic climate change caused by fossil fuel emissions is an existential threat to life on Earth that more urgent each passing day. The State of California is aggressively pursuing various options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and de-accelerate the impacts of climate change, including incentives for rooftop solar and electric vehicles, tax credits for industrial scale renewables, and selling carbon offset credits that are reinvested in GHG mitigation measures through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

And yet, climate activists argue that a transition to renewable forms of energy like solar and wind should be coupled with more aggressive efforts to block fossil fuel extraction and combustion. The “Leave It In The Ground” (LINGO) movement leaders argue that in order to meet global CO2 emission targets, known reserves of fossil fuels will have to be left untouched. They are calling for a “0 by 30” strategy, which is a swift transition to zero fossil fuels by 2030.

Although California banned new offshore oil and gas leases through the California Coastal Sanctuary Act in 1994, and Governor Newsom has called for California to end offshore oil development by 2045, the remaining offshore oil and gas leases can continue to produce until they are depleted. A cost study that assesses the fiscal impact of buying out the remaining lease interests in the State's actively producing offshore oil and gas leases will fill the critical knowledge gap necessary to negotiate successful agreements to shut down offshore operations legally without incurring the cost, uncertainties, and delays associated with litigation.

CONCLUSION

Eliminating production of California's 11 state offshore oil leases would be a net positive for ocean health, coastal resilience and climate stability. Providing the baseline information needed to begin these negotiations is a wise investment in the future of coastal resources and public health. Although this bill will not effect the ongoing production on granted tidelands in Long Beach and elsewhere, nor the leases in federal waters, it has the potential to preclude the future extraction and combustion of many millions of gallons of crude oil that are held in trust for the people of California. Knowledge is power. Knowing the costs to plug, abandon, and decommission the wells, platforms, and ancillary infrastructure associated with these 11 leases will allow the state to make decisions and take action that will accrue to the benefit of Californians and their coast.

SUPPORT

California State Controller Betty Yee (Sponsor)
State Lands Commission

OPPOSITION

California Independent Petroleum Producers Association
Center for Biological Diversity

RECOMMENDED POSITION

Staff recommends the Commission **Support** AB 2257.
