



Priority Assembly Bills

AB 42 (Huffman): Helping Keep State Parks Open – SUPPORT

- Provides authority for the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into operating agreements with nonprofit organizations to operate state parks.
- Provides an option to the state to try to alleviate financial and resource burdens for parks that may otherwise close; by entering into agreements with nonprofits, enables DPR to redirect precious public resources to parks that will remain directly managed by the state.

AB 296 (Skinner): Building Standards: Cool Pavement – SUPPORT

- Promote improved air quality and reduced greenhouse gas pollution by requiring Caltrans to adopt a best practices handbook for use of cooler paving materials
- Launch cool pavement pilot and demonstration projects to reduce the urban heat island effect and develop valuable information about air quality and energy benefits.

AB 341 (Chesbro): Solid Waste: Diversion – SUPPORT

- This bill presents a package of policies that will move California forward from landfilling to waste reduction, recycling, and composting, by setting a statewide diversion goal of 75% and finally expanding recycling opportunities to the state's largest underserved sectors: businesses and apartment buildings.
- Despite the incredible success of California's landmark waste reduction and recycling law, AB 939, many readily recyclable materials continue to be disposed, resulting in a drag on California's economy, a significant waste of energy, and contributing to global climate change.

AB 359 (Huffman): Groundwater Management Plans – SUPPORT

- Bill promotes the management and protection of the state's groundwater supplies by requiring, as a condition of receiving a state grant or loan, local water agencies to map the recharge areas that substantially contribute to the replenishment of the groundwater basin.
- The bill also requires local groundwater agencies to submit recharge maps to local planning agencies and expand public notification when preparing and approving groundwater plans.

AB 376 (Fong, Huffman): Shark Fins – SUPPORT

- AB 376 would prohibit the shark fin trade in California to end the state's contribution to recent rapid declines in shark populations and the cruel and wasteful practice of "finning." Some reports estimate that 70 to 100 million sharks are killed annually solely for their fins and some populations have declined by 99 percent. California is estimated to be the largest importer of these fins outside Asia.

AB 380 (Chesbro): Resources Watersheds – SUPPORT

- Directs the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Calfire) and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, when implementing a forestry pilot project, to develop guidelines for conducting "cumulative effects analysis."
- Directs projects be placed online helping successful measures can be replicated.
- Will improve habitat resiliency particularly for our salmon fisheries

AB 591 (Wieckowski): Oil and Gas Production: Hydraulic Fracturing – SUPPORT

- Would require drillers who use hydraulic fracturing to extract oil or gas to disclose the chemicals injected underground, the source and amount of water used, and location of the well related to active seismic faults.

AB 650 (Blumenfield): Blue Ribbon Task Force on Public Transportation – SUPPORT

- A volunteer task force will prepare a report on the current state of California's public transit, what is needed to make the system meet projected demand, how much it would cost and, most importantly, how to sustainably fund the system our State needs. This last element—how to fund the needs—has not been comprehensively addressed by any group or agency to date. The report will utilize and add value to existing data, reports and system plans.
- The task force funding (capped at \$750,000) will come from existing funds within the Public Transportation Account (PTA) meaning it will not impact the General Fund or transportation operation budgets.

AB 685 (Eng): State Water Policy – SUPPORT

- Will establish in statute a state policy that every Californian has the right to safe, affordable water for basic human needs, and asks state agencies to integrate the policy as they implement or amend programs.

AB 703 (Gordon): Preserving Tax Incentives for Open-Space and Parks – SUPPORT

- AB 703 would continue a 40-year legislative legacy of providing property tax incentives for non-profit ownership and stewardship of open-space and park lands.
- Lands benefiting from the current exemption complement existing local, state, and federal park lands, and they do so without drawing upon scarce public funds. They are managed solely by non-profit organizations to achieve lasting and cost-effective benefits to the public.

AB 796 (Blumenfield): Clean Energy Financing – SUPPORT

- This bill seeks to grow California's renewable energy industry, create jobs, and help reach California's environmental mandates by incentivizing private investments in California-based clean technology companies.
- This bill would allow the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Authority (CAEATFA) to create a loan-loss reserve account in the state treasury to incentivize private lending to qualified California-based renewable energy companies.

AB 837 (Nestande): Solid Waste: Plastic Food and Beverage Containers – SUPPORT

- AB 837 promotes truth in advertising by preventing "greenwashing" of products with claims of recycled content.
- Currently there are no standards for recycled content of plastic packaging. Consumers value products with an environmental benefit and expect product claims to be substantiated.
- AB 837 provides the assurance consumers need by requiring manufacturers or suppliers to be able to back up their claims upon request from a member of the public or state agency

AB 938 (V. M. Perez): Translation of Drinking Water Violations - SUPPORT

- Requires that notices of drinking water violations be distributed in English as well as Spanish;
- Requires additional translations based on other languages spoken by more than 10% or 1,000 community members (whichever is less) in the district.

AB 1221 (Alejo): State Water Quality Control Fund: State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account – SUPPORT

- AB 1221 would expand eligibility for projects from the State Water Board's cleanup and abatement fund to include private not-for-profit agencies and tribes that don't have federal recognition.

AB 1319 (Butler): Product Safety: Bisphenol A – SUPPORT

- Would ban BPA in baby bottles, sippy cups, and infant food and formula. Allows any action on BPA by DTSC through the Green Chemistry Program to supersede the provisions to the bill.

Priority Senate Bills

SB 244 (Wolk): Land use: general plan: disadvantaged unincorporated communities – SUPPORT

- Will ensure local governments include the basic infrastructure needs of disadvantaged unincorporated communities in their general planning process.
- Will require LAFCo to include disadvantaged unincorporated communities in their municipal service reviews.

SB 263 (Pavley): Wells: Reports: Public Availability – SUPPORT

- Currently every time a well is drilled the well owner is required to provide the Department of Water Resources (DWR) a report. This bill would make well logs for any well drilled after 1/1/12 public.
- For wells drilled before 1/1/12, well owners have one year to notify DWR if they want they want the well log to remain confidential; otherwise the well log would become public 1/1/13.

SB 454 (Pavley): Energy Efficiency Standards Enforcement – SUPPORT

- Allows the California Energy Commission to enforce energy efficiency standards for appliances.
- Requires recipients of energy efficiency rebates to certify that licensed contractors were used and any required permits obtained. SB 454 helps level the playing field for builders, contractors and businesses who are complying with California's efficiency standards.

SB 468 (Kehoe): Department of Transportation: Coastal Zone State Highway Projects – SUPPORT

Requires Caltrans for capacity increasing projects on the state highway system that widen the existing highway located in the coastal zone to:

- Collaborate with all local stakeholders in the coastal zone through which the highway will traverse, the regional transportation planning agency, and the commission to ensure that multimodal are evaluated and included in the project design.
- Construct capacity increasing projects concurrently with multi-modal transit projects.
- Ensure that the environmental impact documents evaluate the traffic impacts of a proposed capacity-increasing highway project on city and county streets and roads within the coastal zone and provide for mitigation of those impacts.
- Monitor the environmental consequences of any proposed highway expansion project to ensure the benefits of mitigation, as described in the project's environmental documents, are being achieved.

SB 535 (De Leon): California Communities Healthy Air Revitalization Trust – SUPPORT

- Ensures we meet the promise of AB 32 to protect and strengthen CA's most disadvantaged communities by providing these communities with AB 32-related green economic investments.
- Does NOT authorize a new tax or fee, rather it directs 10 cents of each AB 32 revenue dollar in the neighborhoods which will suffer first and worst from the climate crisis.

SB 568 (Lowenthal): The Sustainable Take-Out Food Packaging Bill – SUPPORT

- Eliminates polystyrene foam food take-out containers state-wide, thereby reducing public and worker exposure to Styrene, a carcinogen in lab animals that migrates from foam containers into food and beverages.
- Creates jobs in California for take-out containers made from non-foam alternatives- the California manufacturers of foam food containers also make non-foam containers, including compostable food containers- increased demand for the alternatives that will result from passage of SB 568 will add jobs for non-foam container manufacturing.
- Provides taxpayer relief - state regulations require many cities and counties to reduce trash discharges to waterways to zero. Foam litter creates an undue and expensive burden on local jurisdictions as small pieces of foam escape litter control efforts like street sweeping, storm drain clean-outs, and beach cleaning.

SB 580 (Wolk): State Park Protection – SUPPORT

- Maintains the investment that taxpayers have made in California’s state park system, by ensuring no net loss of state park lands.
- Provides that there could be uses of park lands for non-park purposes, but requires that state park lands cannot be used for those purposes unless there is no practical alternative to using those lands and either: (1) replacement lands are provided or (2) a combination of replacement lands and monetary compensation is provided to make the investment in state parks whole.

SB 582 (Emmerson): Commute benefit policies – SUPPORT

- Allows a local air district and a metropolitan planning organization to jointly adopt a commute benefit ordinance for their region that requires medium and large employers to offer commute benefits to covered employees.
- Employers would have a choice to offer either pretax payroll deductions allowed by federal tax law, employer-paid transit passes, or employer-provided transit.

SB 833 (Vargas): Water Quality Protection in San Diego County – SUPPORT

- Protects critical drinking water sources and sacred Native American sites in Northern San Diego County by making it illegal to operate a landfill within 1,000 feet of those sensitive resources.
- Applies only to new landfills and not existing, permitted landfills or any expansion of an existing, permitted landfill.

Contributing Organizations

American Lung Association of California * Audubon California * Better World Group * Big Sur Land Trust * Breast Cancer Fund * Breathe California * California Association of Local Conservation Corps * California Climate and Agriculture Network * California Coastal Coalition * California Coastal Protection Network * California Coastkeeper Alliance * California Council of Land Trusts * California League of Conservation Voters * California Native Plant Society * California Oaks Foundation * California Product Stewardship Council * California ReLeaf * California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation * California Secure Transportation Energy Project * California State Parks Foundation * California Trout * California Watershed Network * California Wilderness Coalition * Californians Against Waste * Californians for Pesticide Reform * Carbon Label California * Center for Environmental Health * Center for Food Safety * Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment * Clean Power Campaign * Clean Water Action * Coalition for Clean Air * Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation * CoastWalk * Communities for Clean Ports * Community Environmental Council * Defenders of Wildlife * Environment California * Environmental Defense Center * Environmental Defense Fund * Environmental Justice Coalition for Water * Environmental Law Foundation * Environmental Protection Information Center * Environmental Working Group * Faith2Green * Forests Forever * Friends of the Earth * Global Green USA * Green LA Coalition * Heal the Bay * League of Women Voters of California * Los Angeles Conservation Corps * Making Our Milk Safe * Mono Lake Committee * National Parks Conservation Association * Natural Resources Defense Council * The Nature Conservancy * Ocean Conservancy * Pacific Forest Trust * Pesticide Watch * Planning and Conservation League * Regional Asthma Management Program (RAMP) * Seventh Generation Advisors * Sierra Club California * The Sierra Fund * South Yuba River Citizens League * Surfrider Foundation * Sustainable Conservation * TransForm * TreePeople * Trout Unlimited * Trust for Public Land * Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners * Union of Concerned Scientists * The Vote Solar Initiative

Note: The positions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the individual positions of all contributing organizations, but rather the collective priorities of the Green California collaborative.
