

2021 Bill Tracking Report

Rev 4/15/2021 – 24 Bills

[AB 30 \(Kalra\)](#)

Amended: 3/22/2021

Outdoor access to nature: environmental equity. Current law establishes various state agencies, including the Natural Resources Agency, which consists of various departments, including the Department of Conservation, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Current law vests in the Natural Resources Agency various powers, including those related to conservation of lands. Current law establishes, within state agencies, state departments, including the Department of Transportation under the Transportation Agency. This bill would declare that it is the established policy of the state that access to nature and access to the benefits of nature is a human right and that every human has the right to safe and affordable outdoor access, among other things.

[AB 67 \(Petrie-Norris\)](#)

Amended: 4/5/2021

Sea level rise: working group: economic analysis. Would require a state agency to take into account the current and future impacts of sea level rise based on projections provided by the Ocean Protection Council when planning, designing, building, operating, maintaining, and investing in infrastructure located in the coastal zone, within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, or otherwise vulnerable to flooding from sea level rise or storm surges, or when otherwise approving the allocation of state funds, including, but not limited to, bonds, grants, and loans, for those purposes. The bill would provide that new or expanded infrastructure built pursuant to the above-described provision shall only qualify for state funds if the project is not anticipated to be vulnerable to sea level rise risks during the life of that project.

[AB 107 \(Salas\)](#)

Amended: 3/24/2021

Licensure: veterans and military spouses. Current law requires a board within the Department of Consumer Affairs to issue, after appropriate investigation, certain types of temporary licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets specified requirements, including that the applicant supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders and the applicant submits an application to the board that includes a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all of the requirements for a temporary license and that the information submitted in the application is accurate, to the best of the applicant's knowledge. This bill would expand the requirement to issue temporary licenses to practice a profession or vocation to include licenses issued by any board within the department, except as provided. The bill would require a board to issue a temporary license within 30 days of receiving the required documentation if the results of a criminal background check do not show grounds for denial.

[AB 225 \(Gray\)](#)

Introduced: 1/11/2021

Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: veterans: military spouses: licenses. Current law requires specified boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs to issue, after appropriate investigation, certain types of temporary licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets specified requirements, including that the applicant supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders and the applicant holds a current, active, and unrestricted license that confers upon the applicant the authority to practice, in another state, district, or territory of the United States, the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks a temporary license from the board. Current law requires these temporary licenses to expire 12 months after issuance. Under existing law, some of the funds within the jurisdiction of a board consist of revenue from fees that are continuously appropriated. This bill would require the temporary licenses described above to expire 30 months after issuance.

[AB 252](#) (R. Rivas)

Amended: 3/29/2021

Department of Conservation: Multibenefit Land Repurposing Incentive Program: administration. Would require the Department of Conservation to establish and administer a program named the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Incentive Program for purposes of providing grants to groundwater sustainability agencies or counties, or other specified entities designated by groundwater sustainability agencies or counties, for the development or implementation of local programs supporting or facilitating multibenefit land repurposing at the basin scale. The bill would establish procedures for the department's administration of the program and would require the department to develop guidelines to implement the program and to exercise its expertise and discretion in awarding program funds to eligible applicants.

[AB 284](#) (R. Rivas)

Amended: 4/14/2021

California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: climate goal: natural and working lands. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 requires the State Air Resources Board to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and to update the scoping plan at least once every 5 years. This bill would require the state board, when updating the scoping plan and in collaboration with the Natural Resources Agency and other relevant state agencies and departments, to take specified actions by January 1, 2023, including, among others, identifying a 2045 climate goal, with interim milestones, for the state's natural and working lands, as defined, and identifying practices, policy and financial incentives, market needs, and potential reductions in barriers that would help achieve the 2045 climate goal.

[AB 416](#) (Kalra)

Introduced: 2/4/2021

California Deforestation-Free Procurement Act: public works projects: wood and wood products. Would establish the California Deforestation-Free Procurement Act. The bill would require a contractor, as defined, and specified subcontractors, for any contract entered into, extended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2024, contracting with a state agency for the procurement of products comprised wholly or in part of forest-risk commodities to certify that the commodities were not grown, derived, harvested, reared, or produced on land where tropical deforestation or boreal intact forest degradation or deforestation occurred on or after January 1, 2022. The bill would exempt a credit card purchase of goods of \$2,500 or less, not to exceed a total of \$7,500 of goods per contractor per year, from these certification requirements. The bill would require specified contractors to have a No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation policy, as specified, and would require the contractors to make the policy and corresponding data publicly available.

[AB 564](#) (Gonzalez)

Introduced: 2/11/2021

Biodiversity Protection and Restoration Act. Would establish the Biodiversity Protection and Restoration Act and would provide that it is the policy of the state that all state agencies, boards, and commissions shall utilize their authorities in furtherance of the biodiversity conservation purposes and goals of certain executive orders. The bill would require all state agencies, boards, and commissions to consider and prioritize the protection of biodiversity in carrying out their statutory mandates. The bill would require strategies related to the goal of the state to conserve at least 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 to be made available to the public and provided to certain legislative committees by no later than June 30, 2022.

[AB 567](#) (Bauer-Kahan)

Introduced: 2/11/2021

Pesticides: neonicotinoids: prohibited use. Current law generally regulates pesticide use by the Department of Pesticide Regulation, and requires the Director of Pesticide Regulation to endeavor to eliminate from use any pesticide that endangers the agricultural or nonagricultural environment. A violation of those provisions and regulations adopted pursuant to those provisions is generally a misdemeanor. Current law requires the department, on or before July 1, 2018, to issue a determination with respect to its reevaluation of neonicotinoids, and to adopt control measures necessary to protect pollinator health within 2 years, as specified. This bill would prohibit the use of neonicotinoid on a seed, as specified.

[AB 585](#) (L. Rivas)

Amended: 3/17/2021

Climate change: Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program. Would establish the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program and would require the Office of Planning and Research to administer the program. Under the program, the bill would require the Office of Planning and Research to coordinate the state's efforts to address extreme heat and to facilitate the implementation of local, regional, and state climate change planning into effective projects through the awarding of competitive grants to eligible entities for implementation of those projects. The bill would establish the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Fund in the State Treasury and would require the office, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to expend moneys in the fund for the implementation of the program.

[AB 646](#) (Low)

Amended: 4/14/2021

Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: expunged convictions. Would require a board within the Department of Consumer Affairs that has posted on its internet website that a person's license was revoked because the person was convicted of a crime, within 90 days of receiving an expungement order for the underlying offense from the person, if the person reapplies for licensure or is relicensed, to post notification of the expungement order and the date thereof on the board's internet website. The bill would require the board, on receiving an expungement order, if the person is not currently licensed and does not reapply for licensure, to remove within the same period the initial posting on its internet website that the person's license was revoked and information previously posted regarding arrests, charges, and convictions. The bill would authorize the board to charge a fee to the person, not to exceed the cost of administering the bill's provisions.

[AB 672](#) (C. Garcia)

Amended: 4/6/2021

Planning and zoning law: rezoning authorization: golf courses. Would require a city, county, or city and county to rezone, by the date the 6th regional housing needs assessment cycle applicable to the city, county, or city and county ends, certain sites used as a golf course to also allow for residential and open-space use in accordance with specified requirements. The bill would exempt any ordinance, resolution, general or specific plan amendment, or other action necessary of the city, county, or city and county to rezone a site pursuant to the bill's provisions from CEQA. The bill would require a development on a site that is rezoned for residential and open-space use pursuant to the bill's provisions to comply with specified requirements, including that 25 percent of all units developed on the site be available for persons and families of low income for a period of at least 45 years for owner-occupied units and at least 55 years for rental units, and that a certain unit per acre density be met.

[AB 765](#) (Garcia)

Introduced: 2/16/2021

Public lands: school lands: California Desert Conservation Area. Current law requires the State Lands Commission to enter into a memorandum of agreement by April 1, 2012, with the United States Secretary of the Interior to facilitate land exchanges that consolidate school land parcels into contiguous holdings that are suitable for large-scale renewable energy-related projects. Current law requires, after the memorandum of agreement is entered into, the commission to make best efforts to consolidate all school land parcels in the California desert into contiguous holdings for large-scale renewable energy-related projects. This bill would also include as part of the definition of "California desert" any other additional areas included in a specified United States Bureau of Land Management amendment, as provided.

[AB 878](#) (Dahle)

Introduced: 2/17/2021

Wildlife resources: natural community conservation plans: public review and comment. The Natural Community Conservation Planning Act authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into agreements with any person or public entity for the purpose of preparing a natural community conservation plan, in cooperation with a local agency that has land use permit authority over the activities proposed to be addressed in the plan, to provide comprehensive management and conservation of multiple wildlife species. Current law requires the public to have 21 calendar days to review and comment on a proposed planning agreement before department approval of the planning agreement. This bill would expand the time for public review and comment on a proposed planning agreement from 21 calendar days to 21 business days.

[AB 902 \(O'Donnel\)](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2021

School facilities: design-build contracts. Until January 1, 2025, existing law authorizes a school district, with the approval of the governing board of the school district, to procure design-build contracts for public works projects in excess of \$1,000,000, awarding the contract to either the low bid or the best value, as provided. For those projects using best value as a selection method, existing law requires competitive proposals to be evaluated by using only the criteria and selection procedures specifically identified in the request for proposals, and requires the school district, as it deems appropriate, to weigh certain minimum factors, including price of the project. This bill would authorize a school district, as an alternative to price of the project, to instead weigh as a factor the proposing design-build entity's design cost, general conditions, overhead, and profit as a component of the project price

[AB 1010 \(Berman\)](#)

Amended: 3/24/2021

Architects: continuing education. Current law requires a person licensed to practice architecture to complete, as a condition of license renewal, 5 hours of coursework regarding disability access requirements and provides that the coursework shall be presented by trainers or educators with knowledge and expertise in these requirements. Current law further requires the California Architects Board to promulgate regulations to establish qualifications for courses and course providers by January 1, 2023. This bill would additionally require a person licensed to practice architecture to complete, as a condition of license renewal, 5 hours of coursework regarding zero net carbon design and would require the board to adopt regulations to establish qualifications for those courses and course providers by January 1, 2023.

[AB 1026 \(Smith\)](#)

Introduced: 2/18/2021

Business licenses: veterans. Would require the Department of Consumer Affairs and any board within the department to grant a 50% fee reduction for an initial license to an applicant who provides satisfactory evidence, as defined, the applicant has served as an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the California National Guard and was honorably discharged. This bill would authorize a board to adopt regulations necessary to administer these provisions.

[AB 1298 \(Bloom\)](#)

Amended: 3/25/2021

Pesticides: use of 2nd generation anticoagulant rodenticides. Current law prohibits the use of 2nd generation anticoagulant rodenticides in wildlife habitat areas. Current law additionally prohibits the use of 2nd generation anticoagulant rodenticides in the state until the director certifies to the Secretary of State that certain conditions have occurred including that the Department of Fish and Wildlife determines that control or eradication of invasive rodent populations is necessary for the protection of threatened or endangered species or their habitats and requires the use of a 2nd generation anticoagulant rodenticide. Current law exempts the use of 2nd generation anticoagulant rodenticides from these prohibitions under certain circumstances. This bill would delete the requirement that the director certify that the Department of Fish and Wildlife has made that specified determination.

[AB 1384 \(Gabriel\)](#)

Introduced: 2/19/2021

Resiliency Through Adaptation, Economic Vitality, and Equity Act of 2022. Would require the Strategic Growth Council to develop and coordinate a strategic resiliency framework that makes recommendations and identifies actions that are necessary to prepare the state for the most significant climate change impacts modeled for 2025, 2050, and beyond, among other goals. The bill would require state agencies identified in the strategic resiliency framework to collaboratively engage with regional entities to enhance policy and funding coordination and promote regional solutions and implementation and to proactively engage vulnerable communities whose planning and project development efforts have been disproportionately impacted by climate change, as provided. 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.

[AB 1395 \(Muratsuchi\)](#)

Introduced: 2/19/2021

Greenhouse gases: carbon neutrality. Would declare the policy of the state to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, but no later than 2045, and to achieve and maintain net negative greenhouse gas emissions thereafter. The bill would require the state board to work with relevant state agencies to develop a framework for implementation and accounting that tracks progress toward achieving carbon neutrality, to set and manage targets and accounting for negative emissions separately from existing and future greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, and to ensure that updates to the scoping plan identify and recommend measures to achieve carbon neutrality. The bill would require a specified plan prepared by the state board and other specified agencies to include sequestration targets consistent with achieving carbon neutrality, and would impose other requirements on state agencies relating to working toward carbon neutrality.

[SB 1 \(Atkins\)](#)

Amended: 3/23/2021

Coastal resources: sea level rise. The California Coastal Act of 1976 establishes the California Coastal Commission and provides for planning and regulation of development in the coastal zone, as defined. The act requires the commission, within 90 days after January 1, 1977, to adopt, after public hearing, procedures for the preparation, submission, approval, appeal, certification, and amendment of a local coastal program, including a common methodology for the preparation of, and the determination of the scope of, the local coastal programs, as provided. This bill would also include, as part of the procedures the commission is required to adopt, recommendations and guidelines for the identification, assessment, minimization, and mitigation of sea level rise within each local coastal program, as provided. The bill would delete the timeframe specified above by which the commission is required to adopt these procedures.

[SB 27 \(Skinner\)](#)

Amended: 3/1/2021

Carbon sequestration: state goals: natural and working lands: registry of projects. Would require, no later than July 1, 2022, the Natural Resources Agency, in coordination with the California Environmental Protection Agency, the State Air Resources Board, and the Department of Food and Agriculture, to establish carbon sequestration goals for natural and working lands, as provided. The bill would require the state board, as part of its scoping plan, to establish specified carbon dioxide removal targets for 2030 and beyond.

[SB 604 \(Hueso\)](#)

Amended: 4/5/2021

Natural resources: the Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency and Equity Act of 2021. Current law establishes various environmental and economic policies and programs. This bill, upon appropriation by the Legislature, as provided, would establish the Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency and Equity Act of 2021, which would require state conservancies and the Wildlife Conservation Board to establish grant programs to fund climate mitigation, adaptation, or resilience, natural disaster, and other climate emergency projects, as specified.

[SB 624 \(Hueso\)](#)

Amended: 4/5/2021

Environmental Equity and Outdoor Access Act. Would establish the Environmental Equity and Outdoor Access Act, which sets forth the state's commitment to ensuring all Californians can benefit from, and have meaningful access to, the state's rich cultural and natural resources. The bill would make related findings and declarations regarding the importance of the state's natural resources and ensuring equal access to those resources. The bill would provide that the Legislature finds and declares that it is the policy of the state to, among other things, promote inclusivity and representation and improve competency, as specified, among staff of the agency and each department, board, office, conservancy, and commission within the agency, to ensure all Californians and visitors of the state feel safe and welcome in the outdoors.