

Sierra Club California Legislative Priority List 2016

(September 30, 2016)

Each year, Sierra Club California staff and volunteer leaders work together to analyze and determine Club positions on hundreds of bills at the legislature. From among those on which we take a position, a number rise to the top as priority bills that deserve special attention and that we encourage our members to bring to the attention of their legislators. Below is the Sierra Club California list of priority bills in 2016 with our position and each bill's status as of the date above. This list is updated periodically. It is *not* a complete list of all the bills we take a position on or lobby. For the latest status on bills and their location in the legislative process, go to leginfo.ca.gov.

The bills are grouped below by topic area and listed within those by house and in ascending numerical order. Bills introduced by Assembly members begin with AB and bills introduced by Senators begin with SB. Those highlighted in yellow have been held or killed in a committee or on the Senate or Assembly floor or changed to move us to change our position. Those that have been passed through the legislature and are awaiting action by the governor are highlighted in aqua, and those signed by the governor to become law have been highlighted in green. Those highlighted in red have been vetoed by the governor.

Tackling Methane Pollution to Reduce Climate Change

AB 2415 (Garcia, E) California Clean Truck, Bus, and Off-Road Vehicle and Equipment Technology Program

This bill, pushed by the natural gas industry, would stifle the state's efforts to accelerate commercialization of zero-emission heavy-duty trucks and buses, including electric drayage trucks and electric transit buses, by directing funding to trucks powered by polluting methane. **Oppose (Passed in Assembly Transportation; passed in Assembly Natural Resources; held Assembly Appropriations). Dead.**

SB 32 (Pavley) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: emissions limit

This bill establishes a new global warming pollution reduction target for the state (which was originally established by AB 32 in 2006). The limit will be set at a 40% reduction below 1990 levels of global warming pollution to be achieved by 2030. **Support. Signed into Law**

SB 380 (Pavley) Natural gas storage: moratorium.

This would impose an immediate moratorium on natural gas injection and a restriction on natural gas production at the Aliso Canyon storage facility, where a major gas leak occurred in late 2015 and early 2016, forcing evacuation and thousands of residents and releasing tons of greenhouse gas pollution, until certain safety conditions are met. **Support. Signed into law.**

SB 887 (Pavley) Natural gas storage wells.

This bill would develop a comprehensive reform of how the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) oversees methane gas storage wells. **Support. Signed into law.**

SB 888 (Allen) Gas corporations: emergency management.

This bill assures a timely response to methane leaks at storage facilities by designating an agency responsible for action and helps to fund those actions with a new account funded by violators. **Support. Signed into law.**

SB 1441 (Leno) Natural gas: vented and fugitive emissions.

The bill, dramatically amended in Senate Appropriations, would motivate gas utilities to fix methane leaks by disallowing them to charge ratepayers for gas lost due to a leaky and poorly maintained distribution system.

Support (Passed in Senate; failed on Assembly floor) Dead.

Guarding California's Bedrock Environmental Disclosure Law: CEQA

AB 1886 (McCarty) California Environmental Quality Act: transit priority projects.

This bill weakens CEQA by allowing development further from transit stops than research shows most people will walk to catch a bus or train to receive a transit priority project and undergo less environmental analysis. **Oppose**

(Passed in Assembly; moved to Senate; author pulled the bill) Dead.

AB 2356 (Gomez) California Environmental Quality Act: Infill Planning Projects

This bill changes baselines for CEQA to a level that will allow impacts from new development to go unanalyzed and unmitigated. It essentially cuts public disclosure and environmental protection for infill projects. **Oppose**

(Author dropped the bill.) Dead.

SB 1277 (Hancock) California Environmental Quality Act: Supplemental Environmental Impact Report.

This bill will require a supplemental impact report for the proposed new Oakland Port terminal to identify and mitigate impacts associated with the transport of coal through that terminal. **Support (Passed in Senate; passed in Assembly Natural Resources; held in Assembly Appropriations Committee) Dead.**

Trailer Bill 707 (TBL 707) By-Right Housing Permitting and CEQA Exemption Proposal.

This bill, proposed by Governor Brown and tied to a \$400 million in affordable housing funding would allow broad exemptions for various types of housing and commercial buildings from local permitting and environmental review. Strongly opposed by environmentalists, labor, environmental justice, social equity, and housing equity advocates. **Oppose. (Apparently pulled by the governor's office in late August in the face of strong opposition).**

Dead.

Restoring the Integrity of the California Coastal Commission

AB 2002 (Stone) Political Reform Act of 1974: California Coastal Commission

This bill requires people who lobby the Coastal Commission to register as lobbyists and disclose their employers. The bill requires a two-thirds vote in both houses to pass. **Support (Passed in Assembly; on Senate floor, bill not taken up; requires two-thirds vote) Dead.**

AB 2616 (Burke) California Coastal Commission: Environmental Justice Membership

This bill would increase environmental justice representation on the California Coastal Commission by requiring that one of the governor's appointees to the commission work directly with an environmental justice community. It also allows the permit issuing agency, or the commission on appeal, to take into account environmental justice issues while considering coastal development permits. **Support. Signed into law.**

AB 2628 (Levine) Political Reform Act of 1974: post governmental employment

This bill prevents ex-Coastal Commissioners from immediately being able to lobby the Commission following the end of their term. **Support (Passed in Assembly Elections and Redistricting; held in Assembly Appropriations Committee) Dead.**

Advancing Renewable Energy

AB 1937 (Gomez) Electricity: procurement.

This bill would require utilities' proposed energy procurement plans to show that they prioritized bids for gas-fired generation resources not located in or adjacent to disadvantaged communities. This bill would protect people in these communities from the negative impacts of pollution associated with dirty fossil fuel power plants.

Support. Signed into law.

AB 2339 (Irwin) Net energy metering.

This bill would give more Californians, especially in communities hardest hit by the recession, access to clean energy generation and its benefits by removing barriers that prohibit many from taking advantage of the net energy metering (NEM) program. **Support (Passed Assembly Utilities and Commerce; held in Assembly Appropriations) Dead.**

SB 215 (Leno and Hueso) & SB 512 (Hill) Public Utilities Commission.

These bills would reform the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) governance structure by more clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of the commissioners and staff and would close loopholes that have allowed regulated utilities to influence the PUC commissioners without public engagement. **Support. Signed into law.**

SB 1453 (De León) Electrical generation: greenhouse gases emission performance standard.

This bill would prohibit utilities from recovering costs for procurement of energy if it does not comply with the PUC's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission performance standards. The bill also protects California from dirty coal imports by eliminating the option for a utility to circumvent compliance with the state's landmark GHG emission performance standards. **Support (Passed in Senate; on Assembly floor bill ordered to inactive file.) Dead.**

Protecting California's Wildlife, Natural Areas and Parks

AB 2029 (Dahle) Timber harvesting plans: exemptions.

This bill would extend a controversial pilot program that allows private forest owners to cut large, older trees without a timber harvest plan under certain circumstances. The extension would be allowed early and without a full evaluation of the pilot program's effectiveness. It would also expand the exemption to trees that are 26 inches in stump diameter, even larger trees than allowed to be harvested without a plan during the existing pilot.

Oppose. Signed into law.

AB 2243 (Wood) Medical Cannabis: Cannabis Production and Environment Mitigation.

This bill will establish an excise tax for medical marijuana that is charged to a licensed medical cannabis cultivator and collected by a licensed medical marijuana distributor. The funds collected will pay for environmental remediation, local law enforcement, and a program to address environmentally damaging marijuana cultivation

practices. **Support (Passed Assembly; passed Senate Governance & Finance; held in Senate Appropriations) Dead.**

AB 2444 (Garcia, Eduardo) California Water Quality, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access Improvement Act of 2016.

This bill places the California Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2016 Bond on the statewide general election ballot to finance programs to expand and promote access to and affordability of outdoor state park activities.

Support (Passed on Assembly floor; held on Senate floor) Dead.

SB 1062 (Lara) Elephants: prohibited treatment.

This bill would provide further protection for elephants in California by updating existing law to prohibit the use of bull hooks or similar inhumane devices. **Support. Signed into law.**

SB 1114 (Allen) California Sustainable Swordfish and Marine Life Protection Act.

This bill phases out the use of drift gillnets, and authorizes the use of deep set buoy gear, a more sustainable alternative to drift gillnets. Drift gillnets are responsible for a substantially higher rate of accidental catch and killing of dolphins and whales than other fishing gear. **Support (Passed in Senate Natural Resources and Water; held in Senate Appropriations) Dead.**

SB 1287 (McGuire) Commercial fishing: Dungeness crab.

This bill allows Dungeness Crab Fishermen to collect abandoned crab traps in the ocean during the off season, and return them to the proper authorities in exchange for a reward. The owner of the crab trap must pay a fine in order to retrieve their trap and be eligible to renew their fishing permit for the next season. **Support. Signed into law.**

Reigning in Polluting Oil Extraction and Reporting Practices and Cutting Oil Dependence

AB 1759 (Bonta) Hydrogen fluoride: notice of use: substitution.

This bill would phase out the use of hydrofluoric acid in refineries over course of one year. During that time, it would require a refinery to notify residents and businesses that they are in a lethal zone, which means they are at high risk of exposure during an incident. **Support (Died in Assembly)**

AB 1882 (Williams) Oil and gas: groundwater monitoring

This bill protects California's groundwater from underground injection of oil waste by giving the Regional Water Boards the ability to require monitoring of wells. **Support (Passed in Assembly Natural Resources; held in Assembly Appropriations) Dead.**

AB 2729 (Williams) Oil and gas: operations.

This bill would increase bonding levels to incentivize abandonment of wells rather than allowing for long-term idle wells to occur. This bill also provides additional oversight and enforcement to state agencies. **Support. Signed into law.**

AB 2756 (Thurmond) Oil and gas operations: enforcement actions.

This bill would increase Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources' enforcement and oversight for oil and gas operations. It will also provide the Oil and Gas Supervisor authority to assess additional penalties to incentivize violators to take immediate corrective action. **Support. Signed into law.**

SB 778 (Allen): Automotive repair: oil changes: notification to customers.

This bill requires automotive repair dealers to recommend the oil drain interval specified in the maintenance schedule of the vehicle's owner's manual for the next oil change, which is less frequent than what is currently recommended. Unnecessarily frequent oil changes create more waste for the state to handle and endanger public health, wildlife, ecosystems and our drinking water. **Support. Vetoed.**

SB 900 (Jackson) State Lands: Coastal Hazard Removal and Remediation Program

This bill will protect California's coastline by requiring the State Lands Commission to remediate abandoned oil wells in California's coastal waters, while also conducting an in depth inventory and assessment of all these legacy oil wells. **Support. Vetoed.**

SB 1161 (Allen) Climate Science Truth & Accountability Act

This bill addresses the growing evidence that fossil fuel companies worked to deceive the public about the realities and risks of climate change for decades. Specifically, the bill would extend the statute of limitations under the state's Unfair Competition Law from 4 to 30 years for deceptive behavior relating to the scientific evidence of climate change. **Support (Passed in Senate Environmental Quality; passed in Senate Judiciary; was not taken up on Senate floor) Dead.**

Regulating Dangerous Pesticides

AB 2596 (Bloom) Pesticides: use of anticoagulants.

This bill expands the list of prohibited pesticides to include those that contain five more newly determined anticoagulants and expands the prohibition geographically as well, from just certain wildlife areas to the entire state. This will ensure that aquatic, terrestrial and avian wildlife species remain a fully functional and healthy component of the ecosystems they inhabit and move through in California. **Support (Died in Assembly) Dead.**

SB 1282 (Leno) Pesticides: neonicotinoids: labeling and restricted material designation.

This bill would require labeling of plants and seeds that contain neonicotinoid pesticides, indicating that they may harm bees. **Support (Passed Senate Environmental Quality; passed in Appropriations; failed on Senate floor) Dead.**

Rebooting California's Water System for Sustainability

SB 1262 (Pavley) Water supply planning

This bill strengthens water supply availability assessments to look at groundwater use, preventing development where there is no water supply to match demand by the development's occupants. **Support. Signed into law.**

SB 1263 (Wieckowski) Public water systems: permits

This bill prevents a permit for a new water system from going forward until the State Water Resources Control Board can determine that the agency has the ability to actually manage water. **Support. Signed into law.**

SB 1317 (Wolk) Conditional use permit: groundwater extraction facility

This bill requires a local agency to issue a conditional use permit for new wells in high use areas and prohibits permits for new wells in critical or probationary basins where water supply is critically impacted. **Support (Passed in Senate; moves to Assembly; never taken up in committee) Dead.**

SB 1318 (Wolk) Local government: drinking water infrastructure or services: wastewater infrastructure or services

This bill prevents a Local Agency Formation Commission from approving a new water agency or expanding a water agency if there are disadvantaged communities in the agency's area that do not have safe drinking water supplies and the agency supplies those communities as well. **Support (Passed in Senate; moves to Assembly; never taken up in committee) Dead.**

Tackling Air & Climate Pollution

SB 1387 (De León D) Nonvehicular air pollution: market-based incentive programs: South Coast Air

The bill originally did two important structural reforms. It would have added three new environmental justice appointments to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) governing board. It also would have established new procedures for the California Air Resource Board to review, revise, and override as needed any district weakening of a market-based incentive program. After strong opposition in the Assembly, the bill was substantially narrowed. It would now add one environmental justice appointee to the SCAQMD. **Support (Passed in Senate; failed on Assembly floor) Dead.**

SB 1239 (Gaines) Smog Check: Exemptions

This bill would eliminate Smog Check inspections for 1976 to 1980 model year vehicles insured as collector motor vehicles. **Oppose (Failed on Senate floor) Dead.**

SB 1279 (Hancock) California Transportation Commission: funding prohibition: coal transport.

This bill prohibits state funds from being spent on coal transport facilities in the future. **Support. Signed into law.**