

Sierra Club California Legislative Priority List 2017

(October 22, 2017)

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 2017 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.legislature.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 without any highlighting are actively moving through the legislative process. Those highlighted in yellow have been held in a committee or on the Senate or Assembly floor and may come back for consideration in 2018. Those bills in pink have been converted to two-year bills by their authors, meaning they may begin moving again in 2018. Those bills highlighted in gray appear to be dead (or inactive). 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 Climate and Air Pollution

AB 262 (Bonta) Public contracts: lowest responsible bidder: eligible materials

The State of California spends more than \$10 billion a year—on average—on infrastructure construction and repair. This bill would set up a system that requires the state to take into consideration climate pollution created during manufacture when it buys certain materials used in construction. This would acknowledge clean manufacturers and motivate dirty manufacturers to clean up their act to be competitive in bids for state construction contracts. **Support. Signed.**

AB 476 (Gipson) Vehicular air pollution

This bill would change a definition regarding vehicle weights in an effort to make methane gas-fueled heavy-duty trucks eligible for funds the legislature has set aside to provide incentives for zero-emission trucks and buses. **Oppose. Converted to a two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

Guarding California's Bedrock Environmental Disclosure Law: CEQA

AB 239 (Ridley-Thomas) California Environmental Quality Act: urbanized areas

This bill would allow more housing projects to bypass environmental review in unincorporated county areas, despite those projects contributing to environmental impacts. **Oppose. Converted to a two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

AB 1117 (Fong) California Environmental Quality Act

This bill would gut environmental review protections that organizations and groups use to make sure environmental impacts of new projects are reduced or avoided. **Oppose. Converted to a two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

SB 35 (Wiener) Planning and zoning: affordable housing: streamlined approval process

Adopts “by-right” housing development for much of California, without public processes to allow for people to weigh in on development around them, and without CEQA analysis. This will allow for large development to occur without identification, disclosure, or mitigation of environmental impacts. **Oppose. Signed.**

SB 224 (Jackson) California Environmental Quality Act: baseline conditions

This bill closes a loophole in CEQA that allows developers to illegally work on a project before approval and avoid mitigating any environmental impacts of that work. **Support. Converted to a two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

Meeting Housing Demands**SB 2 (Atkins) Building Homes and Jobs Act**

This bill will create a fee on recording of certain documents and use that money to provide affordable, infill housing. **Support. Signed.**

Advancing Renewable Energy**AB 1030 (Ting) Energy storage systems**

This bill requires the PUC and the governing boards of local POUs to establish a rebate program dedicated to energy storage and that carves out funding for low-income customers and disadvantaged. **Support. Converted to a two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

AB 1088 (Eggman) Multi-residential housing: energy programs

This bill requires the California Energy Commission to adopt statewide goals, strategies, policy recommendations and regulations for reducing energy consumptions and emissions of GHGs from multifamily residential properties. **Support. Passed Assembly. Held in Senate Appropriations Committee. Converted to two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

AB 1414 (Friedman) Solar energy systems: permits

This bill would continue to require a cap on permit fees associated with residential and commercial photovoltaic solar power installations indefinitely, lower the existing permit fee cap from \$500 to \$350 for residential installations, and protect solar thermal and ground-mounted photovoltaic installations from unchecked permitting fees. **Support. Signed.**

SB 57 (Stern) Natural gas storage: moratorium

This bill would continue the moratorium at Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility until a comprehensive review of the safety of the gas storage wells at the facility is completed and until a specified root cause analysis of the natural gas leak has been completed and released in its entirety to the public. This bill has an urgency clause that allows it to follow a more relaxed schedule, but requires a two-thirds vote. **Support. Awaiting Senate vote.**

SB 71 (Wiener) Electricity: solar energy systems

This bill would require the installation of either solar heating or solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on all new construction subject to the existing Title 24 “solar ready” regulations. **Support. Converted to a two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

SB 100 (de León) California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program: emissions of greenhouse gases

This bill sets a new goal for the renewable portfolio standard, which establishes how much renewable energy utilities are to acquire, at 60 percent by 2030. It also sets a state goal of 100 percent renewable energy by 2045. **Support. Passed in Senate. Held in Assembly Electricity and Utilities Committee. Two-year bill that may be considered in 2018.**

SB 520 (Mitchell) Electricity: intervenor funding

This bill would help preserve California’s commitment to clean energy, a low carbon grid, and reasonable customer rates by supporting the ability of California-based nonprofits to participate at California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). **Support. Passed in Senate. Moved to Assembly. Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee. Two-year bill that may be considered in 2018.**

SB 692 (Allen) Transmission: access charge

This bill directs the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) to stop misapplying transmission access charges (TAC) to local energy, therefore making distributed generation of renewables more attractive. **Support. Passed in Senate. Moved to Assembly. Converted to two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

Protecting California’s Wildlife, Natural Areas and Parks

AB 425 (Caballero) Timber harvesting plans: exemptions

For several years, the logging industry has attempted to loosen timber harvest rules through a series of incremental bills. This latest in that series would allow “temporary roads” to be developed (and clearcut) without the benefit of inspection and oversight required by timber harvest rules. **Oppose. Moved to inactive file in Senate.**

AB 1077 (O’Donnell) Off-highway vehicles

This bill would inhibit efforts to reform the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation division within the Department of Parks and Recreation. **Oppose. Converted to a two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

SB 5 (de León) California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018

If passed, this bill would allow voters to consider a \$3 billion bond measure to fund various drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection and outdoor access programs. This bill requires a two-thirds vote to pass in each house. **Support. Signed.**

SB 249 (Allen) Off-highway motor vehicle recreation

This bill would establish a number of needed reforms of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Act of 2003 to better protect the state’s parks, natural resources, air and water quality. **Support. Signed.**

Resisting Federal Rollbacks

SB 49 (de León) California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act of 2017

This bill protects California from federal rollbacks in vital environmental, public health, and worker safety protections, and ensures that California maintains existing protections. **Support. Passed in Senate. Held on Assembly Floor. Two-year bill that may be considered in 2018.**

SB 50 (Allen) Federal public lands: conveyances

This bill would establish a new policy to discourage conveyance of federal land to private developers for resource extraction and directs the State Lands Commission to establish a right of first refusal by the state of any federal land proposed for sale to other parties. **Support. Signed.**

SB 51 (Jackson) Professional licensees: environmental sciences and climate change: whistleblower and data protection

This bill would require the Secretary for Environmental Protection to ensure that all scientific information and other data otherwise in the public domain is protected against censorship or destruction by the federal government. It also provides whistle-blower protections. **Support. Vetoed.**

Regulating Dangerous Chemicals

SB 602 (Allen) Pesticides: neonicotinoids: labeling

Pesticides called neonicotinoids have been identified as among the causes for dramatic declines in bee populations. This bill would place a label with text and a logo on all seeds and plants sold by retailers that have been pre-treated with neonicotinoids, indicating the potential of the product to harm bees. **Support. Converted to a two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

SB 258 (Lara) Cleaning Product Right to Know Act of 2017

This bill would require disclosure on the product label of chemical ingredients in cleaning products. **Support. Signed.**

AB 1328 (Limón) Oil and gas: wells

This bill would require the oil industry to disclose the chemicals used in their processes that may pollute water. The list of these chemicals would be made available online, so the public can be aware of what chemicals the oil industry is using, and hold them accountable if contamination occurs. **Support. Signed.**

Rebooting California's Water System for Sustainability

AB 313 (Gray) Water

This bill moves much of the State Water Resources Control Board, which regulates water, to the Department of Water Resources, which focuses on exporting water from the Delta and building dams. This bill also seeks to stop the Water Board from working to provided water instream for fish and water quality. **Oppose. Vetoed.**

AB 554 (Cunningham) Desalination: statewide goal

This bill requires the state to set an aspirational goal to procure desalinated water, including ocean desalination. Ocean desalination degrades the coast by harming ecosystems when water is taken into the plant, and when

brine is discharged. It also is energy-intensive, and extremely expensive to ratepayers. **Oppose. Converted to a two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

AB 975 (Friedman) Natural resources: wild and scenic rivers

Protects California's system of Wild and Scenic Rivers by aligning the state law to the Federal law. This will prevent Congress and the President from removing protections of our rivers and streams. **Support. Converted to a two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

AB 1369 (Gray) Water quality and storage

This bill diverts money intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions into building new, environmentally damaging dams throughout the state. **Oppose. Failed in Committee. Converted to a two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

AB 1667, 1668, 1669 (Friedman) Water Use Efficiency & Planning

This package of bills develops a new water efficiency standard for the state, updates statewide drought planning, and improves agricultural water efficiency to make water conservation a way of life. **Support. AB 1668 held in Senate Rules Committee and converted to a two-year bill. AB 1667 and 1669 have been converted to a two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

AB 1605 (Caballero) Maximum contaminant levels: nitrate: replacement water

This bill gives nitrate polluters a free pass by preventing those who have had their water polluted from being able to sue the polluters. Polluters only have to do minimal mitigation efforts to avoid court, which fails to get them to stop polluting, or help communities get the water they deserve. **Oppose. Converted to a two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**

SB 780 (Wiener) Water Conservation in Landscaping Act

Updates the states Model Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance to focus on climate-appropriate plants, stopping stormwater runoff, reducing pesticides, and promoting healthier soils. **Support. Converted to a two-year bill to be considered in 2018.**