

Sierra Club California Priority Bills as of May 31, 2012

Sponsored by SCC:

AB 2075 (Fong) would clarify the jurisdiction of the California Energy Commission and jurisdiction of cities and counties when it comes to permitting energy generation facilities. This bill is sponsored by Sierra Club California. Support. (Passed the Assembly, was not moved in the Senate)

Supported by SCC:

SB 1054 (Pavley) would ensure that property owners are notified if a nearby entity is planning to conduct oil and gas drilling, including hydraulic fracturing (fracking). It also adds some other requirements regarding extending the time required between permit approval and commencement of drilling. Support. (Failed to pass in Senate)

SB 1066 (Lieu) would ensure that the State Coastal Conservancy funds and undertakes coastal protection projects that address climate change. Support. (Awaiting Governor Brown's decision)

SB 1221 (Lieu) would prohibit the unsporting practice of using dogs to chase or "hound" bears and bobcats while hunting. Support. (On Governor's desk)

SB 1222 (Leno) would cap excessive permit fees charged by local governments for residential solar systems. Support. (Awaiting Governor Brown's decision)

SB 1329 (Simitian) would allow more healthcare facilities to participate in distribution program of usable pharmaceutical supplies that would otherwise be discarded and possibly end up in our waterways and pollute our environment. Support. (Awaiting Governor Brown's decision)

SB 1339 (Yee) would create a four-year pilot program in the San Francisco Bay Area to allow for wider adoption of a commute benefit requirement that provides incentives to encourage alternatives to driving alone to work. Support. (Awaiting Governor Brown's decision)

SB 1464 (Lowenthal) would require automobiles to allow a three-foot clearance when passing cyclists or, if that is not possible, to reduce speed when passing. Support. (Awaiting Governor Brown's decision)

AB 298 (Brownley) would require grocery and drug stores to phase out the use of single-use plastic bags and require the stores to make reusable bags available. Support (Failed to pass in Senate)

AB 1442 (Wieckowski) would allow healthcare facilities to use common carrier for reverse distribution of unwanted pharmaceutical supplies, which would decrease costs and encourage proper management of pharmaceutical waste through reverse distribution. Support. (Awaiting Governor Brown's decision)

AB 1532 (John A. Perez) would provide appropriate and necessary guidance on state distribution of auction revenues collected from California's cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas reductions. Support. (Awaiting Governor Brown's decision)

AB 1589 (Huffman) would establish new funding programs to prevent the closures of state parks and provide more clarity on how the Department of State Parks and Recreation selects parks for closures. Support. (Awaiting Governor Brown's decision)

AB 1648 (Brownley) would improve the transparency in political campaigns by ensuring the public has important information about who is funding those campaigns. Support. (Passed Legislature and awaiting voters' decision in November 2012 Election)

AB 1704 (Huffman) would ban the use and sale of coal tar sealant, a pavement seal coat that has been linked to major water pollution and public health threat. Support. (Failed in Assembly Appropriations Committee)

AB 1990 (Fong) would establish a program with the goal of installing 375 megawatts of electrical generating capacity from small renewable distributed generation projects in California's low-income and disadvantaged communities. Support. (Passed the Assembly; currently in Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee; ordered to inactive file)

Watched:

SB 455 (Pavley) would have established a flawed approach to timber harvest plans, threatening to provide incentives that would have benefitted the worst clear cutters. In May, the author removed the bad parts of the bill and refocused it on requiring mitigation for converting forest lands to other uses (e.g. vineyards and housing tracts). Opposed changed to no position. (Passed the Senate; currently in Assembly Natural Resources Committee; Ordered to inactive file)

AB 2398 (Hueso) would revamp and streamline laws regulating the use of water recycling. Sierra Club California supports the expansion of water recycling in California. However if regulatory authority is relaxed under the bill, it may undermine public confidence in the safety of recycled water. No Position. (Passed the Assembly; currently in Senate Natural Recourses and Water Committee; Failed in Senate committee)

Opposed by SCC:

SB 1106 (Strickland) would discourage the use and production of reusable bags by requiring unnecessary and false warning labels printed on reusable bags. Oppose. (Failed in Senate Environmental Quality Committee)

SB 1127 (Vargas) would allow a single company, WD-40, to avoid complying with air pollution control rules in the Los Angeles Basin that its competitors were willing and able to follow. Oppose. (Failed in Senate Environmental Quality Committee)

SB 1230 (Wright) would pit regulatory agencies against each other in an effort to delay air quality regulations to reduce diesel truck emissions. Oppose. (Withdrawn by author)

AB 480 (Solorio) would allow landfills to use captive insurance, a type of insurance that is backed loosely by the asset of landfill owners or its parent companies, to fulfill 50% of their closure and post-closure financial assurance obligation. Oppose. (Awaiting Governor Brown's decision)

AB 890 (Olsen) would weaken the environmental review process for a single county to avoid the cost of CEQA review when widening roadways or making other significant changes under the guise of safety improvements. Oppose. (Awaiting Governor Brown's decision)

AB 1073 (Fuentes) a special interest bill that would allow the Calico Solar Project to circumvent the normal environmental review by local and state agencies and instead be reviewed by the California Energy Commission. Oppose. (Passed Legislature, signed by the Governor)

AB 1910 (Ma) would allow certain high-polluting portable combustion engines, such as generators used on work sites, to escape pollution control regulations. Oppose. (Withdrawn by author)

AB 2226 (Hueso) would make it more difficult for public entities, including the California Coastal Commission, to determine the true ownership of a parcel of land proposed for development. Developers of multi-parcel properties have tried to skirt Coastal Commission rules and local planning laws by hiding that multiple parcels are owned by a single owner. Oppose. (Passed Assembly; failed in Senate Judiciary Committee.)

AB 2336 (Mansoor) would undermine existing law created to protect consumers from false environmentally labels on plastic products. Oppose. (Withdrawn by author)

AB 2514 (Bradford) interferes with actions that the California Public Utilities Commission has recently enacted regarding the state's popular net energy metering program. Oppose. (Awaiting Governor Brown's decision)

AB 2595 (Hall) seeks \$250,000 in scarce Prop. 84 funds to convene a redundant 24-member Task Force to "discuss" permitting for ocean desalination facilities and replicates an almost identical Task Force conducted in 2003 that resulted in the publication of the 2008 CA Desalination Planning Handbook. Oppose. (Passed the Assembly; currently in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee; Failed in Senate Appropriations Committee)