



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

April 2025 Bill Update
High Priority Bills



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Administrative

[AB 541 \(DeMaio\)](#) California Public Records Act Ombudsperson.

This bill would establish the Office of the California Public Records Act Ombudsperson, to be headed by the 'Ombudsperson' and appointed by the Governor, to determine whether denials of public records requests by state agencies complied with the California Public Records Act (PRA). Members of the public would be able to submit a request for review to the Ombudsperson, who would have 30 days to issue a written opinion and have the authority to require the disclosure of improperly denied records. By March 31, 2027, this bill would require the Ombudsperson to provide an annual report to the Legislature regarding their activities, including the number of requests received and reimbursements sought and obtained from state agencies. Implementation of the bill would be subject to an appropriation, with the bill's provisions repealing on January 1, 2029.

[AB 733 \(Tangipala\)](#) Agency reports.

This bill would require each state agency that is required to submit one or more reports to the Legislature to submit, by April 1 of each year, a list of all reports the agency has not yet submitted to the Legislature along with a status summary for each report, including a statement explaining why any overdue report has not yet been submitted and a compliance plan. The bill would also provide that the Legislature may withhold appropriations for an agency that fails to submit timely reports.

[AB 734 \(Schultz\)](#) Environmental protection: biological resources data: reporting.

This bill would require that a public agency that receives any biological resources data, as defined, post that data on the agency's website and make it available to the public within two weeks of submission.

[AB 766 \(Sharp-Collins\)](#) State agencies and departments: strategic plans: diversity, equity, and inclusion.

This bill would require every state agency and department subject to the Governor's authority to undertake a racial equity analysis prior to implementation of any budget or before any regulation takes effect. The appointed diversity, equity, and inclusion officer or comparable position for the agency or department, or another individual meeting specified qualifications if that position does not exist, would be required to undertake the analysis. This bill would further require departments and agencies to take specified actions when developing and updating strategic plans.

[AB 869 \(Irwin\)](#) State agencies: information security: Zero Trust architecture.

This bill would require state agencies to implement Zero-trust architecture relating to data, hardware, software, internal systems, and essential third-party software and meet the advanced level of Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) maturity by June 1, 2026, and the optimal level by June 1, 2030. This bill would further require the Chief of the Office of Information Security within the Department of Technology to develop or revise uniform technology policies, standards, and procedures for use by all state agencies to achieve specified maturity levels. This bill would require the Chief to update specified annual reporting requirements for state agencies.

AB 1018 (Bauer-Kahan) Automated decision systems.

This bill would regulate automated decision-making systems (ADS) used to make consequential decisions, as defined. Among other provisions, the bill prescribes requirements that a covered ADS developer must satisfy before deployment, requires disclosure to the subject of the consequential decision that an ADS will be used, requires an appeal process, and requires an independent third party audit for a deployer that uses a covered ADS to make or facilitate consequential decisions directly impacting more than 5999 people in a given three-year period.

AB 1444 (Flora) Publication: newspapers of general circulation.

This bill would require that when any public notice is legally required by a statute, ordinance, bylaw, or judicial order to be published in a newspaper of general circulation, that notice is to be published in the newspaper's print publication, on the newspaper's website, and the statewide website maintained as a repository for notices by a majority of California newspapers of general circulation. This bill would require that the newspaper in which the notice is published be responsible for publishing notices on the statewide website.

SB 70 (Seyarto) Public contracts: Small Business Procurement and Contract Act.

This bill would amend the Small Business Procurement and Contract Act by raising the cap on contracts with certified small businesses that agencies can award without competitive bidding requirements from \$250,000 to \$350,000 and authorize the Director of the Department of General Services to adjust it biennially based on the California Consumer Price Index. The new amendment would delay the date for the first potential adjustment from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2028.

SB 401 (Hurtado) Political Reform Act of 1974: state employees: financial interests.

This bill would prohibit an employee of a state agency from owning or controlling a financial interest in any business entity that is subject to the regulatory authority of the state agency, or that does business with the state agency. The bill would authorize the head of a state agency to grant an employee a waiver from this prohibition only upon a finding that ownership or control of the financial interest is otherwise consistent with the act and that the employee will not make, participate in making, or attempt to influence a governmental decision in which the employee has a financial interest.

SB 470 (Laird) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing.

This bill would delete the January 1, 2026 sunset date for a provision of the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act which allows members of state bodies to participate remotely under certain circumstances. This bill would also allow advisory entities to state bodies to continue to meet using the teleconference procedures in current law and would delete new procedures scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2026.

SB 656 (Richardson) Small businesses, disabled veteran enterprises, and minority business enterprises.

This bill would require each state agency to designate at least one person to serve as a small business liaison. The bill would require the liaison to annually provide specified information to the Office of the Small Business Advocate, including a list of all current contracts between the state agency and a small business, all contracts of the state agency that include a subcontract with a small business, and the total dollar amount paid to a small business under those contracts or subcontracts. The bill would also increase the statewide participation goal for disabled veteran business enterprises from 3% to 5%, and the goal for minority owned businesses from 15% to 25%.

Cannabis

[AB 1496 \(Rubio, Blanca\)](#) **Cannabis task force.**

This bill would reinstate the statute creating a task force on state and local regulation of commercial cannabis activity and expand invited representation to include tribal government entities regulating commercial cannabis activity. The previous statute creating the task force expired on January 1, 2025. The State Water Board, along with other specified state entities, would be required to continue to participate in the task force.

CEQA

[AB 35 \(Alvarez\)](#) **California Environmental Quality Act: clean hydrogen transportation projects.**

This bill would create deadlines for a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency to determine the completeness of an application for a discretionary permit or authorization for a clean hydrogen transportation project and to determine whether to approve the project and its clean hydrogen environmental assessment. Responsible agencies would also have a deadline to approve applicable permits. This bill also would establish requirements for a clean hydrogen environmental assessment in lieu of CEQA. Finally, this bill would require that legal actions or proceedings brought against the approval of a clean hydrogen environmental assessment or the issuance of a discretionary permit or authorization for a clean hydrogen transportation project, including any potential appeals, be resolved, to the extent feasible, within 270 days of the filing of the certified record of proceedings.

[AB 295 \(Macedo\)](#) **California Environmental Quality Act: environmental leadership development projects: water storage, water conveyance, and groundwater recharge projects: streamlined review.**

This bill would add water storage projects, water conveyance projects, and groundwater recharge projects that provide public benefits and drought preparedness to the list of environmental leadership development projects that can be certified by the Governor for streamlined judicial review for any legal challenges stemming from the certification of an environmental impact report or granting of any project approvals. This bill would exempt such projects from needing a minimum investment of \$100,000,000 in California upon completion of construction to be eligible for certification.

[AB 507 \(Haney\)](#) **Adaptive reuse: streamlining: incentives.**

This bill would deem an adaptive reuse project, or the retrofitting and repurposing of an existing building to create new residential or mixed uses including office conversion projects, a use by right in all zones, regardless of the zoning of the site, and subject to a streamlined, ministerial review process if the project meets specified requirements. This bill would require an adaptive reuse project to meet specified affordability criteria. For an adaptive reuse project including mixed uses, the bill would require at least one-half of the square footage of the adaptive reuse project to be dedicated to residential uses. This bill, by establishing the streamlined, ministerial review process, would exempt the approval of adaptive reuse projects subject to those processes from CEQA. The bill would also exempt specified findings regarding industrial uses and ordinances adopted to implement specified provisions from CEQA.

[AB 609 \(Wicks\)](#) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: housing development projects.

This bill would exempt from the requirements of CEQA, a housing development project that meets certain conditions. This bill would require a local government, as a condition of approval for the development, to require the development proponent to complete a phase I environmental assessment and to mitigate the effects of any releases of hazardous substances found at the site.

[SB 247 \(Smallwood-Cuevas\)](#) State agency contracts: bid preference: equity metrics.

This bill would require a state agency or department to provide a bid preference of 10% in the award of contracts to contractors that set equity metrics, as prescribed.

[SB 607 \(Wiener\)](#) California Environmental Quality Act: categorical exemptions: infill projects.

This bill would amend definitions of negative declaration and mitigated negative declaration and add a definition for “may have a significant effect on the environment” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If a project were to be ineligible for a statutory or categorical exemption due to a single condition, this bill would limit the application of CEQA to the environmental effects caused solely by that single condition. This bill would also make several changes to CEQA related to infill projects.

Climate Change

[AB 1191 \(Tangipia\)](#) California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program: hydroelectric generation.

This bill would expand the definition of an eligible renewable energy resource for the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program to include all hydroelectric generating facilities and not just those of 30 megawatts or less.

[AB 1243 \(Addis\)](#) Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025.

This bill would enact the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025 and would establish the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Program to be administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to require fossil fuel polluters to pay their fair share of the damage caused by the sale of their products between 1990 and 2024, to relieve a portion of the burden from climate harms that is borne by California taxpayers. This bill would require CalEPA to identify liable parties and submit a climate cost study to the Legislature. The funds collected through this bill's program would be deposited into the Polluters Pay Superfund Fund created by this bill and appropriated by the Legislature for purposes specified by this bill.

[SB 613 \(Stern\)](#) Methane emissions: petroleum and natural gas producing low methane emissions.

This bill would require state agencies to prioritize strategies to reduce methane emissions, including emissions from imported petroleum and natural gas, where feasible and cost effective. The California Air Resources Board (CARB), the Public Utilities Commission, and other relevant agencies would be required to timely consider programs, or changes to existing programs, to reduce methane emissions. This bill would require CARB to encourage petroleum and natural gas procurement on behalf of the state to shift to certified petroleum and natural gas producing low methane emissions. This bill would also require CARB to include additional information when it annually publishes data on greenhouse gas emissions.

[SB 684 \(Menjivar\)](#) Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025.

This bill would enact the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025 and would establish the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Program to be administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to require fossil fuel polluters to pay their fair share of the damage caused by the sale of their products between 1990 and 2024, to relieve a portion of the burden from climate harms that is borne by California taxpayers. This bill would require CalEPA to identify liable parties and submit a climate cost study to the Legislature. The funds collected through this bill's program would be deposited into the Polluters Pay Superfund created by this bill and appropriated by the Legislature for purposes specified by this bill.

Coastal/Oceans

[AB 773 \(Dixon\)](#) Marine resources: copper-based antifouling paint.

This bill would require the Water Boards and the Department of Pesticide Regulations to suspend enforcement of regulations relating to copper-based antifouling paint until the following have been completed: 1) SWRCB and DPR release studies on the effectiveness of low-leach-rate paint before adopting any new regulations relating to copper-based antifouling paint or low-leach-rate paint; 2) SWRCB and DPR collaborate on the best way to regulate copper-based antifouling paint in the state; 3) SWRCB, RWQCBs, and DPR release agreed upon guidelines for uniform enforcement of the copper-based antifouling paint regulations throughout the state. This bill further requires that future amendments to copper-based antifouling paint regulations require that testing, sampling, monitoring, enforcement, and corrective actions be the direct responsibility of the relevant state agency and that the amended regulations are applied uniformly throughout the state.

[AB 1086 \(Muratsuchi\)](#) Marine Carbon Initiative.

This bill would require CARB to establish a Marine Carbon Initiative consisting of the Marine Carbon Council, the Marine Carbon Research Program, and an expedited marine carbon research program permitting process for carbon sequestration, which the State Water Board would be required to establish in consultation with relevant state agencies, including the regional water boards. Expedited permitting will be available to projects that receive funding as part of the Marine Carbon Research Program and would ensure that applications are reviewed and decided upon within six months. Upon appropriation by the Legislature the Council will receive \$2 million dollars for no less than seven years to fund the program.

[AB 1102 \(Boerner\)](#) Development projects: sea level rise and groundwater rise risk assessment.

This bill would require a proponent of a new development to complete a sea level rise and groundwater rise risk assessment as part of the application to a public agency if the proposed development will be within 1,000 feet of a contaminated site and will be within an area vulnerable to groundwater rise or sea level rise.

Conservation

[AB 93 \(Papan\)](#) Water resources: demands: data centers.

This bill would require that the State Water Board and State Energy Resources and Development Commission develop guidelines and best practices consistent with urban water

use objectives on or before January 1, 2028, and would require public entities to include the average volume of water delivered to data centers in their water usage demand analysis. This bill would require data centers, when applying to a city for an initial business license, permit, or renewal application to report the data center's expected water use or report its annual water use. This bill would further obligate a city to require the data center to meet efficiency standards as determined by local jurisdiction and require public entities to determine the average volume of water delivered to data centers prior to or as part of conducting a cost-of-service analysis.

AB 514 (Petrie-Norris) Water: emergency water supplies.

This bill would establish a policy to encourage local water suppliers to develop emergency water supplies and to support their use during times of drought or unplanned service or supply disruption. This bill creates a definition of emergency water supplies that is identified in local water suppliers' plans and is above their baseline needs. This bill makes no requirement for a local water supplier to modify operations or demand management plans.

SB 463 (Alvarado-Gil) Drought planning: resiliency measures.

This bill would exempt water districts with less than 500 service connections from the requirement to meter each service connection and monitor for water loss due to leakages.

SB 795 (Richardson) 30x30 goal: state agencies: plans, policies, or regulations.

This bill would require all state agencies, including their departments, boards, offices, commissions, and conservancies, to consider the 30x30 goal when adopting, revising, or establishing plans, policies, or regulations, and shall ensure, to the extent feasible, that the plan, policy, or regulation is not inconsistent with the 30x30 goal.

Drinking Water

AB 367 (Bennett) Water: County of Ventura: fire suppression.

This bill would require a water supplier to residential dwellings that is used for the suppression of fire in either a high or very high risk fire hazard severity zone in the County of Ventura to have a backup energy source with sufficient power to promptly operate wells and pumps for at least 24 hours in the case of a power shutoff unless the water delivery system meets certain conditions. This bill would require the Ventura County Fire Department to annually inspect facilities that provide water, as specified, and would further require a water supplier to take various actions, including alerting the Ventura County Office of Emergency Services whenever its water delivery capacity has been reduced due to equipment failure or maintenance. The bill would require, if any fire destroys more than 10 residential dwellings or causes more than \$3,000,000 in damages to any residential dwelling serviced by a water supplier, a report be made by the water supplier that services the dwellings where the fire occurred and the Ventura County Fire Department that assesses the appropriateness of the water delivery system, as specified.

AB 532 (Ransom) Water rate assistance program.

This bill would require the Department of Community Services and Development (DCSD) to administer the California Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program through local service providers for community water systems or urban retail water suppliers that serve disadvantaged communities. Beginning in 2028 this bill would require urban retail water suppliers to report through the State Water Resource Control Board's electronic annual

reporting system (EAR) whether the system provides rate assistance to its customers, the amount of assistance provided, if no assistance was offered an explanation as to why, what barriers exist to providing assistance, whether and how much voluntary contributions the system received, and the total number of eligible recipients received assistance. This bill would further require that the water systems produce a biannual report to the Legislature.

AB 794 (Gabriel) California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations.

This bill would authorize the State Water Board to adopt as an emergency a regulation that is neither more stringent than, nor is materially different from requirements of a regulation promulgated pursuant to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. This bill further clarifies that the State Water Board's authority to adopt an emergency regulation includes a federal regulation that is in effect when the State Water Board adopts the emergency regulation and authority to adopt requirements of a federal regulation that was in effect on January 19, 2025, regardless of whether the requirements were repealed or amended to be less stringent. Upon the adoption of an emergency regulation, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) shall pursue a public health goal (PHG) and the State Water Board shall initiate primary drinking water standards for all contaminants that have a PHG and request that OEHHA initiate a PHG for all contaminants covered by the emergency regulation that do not. It is understood that the author's intent is to address PFAS/PFOA.

AB 990 (Hadwick) Public water systems: emergency notification plan.

This bill would require an emergency notification plan pursuant to 116460 to be approved by the State Water Board prior to a permit, variance, or exemption being issued under the California Safe Drinking Water Act. Further, a public water system is encouraged to provide notification to water users in their preferred language, if resources are available. The State Water Board would be required to adopt regulations pursuant to this section.

SB 350 (Durazo) Water Rate Assistance Program.

This bill would require the State Water Board to establish the Water Rate Assistance Program and administer dollars from the newly created Water Rate Assistance Fund in the State Treasury to help eligible low-income ratepayers with their drinking and wastewater bills. The State Water Board would be required within 270 days of the effective date to conduct a public hearing and develop guidelines for the implementation of this bill in consultation with relevant state agencies. This bill would require the State Water Board to conduct an annual hearing and produce an annual report in consultation with relevant agencies with certain metrics on the fund. Within 365 days of its effective date the Public Utilities Commission shall establish a process to share data from various assistance programs with the State Water Board regarding eligibility. The State Water Board would be authorized to extend advance payments to eligible systems for water rate assistance and may consult with the PUC to expend up to five percent of program funding on pilot projects meant to assist ratepayers through various means.

SB 466 (Caballero) Drinking water: hexavalent chromium: civil liability: exemption.

This bill would prohibit a public water system from being held liable in any civil action related to hexavalent chromium in drinking water while implementing a state board-approved hexavalent chromium maximum contaminant level (MCL) compliance plan, or during the period between when it has submitted a hexavalent chromium MCL compliance plan for approval to the state board and action on the proposed compliance plan by the state board is pending.

SB 724 (Richardson) Public water systems: public housing: lead testing.

This bill would require a public water system, including community water systems and noncommunity water systems, that provides service to residents of public housing owned or

managed by a city, county, city and county, or city, county, or city and county housing authority, to provide information to those residents regarding any applicable existing program that offers free testing of the water for lead.

Enforcement

[SB 394 \(Allen\)](#) Water theft: fire hydrants.

This bill would allow a utility to bring a civil action for damages against a person who tampers with or causes water to be diverted from a fire hydrant without authorization. This bill would also allow local agencies which provide retail water services to adopt an ordinance that prohibits unauthorized connection to a fire hydrant and makes violations of such an ordinance subject to specified penalties.

Forestry

[AB 372 \(Bennett\)](#) Office of Emergency Services: state matching funds: water system infrastructure improvements.

This bill, contingent on funding being appropriated pursuant to a bond act, would establish the Rural Water Infrastructure for Wildfire Resilience Program within the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) for the distribution of state matching funds to communities within the Wildland Urban Interface in designated high fire hazard severity zones or very high fire hazard severity zones to improve water system infrastructure. This bill would require CalOES to coordinate with the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Resources Control Board, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and other state entities as CalOES determines to be appropriate, to achieve the purposes of the program.

[AB 442 \(Hadwick\)](#) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: prescribed fire, thinning, and fuel reduction projects.

This bill would exempt from CEQA prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken within a community with a single ingress and egress evacuation route.

[AB 687 \(Patterson\)](#) Forestry: timber operations: maintenance of timberlands for fuels reduction.

This bill would authorize projects exclusively for noncommercial wildfire fuels reduction in timberland, paid for in part or in whole with public funds, to prepare a timber harvesting plan as an alternative to complying with CEQA, and would require these projects to be regulated as timber operations.

[AB 763 \(Ward\)](#) Timber harvesting: streambed agreement: waste discharge requirements.

This bill would require, for a Regional Water Board that has adopted general waste discharge requirements (WDR) for timber harvesting, the Regional Water Board to authorize timber harvesting operations performed consistent with an approved timber harvesting plan subject to those general WDRs within 5 working days of receiving a complete request. This bill would also require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue a lake or stream agreement within 5 working days of the approval of a timber harvesting plan by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

[AB 1227 \(Essayli\)](#) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: wildfire prevention projects.

This bill would exempt wildfire prevention projects from the requirements of the CEQA.

[AB 1456 \(Bryan\)](#) California Environmental Quality Act: vegetation fuel management project exemption.

This bill would exempt from CEQA a vegetation fuel management project, undertaken or funded by a public agency, or the adoption of an ordinance requiring the implementation of a vegetation fuel management project. The bill would require a lead agency that determines to carry out or approve an activity that is within the exemption to file a notice of exemption with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation.

[SB 234 \(Niello\)](#) Wildfires: workgroup: toxic heavy metals.

This bill would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), in consultation with specified entities, to form a workgroup related to exposure of toxic heavy metals after a wildfire. The bill would require the workgroup to do certain things, including establishing best practices and recommendations for wildfire-impacted communities and first responders to avoid exposure to heavy metals after a wildfire. The bill would require CAL FIRE, CalOES, and DTSC to report their findings to the Legislature by January 1, 2027.

[SB 326 \(Becker\)](#) Wildfire safety: The California Wildfire Mitigation Strategic Planning Act.

This bill would require the Deputy Director of Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation within the Office of the State Fire Marshall (Deputy Director), to prepare both a Wildfire Risk Baseline and Forecast and a Wildfire Risk Mitigation Planning Framework every three years. This bill would also require the Deputy Director to annually prepare a Wildfire Mitigation Scenarios Report. The bill would require the Deputy Director, each year these documents are completed, to submit a copy of these documents to the Legislature, the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, and the Public Utilities Commission for review and consideration.

[SB 746 \(Alvarado-Gil\)](#) Water: Urban Water Community Drought Relief program: Small Community Drought Relief program: high fire hazard and very high fire hazard severity zones.

This bill would establish the Urban Water Community Drought Relief program and the Small Community Drought Relief program, within the Department of Water Resources, to provide grants for interim or immediate drought relief. These programs, upon a specified appropriation, would also authorize funding for projects that reduce the risk of wildfire through water delivery system improvements in very high or high fire hazard severity zone communities.

Funding/Bonds/Fees

[AB 23 \(DeMaio\)](#) The Cost of Living Reduction Act of 2025.

This bill would, among other provisions, require the suspension of state taxes and fees on gasoline if the price of gas exceeds 10 percent of the national average. The list of “state taxes and fees on gasoline” includes the “underground storage tank maintenance fee” and “any water quality fees imposed by the State Water Resources Control Board pursuant to Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 2200) of Division 3 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations”.

The bill also requires CARB to suspend the cap-and-trade program for refineries if the price of gas exceeds 10 percent of the national average.

AB 267 (Macedo) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: high-speed rail: water infrastructure and wildfire prevention.

This bill would suspend the appropriation from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to the High-Speed Rail Authority for fiscal years 2026-27 and 2027-28 and instead utilize the funding to augment funding for water infrastructure and wildfire prevention, upon appropriation.

AB 273 (Sanchez) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: high-speed rail: infrastructure improvements.

This bill would eliminate the continuous appropriation of 25 percent of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund's proceeds to the High Speed Rail authority beginning with the 2026-27 fiscal year and instead transfer the 25 percent of the Fund's proceeds to the General Fund. Upon appropriation, those funds would be used to augment funding provided to local governments to improve infrastructure.

AB 880 (Bennett) State government grants and contracts: payment of claims and grantees' indirect costs.

This bill would amend the California Prompt Payment Act to delete the exception to state agencies paying penalties for late payment on grants to nonprofits of \$500,000 or greater. The bill would also disallow agencies from withholding payment to a grantee because of a disputed amount on an invoice unless the disputed amount is greater than \$250 or 5 percent of the grant amount, whichever is less. This bill would further require state agencies to reimburse the indirect costs of a grantee, using one of four methods requested by the grantee in their application.

AB 905 (Pacheco) State general obligation bonds: disclosure requirements.

This bill would require the lead state agency administering a state bond measure to post on its internet website a notification that contains, among other information, details about the programs and projects authorized to be funded by the bond. The bill would further require each lead state agency to provide a report to the Department of Finance, Legislative Analyst, and legislative budget committees with specified information.

AB 944 (Macedo) State government: emergency services: nonprofit service providers.

This bill would authorize a nonprofit entity that provides services pursuant to a contract with a state agency to, during a state of war emergency or a state of emergency, request that the state agency allow the nonprofit to modify the method in which it provides services so long as the purpose of the contract is served. This bill would require the nonprofit entity to notify each state agency from which it receives funding for a closure of an impacted program. This bill would require a state agency that receives such a notification to ensure that funding is available to pay for canceled services, closed programs, or reduced service levels.

AB 947 (Connolly) Agriculture: Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995.

This bill would require the Department of Food and Agriculture to establish a sustainable agriculture program to provide research, technical assistance, and incentive grants to promote agricultural practices that support climate resilience for farms and ranches and the well-being of ecosystems, air quality, and biodiversity. This bill would further replace the existing Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming with a Scientific Advisory Panel on Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture to, among other things, review data and compile the best available science on the impact that agriculture has on the environment and local communities and

recommend to the CDFA secretary and appropriate state agencies the best available science on environmental impacts of agriculture. This bill would also require CDFA to make between five and 20 percent of the funds appropriated for specified programs available for technical assistance, as defined.

AB 1039 (Hart) State-funded assistance grants and contracts: advance payments.

This bill would require state agencies administering a grant to a qualifying nonprofit organization or federally recognized tribe to provide an advance payment, subject to specified conditions.

ACA 11 (Macedo) California Water Resiliency Act.

This measure would require the Treasurer to annually transfer an amount equal to 1% of all state revenues from the General Fund to the Water Conveyance and Capacity Infrastructure Fund, which the measure would create. The measure would continuously appropriate moneys in the fund to the California Water Commission for its actual costs of implementing these provisions and for administering grants for the entitlement, repair, design, and construction of water infrastructure projects that will maintain or expand the availability of clean, safe drinking water for homes and businesses, and water for agricultural uses, consistent with area of origin water rights. This measure specifies that only a public agency, special district, joint powers authority, or a public-private partnership would be eligible to apply for a grant awarded pursuant to this section.

SB 90 (Seyarto) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: grants: improvements to public evacuation routes: mobile rigid water storage: electrical generators.

The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 ("Proposition 4") authorized \$135 million in funding to the Office of Emergency Services for wildfire mitigation grants, as defined. This bill would include as eligible projects improvements to public evacuation routes in very high or high fire hazard severity zones, mobile rigid dip tanks to support firefighting efforts, prepositioned mobile rigid water storage, improvements to the response and effectiveness of fire engines and helicopters, and grants for backup electrical generators for water reservoirs.

Groundwater Quality

AB 638 (Rodriguez, Celeste) Stormwater: uses: irrigation.

This bill would require the State Water Board to establish guidance for stormwater capture and reuse for irrigation of urban public lands on or before June 1, 2026. The guidance must include how captured stormwater for irrigation can be used to offset potable water demand in a way that poses minimal to no public health risks and provides best management practices to reduce potential health risks through criteria for pathogens and pathogen indicators, total suspended solids, toxics, and structural and nonstructural means.

SB 454 (McNerney) State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program.

This bill would create the PFAS Mitigation Fund to be administered by the State Water Board. The bill would authorize the State Water Board to seek out and accept nonstate, federal, and private funds to provide assistance to water suppliers and sewer system providers to cover or reduce the costs associated with treating PFAS in drinking water, recycled water, and wastewater. This bill would further require the State Water Board on or before July 1, 2027, to

adopt guidelines related to expending these funds and to conduct public hearings related to them.

[SB 594 \(Padilla\)](#) Waste discharge permits: landfills.

amended. Re-referred to Com. on E.Q.

This bill would prohibit a state agency from issuing a waste discharge permit for a new Class III landfill until a local enforcement agency has held a hearing and certified that the landfill will not disproportionately impact or harm a disadvantaged community.

[SB 643 \(Caballero\)](#) Carbon Dioxide Removal Purchase Program.

This bill would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to establish and administer the Carbon Dioxide Removal Purchase Program to purchase carbon dioxide removal credits generated by eligible carbon dioxide removal projects. In implementing the program, this bill would authorize CARB to consult with, among other agencies, the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards, to ensure program moneys support achieving the state's climate and environmental targets.

Hazardous Materials & Waste

[AB 961 \(Ávila Farías\)](#) Hazardous materials: California Land Reuse and Revitalization Act of 2004.

This bill would extend the repeal date of the California Land Reuse and Revitalization Act to January 1, 2037, and would provide that a person who qualifies for immunity under the Act before January 1, 2037, shall continue to have that immunity on and after January 1, 2037, if the person continues to be in compliance with the requirements of the former Act.

[AB 1459 \(Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials\)](#) Hazardous waste: underground storage tanks.

This bill would make a number of noncontroversial changes to statutes related to hazardous waste. This includes excluding from the definition an underground storage tank, a tank holding hydraulic fluid or dielectric fluid for a closed loop mechanical system that uses compressed air, hydraulic fluid, or dielectric fluid to operate lifts, to operate elevators, to act as an electric cooling or insulation system, and other similar devices.

[SB 404 \(Caballero\)](#) Hazardous materials: metal shredding facilities.

This bill would repeal the existing regulatory provisions for metal shredding facilities and would establish a comprehensive scheme to regulate those facilities, to be administered by DTSC pursuant to authority separate from laws governing the control of hazardous waste. This bill requires these facilities to be located, built, and operated in a manner to protect against the release of materials or hazardous waste into the environment, including surface waters.

Oil and Gas Management

[SB 567 \(Limón\)](#) Gravity-Based Energy Storage Well Pilot Program.

This bill would, until January 1, 2035, establish the Gravity-Based Energy Storage Well Pilot Program and would authorize the Supervisor of Oil and Gas to authorize the conversion of not more than 250 idle wells for use as gravity-based energy storage wells to evaluate their use, including the establishment of appropriate operating conditions and physical parameters to

safely generate energy. This bill would require an operator of a gravity-based energy storage well, in the event of a loss of mechanical integrity of the well or a leak to the environment, to notify CalGEM, the State Air Resources Board, the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board, and any schools or community members living within 3,200 feet of the well. This bill would require gravity-based energy storage wells to be continuously monitored for fluid leaks. This bill would require, by January 1, 2033, the California Secretary for Environmental Protection, in consultation with certain entities, including the Water Boards, to evaluate the pilot program and make recommendations to the Legislature for a framework to implement an ongoing Gravity-Based Energy Storage Well Program to regulate the operation of gravity-based energy storage wells.

Regulatory

AB 1007 (Rubio, Blanca) Land use: development project review.

This bill would shorten the number of days from 90 to 45, that a responsible agency would have to approve or disapprove a development project, from the date on which the lead agency has approved the project or the date on which the completed application for the development project was received and accepted as complete by that responsible agency, whichever is longer.

AB 1232 (Ávila Farías) Administrative Procedure Act: proposed regulations: cost of living impact on residents of the state.

This bill would state agencies, before submitting a proposal to adopt, amend, or repeal a regulation to the Office of Administrative Law, to consider the proposal's cost of living impacts on residents of the state. This bill would require the Office of Administrative Law to adopt a standardized cost of living methodology for use by all agencies.

SB 688 (Niello) Office of Regulatory Counsel.

This bill would establish the Office of Regulatory Counsel in the Governor's Office and would draft and assist in the preparation, consideration, amendment, and repeal of regulations for a state agency, before the state agency submits a proposed action regarding that regulation to the Office of Administrative Law for publication in the California Regulatory Notice Register.

SGMA / Groundwater Management

AB 929 (Connolly) Sustainable groundwater management: managed wetlands.

This bill would prohibit a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) from using its authority under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to implement groundwater extraction allocations for small community water systems serving disadvantaged communities from permitted public water supply wells and to managed wetland extractors. This bill would additionally require the information provided in a GSP to include the plan's water supply and economic impacts on managed wetlands, managed wetland extractors, and small community water systems serving disadvantaged communities.

AB 1044 (Macedo) Tulare Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act.

This bill would create the Tulare Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency within the Hope Water District, Ducor Water District and additional areas within Tulare County. This agency would be required to develop and implement a groundwater sustainability plan.

AB 1413 (Papan) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater adjudication.

This bill would update groundwater adjudication procedures to prohibit courts from determining a basin's safe yield or sustainable yield to be greater than that of a groundwater sustainability agency's determination in a valid groundwater sustainability plan. This bill would make other changes to ensure that groundwater adjudications judgments do not substantially impair the ability of a groundwater sustainability agency, the State Water Resources Control Board, or the Department of Water Resources to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

AB 1466 (Hart) Groundwater adjudication: burden of proof.

This bill would put the burden of proof on the party seeking judicial review of an action taken by a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA), in a groundwater adjudication using the substantial evidence standard of review. This standard would apply to any action taken by a GSA pursuant to a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) that has been approved by the Department of Water Resources. This bill would also require a court in a groundwater adjudication in a basin where a GSA has adopted a GSP that has been approved by the Department of Water Resources, to request that the GSA provide a technical report that, at a minimum, quantifies and describes the groundwater use of parties that have not otherwise appeared before the court.

Solid Waste/Recycling

AB 28 (Schiavo) Solid waste landfills: subsurface temperatures.

This bill would require an operator of a solid waste landfill to continuously monitor temperature sensors on flares for landfill gas temperature and to provide temperature sensor data on its internet website and to its local enforcement agency. If the gas temperature reaches certain temperatures for certain lengths of time, the bill would require the operator of the landfill to take specified actions, including filing a corrective action plan, requiring the local enforcement agency and the county to provide specified notifications, requiring CalRecycle to form and lead a multiagency coordination group, including the Regional Water Board with jurisdiction over the landfill, to investigate the sustained gas temperature and provide advice on how to resolve it, and ultimately providing a mechanism to suspend or revoke the permits required to operate the landfill if certain thresholds are reached.

AB 411 (Papan) Livestock carcasses: disposal: composting.

Com. on NAT. RES. Read second time and amended.

This bill would authorize any part of a livestock carcass resulting from a routine livestock mortality event or on-farm processing to be composted if certain requirements are met, including, among others, that the composting is conducted in accordance with best management practices for livestock composting approved by the Secretary of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with the State Water Board and CalRecycle.

SB 14 (Blakespear) State agencies: solid waste diversion: single-use plastic bottles.

This bill would require each state agency to include in its integrated waste management plan descriptions of actions to be taken to source reduce certain materials and by July 15, 2027, to submit an adopted integrated waste management plan to CalRecycle for review and approval. The bill would require a state agency's annual report to include summaries of the state agency's compliance with the requirement to reduce solid waste by 50% and the requirements relating to the adoption of an integrated waste management plan. The bill would, by January 1, 2027, require CalRecycle to publish on its internet website a list of products available for purchase by state agencies that would reduce the overall amount of plastic or paper waste generated. This

bill would, with certain exceptions, prohibit state agencies from entering into, modifying, amending, or renewing a contract, on or after January 1, 2026, to purchase single-use plastic bottles, made of less than 90% recycled plastic for internal use or resale and would require state agencies to take appropriate steps to replace the use of single-use plastic bottles at food service facilities with nonplastic, recyclable, and reusable alternatives. The bill would require state agencies to submit a report, by January 1, 2027, to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, confirming its compliance with these requirements.

SB 279 (McNerney) Solid waste: compostable materials.

This bill would make several changes intended to allow farmers and winegrape growers to compost larger amounts onsite. This bill would increase the amount of feedstock from green material, agricultural material, food material, and vegetative food material from 100 cubic yards to 500 cubic yards that would be considered an excluded activity, so a compost facility is not subject to permitting requirements. This bill would also require the composting of agricultural materials and residues that are from a large-scale biomass management event at an agricultural facility that does not otherwise operate as a solid waste facility to be an excluded activity. This bill would also require composting operations to be included in the enforcement agency notification regulatory tier if certain conditions are met, including the operation having between 500 and 12,500 cubic yards of material onsite. This bill would also increase the amount of compost product composting operations may give away or sell annually from 1,000 cubic yards to 5,000 cubic yards.

SB 725 (Dahle, R) Recycling: organic byproducts.

This bill would express Legislative intent to enact future legislation that would promote the recycling of organic byproducts by increasing the opportunities for organic byproducts to be recycled into livestock feed.

Surface Water Quality

AB 1313 (Papan) Water quality: permits.

This bill would require the State Water Board establish a statewide CII NPDES for properties of five acres or more and to issue a draft order for public comment on or before December 31, 2028, or within 18 months of the reissuance of the IGP (2014-0057-DWQ). This bill would require the State Water Boards to develop a model memorandum of understanding that details the necessary components of an agreement between CII permittees and local municipalities for achieving offsite stormwater capture and use within the adopted final statewide CII NPDES order.

SB 31 (McNerney) Water quality: recycled water.

This bill would redefine recycled water and statewide criteria for its acceptable use. This bill would remove notification requirements for certain unauthorized discharges of recycled water from storm events. This bill would add common areas of homeowners' associations to the list of areas where nonpotable water must be used if it is available and would prohibit the prohibition of incidental amounts of disinfected tertiary recycled water from eating areas at parks and other open spaces. This bill further states that outdoor landscape irrigation of common areas that does not enter the boundaries of a residence shall not be considered a dual plumbed system. This bill further amends the locations and conditions under which recycled water for sanitary and landscape purposes shall be permitted.

[SB 601 \(Allen\)](#) Water: waste discharge.

This bill would require businesses in certain regulated industries to demonstrate enrollment with NPDES or WDR permit programs on initial or renewal building and construction permits to appropriate city or county offices. This bill would require that on or before June 30, 2028, the State Water Board to adopt a primary drinking water standard at least as stringent as the USEPA standard that was in effect on January 19, 2025. It further states that the State Water Board may adopt this MCL as an emergency regulation, even if the federal standard was made less stringent or repealed. This bill would comprehensively address the lacuna in water quality protection left in the wake of *Sackett* by adding a definition of "Nexus Waters" that is defined as all waters of the state, with numerous exceptions. Based on this definition, the bill addresses processes pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act, federal Water Pollution Control Act, standards with USEPA, state policies of water quality control, CAOs, penalty authority and scales, as well as enforcement, judicial proceedings, definitions of navigable waters, dredge and fill reporting requirements, regional board-issued waivers, and would use May 25, 2023 as a benchmark in various areas of Water Board authority and proceedings.

[SB 740 \(Rubio\)](#) Municipal wastewater agency: new agreement or amendment.

This bill would extend the filing requirement for municipal wastewater agencies that enter into agreements with entities responsible for stormwater management to file a copy of the agreement or amendment with the local agency formation commission in each county where any part of the municipal wastewater agency's territory is located within 40 days, from 30 days, as is currently required.

Tribal Equity

[AB 52 \(Aguiar-Curry\)](#) Native American resources.

This bill would make changes to several code sections to clarify that non-federally recognized tribal groups are not entitled to government-to-government consultations nor granted political status or recognition under state law. This bill would expand protections for tribal cultural resources. This bill would update procedures under the California Environmental Quality Act relating to California Native American tribes.

[AB 362 \(Ramos\)](#) Water policy: California tribal communities.

This bill would make several changes to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act to protect tribal beneficial uses and increase tribal community participation in decisions affecting water quality. This includes 1) requiring the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards to use the term "tribal water uses" as a beneficial use and update water quality standards for the Bay-Delta and basin plans by specified timelines, 2) requiring the Water Boards to describe impacts to tribal water uses for projects and regulatory programs subject to their approval, 3) Increasing the participation of tribal communities on the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Monitoring Council), 4) requiring the State Water Board to publish a report on the implementation of certain policies, and 5) other changes to hasten the protection of tribal water uses.

Underground Storage Tanks

[AB 626 \(Papan\)](#) Underground storage tanks: design and construction requirements: exemption.

This bill would exempt an operator from the December 31, 2025, single-walled underground storage tank (UST) closure requirement, exempting them from penalties, if the operator of a single-walled UST is acting in good faith to comply with the requirement to upgrade to a double-walled UST by December 31, 2025, and the operator meets specified conditions. The bill would require an operator seeking this exemption to submit a written request to the local enforcement agency and would require the local enforcement agency to review the request and issue a determination within 60 days of receipt.

Water Rights

AB 59 (Aguiar-Curry) Reclamation District No. 108: hydroelectric power.

This bill would make permanent the authority for Reclamation District No. 108 to construct, maintain, and operate a plant, transmission lines, and other necessary or appropriate facilities for the generation of hydroelectric power, allowing the district to participate in the development of the Sites Reservoir Project.

AB 263 (Rogers) Scott River: Shasta River: watersheds.

This bill would require the Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds Drought Emergency regulations, as operative December 19, 2023, to remain in effect until permanent rules establishing and implementing long-term instream flow requirements in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds are adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board).

AB 430 (Alanis) State Water Resources Control Board: emergency regulations.

This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to conduct a comprehensive study analyzing the fiscal and economic impacts on affected industries, fisheries, communities, and water users before the second renewal or repeal of an emergency regulation related to the diversion or use of water during drought emergencies.

AB 717 (Aguiar-Curry) Water rights: appropriation: small restoration use.

This bill would create the small restoration use registration to divert and store up to 20 acre-feet of water for the primary purpose is to restore, enhance, or provide habitat for fish and wildlife. This bill would prohibit new registrations for a stream segment where the Director of Fish and Wildlife has established proposed streamflow requirements, unless the State Water Board has established instream flow requirements as part of the general conditions applicable to that stream segment.

AB 1146 (Papan) Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs: water release: false pretenses.

This bill would make the release of stored water from a reservoir under false pretenses a misdemeanor. This bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to issue an interim relief order to a reservoir operator to prohibit the release of stored water that may be released under false pretenses.

AB 1156 (Wicks) Solar-use easements: suspension of Williamson Act contracts: terms of easement: termination.

This bill would authorize the Energy Commission to enter into solar use easements. This bill would allow landowners to suspend agricultural land conservation contracts to enter into solar use easements, for specified reasons, including finding that there are or will be insufficient

surface water or groundwater rights associated with the land to support commercially viable irrigated agricultural use.

[AB 1367 \(Gallagher\)](#) The California Water Plan: water storage.

This bill would require the department to amend The California Water Plan to state that water storage is the preferred method to be used by the state to meet increased water demands by urban, agricultural, and environmental interests.

[AB 1373 \(Soria\)](#) Water quality: state certification.

This bill would require the State Water Board to conduct a public hearing at least 21 days before taking action on an application for a certificate or statement that is required by any federal agency pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or any other federal water quality control law. This bill would prohibit the State Water Board from delegating its authority to issue a certification for a license to operate a hydroelectric facility.

[SB 72 \(Caballero\)](#) The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.

This bill would overhaul the existing laws requiring the Department of Water Resources, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board and other agencies, to update the California Water Plan. Changes would include an expanded advisory committee, additional areas of discussion on environmental needs and the water needs of disadvantaged communities, and the development of water supply planning targets, including a 2040 planning target of 9 million acre-feet of additional water.

[SB 224 \(Hurtado\)](#) Department of Water Resources: water supply forecasting.

This bill would require the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to adopt a new water supply forecasting model and procedures that better address the effects of climate change and implement a formal policy and procedures for documenting DWR's operational plans and DWR's rationale for its operating procedures, on or before January 1, 2027. DWR would be required to annually hold five public meetings about its operational decisions and annually submit reports to the Legislature related to this work.

[SB 697 \(Laird\)](#) Determination of water rights: stream system.

This bill would make field investigations optional and authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to issue information orders as part of water right statutory adjudications.