

Sierra Club California Legislative Priority List 2015

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 as of September 15, 2015. They are grouped by topic area and listed within those by house and number. Those highlighted in yellow are still active this year and are ready for action by the governor. Those highlighted in green have been signed by the governor and have become law. This is updated periodically to show the status of the bills.

Transitioning to Clean Energy to Reduce Climate Change Pollution:

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

This bill ensures that the landmark AB 32 to reduce California's climate pollution extends beyond 2020 and codifies executive orders setting target dates and pollution reduction levels.—**Support—(Passed in Senate, failed in Assembly)**

SB 185 (de Leon): Public Divestiture of Thermal Coal Companies Act

This bill requires that CalPERS and CalSTRS, the two large public employee retirement systems, end their investments in coal.—**Support (Passed in Senate; passed in Assembly)**

SB 350 (de Leon): Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015

This bill would establish important energy goals to be achieved by 2030 to ensure California continues to aggressively reduce climate change pollution. These goals are a 50% renewable portfolio standard (RPS) and a doubling of energy efficiency in buildings.—**Support (Passed in Senate; passed in Assembly)**

SB 765 (Wolk): Energy efficiency market transformation

This bill would create a statewide independent entity, the California Market Transformation Administrator (CalMTA), with a mission to unlock deeper, cost effective energy savings that are necessary to reach Governor Brown's climate goal of double energy efficiency in existing buildings by 2030.—**Support (Passed in Senate; moves to Assembly; converted to two-year bill)**

AB 645 (Williams): California Renewables Portfolio Standard

This bill requires that electric utilities increase the amount of renewable energy in their retail portfolios to 50% by 2030. (The current RPS requirement is 33% by 2020.)—**Support (Passed in Assembly; held in Senate Appropriations Committee)**

AB 693 (Eggman): Multifamily Affordable Housing Solar Roofs Programs.

This bill would create the Multifamily Affordable Housing Renewables Program, to provide opportunities for everyone to benefit from renewable energy installations. It provides financial incentives to multifamily affordable housing properties funded from investor-owned utility's greenhouse gas allowances.—**Support (Passed in Assembly; passed in Senate)**

AB 857 (Perea):

This bill would have directed a substantial proportion of funds intended for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from heavy-duty vehicles to support purchase of natural gas vehicles. Natural gas is one of the greatest contributors of methane to the atmosphere, and methane is one of the most potent greenhouse gas emissions.—**Oppose (Passed in Assembly; held in Senate Appropriations Committee)**

AB 1288 (Atkins): Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 and its regulations.

This bill originally addressed extending provisions of AB 32 to reduce California's climate pollution activities beyond 2020. It was later gutted and amended to add two members to the California Air Resources Board, one appointed by the Senate and one appointed by the Assembly.—**Support (Passed in Assembly; passed in Senate)**

Cutting Environmental Damage from Cannabis Cultivation:**SB 165 (Monning): Production or cultivation of a controlled substance and civil penalties**

This bill increases penalties for illegal or trespass cultivation of marijuana. A portion of those penalties are directed to restoration of forest lands harmed by such cultivation.—**Support (Passed in Senate; passed in Assembly; signed into law by the governor.)**

AB 243 (Wood): Medical marijuana cultivation

This bill establishes new, and expands existing, regulations and programs to reduce environmental impacts of medical marijuana cultivation.—**Support (Passed in Assembly; passed in Senate)**

Unhooking from Oil:**SB 248 (Pavley): Oil and gas.**

This bill seeks to spur reform at the Division of Oil Gas and Geothermal Resources, specifically within its oil and gas injection well program, in order to provide regulatory accountability and public transparency.—**Support (Passed in Senate; converted to a two-year bill in Assembly)**

SB 414 (Jackson): Oil spill response.

This bill would improve oil spill prevention, preparedness and response by requiring the Office of Spill Prevention and Response to perform studies and update regulations based on best available technology and peer-reviewed science.—**Support (Passed in Assembly; passed in Senate)**

SB 454 (Allen, B): Oil and gas and exempt aquifers

This bill prevents the agency responsible for regulating the oil industry from allowing any oil drilling waste to be injected into an aquifer without the state agency responsible for protecting water quality from first making findings to ensure that drinking water quality will not be impacted.—**Support (Failed on Senate floor vote; dead)**

SB 545 (Jackson): Oil and gas operations and the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources

This bill attempts to reform the main state agency responsible for regulating the oil and gas industry.—**Support (Held in Sen. Approps.; functionally dead)**

SB 778 (Allen, B.): Automotive oil waste reduction

This bill would require that all automotive oil sold in the state meet a standard of having a useful life of at least 10,000 miles.—**Support (Held in Sen. Approps; functionally dead)**

SB 788 (McGuire): California Coastal Protection Act of 2015

This bill closes a loophole that would allow some offshore oil drilling if the drilling site is located onshore.—**Support (Passed in Senate; held in Assembly Appropriations Committee)**

AB 356 (Williams): Oil and gas injection well impact monitoring

This bill creates a groundwater monitoring and reporting program for all underground injection wells used to dispose of waste water from oil and gas operations.—**Support (Failed on Assembly floor)**

AB 864 (Williams): Oil Spill Response

This bill requires operators of intrastate oil pipelines running through or near ecologically sensitive areas to use best available technologies to reduce the amount of oil released during a spill.—**Support (Passed in Senate; passed in Assembly)**

Public Utilities Commission Reform:**SB 660 (Leno and Hueso): Public Utilities Commission and SB 48 (Hill): Public Utilities Commission**

These bills would reform the Public Utilities Commission's 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 (Both passed in Senate; passed in Assembly)**

AB 825 (Rendon): Public Utilities Commission accountability

This bill would attempt to change the culture of the PUC by setting internal commission practices to ensure transparency and accountability to consumers and the legislature.—**Support (Passed in Assembly; passed in Senate)**

AB 1023 (Rendon): Public Utilities Commission and ex parte communications

This bill would improve transparency by requiring the PUC to establish and maintain a weekly communications log summarizing all oral or written ex parte communications and make each log available to the public on the commission's Internet Web site.—**Support (Passed in Assembly; passed in Senate)**

Improving Environmental Equity and Opportunity:**SB 398 (Leyva): Green assistance program**

This bill would establish a green assistance program at CalEPA to provide technical assistance to small businesses, small nonprofits, and disadvantaged communities seeking public grant dollars to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.—**Support (Passed in Senate; held in Assembly Appropriations Committee)**

SB 760 (Mendoza): Disadvantaged Community Enhancement Act of 2015

This bill would establish the Disadvantaged Community Enhancement Program (DCEP) to provide grants for projects that create recreational space and that provide multiple environmental benefits to disadvantaged communities.—**Support (Held in Sen. Approps; functionally dead)**

AB 156 (Perea): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and technical assistance

This bill would increase access for disadvantaged communities (DAC) to cap-and-trade revenues by providing technical assistance grants to non-profits and regional agencies to help DACs navigate the pre-planning and application process.—**Support (Passed in Assembly; held in Senate Appropriations Committee)**

AB 1071 (Atkins): Supplemental Environmental Projects

This bill would further environmental justice by helping to close gaps in existing programs, policies, or activities within the California Environmental Protection Agency that may prevent its achievement.—**Support (Passed in Assembly; passed in Senate)**

AB 1461 (Gonzalez): New Motor Voter Program

This bill would establish that when eligible citizens apply for a driver's license or identification card, they would automatically be registered to vote unless they opted out.—**Support (Passed in Senate; passed in Assembly)**

Protecting Wildlife and Habitat:**AB 96 (Atkins): Ban on the sale of ivory and rhinoceros horn**

This bill would close a loophole in the state's current ivory ban, which has made it impossible for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enforce the law. It will also extend the ban to protect the rhinoceros.—**Support (Passed in Assembly; passed in Senate)**

AB 1325 (Salas): Delta smelt

This bill would further imperil the Delta smelt while encouraging unsustainable water exports from the Delta—**Oppose (Failed in Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee; bill may return next year.)**

AB 395 (Gallagher): Non-lead ammunition and hunting

This bill would repeal the law requiring the phase out of lead ammunition for fire arms when hunting all wildlife in this state. It will also stop the regulatory process from ultimately banning lead ammunition for wildlife hunting in California.—**Oppose (Failed in Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee; bill may return next year.)**

Reducing Exposure to Toxics:**SB 47 (Hill): Tire-based synthetic turf moratorium**

This bill requires the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to conduct a study by July 1, 2017 analyzing potential adverse health impacts from synthetic turf made from waste tires. It would also prohibit the awarding of grants or other public funding assistance for the manufacturing or installation of synthetic turf made from waste tires.—**Support (Held in Sen. Approps; functionally dead)**

AB 888 (Bloom): Plastic microbeads prohibition

This bill will greatly reduce plastic microbead pollution in our oceans, as well as the environmental and health hazards associated with it by prohibiting all plastic microbeads in personal care products and favor environmentally sound alternatives.—**Support (Passed in Assembly; passed in Senate.)**

AB 708 (Jones-Sawyer): Cleaning products content information

This bill requires manufacturers of cleaning products to disclose the ingredients in their products to consumers.—**Support (Converted to two-year bill; will come to Assembly floor in early 2016)**

Managing Surface Water and Groundwater:**SB 7 (Wolk): Water Submetering**

This bill authorizes the development of building standards that require submeters for water in multiunit housing, allowing for greater water conservation, improved leak detection, and more equity in water pricing.—**Support (Passed Senate; converted to two-year bill in Assembly)**

SB 20 (Pavley): Groundwater well reports

This bill allows members of the public to access existing well logs with a filing with DWR.—**Support (Passed in Senate; moved to Assembly; substance of bill was incorporated into budget trailer bill that was signed into law by governor)**

SB 226 (Pavley): Groundwater rights

This bill creates a process for future adjudicated groundwater basins to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. State agencies could intervene in a groundwater adjudication to ensure environmental concerns are addressed. —**Support (Passed in Senate; passed in Assembly)**

Enhancing Parks and Recreation:**SB 317 (de Leon) Parks bond**

This bill would place on the November 2016 ballot a multi-billion dollar bond measure to support a range of local, regional and state parks projects. —**Support (Passed out of Sen. Approps; moves to Sen. floor; two-year bill)**

AB 988 (Stone, M.) Outdoor education

This bill would establish an outdoor environmental education and recreation grants program within the state Department of Parks and Recreation. —**Support (Passed in Assembly; held in Senate Appropriations Committee)**