

# Sierra Club California Legislative Priority List 2020 (October 8, 2020)

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. We encourage our members to bring these bills to the attention of their legislators.

Below is the Sierra Club California list of priority bills in 2020 with our position and each bill's status as of the date above. This list is updated periodically. We cover and take positions on dozens of bills. This priority list is *not* a complete list of all the bills we take a position on or lobby. Each bill is linked to its page on the California Legislative Information website (<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>). Click on the links for the latest status on bills and their location in the legislative process.

The priority 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 bills highlighted in **gray** have failed to pass a key committee or house. Those bills that we support and the governor signed to become law have been highlighted in **green**. Those highlighted in **red** are bills we supported that have been vetoed by the governor. Those bills that we opposed and that the governor signed have been highlighted in **orange**. Those highlighted in **yellow** are bills that we opposed and have been vetoed by the governor. Constitutional amendments that pass both houses go straight to the ballot and those are highlighted in **light green**.

Note that due to disruption from the COVID-19 pandemic, the legislature abbreviated the first half of the 2020 legislative session and significantly reduced the number and variety of bills that could be heard in committees. Many active bills suddenly became inactive, with promises by their authors to bring them up again next year.

## Cutting Waste & Toxics

### **[AB 1080](#) (Gonzalez) and [SB 54](#) (Allen) California Circular Economy and Pollution Reduction Act**

Single-use products—typically plastic packaging—is overflowing our landfills and fouling our oceans and streets. Current disposal and recycling policies cannot resolve these problems. These two identical bills will require the reduction, composting or recycling of 75 percent of single-use packaging by 2030. **SUPPORT. AB 1080 passed in Assembly. Passed in the Senate. Failed deadline to be heard on the Assembly floor for concurrence and will not move this year. SB 54 passed in the Senate. Failed vote on the Assembly floor and will not move this year.**

### **[AB 2287](#) (Eggman) Plastic Product Compostability Certification**

This bill supports the development and use of truly degradable and compostable alternatives to traditional plastics by updating California's environmental advertising laws to reflect updated standards, certifications and best practices for labeling products. **SUPPORT. Passed in Assembly. Passed the Senate. Passed the Assembly on Concurrence. Signed by the Governor.**

## Protecting Environmental Review

### **AB 3155 (R. Rivas) CEQA and Affordable Housing Exemptions for Subdivisions**

This bill provides sweeping exemptions for subdivisions of 10 homes or less. Legal requirements related to labor pay, affordable housing and environmental review would all be exempted. Additionally, the bill does not ensure that the exempted subdivisions would be within urban areas, thus creating a policy that will encourage sprawl development into wildlands. **OPPOSE. Passed the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development. Held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations and will not move this year.**

### **AB 3279 (Friedman) Onerous Barriers for CEQA Petitioners**

This bill originally would have imposed onerous judicial requirements on plaintiffs and petitioners in CEQA lawsuits, which would severely limit the ability for environmental justice communities to enforce the law and protect their environmental health. The author worked with bill opponents, including Sierra Club California, and amended the bill to remove problematic elements. Hence our current position is **NEUTRAL. Passed the Assembly. Held in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and will not move this year.**

### **SB 1378 (Borgeas) CEQA Lawsuit Disclosure Restrictions**

This bill would require a plaintiff to identify and disclose any individual or business that contributes over \$1,000 in a CEQA lawsuit, discouraging communities and nonprofits from challenging potentially polluting and destructive projects. Failure to comply would be grounds for dismissal. **OPPOSE. Referred to Senate committees on Environmental Quality and Judiciary; pulled from committee by author and will not move this year.**

## Protecting California's Lands, Coast, Ocean and Wildlife

### **AB 3030 (Kalra) State Land and Ocean Conservation Goal**

This bill would set a goal to conserve at least 30 percent of state lands and 30 percent of the ocean within the state by 2030 in an effort to safeguard California's clean air, clean drinking water and biodiversity. It places an emphasis on improving access to nature for all and promoting carbon sequestration on state lands. **SUPPORT. Passed the Assembly. Passed the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water. Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee and will not move this year.**

### **SB 1090 (Bates) Coastal erosion: installation of shoreline protective devices: application process.**

This bill would pave the way for private property owners to accelerate the loss of public beaches from the Orange County and San Diego coasts under the guise of claiming to improve public safety by streamlining the installation of unnatural sea walls. **Oppose. Referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water; held in committee and will not move this year.**

## Advancing Zero-Emission Electricity

### **AB 2182 (B. Rubio) Water Facility Diesel Generator Exemption**

This bill provides an exemption for certain facilities that run back-up diesel generators to provide power during deenergization events from any local, regional or state regulations governing the operation of these back-up generators. **OPPOSE. Referred to the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy and Natural Resources; held in committee and will not move this year.**

**AB 2582 (Carrillo) Net Energy Metering Restrictions**

This bill would put restrictions on what the California Public Utilities Commission can do in the next Net Energy Metering proceedings. **OPPOSE. Referred to the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy; held in committee and will not be heard this year.**

**AB 2736 (E. Garcia) Eagle Crest Greenwash**

This bill restates language within the proposed Eagle Crest pumped energy storage project's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license in an effort to greenwash the project, but there is nothing in the bill that protects Joshua Tree National Park, environmental interests or ratepayers. **OPPOSE. Passed the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife. Held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations and will not move this year.**

**SB 802 (Glazer) Health Facility Diesel Generator Exemption**

This bill allows health facilities to make an end run around clean air regulations by allowing them to run back-up diesel generators during deenergization events without reporting usage time, testing, and maintenance set forth on their permit. **OPPOSE. Referred to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality; held in committee and will not move this year.**

**SB 1185 (Moorlach) Unrestricted Gas Generators**

This bill would prohibit local air districts from adopting or maintaining rules that would limit or prohibit any person from using a polluting methane-gas-powered backup generator during a deenergization event. **OPPOSE. Passed the Senate. Moves to the Assembly. Held in Assembly Natural Resources Committee and will not move this year.**

**Protecting Californians from Wildfire****AB 3074 (Friedman) Ember-Resistant Zones**

During wildfires, most homes are destroyed by embers that can travel miles ahead of the flames and ignite flammable objects on or near a home. This bill would protect lives and property from wildfires, strengthening California's defensible space laws by requiring a five-foot "ember-resistant zone" around homes in high fire risk areas. **SUPPORT. Passed in the Assembly. Passed in the Senate. Passed the Assembly on concurrence. Signed by the Governor.**

**AB 3164 (Friedman) Wildfire Risk Model**

This bill would help the state and communities prepare for wildfires and prioritize the use of wildfire prevention and mitigation funds by requiring that CAL FIRE develop a wildfire risk model to identify areas with the highest risk to property and health. **SUPPORT. Passed in the Assembly. Passed in the Senate. Passed the Assembly on concurrence. Vetoed by the Governor.**

**Reducing Oil and Gas Dependence****AB 345 (Muratsuchi) Protecting Public Health from Impacts of Oil Extraction**

This bill would codify a requirement that the state entity overseeing oil and gas drilling and production, the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), conduct a rulemaking to protect public health and safety from the impacts of oil extraction operations. The bill also requires that in doing its rulemaking, CalGEM establish a minimum setback of extraction operations from homes, schools, daycare facilities and other sensitive receptors. **SUPPORT. Passed in the Assembly. Moved to the Senate. Failed to pass Senate Natural Resources Committee and will not move this year.**

**AB 3214 (Limón) Offshore Oil Spill Penalties**

This bill updates the current criminal penalties for companies that knowingly cause oil spills or failed to take actions that they know would have prevented an oil spill into state waters. **SUPPORT. Passed in the Assembly. Passed in the Senate. Passed the Assembly on concurrence. Signed by the Governor.**

**AB 3163 (Salas) Increasing Biomethane Pollution**

This bill would undermine California’s climate and clean-air goals and encourage turning woody waste into methane gas by expanding the definition of biomethane to include methane gas made by converting wood into methane. **OPPOSE. Passed the Assembly. Passed the Senate. Signed by the Governor.**

**SB 1012 (Hurtado) Oil and gas wells: hazardous or idle-deserted wells and facilities.**

This bill would hamper CalGEM’s ability to recover costs from previous oil and gas operators by requiring CalGEM to make a “reasonable effort” to recover costs from current operators. This language is far too vague and will inevitably delay or halt CalGEM’s cost recovery and cleanup efforts. **OPPOSE. Passed the Senate. Passed Assembly Committee on Appropriations. Failed deadline to be heard on the Assembly floor and will not move this year.**

**SB 1352 (Hueso) Biomethane Procurement Requirement**

This bill undermines California’s climate and clean-air goals by requiring the Public Utilities Commission to establish a 20% biomethane procurement requirement by 2030. **OPPOSE. Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications; not set for a hearing and not moving this year.**

**Advancing Clean Transportation****AB 1002 (Quirk-Silva) Eliminating EV Charging Infrastructure Incentives**

This bill would hamper the state’s clean air and greenhouse gas reduction goals by effectively ending incentives for electric vehicle charging infrastructure under the Air Resources Board’s Low-Carbon Fuel Standard program. **OPPOSE. Passed the Assembly. Not set for a hearing by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and will not move this year.**

**AB 841 (Ting) Safer Schools and Advancing Electric Vehicle Infrastructure**

This bill would help make the air safer to breathe and the water safer to drink in public schools by using existing state funds to upgrade HVAC and water systems in schools. This bill would also advance electric vehicle infrastructure by requiring the Public Utilities Commission to approve utilities’ charging infrastructure plans that have been proven to benefit ratepayers and the environment. **SUPPORT. Completely amended in Senate to become current bill. Passed the Senate. Passed the Assembly on concurrence. Signed by the Governor.**

**AB 326 (Muratsuchi) Consumer-Friendly Electric Vehicle Subscriptions**

This bill would make it easier for consumers to get into a zero-emission electric vehicle (EV) by creating a subscription-based EV model. This would allow EV manufacturers to lease month-to-month directly to consumers, with low or no down payment. **SUPPORT. Completely amended in the Senate to become current bill. Passed Senate policy and appropriations committees. Failed to pass the Senate floor and will not move this year.**

## Clean and Safe Water for All

### **SB 1056 (Portantino) Safe Drinking Water Methodology**

This bill would increase transparency on chemical contamination, specifically providing a more accurate picture of the pollution by synthetic chemicals like Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and the health risks from the full class of PFAS chemicals by directing the State Water Resources Control Board to validate and certify a method or methods to measure total PFAS in drinking water, groundwater, surface water and wastewater. **SUPPORT. Referred to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality; not set for hearing at request of the author and not moving this year.**

### **SB 1280 (Monning) Protecting Drinking Water in Disadvantaged Communities**

This bill would proactively prevent drinking water contamination in disadvantaged communities by authorizing the State Water Board to mandate drinking water consolidation for small water systems that serve disadvantaged communities, operate with fewer than 500 connections, and are at risk of failure. **SUPPORT. Referred to the Senate Committee on Government and Finance; not set for hearing and not moving this year.**

## Ending Racism and Advancing Equity

### **AB 2054 (Kamlager) Emergency services: community response: grant program.**

This bill would create a pilot program that would take an innovative approach to emergency responses for vulnerable populations in California by strengthening, expanding, and promoting community-based responses to emergency situations. **SUPPORT. Passed the Assembly. Passed the Senate. Passed the Assembly on concurrence. Vetoed by the Governor.**

### **ACA 5 (Weber) Government preferences.**

This proposed constitution amendment would restore affirmative action and advance equity throughout the state by removing Article I, section 31 from the California Constitution subject to approval by voters in the 2020 ballot. **SUPPORT. Passed the Assembly. Passed the Senate. Will be on the November ballot as Proposition 16.**