



For Immediate Release

August 30, 2019

Contact: Kathryn Phillips
Mobile: 916-893-8494

**Important Environmental Protection Bill to Protect California
from Trump's Rollbacks Moves Forward**

Sacramento--Senate Bill 1 (Atkins), a bill that would protect California from the effects of recent and future environmental protection rollbacks by the Trump administration, moved out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee today.

The bill now includes a substantial rewrite of the section addressing endangered species. The Newsom administration asked for those amendments to satisfy concerns about agency workload.

However, the bill retains specific language that will make sure the California Endangered Species Act will apply to the Central Valley Project. That language is essential to protect species on the northern part of the Sacramento River that is part of the Central Valley Project.

Statement from Kathryn Phillips, Director, Sierra Club California:

"Generally, SB 1's endangered species section has been weakened, and that's disappointing. But the bill still provides extremely important needed protections for the rivers that feed into the California Delta, thanks to Senator Atkins' leadership.

"We expect the oil industry, agriculture and the large water districts that serve Big Ag to keep fighting the bill. They have worked for years to kill the federal Endangered Species Act, and have embraced the recent Trump rollbacks.

"Now the bill goes to the Assembly floor. It will test whether the Assembly aligns itself with Trump's backward-looking environmental policies or aligns itself with the best interests of the majority of Californians."

##

Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the 13 Sierra Club chapters in California, representing 500,000 members and supporters statewide.