

Sierra Club California 2023 Priority Bill List (October 16, 2023)

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 2023 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. Bills may be added or removed from this list at any time depending on the circumstances and context of the legislative process.

The priority bills are grouped below by topic area and listed within those by status and house in numerical order. Bills introduced by Assembly members begin with AB and bills introduced by Senators begin with SB. 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.

As the session progresses, we will update this list using a color-coded system. Those bills highlighted in **gray** have failed to pass a key committee or house and are therefore no longer moving. 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**.

Reining in the Fossil Fuel Industry

AB 1167 (Carrillo) Making Dirty Polluters Pay their Fair Share - Support

This bill addresses CA's orphan well crisis by requiring operators that acquire the right to operate an oil well or production facility through purchase, transfer, or other disposition to cover the full remediation costs associated with plugging and abandonment and site restoration determined by the State Oil and Gas Supervisor.

Signed by the Governor.

Protecting Natural Resources

AB 57 (Katra) Growing Urban Pocket Forests - Support

This bill would create a pilot program to establish pocket forests in urban areas, with a focus on disadvantaged and park-poor communities, to increase access to nature and advance California's 30x30 goals.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 337 (Min) Codifying California's 30x30 Conservation Goal - Support

This bill codifies the Governor's 2020 Executive Order to conserve 30% of Lands and Coastal waters by 2030, and builds upon ongoing efforts by the Administration and the Legislature to implement 30x30.

Signed by the Governor.

Promoting Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience

SB 253 (Wiener) Increasing Corporate Transparency - Support

This bill will require publicly traded corporations with annual revenues in excess of \$1 billion that do business in California to publicly disclose their greenhouse gas emissions from the prior calendar year. The bill would also require the Air Resources Board to develop and adopt regulations requiring those large corporations to set emissions targets based on the entity's emissions.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 261 (Stern) Disclosing Climate-Related Financial Risk - Support

This bill will help create a climate-resilient workforce and protect the state's economy by mandating that corporations disclose climate-related financial risks associated with corporate operations, employee health and safety, capital investments, and supply chains.

Signed by the Governor.

Providing Clean and Safe Water for All

SB 3 (Dodd) Reinforcing the Human Right to Water - Support

This bill would strengthen the human right to water for individuals living in smaller communities by expanding water shutoff protections to community water systems that serve as few as 25 people.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 745 (Cortese) Promoting Drought-Resistant Buildings - Support

This bill would advance water efficiency and increase California's resiliency by developing and adopting standards to reduce potable water use by new buildings.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 389 (Allen) Verifying Pre-1914 Water Rights - Support

This bill would close a long-standing loophole and help California water regulators obtain a more accurate evaluation of senior water rights and actual water use in watersheds statewide.

Signed by the Governor.

Reducing Toxics and Pesticides Exposure**AB 363 (Bauer-Kahan) Addressing Pesticide Use - Support**

This bill would expand upon existing agricultural regulations on the use of neonicotinoids, a class of insecticides, to prohibit the use, possession, and sale in outdoor, non-agricultural settings due to their harmful effects on pollinating insects, aquatic ecosystems, and human health.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 246 (Papan) Removing Toxicants from Feminine Hygiene Products - Support

This bill would prohibit the manufacturing and selling of any menstrual products that contain regulated PFAS, also requiring that the least toxic alternative be used when removing regulated PFAS in menstrual products.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 496 (Friedman) Protecting Cosmetic Consumers from Toxic Chemicals - Support

This bill will protect cosmetic consumers from toxic chemicals by adding 26 chemicals to the list of chemicals California has banned in cosmetics.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 652 (Lee) Environmental Justice Oversight of Pesticides - Support

This bill would require the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to establish a Department of Pesticide Regulation Environmental Justice Advisory Committee to increase transparency and accountability on ways to integrate environmental justice considerations for communities with the most significant exposure to pesticides.

Signed by the Governor.

Cutting Waste**AB 1628 (McKinnon) Reducing Microfiber Pollution - Support**

This bill would require that all new residential washing machines sold contain a microfiber filtration system, and failure to do so would be punishable by civil penalty.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 244 (Eggman) Right to Repair Electronics and Appliances - Support

This bill would reduce consumer waste by increasing the ability for independent repair shops and owners of consumer appliances and electronics to repair broken products rather than having to throw them away, starting July 1, 2024.

Signed by the Governor.

Advancing A Just Society**AB 1 (McKinnor) Promoting Healthy Working Conditions - Support**

This bill would allow legislative staff the choice to join a union and collectively bargain for wages, benefits and working conditions.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 421 (Bryan) Reforming California's Referendum Process - Support

This bill will put the referendum process back in the hands of Californians by reforming the referendum and ballot measure process to ensure that key information is disclosed.

Signed by the Governor.

Priority Bills that are No Longer Moving

AB 6 (Friedman) Creating New Transportation Planning Emission Targets - Support

This bill would set 2035 and 2045 greenhouse gas (GHG) emission targets for regional transportation agencies' sustainability plans and would allow the state to tailor regional plans to meet statewide GHG emission goals by extending the review period of these plans to 180 days.

Held in the Senate Transportation Committee.

AB 7 (Friedman) Incorporation Climate Planning in Transportation - Support

This bill would require incorporation of the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) principles into existing guidelines and planning processes at state transportation agencies, as well as consideration of how CalSTA, Caltrans, and CTC are achieving principles outlined in the CAPTI, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, and the federal Justice 40 initiative.

Held on Senate Floor.

AB 66 (Mathis) Shortcutting Permits for New Reservoirs - Oppose

This bill would undermine fundamental planning and environmental review requirements for new dams and reservoir projects by pressuring public agencies to approve permits for certain water storage projects within 180 days of receipt.

Held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

AB 324 (Pacheco) Propping Up Polluting Hydrogen - Oppose

This bill prematurely locks California into a purchasing agreement with hydrogen production facilities without considering the pollution impacts of hydrogen produced from nonrenewable or the appropriate end uses.

Held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan) Reducing Wasteful Water Usage - Support

This bill would increase the State Water Resources Control Board's ability to enforce California's water laws to stop unlawful diversion or use of water.

Held by the Author in the Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee.

AB 538 (Holden) Coordinating a Regional Grid - Oppose

This bill would wed California to a multistate regional transmission organization without providing certainty that doing so would not lead to greater greenhouse gas emissions, more localized air pollution, and tens of thousands of clean energy jobs lost to other states.

Held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

AB 593 (Haney) Decarbonizing the Building Sector - Support

This bill will protect public health and create green construction jobs by requiring the Energy Commission to adopt a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the building sector by Sept. 31, 2024.

Held as a 2-year Bill in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

[AB 610 \(Holden\)](#) Expanding Student Transit Access - Support

This bill will increase the use of transit, decrease vehicle miles traveled, improve public health, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions by creating a program that would provide free transit passes to any students attending public educational institutions and for all Californians under 18 years of age.

Held on the Senate Floor.

[AB 698 \(Essayli\)](#) Keeping Fossil Fuel Infrastructure Online - Oppose

This bill prevents local governments and state agencies from prohibiting the use of polluting gas stoves in residential and non-residential buildings.

Held in the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy.

[AB 841 \(Berman\)](#) - Industrial Heat Electrification Roadmap - Support

This bill would require the creation of an Industrial Heat Electrification Roadmap to reduce emissions from the industrial sector in CA, prioritizing the reduction of air pollution in low-income and environmental justice communities.

Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

[AB 985 \(Arambula\)](#) Investigating Pollution Credit Trading Systems - Support

This bill would require CARB to investigate the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's unsubstantiated emission reduction credits to determine whether they are valid.

Held on the Assembly Floor.

[AB 1000 \(Reyes\)](#) Protecting Communities from Polluting Land Uses - Support

This bill will establish a 1,000 foot setback on warehouse or logistics projects from sensitive receptors such as neighborhoods, schools, healthcare facilities, and playgrounds. The bill would allow these projects to be sited 750 feet away from sensitive receptors if the project meets a set of environmental and public health standards.

Held in the Assembly Committee on Local Government.

[AB 1250 \(Friedman\)](#) - Expansion of Low Carbon Concrete Use - Support

This bill will require Caltrans to report on the carbon footprint of concrete and asphalt used in their operations, and low-carbon alternatives, and develop model language that would address the emissions of these materials in bid specifications.

Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

[AB 1337 \(Wicks\)](#) Addressing Inequity in Water Access During Droughts - Support

This bill would address inequities in water rights regulation and allow the State Water Resources Control Board to issue a curtailment order for any water diversion when there is insufficient water supply to meet their priority of right.

Held in the Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee.

[AB 1372 \(Alvarez\)](#) Undermining Zero Emission Truck Regulations - Oppose

This bill would prevent the California Air Resources Board from enforcing the Advanced Clean Truck Regulation, halting the transition to zero-emission trucks weighing over 8,500 pounds and operating at land ports of entry along the California-Mexico border.

Held in the Assembly Committee on Transportation.

[SB 23 \(Caballero\)](#) Avoiding Permitting Requirements for Water Infrastructure - Oppose

This bill would limit the state's ability to prevent infrastructure development that is harmful to the environment by allowing developers to rush the approval process of water infrastructure projects through the State Water Resources Control Board.

Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

[SB 233 \(Skinner\)](#) Unlocking Grid Reliability via EVs - Support

This bill would aid in grid reliability by authorizing CARB to require that new EVs sold in California are capable of bidirectional charging so that EV batteries have the ability to power homes or other facilities when electricity demand is at its peak and prices are high.

Held On the Assembly Floor.

[SB 252 \(Gonzalez\)](#) Advancing Fossil Fuel Divestment - Support

This bill would prohibit the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) and the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) from investing in fossil fuel companies, and require that they divest any current investments by 2030.

Held in the Assembly Committee on Public Employment and Retirement.

[SB 438 \(Caballero\)](#) Protecting Californians from Irresponsible CCUS Buildout - Oppose

This bill weakens the state's guardrails surrounding carbon capture, use, and storage (CCUS) by adding potential loopholes for prohibited Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR).

Held by the Author in the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources.

[SB 499 \(Menjivar\)](#) Advancing Extreme Heat Mitigation Measures in Schools - Support

This bill will protect children from high temperatures in schools and reduce urban heat islands by requiring school sites to replace heat-absorbing infrastructure with cool pavement technologies, including natural grass, shrubs, trees, wood chips, and other natural systems.

Held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

[SB 556 \(Gonzalez\)](#) Holding Big Oil Accountable - Support

This bill creates a presumption of liability against oil and gas operators for individuals that develop asthma, reproductive abnormalities, and cancer within the evidence-based health and safety buffer zone.

Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

[SB 674 \(Gonzalez\)](#) Monitoring Air Pollution in Environmental Justice Communities - Support

This bill will contribute to refinery-related emission reductions in environmental justice communities by requiring fence-line (perimeter) air quality monitoring for additional refinery-related operations and the installation of a refinery-related community air monitoring system near overburdened communities.

Held on the Assembly Floor.

[SB 861 \(Dahle\)](#) Steamrolling CEQA for New Dams - Oppose

This bill would weaken the California Environmental Quality Act by requiring proceedings brought against the environmental impact report prepared for five of the water infrastructure projects proposed to be funded by Proposition 1 to be resolved by courts within 270 days of filing.

Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.