

Sierra Club California Legislative Priority List 2021 (March 11, 2021)

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 2021 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**.

Reducing Oil and Gas Dependence

[AB 896 \(Bennett\)](#) Idle Gas and Oil Well Remediation

This bill Will authorize California Geologic Energy Management Division ("CalGEM") to impose a claim or lien on an idle well if the operator has failed to pay idle well fees, if CalGEM has identified the well as unsafe, or if the state has incurred costs for remediating the well. This will provide an important tool to help motivate oil companies to obey the law. **Support**

[SB 47 \(Limon\)](#) Remediating Deserted Wells

This bill will allow CalGEM to spend up to \$10 million a year on plugging and abandoning deserted oil wells and retain unspent funds up to \$100 million. This will help ensure that deserted wells are properly dealt with without delay. **Support**

[AB 1463 \(O'Donnell\)](#) Low Carbon Fuel Standard Loophole

This bill will further promote the use of polluting methane gas by requiring the Air Resources Board to award Low Carbon Fuel Standard credits to crude oil production facilities that use methane gas on site. **Oppose**.

[SB 84 \(Hurtado\)](#) Hazardous and Idle-Deserted Wells and Production Facilities

By adding in legally ambiguous language into the law, this bill will delay CalGEM's cost recovery process for remediating wells and make it difficult for the agency to hold solvent fossil fuel companies responsible for remediating wells that they previously operated. **Oppose.**

[SB 467 \(Wiener\)](#) Fracking Ban and Health-Protective Setbacks

This bill will improve public health and environmental quality by banning all forms of enhanced oil recovery ("EOR"), such as hydraulic fracking and cyclic steam injection, and by requiring the state to develop health-protective setbacks from oil and gas extraction operations. **Support.**

Protecting Environmental Review

[SB 59 \(Caballero\)](#) Extension of CEQA Exemption for Cannabis

This bill will provide the cannabis industry an extension for an environmentally harmful exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act. **Oppose.**

Protecting California's Lands, Coast, Ocean and Wildlife

[AB 434 \(Rivas\)](#) Expansion of Grazing on Public Lands

This bill will threaten ecosystems by expanding grazing on public lands without providing sufficient oversight. **Oppose.**

[SB 1 \(Atkins\)](#) Coastal Resources: Sea Level Rise

This bill will protect coastal communities from sea level rise by requiring the coastal commission to adopt guidelines for the mitigation of sea level rise. **Support.**

[SB 627 \(Bates\)](#) Streamlining Unnatural Sea Walls

This bill will 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.**

[SB 799 \(Glazer\)](#) Protecting Tesla Park from Off-Highway Vehicles

This bill will require the Department of Parks and Recreation to protect Tesla Park and its extraordinary biodiversity from repeated attempts to turn the area into an Off-Highway Vehicle park. **Support.**

Advancing Zero-Emission Electricity

[AB 1078 \(Patterson\)](#) Rooftop Solar Exemption

This bill will lead to less resilient communities and delay California's work towards 100% clean energy by exempting homes being rebuilt after natural disasters from the roof-top solar requirement. **Oppose.**

[SB 345 \(Becker\)](#) Electricity: Non-Energy Benefits

This bill will encourage the adoption of clean, distributed energy resources by requiring the Public Utilities Commission to establish common definitions of non-energy benefits (such as greenhouse gas emission reductions or clean air benefits) and incorporate non-energy benefits into distributed energy resource programs. **Support.**

Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience

[AB 585 \(L Rivas\)](#) Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program

This bill will make communities more resilient in the face of the climate crisis by establishing the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program to plan resiliency projects and award grants for their implementation. **Support.**

[AB 1365 \(Bonta\)](#) & [SB 596 \(Becker\)](#) Working Towards Cleaner Concrete

These bills will move California's state agencies and public universities towards cleaner concrete procurement by adding concrete to Buy Clean (AB 1365) and by developing a strategy to reduce the carbon intensity of concrete used in the state (SB 596). **Support.**

[SB 30](#), [SB 31](#) & [SB 32](#) (Cortese) Building Decarbonization

These bills will combat climate change and protect the public from negative health impacts associated with the combustion of methane gas by working towards electrifying new and existing buildings. **Support.**

[SB 260 \(Wiener\)](#) Climate Corporate Accountability Act

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. **Support.**

Advancing Clean Transportation

[AB 96 \(O'Donnell\)](#) Incentives for Methane Gas Vehicles

This bill will increase air pollution from the use of polluting methane gas vehicles by requiring the Air Resources Board to earmark 20% of funds that are intended to reduce heavy-duty vehicle emissions for methane gas vehicles, thus reducing the amount available for zero-emission heavy-duty vehicle purchases. **Oppose.**

[SB 500 \(Min\)](#) Zero Emission Autonomous Vehicles

This bill will ensure that as autonomous vehicles (AVs) are developed, they do not contribute to criteria or greenhouse gas pollution by setting a date after which all AVs must be zero-emission vehicles. **Support.**

Clean and Safe Water for All

[SB 222 & SB 223 \(Dodd\)](#) **Discontinuation of Residential Water Service**

These two bills will help preserve and provide access to affordable water for all Californians. SB 222 would establish a long-needed framework for a statewide water affordability assistance program. And SB 223 strengthens and extends inadequate existing water shutoff and bill repayment protocols and procedures to better protect all low-income California households that may face or have already experienced water service disconnections due to the water customer's inability to pay their water bill. **Support.**

[AB 377 \(Rivas\)](#) **California Clean Water Act**

This bill will reinvigorate the original intent of the federal Clean Water Act adopted nearly 50 years ago and put California on track to restore its waters by 2050 by establishing a three-prong framework to improve water quality in California waters. **Support.**

Advancing Equity and Social Justice

[AB 25 \(Kiley\)](#) **Repealing Labor Protections**

This bill will repeal AB 5 (Gonzalez, 2019) which prevented corporations from misclassifying California employees as independent contractors to avoid providing them with strong worker protections guaranteed to employees under California law. **Oppose.**

[AB 338 \(Ramos\)](#) **Honoring Native Americans in Construction of New Capitol Annex**

This bill will help ensure that monuments recognizing Native Americans in California will be included in, and monuments recognizing a historic figure who oppressed indigenous people in California will be excluded from, the new capitol annex and Capitol grounds. **Support.**

[AB 616 \(Stone\)](#) **Agricultural Labor Relations Voting Choice Act**

This bill will make it easier for farmworkers to vote for or against union representation by allowing farmworkers to vote by mail or by dropping off their ballot at the Agricultural Labor Relations Board Office. **Support.**

[AB 1099 \(Rivas\)](#) **State Funding: Environmental Equity**

This bill will ensure that state funds that are intended to improve air and water quality, protect natural resources, increase the availability of affordable housing, improve transportation, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions are distributed in a way that ensures environmental equity. **Support.**

[SB 62 \(Durazo\)](#) **Ending Exploitation of Garment Workers**

This bill will end the exploitation of garment workers by ending the practice of "piece-rate" pay which allows employers to pay workers less than minimum wage and has resulted in tens of millions of dollars of wage theft. **Support.**

Reducing Toxics Exposure

[AB 567 \(Bauer-Kahan\)](#) Pesticides: Neonicotinoids: Prohibited Use

This bill will prohibit the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. These pesticides are dangerous to public health and the environment and have been linked to the decline of honeybee populations.

Support.

Cutting Plastic Waste

[AB 622 \(Friedman\)](#) & [AB 802 \(Bloom\)](#) Combating Microfiber Pollution

These bills will protect public health and the environment from plastic microfibers that are released when certain clothes are washed. They will require manufacturers to include microfiber filtration systems in commercial and residential washing machines. **Support.**

[AB 1276 \(Carillo\)](#) Reduce Unnecessary Food Serviceware

This bill will reduce plastic waste by prohibiting restaurants and food delivery platforms from providing customers with single-use food accessories unless requested by the customer or necessary to protect public health. **Support.**

[SB 343 \(Allen\)](#) Truth in Labeling for Recyclable Materials

This bill will reduce consumer confusion about which plastics are recyclable in California by building on California's "Truth in Environmental Advertising" law. This law prohibits the use of the word "recyclable" on products that are not and this bill extends the prohibition to also include the chasing-arrow symbol, which most consumers believe denotes recyclability. **Support.**

[AB 881 \(Gonzalez\)](#) Recycling Export Reform

This bill would close the loophole in California law that enables exported mixed plastic waste to be deemed recycled even when it is landfilled, burned, dumped, or otherwise improperly managed. This would increase transparency and accountability for California's waste management to ensure recycling truly means recycling into new products. **Support.**

[AB 962 \(Kamlager\)](#) Returnable Beverage Bottles

This bill will pave the way for returnable beverage bottle systems in California by allowing returnable ("refillable") bottles to flow through the state's Beverage Container Recycling Program. **Support.**

**[SB 54 \(Allen, Wiener, Gonzalez, Ting, Kamlager, Stern, Muratsuchi\)](#) Plastic Pollution
Producer Responsibility Act**

This bill requires producers to reduce disposables by right-sizing packaging and shifting to reusables where possible. It also sets ambitious recycling and composting requirements for the material that does enter the state, requiring all disposable packaging and food serviceware to be truly recyclable or compostable by 2032. **Support.**

[AB 818 \(Bloom\)](#) Wipes

Requires certain pre-moistened nonwoven disposable wipes to be labeled with the phrase “Do Not Flush” and prevents them from making flushable claims. **Support.**

[AB 1201 \(Ting\)](#) Compost

This bill bans the sale of plastic products that are labeled “compostable” unless it meets specified standards and criteria. **Support.**