

Sierra Club California 2022 Legislative Priority List (September 1, 2022)

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 2022 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.

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 status and house in numerical order. Bills introduced by Assembly members begin with AB and bills introduced by Senators begin with SB. 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**.

Reigning in the Fossil Fuel Industry

SB 1314 (Limón) Addressing Harmful Practices - Support

This bill would address the fossil fuel industries harmful practices by prohibiting enhanced oil recovery using captured carbon.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

SB 1137 (Gonzalez) Health Protection Zones for Frontline Communities - Support

This bill would protect the public health of California's frontline communities by creating a science-based minimum health and safety distance of 3,200-feet between oil and gas wells and "sensitive receptors," such as homes, schools, childcare facilities, playgrounds, hospitals, and nursing homes.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

Defending Environmental Review and Protecting Natural Resources

AB 522 (Fong) Extending Timber Harvesting Plan Exemption - Oppose

This bill would potentially harm forest ecosystems by extending a Timber Harvesting Plan exemption that allows large numbers of trees to be cut down and removed without sufficient environmental review, public engagement, or agency oversight.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

SB 846 (Dodd) Diablo Canyon powerplant: extension of operations. - Oppose

This bill would renege on a settlement negotiated by environmental and labor organizations to close down Diablo Canyon nuclear powerplant in 2025 by giving \$1.4 billion to PG&E, waiving CEQA, allowing the use of ecologically irresponsible once-through-cooling technology through 2030, and reducing key regulatory oversight all to extend the life of Diablo Canyon at ratepayer and taxpayer expense.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

Advancing Zero-Emission Electricity

AB 1078 (Patterson) Rooftop Solar Exemption - Oppose

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.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

SB 1109 (Caballero) Propping Up Biomass Incinerators - Oppose

This bill would continue to prop up dirty and expensive biomass incinerators without providing any public benefit by extending the BioRAM program.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

Promoting Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience

[AB 2278 \(Kalra\)](#) Conserving 30% of Lands and Coastal Waters - Support

This bill would require the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency to report to the Legislature on the progress toward achieving the goal of conserving 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

[SB 1078 \(Allen\)](#) Financing Sea Level Rise Resilience - Support

This bill seeks to address climate crisis coastal impacts by establishing a revolving fund to provide local governments with a new and badly needed financing option to address sea level rise. This bill specifically focuses on low-income communities, communities of color, tribal communities, and other disproportionately affected communities and populations who bear the brunt of impacts from climate change as a priority.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

Furthering Clean Transportation

[SB 1010 \(Skinner\)](#) Zero Emission Public Vehicles - Support

This bill will reduce carbon and criteria emissions from California's agencies by Requiring the Department of General Services to develop criteria to evaluate bidders for commercial rental car service contracts based in part on the number of ZEVs in their rental car fleet.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

[AB 1919 \(Holden\)](#) Youth Transit Passes - 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 for all Californians under 25 years of age.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

[AB 2438 \(Friedman\)](#) Aligning Transportation Programs with Climate Goals - Support

This bill would align the state's transportation programs with its climate goals by requiring various state transportation programs to incorporate strategies from the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) into the program guidelines.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

Providing Clean and Safe Water for All

[AB 2108 \(Rivas\)](#) Ensuring Environmental Justice in Water Policy - Support

This bill would improve consideration of environmental justice in state water decisions by requiring the State Water Board to analyze environmental justice, tribal impact and racial equity considerations when adopting water quality control plans and policies.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

[SB 222 \(Dodd\)](#) Water Ratepayer Assistance Program - Support

This bill would establish a long-needed framework for a statewide water affordability assistance program.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

Reducing Toxics Exposure**[AB 1817 \(Ting\)](#) - Reducing PFAS Exposure - Support**

This bill would address PFAS exposure by phasing out toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in new clothes and textiles sold in California.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

[AB 2146 \(Bauer Kahan\)](#) Addressing Pesticide Use - Support

This bill would fill an existing void in the regulation of neonicotinoid pesticides (neonics) by banning non-agricultural uses of the top five neonics.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

Cutting Waste**[AB 2784 \(Ting\)](#) Thermoform Minimum Content- Support**

This bill would set a minimum recycled content requirements for plastic thermoform food containers (i.e. berry boxes) and establish minimum recycled content using a phased approach – starting at 10% and eventually reaching 30% and set penalties for manufacturers that do not meet the requirements.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

[AB 1857 \(Garcia\)](#) Ends Diversion Credits for Incineration - Support

This bill will remove the diversion credit for municipal solid waste incinerators and redefine incineration as disposal. This will disincentivize the use of dirty incinerators and incentivize composting and recycling.

Moves to the Governor's Desk.

Priority Bills that are No Longer Moving

AB 2201 (Bennett) Community Drinking Water Protection Act - Support

This bill would prohibit a local agency in high or medium priority basins from approving a permit for construction of a new groundwater well unless the GSA determines it would be consistent with the applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

Failed to Pass the Assembly Floor.

SB 260 (Wiener) Climate Corporate Accountability Act - 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.

Failed to Pass the Assembly Floor.

AB 2133 (Quirk) Increasing Near-Term Climate Ambition

This bill would reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the near term by increasing the state's GHG reduction target from 40% below 1990 levels in 2030 to 55%.

Failed to Pass the Assembly Floor.

SB 396 (Bradford) Utility Tree Removal Without Proper Oversight or Landowner Input - Oppose

This bill would negatively impact California's forest ecosystems in contradiction to the state's 30x30 and carbon sequestration goals by significantly expanding utilities' ability to cut down trees around powerlines without sufficient environmental or landowner protections.

Moved to the Inactive File.

SB 1173 (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.

Passed Senate. Died in the Assembly Committee on Public Employment and Retirement.

SB 1423 (Stern) Closing Loopholes in the Coastal Act - Support

This bill will close an existing loophole in the California Coastal Act for oil and gas operations, and clarify that new oil wells and fossil fuel infrastructure in the Coastal Zone must be reviewed by the Coastal Commission consistent with all other development projects.

Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

[SB 881 \(Min\)](#) Load-serving entities: integrated resource plans. - Support

This bill will clarify that in addition to planning, the CPUC's IRP process should also ensure that utilities follow through with their IRP commitments. This bill would provide greater clarity that the CPUC shall require utilities to undertake sufficient procurement to meet the electricity sector's global warming emissions reduction target. This bill will also ensure that if utilities fail to meet their IRP requirements, then the CPUC can assess penalties and authorize another entity to satisfy unmet procurement needs.

Held in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

[SB 1026 \(Wieckowski\)](#) Energy Efficiency Transparency for Tenants - Support

This bill would require landlords to disclose the energy efficiency of units to potential renters. It would also allow the renter to request the annual cost of utilities from the unit's electricity provider.

Held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

[SB 1393 \(Archuleta\)](#) Restricting Building Electrification Efforts - Removed Opposition - Neutral

A previous version of this bill would have inhibited cities' ability to reduce greenhouse gas and NOx emissions by adding burdensome requirements for the adoption of local building codes that require the replacement of fossil fueled appliances with zero emission electric ones. Amendments clarify that cities have full ability to make the best decisions for their communities.

Held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

[SB 890 \(Nielsen\)](#) Giveaway for Water Storage Projects - Oppose

This bill would promote the public funding of environmentally destructive water projects by putting taxpayer dollars into a state fund for these projects.

Died in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

[SB 1219 \(Hurtado\)](#) Promoting Water Mismanagement - Oppose

This bill would require the State to convene a committee made up of Agency and legislative appointments to develop a "strategic vision" for California water policy. This bill creates additional processes, at taxpayer expense that would further delay urgently needed reforms to protect safe drinking water, endangered species, and the environment.

Pulled from Assembly Committee on Water Parks and Wildlife.

[AB 2419 \(Bryan\)](#) Ensuring Equity in Investments - Support

This bill would ensure that federal climate and infrastructure investments will advance California's goals to promote equity, environmental justice, and a high-road economy through targeted investments to disadvantaged and low-income communities.

Held in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

[AB 2053 \(Lee\)](#) The Social Housing Act - Support

This bill would address California's affordable housing crisis by advancing sustainably-built social housing using a mixed-income model.

Held in the Senate Committee on Governance and Finance.

[AB 1939 \(Rivas\)](#) Promoting Climate Literacy - Support

This bill would advance climate literacy by making climate change a course requirement and graduation requirement for our future leaders.

Passed Assembly. Died in the Senate Committee on Education.

[AB 1724 \(Stone\)](#) Combating Microfiber Pollution - Support

This bill would require all new and state-owned washing machines to require microfiber filters on or before 2024. This bill will help curb microfiber pollution, one of the most common types of microplastic pollution globally.

Held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

[AB 267 \(Valladares\)](#) CEQA Exemption Extension for Tree Removal - Removed Opposition - Neutral

This bill would extend a California Environmental Quality Act exemption for wildfire-related, landscape-scale projects (including tree removal projects) on federal lands which have undergone weaker environmental review under the National Environmental Protection Act. The bill was amended in the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality to require that environmental impacts be mitigated or avoided.

Passed the Senate Committee on Appropriations. Moves to the Senate Floor.