

Sierra Club California Legislative Webinar

How we defend the environment at the state level





SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA

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Sierra Club

We are the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country! The only organization with a nationwide presence from Alaska to Puerto Rico.

Nationwide Sierra Club has over 3 million members and supporters

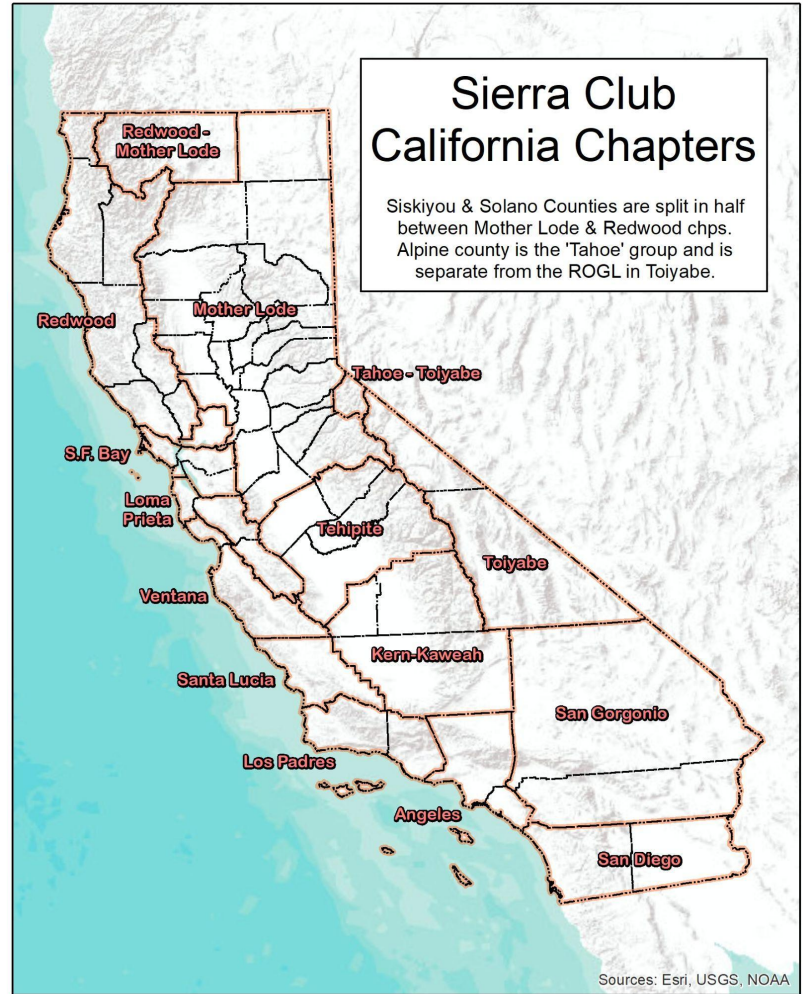


California has over 500,000 members and supporters

Each state is a chapter except CA - we have 13 Chapters!



Sierra Club CA is our voice in the Capitol for all CA chapters

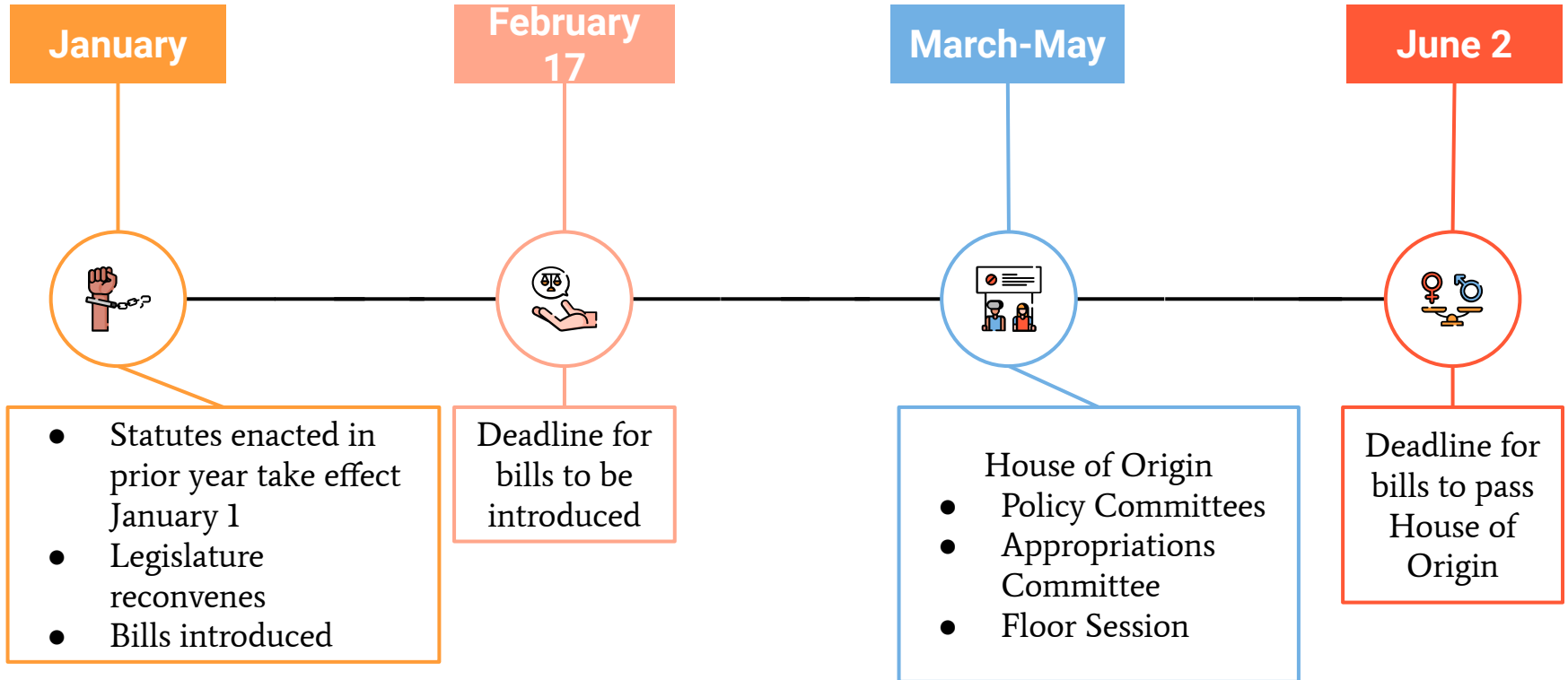


Staff

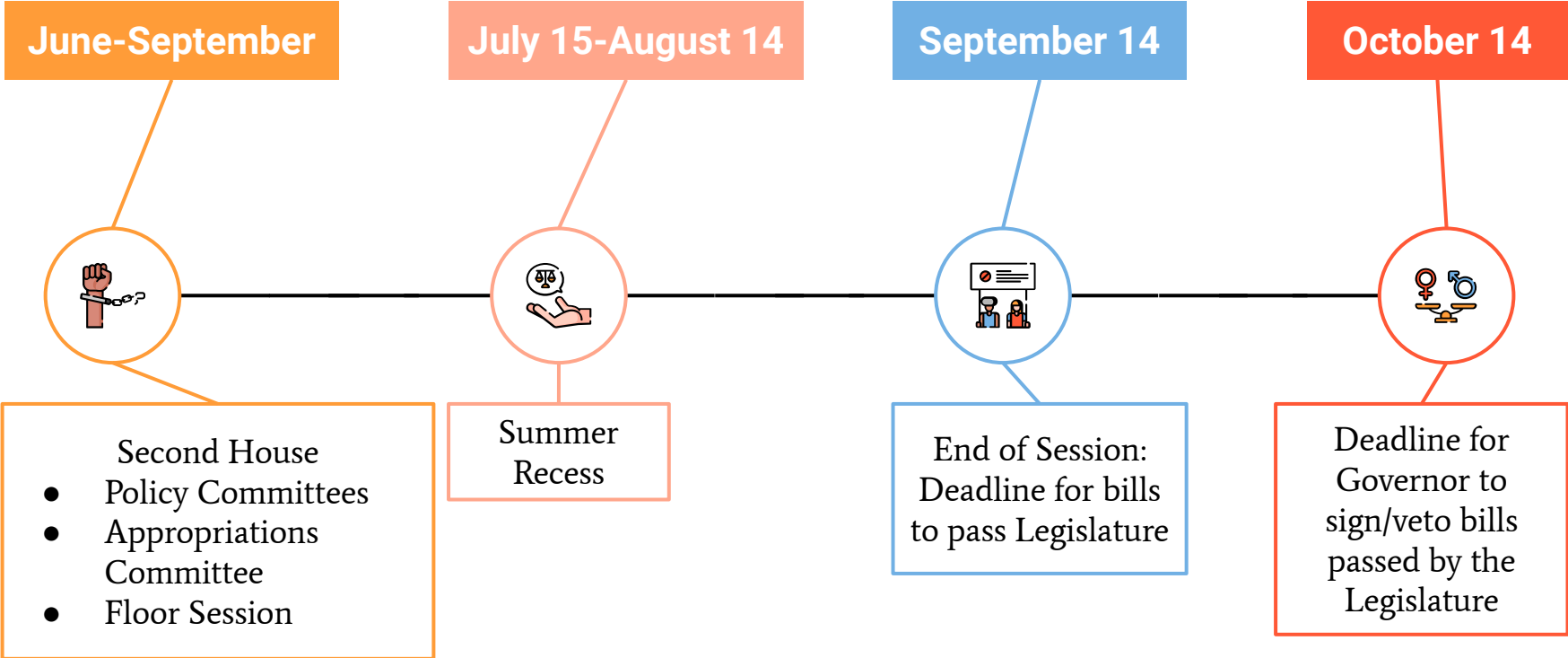


Left to right: Michael Blenner, Brandon Dawson, redacted, Molly Culton, Geraldine Alava, Erin Woolley, Caty Wagner, Sakereh Carter

Legislative Timeline



Legislative Timeline Cont.



Bill Introduction

January - February

Bill is introduced by the legislator

Bill is Not Referred
Bill Dies

Bill is Referred to Committee

Policy Committees

- Bills are
 - Referred to committees by topic (e.g., oil and gas bills tend to be reviewed by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee)
 - Typically referred to several policy committees as they move through the legislature
- Lists of Committees can be found at the following sites
 - State Assembly
 - <https://www.assembly.ca.gov/committees>
 - State Senate
 - <https://www.senate.ca.gov/committees>



Bill Committee Vote

March - May

Leadership refers the bill to a committee

Bill is not referred to a committee. **BILL DIES**

Bill is assigned to a committee for review



The committee releases the legislative analysis!

Bill is scheduled for public hearing by committee chairperson

Legislative Bill Analysis

March - May

AB 1676
Page 1

Date of Hearing: April 25, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Luz Rivas, Chair
AB 1676 (Grayson) – As Amended April 18, 2022

SUBJECT: Pipeline safety: carbon dioxide

SUMMARY: Adds carbon dioxide (CO₂), compressed to a supercritical state, to the substances included in the Elder California Pipeline Safety Act of 1981 (Elder Act), giving the Office of the State Fire Marshall (OSFM) exclusive jurisdiction to regulate intrastate pipeline transportation of CO₂ under the existing provisions of the Elder Act, which currently applies to petroleum and other hazardous liquids.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Pursuant to the Elder Act:
 - a) Grants the OSFM exclusive safety, regulatory, and enforcement authority over intrastate hazardous liquid pipelines. (Government Code § 51010)
 - b) Defines “pipeline” for the purposes of the Elder Act as every intrastate pipeline used for the transportation of hazardous liquid substances or highly volatile liquid substances; and does not include an interstate pipeline subject to federal regulations, a pipeline that transports hazardous substances in a gaseous state, and other specified exclusions. (Government Code § 51010.5)

Step 1: Go to
<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

Step 2: Search for the Bill

Bill Search	Text Search	Advanced Search	
Bill Number:	<input type="text" value="AB 1676"/>	Session Year:	<input type="text" value="2021 - 2022"/>
House:	<input type="text" value="Both"/>	Author:	<input type="text" value="All"/>
Statute Year:	<input type="text"/>	Code:	<input type="text" value="All"/>
Chapter Number:	<input type="text"/>	Code Section:	<input type="text"/>

Step 3: Click on Bill Analysis

AB-1676 Pipeline safety: carbon dioxide. (2021-2022)

Text	Votes	History	Bill Analysis	Today's Law As Amended ⓘ	Co
Bill Analysis					
04/22/22- Assembly Natural Resources					
04/05/22- Assembly Committee On Utilities And Energy					

Bill Committee Vote

March - May

Leadership refers the bill to a committee

Bill is not referred to a committee. **BILL DIES**

Bill is assigned to a committee for review

Bill is scheduled for public hearing by committee chairperson

Bill is not scheduled for public hearing by committee chairperson. **BILL DIES.**

Bill is brought to a vote by the committee and **ADVANCES OR DIES**

Bill is tabled for a future vote by the committee

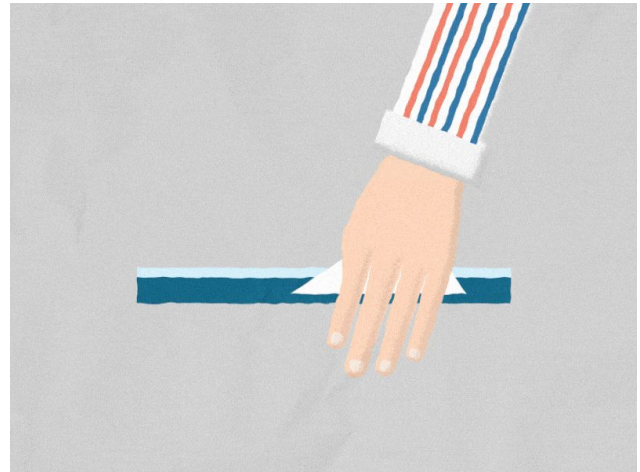
Appropriations Committees

- The appropriations committees in the Senate and Assembly review bills that have a fiscal impact
- Bills are reviewed in appropriations after the policy committee reviewal process

REVIEW
TIME!

End of the House of Origin (First House) - Floor Session

- Second reading
 - After the bill has passed Policy Committees and Appropriations
- Third reading
 - The bill author can present the bill for a vote
 - Most bills need majority vote to pass (41 in the Assembly, 21 in the Senate)
 - Urgency and Appropriation bills require $\frac{2}{3}$ vote to pass (54 in the Assembly, 27 in the Senate)
 - Votes: Yes, No, Abstain
- A bill may be voted on at any time after it has successfully moved through the applicable committees but most bills are voted on during the last week before the deadline to pass that house, which are reserved for floor sessions



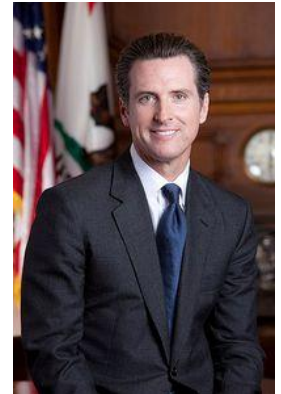
Second House

- When a Bill passes the First House - the process repeats in the Second House
 - Policy Committees
 - Appropriations
 - Floor Vote
- Bills Amended in the Second House go back to the House of Origin for another vote to concur in the amendments
 - Ex. A bill is introduced in the Senate, successfully moves through the Senate, then is amended in the Assembly. After it passes the Assembly (with amendments) it will go back to the Senate floor to be voted on in its amended form.
 - A bill that fails to pass the concurrence vote may go to conference committee

By October 14

Governor

- Final Step
- After bills successfully pass BOTH houses of the legislature
- Governor has 30 days after the legislative deadline to either: sign, approve without signing, or veto a bill.
 - If the Governor vetoes a bill, it will typically be accompanied by a veto message - or explanation of the reasons for vetoing a bill
 - A veto can be overridden by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of BOTH houses in the legislature
- Sierra Club CA staff submit letters to the Governor on bills with arguments in favor or against bills
- Bills that are approved by the Governor go into effect January 1 of the following year



Budget

- Governor's Budget Proposal is due to the Legislature by January 10th
- Budget Committees meet and review the budget bill
 - Senate and Assembly have their own budget committees and subcommittees
 - Senate: Environmental Protection and Energy
 - Assembly: Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy and Transportation
- Governor Announces Revised Budget by **May 14th**
- Differences are worked out between Senate, Assembly, and the Governor
- **June 15** - Deadline for Budget to Pass the Legislature
 - The legislature may pass a budget bill, but leave certain details to be determined in future bills
- Budget Trailer Bills



How Sierra Club California Takes Positions on Bills

- Advocates analyze 500+ bills each year that are related to the environment
 - Advocates consult a number of resources when analyzing bills: we take into account Sierra Club national policy positions, California Conservation Committee resolutions, positioning of key allies, equity concerns, experts in our issue committees, and political context
- Advocates recommend support, oppose, or neutral positions to the California Legislative Committee who approves *all* positions
 - The Legislative Committee is composed of Sierra Club members who are experts in certain issue areas
- California Legislative Committee also approves the how high of a priority each bill is to the Sierra Club's mission
 - This prioritization allows us to work the hardest on the bills that will have the largest impact on the environment



How Sierra Club California Advocates in the Capitol

- Once positions are finalized, Advocates begin to advocate
- What does advocacy look like in the Capitol?
 - Write support or oppose letters for every bill we have taken a position on
 - Meet with legislators and their staff to argue for or against bills
 - Meet with committee staff to argue for or against bills
 - Meet with the Governor's office to convince the Governor to sign or veto legislation that makes it to his desk



Promoting Our Legislative Efforts

- The communications team at Sierra Club California works to ensure our members and the general public are aware of our legislative efforts
 - You the audience member are probably well informed about the issues, but a lot of our members/supporters aren't as keyed in to specific areas of policies



- At key points in the Legislative process, we publicize these efforts through action/advocacy alerts and social media
- You can also find updates on bills/priority policies in our newsletters (Capitol Voice, Letter from Sacramento, Newsom News Now)
 - These communications will often contain longer form updates on broader issues that span multiple months/years

How YOU Help Us Win for the Environment

- Member action is one of the most important forces we use to lobby legislators
- Get involved to help us strengthen our advocacy for the environment and ensure legislators have to listen to us environmentalists
 - Call your local elected official, send in a comment, or promote an op-ed
 - Any effort you can spare makes a difference to us and to the legislators we lobby
- The fact that our members act on these alerts at a high rate is what give us power and forces legislators to listen!
 - The more comments we send in, the more calls a legislator gets, the more they prioritize an issue



In-District Lobbying

- In-District Lobbying is one of the most effective ways to volunteer and influence environmental policy
- 6 keys to In-District Lobbying
 - Know who your legislators are
 - Get on their mailing list
 - Go to virtual/in-person meetings
 - Meet in district
 - Be coordinated
 - Be prepared
 - Be Polite
 - Report back to Sierra Club California staff advocates
 - Say thank you
- Learn more and join us for our next In-District Lobbying workshop here: [In-District Advocacy](#)





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