

Sierra Club California Legislative Priority List 2017

(April 14, 2017)

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 and that we encourage our members to bring to the attention of their legislators. Below is the Sierra Club California list of priority bills in 2017 with our position and each bill's status as of the date above. This list is updated periodically. It is *not* a complete list of all the bills we take a position on or lobby. [For the latest status on bills and their location in the legislative process, go to leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov).

The 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 highlighted in **yellow** have been held or killed in a committee or on the Senate or Assembly floor. Those that have been passed through the legislature and are awaiting action by the governor are highlighted in **aqua**, and those signed by the governor to become law have been highlighted in **green**. Those highlighted in **red** have been vetoed by the governor.

Tackling Climate and Air Pollution

AB 262 (Bonta) Public contracts: lowest responsible bidder: eligible materials

The State of California spends more than \$10 billion a year—on average—on infrastructure construction and repair. This bill would set up a system that requires the state to take into consideration climate pollution created during manufacture when it buys certain materials used in construction. This would acknowledge clean manufacturers and motivate dirty manufacturers to clean up their act to be competitive in bids for state construction contracts. **Support.**

AB 476 (Gipson) Vehicular air pollution

This bill would change a definition regarding vehicle weights in an effort to make methane gas-fueled heavy-duty trucks eligible for funds the legislature has set aside to provide incentives for zero-emission trucks and buses. **Oppose.**

Guarding California's Bedrock Environmental Disclosure Law: CEQA

AB 239 (Ridley-Thomas) California Environmental Quality Act: urbanized areas

This bill would allow more housing projects to bypass environmental review in unincorporated county areas, despite those projects contributing to environmental impacts. **Oppose.**

AB 1117 (Fong) California Environmental Quality Act

This bill would gut environmental review protections that organizations and groups use to make sure environmental impacts of new projects are reduced or avoided. **Oppose.**

SB 35 (Wiener) Planning and zoning: affordable housing: streamlined approval process

Adopts “by-right” housing development for much of California, without public processes to allow for people to weigh in on development around them, and without CEQA analysis. This will allow for large development to occur without identification, disclosure, or mitigation of environmental impacts. **Oppose.**

SB 224 (Jackson) California Environmental Quality Act: baseline conditions

This bill closes a loophole in CEQA that allows developers to illegally work on a project before approval and avoid mitigating any environmental impacts of that work. **Support.**

Meeting Housing Demands**SB 2 (Atkins) Building Homes and Jobs Act**

This bill will create a fee on recording of certain documents and use that money to provide affordable, infill housing. **Support.**

Advancing Renewable Energy**AB 1030 (Ting) Energy storage systems**

This bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to establish a program to incentivize residential and commercial customers to adopt energy storage systems. **Support.**

AB 1414 (Friedman) Solar energy systems: permits

This bill would continue to require a cap on permit fees associated with residential and commercial photovoltaic solar power installations indefinitely, lower the existing permit fee cap from \$500 to \$350 for residential installations, and protect solar thermal and ground-mounted photovoltaic installations from unchecked permitting fees. **Support.**

SB 57 (Stern) Natural gas storage: moratorium

This bill would continue the moratorium at Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility until a comprehensive review of the safety of the gas storage wells at the facility is completed and until a specified root cause analysis of the natural gas leak has been completed and released in its entirety to the public. **Support.**

SB 71 (Wiener) Electricity: solar energy systems

This bill would require the installation of either solar heating or solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on all new construction subject to the existing Title 24 “solar ready” regulations. **Support.**

SB 520 (Mitchell) Electricity: intervenor funding

This bill would help preserve California’s commitment to clean energy, a low carbon grid, and reasonable customer rates by supporting the ability of California-based nonprofits to participate at the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). **Support.**

SB 692 (Allen) Transmission: access charge

This bill directs the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) to stop misapplying transmission access charges (TAC) to local energy, therefore making distributed generation of renewables more attractive. **Support.**

Protecting California's Wildlife, Natural Areas and Parks**AB 425 (Caballero) Timber harvesting plans: exemptions**

For several years, the logging industry has attempted to loosen timber harvest rules through a series of incremental bills. This latest in that series would allow "temporary roads" to be developed (and clearcut) without the benefit of inspection and oversight required by timber harvest rules. **Oppose.**

SB 5 (de León) California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018.

If passed, this bill would allow voters to consider a \$3 billion bond measure to fund various drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection and outdoor access programs. This bill requires a two-thirds vote to pass in each house. **Support.**

SB 249 (Allen) Off-highway motor vehicle recreation

This bill would establish a number of needed reforms of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Act of 2003 to better protect the state's parks, natural resources, air and water quality. **Support.**

Resisting Federal Rollbacks**SB 49 (de León) California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act of 2017**

This bill protects California from federal rollbacks in vital environmental, public health, and worker safety protections, and ensures that California maintains existing protections. **Support.**

SB 50 (Allen) Federal public lands: conveyances

This bill would establish a new policy to discourage conveyance of federal land to private developers for resource extraction and directs the State Lands Commission to establish a right of first refusal by the state of any federal land proposed for sale to other parties. **Support.**

SB 51 (Jackson) Professional licensees: environmental sciences and climate change: whistleblower and data protection

This bill would require the Secretary for Environmental Protection to ensure that all scientific information and other data otherwise in the public domain is protected against censorship or destruction by the federal government. It also provides whistle-blower protections. **Support.**

Regulating Dangerous Pesticides

SB 602 (Allen) Pesticides: neonicotinoids: labeling

Pesticides called neonicotinoids have been identified as among the causes for dramatic declines in bee populations. This bill would place a label with text and a logo on all seeds and plants sold by retailers that have been pre-treated with neonicotinoids, indicating the potential of the product to harm bees. **Support.**

Rebooting California's Water System for Sustainability

AB 313 (Gray) Water

This bill moves much of the State Water Resources Control Board, which regulates water, to the Department of Water Resources, which focuses on exporting water from the Delta and building dams. This bill also seeks to stop the Water Board from working to provide water instream for fish and water quality. **Oppose.**

AB 554 (Cunningham) Desalination: statewide goal

This bill requires the state to set an aspirational goal to procure desalinated water, including ocean desalination. Ocean desalination degrades the coast by harming ecosystems when water is taken into the plant, and when brine is discharged. It also is energy-intensive, and extremely expensive to ratepayers. **Oppose.**

AB 975 (Friedman) Natural resources: wild and scenic rivers.

Protects California's system of Wild and Scenic Rivers by aligning the state law to the Federal law. This will prevent Congress and the President from removing protections from our rivers and streams. **Support.**

AB 1180 (Holden) California tire fee: Stormwater Permit Compliance Fund

Increases an existing fee on tire purchases by \$3.25 to provide funding to capture and clean up stormwater in urban areas, which can carry pollution into waterways. **Support**

AB 1369 (Gray) Water quality and storage

This bill diverts money intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions into building new, environmentally damaging dams throughout the state. **Oppose.**

AB 1669 (Friedman) Urban Water Use Efficiency

This bill will require the State Water Resources Control Board and Department of Water Resources to set new targets for local agencies to reduce water use. **Support.**

AB 1605 (Caballero) Maximum contaminant levels: nitrate: replacement water

This bill gives nitrate polluters a free pass by preventing those who have had their water polluted from being able to sue the polluters. Polluters only have to do minimal mitigation efforts to avoid court, which fails to get them to stop polluting, or help communities get the water they deserve. **Oppose.**

SB 780 (Wiener) Water Conservation in Landscaping Act

Updates the State's Model Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance to focus on climate-appropriate plants, stopping stormwater runoff, reducing pesticides, and promoting healthier soils. **Support.**

SCA 4 (Hertzberg) Water conservation

Amends the California Constitution to allow for easier adoption of conservation-based water rates at local agencies. Also allows for lifeline rates to be provided to low-income families so that everyone can afford to access water for drinking and sanitation. **Support.**