

## State Coastal Conservancy

### May 5, 2020 Legislative Report

The legislature is on recess until May 4 due to Covid-19. Hearings on bills introduced in the 2020 legislative session are postponed until session resumes. It is likely some or all of the bills listed in this report will be held in committee as the Governor and legislature prioritize crafting the state's response to the current health and economic crises.

#### [AB 2518](#)

##### ***(Wood, D) Voluntary stream restoration landowner liability***

Location: Assembly Water Parks & Wildlife Committee. Hearing postponed.

This bill would exempt a private landowner who voluntarily allows land to be used for a project to restore fish and wildlife habitat from civil liability for property damage or personal injury resulting from the project if the project is funded, at least in part, by a state or federal agency unless the damage is caused by willful, intentional, or reckless conduct by the landowner or by a design, construction, operation, or maintenance activity performed by the landowner.

#### [AB 2519](#)

##### ***(Wood, D) Conservation projects: grants: advance payments***

Location: Assembly Water Parks & Wildlife Committee. Hearing postponed.

This bill would require the Resources Agency, Coastal Conservancy, and the State Water Resources Control Board, when awarding grants for conservation projects, to provide an advance payment of up to 25% of the total grant award if requested by a grant recipient.

#### [AB 2619](#)

##### ***(Stone, D) Coastal resources: Program for Coastal Resilience, Adaptation, Access***

Location: Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Hearing postponed.

This bill would establish the Program for Coastal Resilience, Adaptation, and Access for the purpose of funding sea level rise and climate change projects. It would create a program fund and would authorize the Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy and other state agencies to spend monies for these projects when appropriated by the legislature.

#### [AB 3200](#)

##### ***(Friedman, D) State Coastal Conservancy: report: Lower Cost Accommodations Program***

Location: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

This bill would require SCC to report on the agency's progress in implementing the Lower Cost Coastal Accommodations Program.

#### [SB 587](#)

##### ***(Monning, D) California Sea Otter Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund***

Location: Assembly Desk

This bill would rename the California Sea Otter Fund the California Sea Otter Voluntary Contribution Fund and extends its sunset date until January 1, 2028. The measure also resets the minimum contribution amount from its current inflation-adjusted amount of \$304,948 in 2019 back to \$250,000 for 2020.

[SB 1027](#)

***(Stern, D) Specialized License Plates: The Endless Summer***

Location: Senate Transportation Committee

This bill would require the State Coastal Conservancy to apply to the DMV to sponsor “The Endless Summer” specialized license plate for a conservancy awareness program, as specified, and would require the DMV, in consultation with SCC, to design the license plate, including a surfer design associated with the movie “The Endless Summer” and the slogan “The Endless Summer”.

[SB 1100](#)

***(Atkins, D) Coastal resources: sea level rise***

Location: Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. Hearing postponed.

This bill would require the Coastal Commission to address the effect of sea level rise in coastal resource planning and management policies and activities. The bill would also require state and regional agencies to identify, assess, and, to the extent feasible and consistent with their statutory authorities, minimize and mitigate sea level rise impacts.

[SB 1296](#)

***(Durazo, D) Natural resources: Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency Act of 2020***

Location: Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee. Hearing postponed.

This bill would establish the Act, which would require state conservancies Wildlife Conservation Board, and Resources Agency to establish independent grant programs to support climate resiliency projects that incorporate partnerships with non-profit organizations that provide certifications and placement services for jobs and careers in the natural resources field.

[SB 1301](#)

***(Hueso, D) San Diego River Conservancy: Tijuana River Valley: bi-national watershed management plan***

Location: Senate Rules Committee

The bill would require the conservancy to work with the State Water Resources Control Board, SCC, and CalEPA to create a bi-national watershed management plan for the Tijuana River Valley.

## **Climate Bonds**

There currently are two climate resilience bond bills: SB 45 and AB 3256.

SB 45 (Allen, D) would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by voters at the November 3, 2020 general election, would authorize issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5.5 billion for bill purposes. The bill currently allocates \$900 million to SCC: \$100m for purposes of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority; \$700 million for Division 21 purposes; and \$100 million for water projects including dam removal. AB 3256 (Garcia, D) is a spot bill, though drafting of amendments had been underway and readied for print prior to the current legislative recess.

It appears likely the legislature and Governor will shelve these bills in favor of a comprehensive economic stimulus/infrastructure bond to address the impacts of the state’s Covid-19 crisis. No details are available at this time.