

DATE: March 21, 2016
TO: RMC Governing Board
FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Item 7A: Executive Officer's Report- Legislation and Initiatives

For full text and history of bills and initiatives, visit these web sites:

Federal Bills: <https://www.congress.gov>
State Bills: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

STATE LEGISLATION
Current as of 3/2/16

The following are legislative bills that have been introduced by the Senate and Assembly representatives.

[AB 1866](#)

(Wilk R) High-speed rail bond proceeds: redirection: water projects.

Introduced: 2/10/2016

Status: 2/25/2016-Referred to Coms. on TRANS. and W., P., & W.

Location: 2/25/2016-A. TRANS.

Summary: Would provide that no further bonds shall be sold for high-speed rail purposes pursuant to the Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century, except as specifically provided with respect to an existing appropriation for high-speed rail purposes for early improvement projects in the Phase 1 blended system. The bill, subject to the above exception, would require redirection of the unspent proceeds received from outstanding bonds issued and sold for other high-speed rail purposes prior to the effective date of these provisions, upon appropriation, for use in retiring the debt incurred from the issuance and sale of those outstanding bonds.

[AB 2444](#)

(Garcia, Eduardo D) California Water Quality, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access Improvement Act of 2016.

Introduced: 2/19/2016

Status: 2/22/2016-Read first time.

Location: 2/19/2016-A. PRINT

Summary: Would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact the California Water Quality, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access Improvement Act of 2016, which would authorize the issuance of bonds to finance a water quality, coastal protection, and outdoor access improvement program. Also referred to as a parks bond.

[AB 2534](#)

(Nazarian D) Los Angeles River.

Introduced: 2/19/2016

Status: 2/22/2016-Read first time.

Location: 2/19/2016-A. PRINT

Summary: Would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to promote the revitalization of the Los Angeles River.

[AB 2651](#)

(Gomez D) Greenway easements.

Introduced: 2/19/2016

Status: 2/22/2016-Read first time.

Location: 2/19/2016-A. PRINT

Summary: Would require a greenway to incorporate an array of amenities only within an urbanized area, as defined. The bill would include easements created for the purpose of preserving greenways adjacent to urban waterways as greenway easements. The bill would require greenway easements created for the purpose of developing greenways to be consistent with restoration efforts undertaken at the adjacent urban waterways at the time of the creation of the easement. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[AB 2722](#)

(Burke D) Transformative Climate Communities Program.

Introduced: 2/19/2016

Status: 2/22/2016-Read first time.

Location: 2/19/2016-A. PRINT

Summary: Would create the Transformative Climate Communities Program, to be administered by the Strategic Growth Council. The bill would appropriate \$250,000,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to the council to administer the program. The bill would require the council, in coordination with the California Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs, to award competitive grants to specified eligible entities for transformative climate community plans in disadvantaged communities, as defined.

[AB 2796](#)

(Low D) Active Transportation Program.

Introduced: 2/19/2016

Status: 2/22/2016-Read first time.

Location: 2/19/2016-A. PRINT

Summary: Current law creates the Active Transportation Program in the Department of Transportation for the purpose of encouraging increased use of active modes of transportation. Current law requires the California Transportation Commission to award 50% and 10% of available funds to projects statewide and to projects in small urban and rural regions, respectively, with the remaining 40% of available funds to be awarded to projects by metropolitan planning organizations, with the funds available for distribution by each metropolitan planning organization based on its relative population. This bill would require a minimum of 5% of available funds in each of the 3 distribution categories to be awarded for planning and community engagement for active transportation in disadvantaged communities.

[SB 163](#)

(Hertzberg D) Wastewater treatment: recycled water.

Introduced: 2/4/2015

Status: 9/11/2015-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(14). (Last location was RLS. on 9/8/2015)

Location: 9/11/2015-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Would declare that the discharge of treated wastewater from ocean outfalls, except in compliance with the bill's provisions, is a waste and unreasonable use of water in light of the cost-effective opportunities to recycle this water for further beneficial use. This bill, on or before January 1, 2026, would require a wastewater treatment facility discharging through an ocean outfall to achieve at least 50% reuse of the facility's actual annual flow, as defined, for beneficial purposes.

SB 919

(Hertzberg D) Water supply: creation or augmentation of local water supplies.

Introduced: 1/27/2016

Status: 2/4/2016-Referred to Coms. on E., U., & C. and N.R. & W.

Location: 2/4/2016-S. E. U., & C.

Summary: Would require the Public Utilities Commission, before July 1, 2017, in consultation with the Independent System Operator, to adopt and implement policies or tariffs to address the oversupply of renewable energy resources, including, but not limited to, a tariff for use by facilities that create or augment local water supplies, like desalination, brackish water desalting, water recycling, or water reuse facilities, based on certain economic factors. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 1294

(Pavley D) The California Community Climate, Drought, and Jobs Resiliency Act.

Introduced: 2/19/2016

Status: 2/22/2016-From printer. May be acted upon on or after March 23. Read first time.

Location: 2/19/2016-S. PRINT

Summary: Would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to award grants to local conservation corps certified by the California Conservation Corps for projects that improve the climate and drought resiliency of urban canopies, community landscaping, and urban greening efforts through the use of various water conservation methods, including the application of compost and mulch.

SB 1374

(Lara D) Lower Los Angeles River.

Introduced: 2/19/2016

Status: 2/22/2016-From printer. May be acted upon on or after March 23. Read first time.

Location: 2/19/2016-S. PRINT

Summary: Would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would preserve open space, promote recreational opportunities, and create watershed improvements along the Lower Los Angeles River.

AB 530 (Rendon): Lower LA River Working Group-Signed into Law by Governor Brown on October 9, 2015

Existing law provides for the protection, enhancement, and restoration of rivers in this state. Existing law establishes the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the purpose of, among others, providing for the public's enjoyment and enhancement of recreational and education experiences on public lands in the San Gabriel Watershed and Lower Los Angeles River. This bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to appoint, in coordination with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, a local working group to develop a revitalization plan for the Lower Los Angeles River, called the **Lower Los Angeles River Working Group**.

The bill would specify a prescribed membership for the working group, including, among others, representatives from the County of Los Angeles, and elected officials of the cities riparian to the Los Angeles River. The bill would require, by March 1, 2017, the working group to develop, through watershed-based planning methods, a revitalization plan that addresses the unique and diverse needs of the Lower Los Angeles River, that is consistent with, enhances, and is incorporated into the County of Los Angeles's Master Plan, and that includes watershed education programs. By imposing additional duties on local officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to provide any necessary staffing to assist the working group.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 10/9/2015
LAST HIST. ACTION: Signed by Governor Brown

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

The Obama administration February 4 reiterated its long-standing request for full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), making the request even before the fiscal 2017 budget came out. The administration echoed its recommendation of the last three years that Congress take a bifurcated approach to putting up the \$900 million per year it said the program deserves.

Under the recommendation for fiscal 2017 about half of the \$900 million would come from regular appropriations, or \$475 million, and about half of it would come from new legislation to guarantee money for the program each year without an appropriation, or \$425 million. For the following fiscal year and beyond the administration would have all money guaranteed outside an appropriations bill.

The plan was announced February 4 by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Interior for Policy Kris Sarri and Under Secretary of Agriculture Robert Bonnie. They emphasized the economic benefits rendered by LWCF.

“When we talk about investing in our future, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is one of the most effective programs there is, with conservation and recreation projects serving as a big boon to local economies, bolstering tourism and supporting jobs,” they said in a joint statement. “For every \$1 invested through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, there is an estimated return of \$4 in local economic activity. This is not only good for our nation, environment and people, it’s also a good return on investment.”