

DATE: May 23, 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 5/16/16

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.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 04/12/2016
LAST HIST. ACTION: In committee: Set, first hearing. Failed passage. Reconsideration granted.
COMM. LOCATION: ASM TRANSPORTATION

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 LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 04/27/2016

LAST HIST. ACTION: Re-referred to Com. on Appropriations
COMM. LOCATION: ASM APPROPRIATIONS
HEARING DATE: 05/18/2016

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 park bond.**

[AB 2534 \(Nazarian D\)](#) Los Angeles River.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 05/04/2016
LAST HIST. ACTION: In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR suspense file.
COMM. LOCATION: ASM APPROPRIATIONS

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.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 05/12/2016
 LAST HIST. ACTION: Referred to Com. on GOV. & F.
 COMM. LOCATION: ASM WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 04/21/2016
 LAST HIST. ACTION: Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
 COMM. LOCATION: ASM APPROPRIATIONS
 HEARING DATE: 05/18/2016

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 1550 (Gomez) Greenhouse gases: investment plan: disadvantaged communities.

Summary: The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases. The act requires the board to adopt greenhouse gas emission limits and emission reduction measures by regulation, and authorizes the state board to include the use of market-based compliance mechanisms to comply with the regulations. Existing law requires all moneys, except for fines and penalties, collected by the state board as part of a market-based compliance mechanism to be deposited in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and to be available upon appropriation. Existing law requires the Department of Finance, in consultation with the state board and any other relevant state agency, to develop, as specified, a 3-year investment plan for the moneys deposited in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Existing law requires the investment plan to allocate a minimum of 25% of the available moneys in the fund to projects that provide benefits to disadvantaged communities and a minimum of 10% to projects located in disadvantaged communities. Existing law provides that the allocation of 10% for projects located in disadvantaged communities may be used for projects included in the minimum allocation of 25% for projects that provide benefits to disadvantaged communities. This bill would instead require the investment plan to allocate a minimum of 25% of the available moneys in the fund to projects located within, and benefitting individuals living in, disadvantaged communities and a separate and additional unspecified percentage to projects that benefit low-income households, as specified, with a fair share of those moneys targeting households with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 05/11/2016
 LAST HIST. ACTION: In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file.
 COMM. LOCATION: ASM APPROPRIATIONS

AB 2796(Low D) Active Transportation Program.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 04/27/2016
 LAST HIST. ACTION: In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file.
 COMM. LOCATION: ASM APPROPRIATIONS

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.

COMM. LOCATION: SEN APPROPRIATIONS
 COMM. ACTION DATE: 05/28/2015
 COMM. ACTION: Do pass as amended.
 COMM. VOTE SUMMARY: Ayes: 05 Noes: 02 PASS

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.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 05/10/2016
 LAST HIST. ACTION : In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.
 COMM. LOCATION : SEN APPROPRIATIONS

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.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 05/09/2016
 LAST HIST. ACTION : May 9 hearing: Placed on APPR. suspense file.
 COMM. LOCATION : SEN APPROPRIATIONS

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.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 05/04/2016

LAST HIST. ACTION: May 9 set for second hearing canceled at the request of author.

COMM. LOCATION: SEN APPROPRIATIONS

HEARING DATE: 05/23/2016

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

S.1894 - California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2015: Senator Dianne Feinstein

Unveiling her third proposal in the past two years for ways to divide California's water supply among many competing interests, Feinstein packaged her [latest 184-page measure](#) as a reasonable compromise that draws the best from past Capitol Hill efforts. The bill eases limits on water transfers south of the Delta, but does not mandate specific pumping levels. It authorizes \$1.3 billion for desalination, water recycling, storage and grants.

It compels completion of feasibility studies for storage projects like Temperance Flat on the San Joaquin River. The money provided includes \$600 million for projects that could include constructing [Temperance Flat Dam](#) on the San Joaquin River above Millerton Lake or Sites Reservoir in the Sacramento Valley, and raising the height of Shasta Dam. The bill also cites “additional storage” at New Melones Reservoir on the Stanislaus River and creates a program to remove non-native predator fish from the Stanislaus River.

Sponsor : Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

Introduced: July 29, 2015

Committees: Senate- Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: 10/8/2015 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearing Held.

HR 2489 (Walters) WRRDA Clarification

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 promotes our Nation’s competitiveness, prosperity, and economic growth by upholding the seminal federal responsibility to maintain a strong transportation infrastructure and ensure the efficient flow of domestic and international commerce. Through WRRDA, Congress authorizes the key missions of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, including developing, maintaining, and supporting the Nation’s economically vital waterway infrastructure and supporting effective and targeted flood protection and environmental restoration needs. WRRDA also provides Congress the opportunity to make much needed policy reforms, strengthen oversight, cut red tape, reduce bureaucracy, and open the door to innovation and stronger partnerships that will improve infrastructure development.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 is one of the most policy and reform focused measures of its kind in the last two decades. WRRDA streamlines the project delivery process, promotes fiscal responsibility, and strengthens our water transportation networks to promote competitiveness, prosperity, and economic growth. WRRDA contains no earmarks and makes major reforms to increase transparency, accountability, and Congressional oversight in reviewing and prioritizing future water resources development activities.

Source: <http://transportation.house.gov/uploadedfiles/wrrdabookletpostconflowres.pdf>