

DATE: September 26, 2016
TO: RMC Governing Board
FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Item 8A: 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 9/8/16

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

[AB 197 \(Garcia, Eduardo D\)](#) State Air Resources Board: greenhouse gases: regulations.

Introduced: 1/28/2015

Status: 8/24/2016-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 5:45 p.m.

Location: 8/24/2016-A. ENROLLED

Summary: Current law establishes the State Air Resources Board consisting of 14 members and vests the state board with regulatory jurisdiction over air quality issues. This bill would add 2 Members of the Legislature to the state board as ex officio, nonvoting members. The bill would provide that the voting members of the state board are appointed for staggered 6-year terms and upon expiration of the term of office of a voting member, the appointing authority may reappoint that member to a new term of office, subject to specified requirements. The bill would require the state board to establish the initial staggered terms.

[AB 1550 \(Gomez D\)](#) Greenhouse gases: investment plan: disadvantaged communities.

Introduced: 1/4/2016

Status: 8/31/2016-In Assembly. Concurrence in Senate amendments pending. Assembly Rule 63 suspended. Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.

Location: 8/31/2016-A. ENROLLMENT

Summary: Current law requires the Department of Finance, in consultation with the State Air Resources 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. This bill would require the investment plan to allocate (1) a minimum of 25% of the available moneys in the fund to projects located within, and benefiting individuals living in, disadvantaged communities, (2) an additional minimum of 5% to projects that benefit low-income households or to projects located within, and benefiting individuals living in, low-income communities located anywhere in the state, and (3) an additional minimum of 5% either to projects that benefit low-income households that are outside of, but within a 1/2 mile of, disadvantaged communities, or to projects located within the boundaries of, and benefiting individuals living in, low-income communities that are outside of, but within a 1/2 mile of, disadvantaged communities.

[AB 2444 \(Garcia, Eduardo D\)](#) California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018.

Introduced: 2/19/2016

Status: 8/31/2016-Failed Deadline pursuant to Joint Rule 61(b)(17). (Last location was RLS. on 8/22/2016)

Location: 8/31/2016-S. DEAD

Summary: Under current law, programs have been established pursuant to bond acts for, among other things, the development and enhancement of state and local parks and recreational facilities. This bill would enact the California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$3,497,500,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a parks, water, climate, and coastal protection and outdoor access for all program. This bill contains other related provisions.

See the attached AB 2444 Park/Resources Proposed Funding Breakdown. Items specific to the RMC are highlighted in yellow.

[AB 2651 \(Gomez D\)](#) Greenway easements.

Introduced: 2/19/2016

Status: 8/30/2016-Urgency clause adopted. Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.

Location: 8/30/2016-A. ENROLLMENT

Summary: The Greenway Development and Sustainment Act defines various terms for purposes of the act, including "greenway," to mean certain types of travel corridors that, among other requirements, incorporate an array of amenities for users of the corridor and nearby communities, and "greenway easement," to mean a limitation in a deed, will, or other instrument for the purpose of developing greenways adjacent to urban waterways. The act provides that a recorded greenway easement constitutes an enforceable restriction for purposes of certain property tax provisions. This bill would instead require a greenway to incorporate an array of amenities only within an urbanized area, as defined.

[AB 2722 \(Burke D\)](#) Transformative Climate Communities Program.

Introduced: 2/19/2016

Status: 8/31/2016-In Assembly. Concurrence in Senate amendments pending. Assembly Rule 63 suspended. Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.

Location: 8/31/2016-A. ENROLLMENT

Summary: Would create the Transformative Climate Communities Program, to be administered by the Strategic Growth Council. The bill would require the council to award competitive grants to specified eligible entities for the development and implementation of neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans that include greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects that provide local economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities, as defined. The bill would require the council to develop guidelines and selection criteria for the implementation of the program.

[AB 2534](#)

[\(Nazarian D\)](#) Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy: working group: Los Angeles River Greenway.

Introduced: 2/19/2016

Status: 8/12/2016-Failed Deadline pursuant to Joint Rule 61(b)(14). (Last location was APPR. on 8/11/2016)

Location: 8/12/2016-S. SUSPENDED

Summary: Would require the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to establish the Los Angeles River San Fernando Valley Regional Access and Economic Sustainability Working Group to evaluate and make recommendations for conservancy action pertaining to public access and business integration needs, opportunities, and constraints in areas along and in the vicinity of the Los Angeles River in the San Fernando Valley, as prescribed.

SB 32 (Pavley D) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: emissions limit.

Introduced: 12/1/2014

Status: 8/26/2016-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 12:30 p.m.

Location: 8/26/2016-S. ENROLLED

Summary: Would require the State Air Resources Board to ensure that statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to 40% below the 1990 level by 2030. This bill contains other related provisions.

SB 859 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) Public resources: greenhouse emissions and biomass.

Introduced: 1/7/2016

Status: 8/31/2016-Assembly amendments concurred in. (Ayes 25. Noes 11.) Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.

Location: 8/31/2016-S. ENROLLMENT

Summary: The Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995 requires the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to convene a 5-member Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming, as prescribed, for the purpose of providing advice and assistance to federal, state, and local government agencies on issues relating to air, water, and wildlife habitat, as specified. Current law authorizes the panel to establish ad hoc committees to assist the panel in performing its functions. This bill would increase the number of members on the panel from 5 to 9 members and would require that the secretary appoint 5 instead of 3 of these members, the Secretary for Environmental Protection appoint 2 instead of one of these members, and the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency appoint 2 instead of one of these members, as prescribed.

SB 1374 (Lara D) The Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District.

Introduced: 2/19/2016

Status: 8/30/2016-Assembly amendments concurred in. (Ayes 29. Noes 7.) Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.

Location: 8/30/2016-S. ENROLLMENT

Summary: Would specifically authorize the establishment of the Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District, by petition or resolution submitted to the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission before January 1, 2019, subject to specified current laws governing recreation and park districts, including their formation, except as provided. The bill would authorize specified city councils and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to appoint the initial board of directors of the district.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

HR 5303 (Shuster) Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016

S 2848 (Inhofe) WRDA of 2016

Obama naming major new monuments in Maine and Hawaii in August 2016

President Obama designated an 87,500-acre North Woods national monument in Maine. In addition, Obama will expand fourfold an ocean monument off Hawaii named Papahānaumokuākea. Obama has now designated a record 24 national monuments, and more may be in the pipeline. **Hawaii Monument expansion:** In June Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) asked Obama to expand fourfold the Papahānaumokuākea monument to incorporate 582,578 square miles of ocean, or 60 percent of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around Hawaii. On August 26 Obama said he would do just that next week.

President George W. Bush designated the Papahānaumokuākea monument in 2006. Now the White House said the monument must be expanded to keep up with science. “Since (2006), new scientific exploration and research has revealed new species and deep sea habitats as well as important ecological connections between the existing monument and the adjacent waters,” the White House said.

These designations are in addition to 3 National Monuments designated in California this year.

Mojave Trails National Monument - Spanning 1.6 million acres, including 400,000 acres of previously congressionally-designated Wilderness, the Mojave Trails National Monument is comprised of a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows, and spectacular sand dunes. The monument will protect irreplaceable historic resources including ancient Native American trading routes, World War II-era training camps, and the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66. Additionally, the area has been a focus of study and research for decades, including geological research and ecological studies on the effects of climate change and land management practices on ecological communities and wildlife.

Sand to Snow National Monument - Encompassing 154,000 acres, including just over 100,000 acres of already congressionally-designated Wilderness, Sand to Snow National Monument is an ecological and cultural treasure and one of the most biodiverse areas in southern California, supporting more than 240 species of birds and 12 threatened and endangered wildlife species. Home to the region’s tallest alpine mountain that rises from the floor of the Sonoran Desert, the monument also will protect sacred, archaeological and cultural sites, including an estimated 1,700 Native American petroglyphs. Featuring 30 miles of the world famous Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, the area is a favorite for camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing, and even skiing.

Castle Mountains National Monument - The Castle Mountains National Monument is an integral piece of the Mojave Desert with important natural resources and historic sites, including Native American archeological sites. The 20,920-acre monument will serve as a critical connection between two mountain ranges, protecting water resources, plants, and wildlife such as golden eagles, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, and bobcats.

National Park System Centennial Legislation

Congress probably won't be able to wrap up legislation before the November 8, 2016 elections that would help improve the National Park System on its Centennial, but it may be able to complete the job in a lame-duck session in November/December. The first order of business before an election recess is a House-Senate conference committee on an omnibus energy bill (S 2012); the Senate version of the bill includes a modest Centennial provision.

Although the House version of S 2012 does not address the Centennial, supporters of the National Park System are hopeful the House will approve a stand-alone Centennial bill (HR 4680) in early September. That could set the stage for House-Senate conferees to include a Centennial provision in S 2012.

NPS gets Centennial encomiums, but brickbats are hurled

Everyone from the President on down had praise for the National Park System last week on its Centennial. President Obama chose August 25th, the day before the official 100th birthday, to designate a North Woods monument in Maine to mark the occasion. That is the 413th unit in the National Park System. On designating a Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, the White House specifically tied the monument to the Centennial. "The Centennial inspires reflection on the history of America's iconic landscapes and historical and cultural sites, as well as an opportunity to look forward toward the next century of conservation and historic preservation," the White House said. NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis made the same point. "I can't think of a better way to celebrate the Centennial and underscore our mission than by adding this extraordinary piece of Maine's North Woods to the National Park System, and sharing its stories and world class recreation opportunities with the rest of the world," he said.

