

SB 960

Senate Bill 960 introduces transformative changes to transportation planning in California by emphasizing the development of complete streets facilities, including pedestrian, bicycle, and transit priority infrastructure. The bill mandates that state highway projects funded by the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) incorporate these facilities, setting specific performance targets to ensure their inclusion. By prioritizing sustainable transportation options, the bill aligns with California's environmental and climate goals while addressing safety concerns and equitable access for underserved communities.

The bill also requires the adoption of a transit policy to improve public transit on state highways, aiming for faster, more reliable services. With new guidelines and performance measures, SB 960 supports the development of a more efficient and inclusive transportation system, encouraging the use of transit, walking, and biking as healthier, more sustainable alternatives to car travel.

AB 1963

Assembly Bill 1963 aims to address the use of the toxic pesticide paraquat dichloride by prohibiting its use, sale, and distribution in California starting January 1, 2026. The bill mandates that the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) complete a reevaluation of the pesticide, after which the department may either cancel or suspend the registration of products containing paraquat dichloride or impose restrictions to mitigate its harmful effects. The bill focuses on protecting environmental and public health from the significant dangers posed by this chemical, which is known for its toxicity and has been linked to severe health risks.

By introducing these prohibitions, AB 1963 supports the transition towards safer agricultural practices and contributes to the broader movement for pesticide regulation reform, reflecting California's commitment to environmental sustainability and public health safety.

AB 3233

Assembly Bill 3233 empowers local governments in California to impose restrictions or prohibitions on oil and gas operations within their jurisdictions. This bill enables cities and counties to pass ordinances that can limit or ban oil and gas development, even if those operations are otherwise approved by the State Oil and Gas Supervisor. These restrictions may focus on the methods used, the location of the operations, and the potential environmental or public health impacts, allowing local entities to make decisions that align with the specific needs of their communities.

Additionally, AB 3233 requires that if oil and gas operations are limited or prohibited by a local government, operators must comply with existing rules regarding well abandonment, decommissioning, and related environmental safety measures. This legislation emphasizes

protecting public health and the environment by granting local authorities more control over oil and gas activities.

AB 2716

Assembly Bill 2716 targets low-production oil and gas wells located near sensitive receptors, enhancing environmental protections in these areas. The bill requires the identification of wells producing fewer than 15 barrels of oil or 60,000 cubic feet of gas per day within 3,200 feet of sensitive areas like schools and homes. Starting July 1, 2026, any low-production well located near sensitive receptors can only operate for a maximum of 24 months. Violators will face a daily penalty of \$10,000 until the well is plugged and abandoned, and penalties will be deposited into the Oil and Gas Environmental Remediation Account.

The legislation aims to reduce the risks posed by low-production wells, often associated with environmental hazards, particularly in vulnerable communities. It reflects a commitment to addressing the environmental and health impacts of oil and gas extraction, promoting safer practices for both people and the environment.

SB 1221

Senate Bill 1221 focuses on advancing California's Equitable Building Decarbonization Program. The bill requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to submit annual reports, starting September 1, 2024, detailing the progress of the direct install program, which promotes the installation of energy-efficient electric appliances, air conditioning systems, and other low-carbon building technologies. The reports will provide transparency by documenting the number of residents and buildings served, the types of projects implemented, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions across different regions.

This bill supports California's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint while prioritizing equitable access to energy-efficient solutions, especially in priority neighborhood decarbonization zones.

AB 2875

Assembly Bill 2875 strengthens California's commitment to wetland preservation by establishing a state policy of "no net loss" and promoting long-term gains in wetlands acreage and quality. The bill emphasizes the ecological importance of wetlands, including their role in flood protection, water filtration, wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration. It also highlights the significant loss of wetlands in California due to historical development and coastal destruction, which has reduced wetlands to a fraction of their original size.

In response to recent federal rulings that reduced protections for certain wetlands under the Clean Water Act, AB 2875 reaffirms California's authority to independently protect its wetlands through the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. This bill aims to safeguard and restore

these critical ecosystems, ensuring resilience against climate change and continued biodiversity conservation.

AB 1866

Assembly Bill 1866 addresses the issue of idle oil and gas wells in California by strengthening regulations to ensure their proper management and eventual elimination. The bill requires operators to submit a plan by July 1, 2025, detailing the management and elimination of idle wells, prioritizing wells that may pose environmental risks or are located near sensitive receptors. Operators are required to eliminate a higher percentage of idle wells each year, increasing from the previous 4-6% to 10-20%, depending on the number of wells under their control.

Additionally, AB 1866 increases penalties for operators who fail to comply with the plan, imposing fines equivalent to the cost of plugging the wells. The bill also mandates that operators restore well sites to a natural state or prepare them for alternative uses. This legislation reflects California's continued efforts to mitigate environmental risks posed by idle wells and to ensure proper well abandonment procedures are followed.

AB 805

Assembly Bill 805 focuses on improving sewer services for disadvantaged communities in California. The bill authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to consolidate sewer services along with drinking water systems when both services are provided by the receiving and subsumed systems. This consolidation aims to ensure that disadvantaged communities have access to adequate and safe drinking water and reliable sewer services.

The bill mandates extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders, including local agencies and water systems, and requires outreach efforts to gauge community support before ordering any consolidation. It also provides for the appointment of administrators to manage the services and ensure compliance with safe water regulations.

AB 2599

Assembly Bill 2599 amends regulations related to public beaches and water service in California. The bill allows health officers to use microbiological contamination test results from other parties when testing waters after untreated sewage releases to ensure public safety. It also reinforces immediate closures of public beach waters following such releases until the water meets safety standards.

In addition, AB 2599 clarifies the Attorney General's ability to restore real property or money acquired unlawfully under the Water Shutoff Protection Act, ensuring that public water systems do not gain any new authorities beyond what is provided by law.

AB 2522

Assembly Bill 2522 introduces changes to the compensation structure for members of air district governing boards across California, including the South Coast, San Diego County, Bay Area, and Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management Districts. The bill raises the daily compensation for board members to \$200, with a monthly cap of \$2,000. It also allows for annual adjustments, enabling compensation increases of up to 5% per year or 10% starting in 2025, based on inflation.

By modernizing the compensation structure, AB 2522 aims to ensure that board members are fairly compensated for their oversight and decision-making roles in air quality management. This adjustment aligns with the increasing responsibilities of these members, especially in addressing complex air pollution challenges across California's regions. The bill mandates that any increases beyond the established limits must be approved during an open regular meeting, ensuring transparency in governance.

SB 1321

Senate Bill 1321 focuses on strengthening California's workforce development programs by enhancing the Employment Training Panel's efforts to support economic resilience, particularly in response to the impacts of COVID-19. The bill expands the scope of the Community Economic Resilience Fund Program to emphasize the creation of quality jobs in high-growth sustainable industries, while also prioritizing disadvantaged communities.

SB 1321 mandates that regional and industry-specific economic recovery strategies, supported by financial grants, focus on building a sustainable and carbon-neutral economy. By connecting workers to jobs in sectors such as renewable energy and advanced manufacturing, the bill aims to foster long-term economic stability and equitable opportunities for all Californians, particularly in communities hardest hit by economic disruptions.

AB 2666

Assembly Bill 2666 addresses the Public Utilities Commission's authority to require public utilities to produce records, particularly those maintained outside California. The bill ensures that public utilities comply with requests from the commission for books, accounts, papers, or records, and allows for verified copies of these documents to be submitted instead of originals.

By updating the language of existing regulations, AB 2666 strengthens oversight over public utilities and enhances the commission's ability to examine essential documents, ensuring transparency and accountability in utility operations across the state.

AB 460

Assembly Bill 460 strengthens the authority of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) by introducing enhanced procedures for water rights enforcement and penalties. The bill allows the board to inspect properties or facilities involved in water diversions or usage, even without consent in emergencies, to ensure compliance with water rights laws. AB 460 also grants the SWRCB the ability to issue interim relief orders for water rights violations, including penalties for non-compliance.

Additionally, the bill mandates the SWRCB to adjust civil and administrative penalties annually to account for inflation. By streamlining enforcement and penalty processes, the bill aims to protect California's water resources and ensure responsible water use in the face of ongoing environmental challenges.

AB 2199

Assembly Bill 2199 extends the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption for residential and mixed-use housing projects located in unincorporated areas of counties that meet specific conditions. The bill extends this exemption until January 1, 2032, facilitating the approval process for certain housing projects by removing the need for a full environmental impact report if specific criteria related to density, transportation, noise, and environmental impacts are met.

However, the exemption does not apply if the project may have significant impacts on tribal cultural resources, historical resources, or other environmentally sensitive areas. This bill aims to streamline housing development while ensuring protections for critical cultural and environmental considerations.

AB 2731

Assembly Bill 2731 expands the scope of eligible projects under the California Pollution Control Financing Authority (CPCFA) to include qualified carbon dioxide capture facilities. Traditionally, the CPCFA has focused on financing projects that prevent or reduce pollution, improve air, water, or soil quality, and ensure the safe disposal or recycling of materials. By adding carbon dioxide capture facilities to this list, the bill enhances the state's efforts in environmental restoration and pollution control.

This inclusion aligns with California's broader climate goals by supporting technologies that address carbon emissions, a key contributor to global warming. With this bill, the state promotes the development and implementation of carbon capture projects, which are essential in reducing the carbon footprint and achieving long-term sustainability targets.

SB 867

Senate Bill 867 proposes a comprehensive bond measure to address multiple climate-related challenges in California. If approved, the bill would authorize \$15.5 billion in state general obligation bonds to fund projects focused on wildfire and forest resilience, drought and flood resilience, coastal resilience, and clean energy infrastructure. The bill outlines investments across various sectors, including water conservation, forest health, biodiversity protection, and wildfire mitigation, aiming to increase the state's climate adaptability and reduce the impacts of extreme weather events.

The bond funds would also be directed toward community projects, particularly benefiting disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations, through grants and investments in regional water management, urban greening, and wildfire risk reduction. By providing critical resources for long-term resilience, SB 867 supports California's environmental and climate goals, ensuring a more sustainable future while addressing the immediate needs of public health and safety.

AB 3090

Assembly Bill 3090 introduces updates to the requirements for public water systems regarding emergency notifications. This bill encourages public water systems to use modern communication technologies such as text messages, emails, and social media to notify water users in the event of significant contamination or other violations of drinking water standards that pose an immediate health risk. By integrating these technologies, AB 3090 aims to enhance the effectiveness of emergency communications and ensure timely notification to the public.

The bill amends Section 116460 of the Health and Safety Code, reinforcing that no public water system can operate without an emergency notification plan approved by the State Water Resources Control Board. It also specifies that no permit, variance, or exemption will be granted unless such a plan is in place. The updated regulations are intended to better serve the public interest by ensuring swift action in situations where water quality becomes compromised.