

Audubon California

List of Priority State Legislation – June 2009

Land/Wildlife Protection

AB 94 (Evans): Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000 – SUPPORT

- Re-authorizes the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit (a volunteer program that allows willing land owners an option to donate their resource land to the state in exchange for a tax credit equal to 55% of the fair market value of the property)
- **Passed out of first house**

AB 444 (Caballero): Conservation Lands Endowments – SUPPORT

- Permits local and state agencies to allow nonprofits and special districts to hold funds (endowments) dedicated to the management of mitigation lands or easements held by nonprofit land trusts and special districts
- **Passed out of first house**

AB 708 (Huffman): Anti-Poaching – SUPPORT

- Establishes mandatory minimum and higher maximum fines on illegal take of California wildlife
- Better incentivizes local prosecution of egregious poaching violators
- **Passed out of first house**

AB 883 (Huffman): Department of Fish & Game Reform – SUPPORT

- Enhances the effectiveness, accountability, and capacity of the Department of Fish & Game
- **Two-year bill**

AB 929 (Blakeslee): Conserving Agricultural Lands – SUPPORT

- Expands the ability of the Department of Conservation to conserve additional agricultural lands outside the purview of the California Farmland and Conservancy Program that may also provide multiple benefits such as natural flood control and wildlife habitat
- **Passed out of first house**

SB 51 (Ducheny): Salton Sea Restoration Council – SUPPORT

- Establishes the Salton Sea Restoration Council as a state entity within the Natural Resources Agency to implement preferred alternatives outlined in the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program
- Will utilize available, designated Proposition 84 funds (\$11 million remaining for Salton Sea Restoration)
- **Expected to pass out of first house (as of 6/3 don't know)**

SB 281 (Runner): Endangered Species: Incidental Take – OPPOSE

- Undermines the "fully mitigate" standard in the California Endangered Species Act by capping mitigation for the destruction of endangered species and habitat in the desert as part of the construction of renewable energy projects at a 1:1 mitigation ratio regardless of whether that mitigation fully mitigates the impacts from the project on endangered species
- **Two-year bill, likely to fail**

SB 372 (Kehoe): State Parks Integrity – SUPPORT

- Prohibits the modification or adjustment of state park units, or the removal of state park units from within the state park system, without the State Park and Recreation Commission making that recommendation to the Legislature and the Legislature enacting legislation approving the recommendation
- **Passed out of first house**

SB 448 (Pavley): State Safe Harbor Agreement Program Act – SUPPORT

- Establishes a program to allow landowners to manage their lands voluntarily to benefit endangered, threatened, or candidate species
- **Passed out of first house**

SB 481 (Cox): Airports: Wildlife – OPPOSE if further weakened

- Allows public use airports to take wildlife under specific circumstances as a last resort to protect public safety when accompanied by a valid USFWS depredation permit
- **Passed out of first house**

SB 555 (Kehoe): Conservation Easement Protection – SUPPORT

- Prohibits a governmental entity from condemning a conservation easement acquired by a state agency or nonprofit land trust, unless specified procedures are followed
- **Passed out of first house**

SB 679 (Wolk): State Park System Integrity – SUPPORT

- Prohibits land acquired for the state park system, through public funds or gifts, from being disbursed of or used for other than park purposes without the express authority of an act of the Legislature
- **Passed out of first house**

Climate Change

AB 64 (Krekorian): Renewable Portfolio Standard – SUPPORT

- Requires all retail electricity sellers and public utilities to procure at least 35% of their electricity from eligible renewable energy resources by 2020
- **Passed out of first house**

AB 231 (Huffman): Climate Change Investments – SUPPORT

- Requires the California Air Resources Board, either by fee or market mechanism, to collect a carbon fee from the sources of greenhouse gas emissions to go to AB 32 implementation
- **Passed out of first house**

AB 1091 (Ruskin): Climate Change Adaptation Planning – SUPPORT

- Requires the Resources Agency to incorporate climate change predictions into all relevant planning processes
- Will be amended to identify potential conflicts between adaptation strategies proposed by individual sectors and state agencies
- **Two year bill**

AB 1321 (Eng): Advance Infrastructure Mitigation Program Act – SUPPORT

- Enacts the Advance Infrastructure Mitigation Program, enabling infrastructure agencies to create and implement proactive regional mitigation plans
- **Held in Appropriations**

SB 14 (Simitian): Renewable Portfolio Standard – SUPPORT

- Requires, by 2020, 33% of California's electricity grid to be provided by eligible renewable energy resources
- **Passed out of first house**

SB 31 (Pavley): Climate Change Investments – SUPPORT

- Authorizes the California Air Resources Board to adopt a carbon fee to be paid by the sources of greenhouse gas emissions to go to AB 32 implementation
- **Failed**

SB 144 (Pavley): Carbon Sequestration – SUPPORT

- Requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop options and incentives for forest management that enhance the capability of forest lands to sequester carbon
- **Passed out of the first house**

SB 721 (Steinberg): Climate Action Team and Adaptation Planning – SUPPORT

- Creates the Climate Action Team, responsible for creating specified climate change mitigation and adaptation reports, and overseeing the state's overall climate policy
- **Two year bill**

Water & Delta

AB 13 (Salas): Delta Conservancy – SUPPORT

- Creates the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy to oversee and coordinate necessary habitat restoration efforts in the Delta and Suisun Marsh
- **Expected to pass out of first house**

AB 39 (Huffman): Delta Vision Strategic Plan – SUPPORT

- Requires the State Delta and Ecosystem Water Council to prepare a plan to implement the Delta Vision Strategic Plan issued by the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force, and to submit that plan to the Legislature
- **Passed out of first house**

AB 49 (Feuer & Huffman): Water Conservation – SUPPORT

- Implements the Governor's call for legislation requiring a per capita water use reduction of 20% by 2020
- Requires agricultural water users to prepare and adopt agricultural water management plans
- **Passed out of first house**

SB 12 (Simitian): Delta Governance – SUPPORT

- Enacts the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, Clean Drinking Water, Water Supply Security, and Environmental Improvement Act of 2009, and establishes the Delta Ecosystem and Water Council to prepare and adopt a Delta governance plan
- Establishes the California Delta Conservancy and authorizes a water diversion fee
- **Passed out of first house**

SB 229 (Pavley): Delta Governance – SUPPORT

- Revises the membership and functions of the California Water Commission and moves the Commission from the Department of Water Resources to the Natural Resources Agency
- Enacts the Bay-Delta Interim Governance Act of 2009 and authorizes a fee
- **Passed out of first house**

SB 457 (Wolk): Delta Stewardship Council – SUPPORT

- Creates the Delta Stewardship Council in the Natural Resources Agency
- Amended to exclude the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy and Fund
- **Passed out of first house**

SB 458 (Wolk): Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy – SUPPORT

- Establishes the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
- **Passed out of first house**

SB 735 (Steinberg): Water Bond \$9.785 billion – SUPPORT

Includes dedicated funding for:

Water Supply Reliability	\$2 billion
Delta Sustainability	\$1.9 billion
Statewide Water System Operational Improvement	\$3 billion
Conservation and Watershed Protection	\$1.335 billion
Groundwater Protection and Water Quality	\$1.05 billion
Water Recycling and Advanced Treatment Technologies	\$500 million

In addition, we are requesting:

- Language in the Water Supply section authorizing invasive species removal along rivers and streams in order to conserve water
- Language in the Delta Sustainability section to authorize expenditures in or outside of the Delta to help meet the integrated wetland objectives of the Central Valley Joint Venture
- Under Conservation and Watershed Protection:
 - \$50 million in additional funds (\$150 instead of \$100 million) for wildlife refuge water supply
 - \$50 in additional funds for private landowner habitat conservation
 - \$100 million dedicated for implementation of the Klamath River Settlement Agreement
 - \$75 million dedicated for Owens Lake dust control to benefit migratory birds
 - \$85 million dedicated for early start habitat development at Salton Sea
- Under Groundwater Protection and Water Quality:
 - \$100 million in additional funds to help fund inspection, improvements, and replacement of private laterals within the SF Bay Water Quality Control Board