



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Memorandum

DATE: October 27, 2021
MEMO TO: MROSD Board of Directors
THROUGH: Ana M. Ruiz, General Manager *AMR*
FROM: Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Specialist
SUBJECT: State and Federal Legislative Update

SUMMARY

Periodically, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) receives State of California legislative session briefings regarding recent legislative developments. District staff and the state legislative consultants, Environment and Energy Consultants (EEC) and Public Policy Advocates (PPA), last provided a legislative update to the Board on July 14, 2021, during the 2021 legislative session recess. Since then, the state legislature reconvened to conclude the 2021 session and provided bills to the Governor for his signature. This legislative year, the District is also working with the Ferguson Group (TFG) on federal legislative activities.

District staff and the legislative consultants continue to utilize the Board-approved 2021 Legislative Program to communicate District positions on bills, budget recommendations, and other legislative items to the respective authors and/or legislative committees as appropriate. In addition, staff fields time-sensitive requests from partners, and monitors evolving pieces of legislation in accordance with Board Policy 1.11 (Attachment 1). Please refer to Attachment 2 for a summary status of priority bills as of October 11, 2021 and the *Discussion* section below for details.

DISCUSSION

This memo provides updates from EEC, PPA, and The Ferguson Group on key legislative items of District interest as of **October 11, 2021**.

State updates from Environment and Energy Consulting (EEC):

California Budget

This year, California experienced a large budget surplus that provided the opportunity to enact several budget-related bills. The surplus allowed the state to make immediate and early action investments in addition to the annual budget bill investments.

On April 13, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed [SB 85](#), which contains a \$536 million wildfire package enabling the state to take urgent, early action on projects that support wildfire suppression, improve forest health, and build resilience in communities to help protect residents and property from catastrophic wildfires.

In June, Governor Newsom signed [AB 128](#) (the main Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget bill), which built upon priorities put forward in the Assembly’s “A Budget of Opportunity” blueprint, the Senate’s “Build Back Boldly” plan, and the Governor’s May Revision.

In addition to the main budget bill, Governor Newsom signed several Budget Bill Juniors. Included in this are [SB 129](#), with investments for the Cloverdale Ranch and Highway 17 projects, and [AB 161](#), which authorized the Department of Finance to expend up to \$500M more to support wildfire investments “if the Department determines additional funding is needed.”

In September, Governor Newsom signed an additional Budget Bill Junior ([SB 170](#)), which amended SB 129.

The following is a summary of the final budget actions of interest to the District:

- \$100M in a one-time general fund appropriation to independent special districts to mitigate the effects of revenue losses or unanticipated costs incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Up to \$500M more to support wildfire investments, should additional funding be needed.
- \$8M for Cloverdale Ranch, administered through the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- \$2M to complete the plans, specifications, and estimates phase of the Highway 17 Wildlife and Trail Crossing Project, administered through the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- \$258M from the general fund on a one-time basis for wildfire prevention and forest resilience, with up to an additional \$500M to be allocated if needed, contingent upon future legislation.
- \$31M to Wildlife Conservation Board for protection of fish and wildlife resources from climate impacts.
- \$5M to State Coastal Conservancy for the San Francisco Bay Program.
- \$25M to Office of Planning and Research for regional climate resilience planning.

Governor Newsom also signed a Resources Trailer Bill ([SB 155](#)). This bill includes a CEQA exemption for native fish and wildlife recovery and habitat restoration projects until January 1, 2025. SB 155 is unique because it also forecasts how the legislature plans to spend natural resources investments in future fiscal years. See the projections below.

SB 155: Public Resources Trailer Bill

- \$200M Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) (beginning in FY22-23 through FY28-29), to be continuously appropriated to Cal Fire for forest health projects and prescribed burn activities.
- \$593M in FY22-23 and \$175M in FY23-24 for the Natural Resources Agency and its departments, conservancies, and boards for programs and activities that advance multi-benefit and nature-based solutions.
 - Of this amount, at least \$60M in both FY22-23 and FY23-24 shall go to conservancies.
- \$350M in FY22-23 and \$150M in FY23-24 to the State Coastal Conservancy for sea-level rise.

While not explicitly stated in SB 155, EEC expects that the Administration may intend to fund the Wildlife Conservation Board according to the following schedule in the next two fiscal years:

- \$222M in FY22-23
- \$100M in FY23-24

Priority 1 Legislation

The District tracked 138 bills and took a formal position on 29 bills this year. Priority 1 bills include:

- **AB 959 (Mullin) Park districts: ordinances: nuisances: abatement**
This bill authorizes specified regional park and open-space districts to adopt ordinances for the purposes of abating nuisances.
 - **District Position:** Sponsor
 - **Status:** Signed by Governor
- **SB 790 (Stern) Wildlife connectivity mitigation credits**
This bill creates a new compensatory mitigation credit program at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for projects conducted by the State Department of Transportation that improve wildlife connectivity, among other environmental improvements.
 - **District Position:** Sponsor
 - **Status:** Signed by Governor
- **AB 1255 (Bloom) Fire prevention: fire risk reduction guidance: local assistance grants**
Requires, on or before July 1, 2023, the Natural Resources Agency, in collaboration or consultation with specified state agencies, to develop a guidance document that describes goals, approaches, opportunities, and best practices in each region of the state for ecologically appropriate, habitat-specific fire risk reduction. Requires specified consultation with counties related to Cal Fire's local fire prevention grant program.

The District took a support if amended position on the bill and requested language be included to prioritize ecologically sensitive vegetation management. The bill became a 2-year bill and EEC plans to work on amendments with Assemblyman Bloom's office in the fall.
 - **District Position:** Support if amended
 - **Status:** 2-year bill
- **AB 1500 (E. Garcia) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022.** AB 1500 is a legislatively introduced bond that would allocate \$7,080,000,000 for projects that address safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs.
 - **District Position:** Support if amended
 - **Status:** 2-year bill

- **SB 45 (Portantino) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022.** SB 45 is a legislatively introduced bond that would allocate \$5,595,000,000 for projects that address wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.
 - **District Position:** Support if amended
 - **Status:** 2-year bill
- **SB 55 (Stern) Very high fire hazard severity zone: state responsibility area: development prohibition: supplemental height and density bonuses.**
 - **District Position:** Watch
 - **Status:** 2-year bill.

Ecologically Sensitive Vegetation Management

The District talked with CalFire and legislators to popularize the concept of ecologically sensitive vegetation management (ESVM), which was also a featured topic in the Advocacy Day event in April. This included conversations about incorporating this concept into legislation and funding in the state budget.

With the help from EEC, the District developed a budget proposal that would provide funding to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for ESVM activities. The District also supported a different, but similar budget request that was spearheaded by the California Native Plant Society and Senator Stern. Unfortunately, neither request was included in the final budget packages.

This will be a high priority for 2022.

Under-Resourced Communities

The District worked primarily with Assemblymember Mullin to coordinate a signed support letter from the Bay Area Caucus in support of the under-resourced community (URC) definition. The definition was included in the Assembly's bond, AB 1500 (E. Garcia). The District also worked with Senator Cortese's staff, who requested the inclusion of URC in all relevant legislation that comes through their office.

This topic was included in the District's April Legislative Advocacy Day.

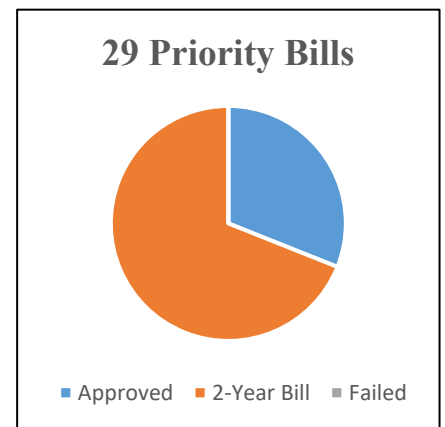
Equitable Access

District representatives have been participating in the statewide Community Access Coalition. This coalition aims to tackle the issue of equitable access through policy and funding. This year, the Coalition supported [SB 624 \(Hueso\)](#) that would establish the Environmental Equity and Outdoor Access Act, which sets forth the state's commitment to meaningful access to cultural and natural resources. This bill was made a 2-year bill.

The Coalition has also worked with Assemblywoman Carrillo and Senator Limon's office to submit a budget request for \$200M to support and expand the breadth, scope, and eligibility of the Youth Community Access Grant Program and Outdoor Equity Grant Program. These requests were not included in the final budget.

Legislative Tracking and Statistics

Governor Newsom signed his final bills on October 9, a day ahead of the October 10 deadline. Legislators were given a limit of 12 bills each that they could move to the second house. Of the 836 proposals state lawmakers sent to Governor's desk, he signed 770 (92%) and vetoed 66 (7.9%). The Legislative Tracking Matrix (Attachment 2) reflects final legislative results for bill on which the District took a position. Bills are labeled as “approved” if they were signed into law by the governor, “failed” if they were vetoed by the governor or did not make it to his desk, or “2-year bill” if the author wishes to continue to pursue the bill in the 2022 legislative session. At the conclusion of the session, of the 29 bills on which the District took a position, nine were approved by the governor, none failed or were vetoed by the governor, and 20 were continued to the next session. Of the five bills the District considered priority 1, the two bills sponsored by the District (AB 959 and SB 790) were signed by the Governor. The remaining three priority 1 bills, of which the District took a support if amended position, are now 2-year bills.



Federal Update from the Ferguson Group (TFG):

Congressional Meetings

In May 2021, TFG and the District held introductory meetings with the District’s congressional delegation, including staff from the offices of senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Alex Padilla (D-CA), and staff from the offices of representatives Jackie Speier (D-CA), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), and Ro Khanna (D-CA). The meetings centered around the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing Project and the District’s interest in pursuing FY2023 appropriations funding for the project. The meetings also served to express District support for the inclusion of federal funding for wildlife crossings project in the upcoming surface transportation and infrastructure bills.

Federal Wildlife Crossings Program

TFG and the District submitted a letter to Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D-CA) urging the inclusion of funding to support wildlife crossings and corridors in the House surface transportation bill. Congresswoman Eshoo was receptive to the request, and specifically identified the Highway 17 project as a good use of such funds in her letter to the committee during a House Transportation and Infrastructure [hearing](#) on April 14, 2021.

On July 1, and August 10, 2021, the House and Senate, respectively, both passed the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* ([HR 3684](#)), including provisions to establish a wildlife crossings and corridors program in the U.S. Department of Transportation. The legislation authorizes \$350 million for FY2022 through FY2026, with funds beginning at \$60 million and increasing each year. Eligible entities for the program include state highway agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, units of local government, regional transportation authorities, transportation special purpose districts, Native American tribes, and federal land management agencies. As it is written, the District would pursue funding through the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). Now that both the House and Senate have passed their versions of the legislation, they are working to resolve their differences and produce a final conferenced bill.

Federal Funding

TFG compiled a federal grants calendar for the District that includes federal funding opportunities for priority areas. The calendar identifies eligible uses of the funding for wildfire mitigation and response, trail connections, conservation, species protection, and climate change. It also provides information on the funding amounts for each program, deadlines, and anticipated future solicitations. Staff is actively reviewing it for opportunities that may be pursued in 2022 and beyond.

Budget Reconciliation and Appropriations

One of the main priorities for Congress this year has been the surface transportation and infrastructure bill, and the budget and appropriations processes. As mentioned, the surface transportation and infrastructure bill has moved through both chambers with the District's priority provisions included and is being reconciled. Both the House and Senate Committees have been working to finalize the massive \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation and economic package, that includes federal investments in childcare, immigration, and climate change programs. As committees have been working on the legislation, we have seen drafts of the provisions, however, the final text has not yet been released. Once the text is finalized, both the House and Senate will vote on identical versions of a final bill before sending it to the President's desk for signature. Following the passage of the budget reconciliation bill, Congress will move to pass the 12 FY2022 appropriations bills, which for the first time in 10 years, include earmark requests. Review of the requests will provide insight for the District in how to best submit and pursue future FY2023 earmarks for the Highway 17 Project and other priorities.

Legislation of Interest

- [H.R. 610 \(J. Speier\) San Francisco Bay Restoration Act](#)
This bill prioritizes funding for the San Francisco Bay. It includes \$250 million to restore the Bay's wetlands and estuaries, assist in the recovery of endangered species, and help alleviate the impacts of climate change.
 - **District Position:** Support
 - **Status:** The bill has passed through the House and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for consideration.
- [H.R. 4833 \(A. Lowenthal\) Migratory Bird Protection Act of 2021](#)
H.R. 4833 provides regulatory certainty for industries and helps ensure that the nation meets the conservation goals of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which is the foundation for the nation's migratory bird conservation efforts. The bill would uphold international treaty obligations regarding bird conservation; help minimize certain industrial hazards and incentivize best management practices; and allow for financial resources to recover from incidents that impact birds, such as oil spills.
 - **District Position:** Support
 - **Status:** The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and is awaiting a hearing.
- [S. 1855 \(D. Feinstein\) Wildfire Emergency Act of 2021](#)
This bill directs the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, assisting communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire. The bill authorizes \$250 million for this initiative and authorizes \$100 million for a new grant program to protect critical infrastructure and allow for greater energy flexibility.

- **District Position:** Watch
- **Status:** The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and is awaiting a hearing.
- [H.R. 1678 \(N. Barragan\) Parks, Jobs, and Equity Act](#)
This bill establishes a Parks, Jobs, and Equity Program to support job creation, economic revitalization, and park development for communities impacted by COVID-19.
 - **District Position:** Watch
 - **Status:** The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and is awaiting a hearing.
- [S. 1461/H.R. 2924 \(C. Booker/J. Gomez\) Transit to Trails Act](#)
This bill establishes a program to award grants to entities that provide transportation connectors from critically underserved urban communities and rural communities to green spaces.
 - **District Position:** Watch
 - **Status:** This legislation has been referred to House and Senate Committees, however, there has not been any additional movement. *Once the focus shifts from the infrastructure and budget reconciliation bills, the District and TFG will pursue discussion with congressional staff regarding the eligibility concerns for the proposed program.*

Attachments:

1. Board Policy 1.11, Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy
2. Priority Bill Legislative Status as of October 11, 2020

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Board Policy Manual

Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy	Policy 1.11 Chapter 1 – Administration and Government
Effective Date: 4/13/16	Revised Date: N/A
Prior Versions: N/A	

Purpose

To establish a policy governing positions on local and state ballot measures/propositions and state and federal legislative advocacy. It is intended to cover all matters before the Legislature and the voters.

Definitions

For the purposes of the *Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy* policy, the following terms and definitions shall be used:

Measure – may be included on a municipal, county, or district ballot and includes ordinances, initiatives, referenda, advisory measures, issuance or refunding of bonds, city or county charter amendments, or any other measure or proposition a legislative body may submit to the voters within the body’s jurisdiction.

Ballot Proposition – can be a referendum or an initiative measure that is submitted to the electorate for a direct decision or direct vote. Propositions may be placed on the ballot by the California State Legislature or by a qualifying petition signed by registered voters.

Initiative – power of the electors to propose legislation, and to adopt or reject them. Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the legislative body by means of a petition.

Referendum – applies to the process for repealing newly enacted legislation. Within specified time limits, the electors may file a petition protesting the adoption of that legislation.

Local Legislation – typically ordinances, which are the laws of a city, charter, or district, often having the force of law, but only within the local jurisdiction.

State or Federal Legislation – bills or proposed legislation under consideration by the legislature at the state or federal level.

Policy

1. Positions on Matters Before the Voters
 - a. From time to time the Board of Directors may be asked or may desire to take a position on local or state measures. The Board may consider taking a position on the measure/proposition if the measure/proposition:
 - i. Would directly impact the District's finances, responsibilities, legal authority, or operations; AND
 - ii. Is in line with or inconsistent with the District's mission and/or commitment to preserve open space within its boundaries and sphere of influence.

The Board, by majority vote, may direct the General Manager to research the measure/proposition and return to the Board at a future meeting with information and a General Manager recommendation. At that time, the Board may vote to take a position on a measure/proposition.
 - b. Measures/propositions determined to not impact District business may nonetheless be analyzed by the General Manager when directed by a majority vote of the Board, of which the analysis report would include possible alternatives for Board action, but no position recommendation.
2. Local, State, and Federal Legislative Advocacy
 - a. The Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) receives periodic updates regarding the District's legislative program. When LFPAC determines that proposed legislation may affect District business, it may direct the General Manager to prepare a recommendation for consideration by the full Board or where there is not adequate time to convene the full Board, may direct the General Manager to take action to support or oppose the legislation without full Board approval. In such cases, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
 - b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
 - i. Is related to the District's mission; AND
 - ii. Would directly impact the District's business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
 - iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or District Strategic Plan; OR
 - iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District's interests.

In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
 - c. Full Board action is required regarding legislation that is not clearly within the criteria listed above under Section 2.b. or guided by direction previously given by LFPAC.

3. Full Board action is required to support or oppose any type of grassroots advocacy action, such as social, political, or economic movements, that are not legislation.
4. Board members representing the District in their official capacity on regional or other bodies may, at his or her discretion, take actions based on the principles above consistent with previously approved Board positions and policies.
5. This policy is not intended to limit the prerogative of individual Board members from expressing their individual support for or opposition to any local ballot measure, State proposition, State or Federal legislation, or grassroots advocacy actions. However, in doing so, the member should clearly state they are speaking for themselves, and not in an official capacity on behalf of the Board or the District. Individual Board Members who take a position in support or opposition to ballot measure or legislation for which the Board has not previously taken a position are encouraged as a professional courtesy to include the language *for identification purposes only* parenthetically following their signature referencing their position on the Board.



**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Priority Bill Status as of October 11, 2021**

Measure	Author	Topic	Focus Area	Goal	Status	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
AB 11	Ward D	Climate change: regional climate change authorities.	Climate	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Would require the Strategic Growth Council, by January 1, 2023, to establish up to 12 regional climate change authorities to coordinate climate adaptation and mitigation activities in their regions, and coordinate with other regional climate adaptation authorities, state agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.	Support	2
AB 51	Quirk D	Climate change: adaptation: regional climate adaptation planning groups: regional climate adaptation plans.	Climate	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Would require the Strategic Growth Council, by July 1, 2022, to establish guidelines for the formation of regional climate adaptation planning groups. The bill would require the council, by July 1, 2023, and in consultation with certain state entities, to develop criteria for the development of regional climate adaptation plans.	Support	2
AB 284	Rivas, Robert D	California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: climate goal: natural and working lands.	Climate	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 requires the State Air Resources Board to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and to update the scoping plan at least once every 5 years. This bill would require the state board, when updating the scoping plan and in collaboration with the Natural Resources Agency and other relevant state agencies and departments, to take specified actions by January 1, 2023, including, among others, identifying a 2045 climate goal, with interim milestones, for the state's natural and working lands, as defined, and identifying practices, policy and financial incentives, market needs, and potential reductions in barriers that would help achieve the 2045 climate goal.	Support	2
AB 897	Mullin D	Office of Planning and Research: regional climate networks: climate adaptation action plans.	Climate	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Current law requires, by July 1, 2017, and every 3 years thereafter, the Natural Resources Agency to update, as prescribed, the state's climate adaptation strategy, known as the Safeguarding California Plan. Current law establishes the Office of Planning and Research in state government in the Governor's office. Current law establishes the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program to be administered by the office to coordinate regional and local efforts with state climate adaptation strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change, as prescribed. This bill would authorize eligible entities, as defined, to establish and participate in a regional climate network, as defined. The bill would require the office to encourage the inclusion of agencies with land use planning authority into regional climate networks. The bill would authorize a regional climate network to engage in activities to address climate change, as specified.	Support	2
AB 1384	Gabriel D	Resiliency Through Adaptation, Economic Vitality, and Equity Act of 2022.	Climate	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Would require the Strategic Growth Council to develop and coordinate a strategic resiliency framework that makes recommendations and identifies actions that are necessary to prepare the state for the most significant climate change impacts modeled for 2025, 2050, and beyond, among other goals. The bill would require state agencies identified in the strategic resiliency framework to collaboratively engage with regional entities to enhance policy and funding coordination and promote regional solutions and implementation and to proactively engage vulnerable communities whose planning and project development efforts have been disproportionately impacted by climate change, as provided. The bill would authorize the Treasurer, and the financing authorities that the Treasurer chairs, to assist state agencies by leveraging public and private capital investment to help with loans and other incentives to attain the goals identified in the strategic resiliency framework.	Support	2
AB 1500	Garcia, Eduardo D	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022.	Climate	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$7,080,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs.	Support If Amended	1
SB 45	Portantino D	Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022.	Climate	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,595,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.	Support If Amended	1



Measure	Author	Topic	Focus Area	Goal	Status	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
AB 30	Kalra D	Outdoor access to nature: environmental equity.	Equity	Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Current law establishes various state agencies, including the Natural Resources Agency, which consists of various departments, including the Department of Conservation, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Current law vests in the Natural Resources Agency various powers, including those related to conservation of lands. Current law establishes, within state agencies, state departments, including the Department of Transportation under the Transportation Agency. This bill would declare that it is the established policy of the state that access to nature and access to the benefits of nature is a human right and that every human has the right to safe and affordable outdoor access, among other things.	Support	2
SB 604	Hueso D	Natural resources: the Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency and Equity Act of 2021.	Equity	Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Current law establishes various environmental and economic policies and programs. This bill, upon appropriation by the Legislature, as provided, would establish the Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency and Equity Act of 2021, which would require state conservancies and the Wildlife Conservation Board to establish grant programs to fund climate mitigation, adaptation, or resilience, natural disaster, and other climate emergency projects, as specified.	Support/Coalition	2
SB 624	Hueso D	Environmental Equity and Outdoor Access Act.	Equity	Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Would establish the Environmental Equity and Outdoor Access Act, which sets forth the state's commitment to ensuring all Californians can benefit from, and have meaningful access to, the state's rich cultural and natural resources. The bill would make related findings and declarations regarding the importance of the state's natural resources and ensuring equal access to those resources. The bill would provide that the Legislature finds and declares that it is the policy of the state to, among other things, promote inclusivity and representation and improve competency, as specified, among staff of the agency and each department, board, office, conservancy, and commission within the agency, to ensure all Californians and visitors of the state feel safe and welcome in the outdoors.	Support/Coalition	2
AB 271	Rivas, Robert D	Santa Clara Valley Water District: contracts: best value procurement.	Governance	Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission	Approved	Current law authorizes certain local entities to select a bidder for a contract on the basis of "best value," as defined. Existing law governs various types of contract procedures applicable to the Santa Clara Valley Water District and prescribes competitive bidding procedures for any improvement or unit of work over \$50,000. This bill would authorize the district, upon approval by the board of directors of the district, to award contracts on a best value basis for any work of the Anderson Dam project, defined to include prescribed activities and works of construction with regard to the Leroy Anderson Dam and Reservoir and certain fish and aquatic habitat measures described in a federal-state settlement agreement.	Support	2
AB 361	Rivas, Robert D	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.	Governance	Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission	Approved	Would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act when a legislative body of a local agency holds a meeting for the purpose of declaring or ratifying a local emergency, during a declared state of emergency or local emergency, as those terms are defined, when state or local health officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, and during a declared local emergency provided the legislative body determines, by majority vote, that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.	Support	2
AB 959	Mullin D	Park districts: ordinances: nuisances: abatement.	Governance	Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission	Approved	Current law prescribes procedures, including the election of a board of directors, for the formation of regional park districts, regional park and open-space districts, or regional open-space districts. Current law authorizes a city legislative body to declare what constitutes a nuisance. Current law authorizes the legislative body of a city, county, or city and county to provide for the summary abatement of any nuisance resulting from the defacement of the property of another by graffiti or other inscribed material, at the expense of the minor or other person creating, causing, or committing the nuisance, and, by ordinance, authorizes the legislative body to make the expense of abatement of the nuisance a lien against property of the minor or other person and a personal obligation against the minor or other person. This bill would authorize the board of directors of a district to declare what constitutes a nuisance, as provided. The bill would, among other things, authorize a district to exercise the authority granted to a city, as described above, for purposes of abating a nuisance, as provided.	Sponsor/Support	1
ACA 1	Aguiar-Curry D	Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval.	Governance	Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission	Constitutional amendment. May be heard at any time.	The California Constitution prohibits the ad valorem tax rate on real property from exceeding 1% of the full cash value of the property, subject to certain exceptions. This measure would create an additional exception to the 1% limit that would authorize a city, county, city and county, or special district to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing, or the acquisition or lease of real property for those purposes, if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of the voters of the city, county, or city and county, as applicable, and the proposition includes specified accountability requirements.	Support	2



Measure	Author	Topic	Focus Area	Goal	Status	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
ACR 17	Voepel R	Special Districts Week.	Governance	Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission	Approved	This measure proclaims the week of May 16, 2021, to May 22, 2021, to be Special Districts Week.	Support	2
AB 223	Ward D	Wildlife: dudleya: taking and possession.	Stewardship	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	Approved	Would make it unlawful to uproot, remove, harvest, or cut dudleya, as defined, from land owned by the state or a local government or from property not their own without written permission from the landowner in their immediate possession, except as provided, and would make it unlawful to sell, offer for sale, possess with intent to sell, transport for sale, export for sale, or purchase dudleya uprooted, removed, harvested, or cut in violation of that provision. The bill would require a violation of those provisions, or any rule, regulation, or order adopted pursuant to those provisions, to be a misdemeanor punishable by a specified fine, imprisonment in a county jail for not more than 6 months, or both the fine and imprisonment.	Support	2
AB 315	Stone D	Voluntary stream restoration property owner liability: indemnification.	Stewardship	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	Approved	Current law authorizes a habitat restoration or enhancement project proponent to submit a written request for approval of the project to the Director of Fish and Wildlife. Current law requires the director to approve the project if the written request includes certain information, as specified, and provides for an alternate authorization process by the State Water Resources Control Board. This bill would require the state to indemnify and hold harmless a property owner who voluntarily allows their property to be used for such a project to restore fish and wildlife habitat from civil liability for property damage or personal injury resulting from the project if the project meets specified requirements, including that the project is funded, at least in part, by a state or federal agency whose mission includes restoring habitat for native fish and wildlife, and the liability arises from, and the property owner or any person or entity retained by the property owner does not perform, the construction, design specifications, surveying, planning, supervision, testing, or observation of construction related to the project to restore fish and wildlife habitat.	Support	2
AB 379	Gallagher R	Wildlife conservation: conservation lands.	Stewardship	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	Approved	Current law requires the Wildlife Conservation Board in the Department of Fish and Wildlife to authorize the acquisition of real property, rights in real property, water, or water rights, as specified. Existing law authorizes the board to authorize the department to, among other things, accept federal grants and receive financial support from public or private sources, lease degraded potential wildlife habitat real property to nonprofit organizations, local governmental agencies, or state and federal agencies, and acquire former wildlife habitat real property and restore and sell the real property to private owners, local governmental agencies, or state departments and agencies. This bill would also authorize the board to grant funds to, and enter into agreements, loans, or contracts with, a California Native American tribe to the same extent as any public or private entity as authorized under specified laws.	Support	2
AB 564	Gonzalez, Lorena D	Biodiversity Protection and Restoration Act.	Stewardship	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Would establish the Biodiversity Protection and Restoration Act and would provide that it is the policy of the state that all state agencies, boards, and commissions shall utilize their authorities in furtherance of the biodiversity conservation purposes and goals of certain executive orders. The bill would require all state agencies, boards, and commissions to consider and prioritize the protection of biodiversity in carrying out their statutory mandates. The bill would require strategies related to the goal of the state to conserve at least 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 to be made available to the public and provided to certain legislative committees by no later than June 30, 2022.	Support	2
AB 567	Bauer-Kahan D	Pesticides: neonicotinoids: prohibited use.	Stewardship	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Current law generally regulates pesticide use by the Department of Pesticide Regulation, and requires the Director of Pesticide Regulation to endeavor to eliminate from use any pesticide that endangers the agricultural or nonagricultural environment. A violation of those provisions and regulations adopted pursuant to those provisions is generally a misdemeanor. Current law requires the department, on or before July 1, 2018, to issue a determination with respect to its reevaluation of neonicotinoids, and to adopt control measures necessary to protect pollinator health within 2 years, as specified. This bill would prohibit the use of neonicotinoid on a seed, as specified.	Support	2
AB 697	Chau D	Forest resources: national forest lands: Good Neighbor Authority Fund: ecological restoration and fire resiliency projects.	Stewardship	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	Approved	Would reorganize the law relating to the State Treasury the Good Neighbor Authority Fund. The bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, under an agreement between the state and the federal government, to establish a program for purposes of conducting ecological restoration and fire resiliency projects on national forest lands, with priority given to forest restoration and fuels reduction projects that are landscape scale, focused on ecological restoration and based on the best available science, emphasize the use of prescribed fire, and include community fire protection and protection of water infrastructure and other infrastructure as important goals, as provided.	Support	3



Measure	Author	Topic	Focus Area	Goal	Status	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
AB 908	Frazier D	Natural Resources Agency: statewide natural resources inventory.	Stewardship	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Would require the Natural Resources Agency, to the extent a specified appropriation is made, to prepare a comprehensive, statewide inventory of the natural resources of the state and establish treatment measures necessary to protect those resources, and to post its initial inventory on its internet website on or before January 1, 2023, with annual updates on or before January 1 of each year thereafter.	Support	2
SB 322	Laird D	Grazing land: California Conservation Ranching Incentive Program.	Stewardship	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Would establish the California Conservation Ranching Incentive Program as a separate component of the California Farmland Conservancy Program. The bill would authorize the Director of Conservation to, subject to appropriation, enter into contracts for an initial term of 3 years with nonpublic entities that are owners of record or lessees of productive rangelands, grazing lands, or grasslands that are determined by the director to be important for the conservation of grassland birds, soil health, and biodiversity. The bill would require these contracts to include an agreement by the owner and any lessee to restore, enhance, and protect the grassland habitat character of the land subject to the contract and to require the Department of Conservation to pay a specified amount to the owner or lessee for undertaking conservation obligations under the contract.	Support	2
AB 297	Gallagher R	Fire prevention.	Wildfire	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Would continuously appropriate \$480,000,000 and \$20,000,000 to the Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention and the California Conservation Corps, respectively, for fire prevention activities, as provided.	Support	2
AB 926	Mathis R	Fire prevention: local assistance grant program: projects: report.	Wildfire	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Current law requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish a local assistance grant program for fire prevention activities, as defined, in the state. This bill would expand the definition of "fire prevention activities" to include the removal of hazardous dead trees, creation of fuel breaks and community defensible spaces, and creation of ingress and egress corridors. The bill would also require the department to prioritize projects that have a completed, or nearly completed, environmental review document, as provided. The bill would authorize the department to consider and evaluate the wildfire risk within the proposed project area, as well as the socioeconomic characteristics of communities that the various education and mitigation projects are intended to protect, when awarding local assistance grants.	Support	2
AB 1255	Bloom D	Fire prevention: fire risk reduction guidance: local assistance grants.	Wildfire	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Would require the Natural Resources Agency, on or before July 1, 2023, and in collaboration with specified state agencies and in consultation with certain other state agencies, to develop a guidance document that describes goals, approaches, opportunities, and best practices in each region of the state for ecologically appropriate, habitat-specific fire risk reduction. The bill would require the guidance document to be developed through a public process, including region-specific public workshops hosted by the agency, and would require the agency to post the document on its internet website.	Support if Amended	1
SB 12	McGuire D	Local government: planning and zoning: wildfires.	Wildfire	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Current law requires that the Office of Planning and Research, among other things, coordinate with appropriate entities, including state, regional, or local agencies, to establish a clearinghouse for climate adaptation information for use by state, regional, and local entities, as provided. This bill would require the safety element, upon the next revision of the housing element or the hazard mitigation plan, on or after July 1, 2024, whichever occurs first, to be reviewed and updated as necessary to include a comprehensive retrofit strategy to reduce the risk of property loss and damage during wildfires, as specified, and would require the planning agency to submit the adopted strategy to the Office of Planning and Research for inclusion into the above-described clearinghouse.	Support	2
AB 1189	Bloom D	Transportation: indirect cost recovery: wildlife crossing projects.	Wildlife Crossings	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	2-Year bill. May be heard in January 2022	Would, on and before June 30, 2024, prohibit the Department of Transportation from charging for administration indirect cost recovery, as outlined in the department's Indirect Cost Recovery Proposal, for any wildlife crossing project that receives private funding for more than 50% of the project cost, and would require the department to charge these projects for functional overhead. The bill would require the department to report, on or before July 1, 2024, to the Legislature on the amount of private funding invested in wildlife crossing projects for the 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 fiscal years.	Support	2
SB 790	Stern D	Wildlife connectivity mitigation credits.	Wildlife Crossings	Protect the positive environmental values of open space lands	Approved	Current law vests the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) with jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. Current law vests the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) with full possession and control of the state highway system. This bill would require DFW, in consultation with Caltrans, to provide compensatory mitigation credits to support modifications and planning of projects on the state highway system that improve local and regional habitat connectivity and result in fish passage, wildlife connectivity, and other environmental improvements.	Sponsor/Support	1