

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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**REPORT ON PENDING LEGISLATION****SB 1028, as introduced, Hill. Electrical corporations: wildfire mitigation plans.**

This bill would require each electrical corporation, local publicly owned electric utility, and electrical cooperative to construct, maintain, and operate its electrical lines and equipment in a manner that will minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire posed by those electrical lines and equipment. The bill would require each electrical corporation and each local publicly owned electric utility or electrical cooperative to annually prepare a wildfire mitigation plan. The bill would require each electrical corporation to submit its plan to the commission and each local publicly owned electric utility or electrical cooperative to submit its plan to its governing board for review, as specified. The bill would require the governing board of a local publicly owned electric utility or electrical cooperative to determine whether any portion of the geographical area where the utility's overhead electrical lines and equipment are located has a significant risk of catastrophic wildfire resulting from those electrical lines and equipment and, if so, would require the local publicly owned electric utility or electrical cooperative to annually present to the board for its approval those wildfire mitigation measures the utility intends to undertake to minimize the risk of its overhead electrical lines and equipment causing a catastrophic wildfire.

11/2/2016 Status	Chaptered
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AB 1589, as amended, Mathis. California Environmental Quality Act: exemption.

This bill would, for the duration of a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor due to drought conditions, exempt from the requirements of CEQA certain projects that are undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to mitigate those drought conditions.

04/04/16 Status	Failed passage in Assembly Natural Resources, reconsideration granted
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AB 2162, as introduced, Chu. Oak Woodlands Protection Act.

The Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 prohibits a person from conducting timber operations unless a timber harvesting plan prepared by a registered professional forester has been submitted to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The Oak Woodlands Conservation Act provides funding for the conservation and protection of California's oak woodlands. Any violation of the Fish and Game Code is a crime.

This bill would enact the Oak Woodlands Protection Act, which would prohibit a person from removing from an oak woodland, as defined, specified oak trees, unless an oak removal plan and oak removal permit application for the oak tree removal has been submitted to and approved by the Director of Fish and Wildlife.

By June, 30, 2016, the bill would require the Fish and Game Commission to adopt regulations to implement the act, including regulations establishing an oak removal permit application fee. The bill would require the fee to be deposited into the Oak Woodlands Protection Act Fund, as created by the bill. Moneys in the fund would be continuously appropriated to the department for purposes of paying the total costs incurred by the department in administering and enforcing the act, thereby making an appropriation.

02/29/2016 Status	Referred to Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
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AB 1958, as introduced, Wood. Forest practices: oak woodlands.

This bill would until January 1, 2024, authorize the board to exempt from some or all of those provisions of the act a person cutting or removing trees in specified areas to restore and conserve California black or Oregon white oak woodlands and associated grasslands, as specified. The bill would require the department and board to review and submit a report to the Legislature on the trends in the use of, compliance with, and effectiveness of the above exemptions and emergency notice provision and specified regulations.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 4584 of the Public Resources Code proposed by AB 2029 that would become operative if this bill and AB 2029 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

11/2/2016 Status	Chaptered
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SB 1463, as introduced, Moorlach. Electrical lines: mitigation of wildfire risks.

This bill would require the Public Utilities commission, in consultation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to prioritize areas in which communities are subject to conditions that increase fire hazards associated with overhead utility facilities when determining areas in which it will require enhanced mitigation measures for wildfire hazards posed by overhead electrical lines and equipment. The bill would require the commission to develop a definition of “enhanced mitigation measures” for these purposes. The bill, as part of any findings supporting a decision to approve the boundaries for those areas, would require the commission to describe how the commission incorporated the concerns of local governments, fire departments, or both in determining those boundaries.

11/2/2016 Status	Vetoed
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SB 1402, as introduced, Pavley. Low-carbon fuels.

This bill would create the California Low-Carbon Fuels Incentive Program to be administered by the state board and the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, and would authorize moneys in the fund appropriated to the program to be used to provide incentives for the in-state production of low-carbon transportation fuels from new and existing facilities using sustainable feedstock, with priority to be given to projects benefitting disadvantaged communities.

05/27/2016 Status	Senate Appropriations Committee
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SB 1043, as introduced, Allen. Renewable gas: biogas and biomethane.

This bill would require the state board to consider and, as appropriate, adopt policies to significantly increase the sustainable production and use of biogas, as defined, and, in so doing, would require the state board, among other things, to ensure the production and use of biogas provides direct environmental benefits and identify barriers to the rapid development and use of biogas and potential sources of funding. The bill would require the state board to develop and adopt a life-cycle accounting method for greenhouse gases and emissions of short-lived climate pollutants associated with biogas produced from forest biomass, as specified.

05/27/2016 Status	In Senate Appropriations
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SB 805, as introduced, Committee on Natural Resources and Water. Natural resources.

(3) Existing law requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to appoint a Range Management Advisory Committee and requires 2 members on the board to be from the general public, as provided, and for one member to be nominated by the Watershed Fire Council of Southern California.

This bill would instead require 3 members to be from the general public, as provided, and would delete the nomination from the Watershed Fire Council of Southern California.

02/26/2016 Status	In committee
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AB 1555, as introduced, Gomez. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

This bill would appropriate \$800,000,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for the 2016–17 fiscal year to various state agencies in specified amounts for various purposes including, among other things, low carbon transportation and infrastructure, clean energy communities, wetland and watershed restoration, and carbon sequestration. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature to reserve \$150,000,000 from the fund to fund future legislative priorities.

(8) The amount of twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for urban forestry.

04/14/2016 Status	Assembly Budget Committee
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AB 2029, as amended, Dahle. Timber harvesting plans: exemptions.

This bill would require the department and the board to review and submit a report to the Legislature, on or before December 31, 2017, on the trends in the use of, compliance with, and effectiveness of, the above exemptions and emergency notice provisions and specified regulations. If the report is not submitted on or before that date, the bill would require specified legislative committees to hold a hearing to investigate why the report was not submitted. The bill would authorize the Forest Fire Prevention Pilot Project Exemption until January 1, 2021, and, on January 1, 2018, or upon the submission of the report, whichever occurs first, would expand the exemption to instead permit the removal of trees less than 26 inches in stump diameter, measured at 8 inches above ground level and apply to activities anywhere within those 28 counties, or in any combination of those areas, as prescribed.

11/2/2016 Status	Chaptered
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