

Legislative Update

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Important Dates:

- June 6 – Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house
- June 15 – Budget bill must be passed by midnight
- July 18 – Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills. **Summer Recess** begins upon adjournment of session provided Budget Bill has been passed
- August 18 – Legislature reconvenes
- September 3 – ASCE/APWA Legislative Day (Sacramento)
- September 2-12 – Floor session only
- September 12 – Last day for each house to pass bills. Interim Study Recess begins at end of this day's session

Suspense Day

California lawmakers rejected hundreds of bills on Friday, May 23rd to save costs amid a \$12 billion budget deficit. The deficit has worsened due to potential federal funding cuts and increased spending on healthcare for low-income residents. Assembly Appropriations Committee Chair Buffy Wicks said, “Many good bills will fall by the wayside today,” citing the challenging budget environment that limits the expansion of programs and agencies.

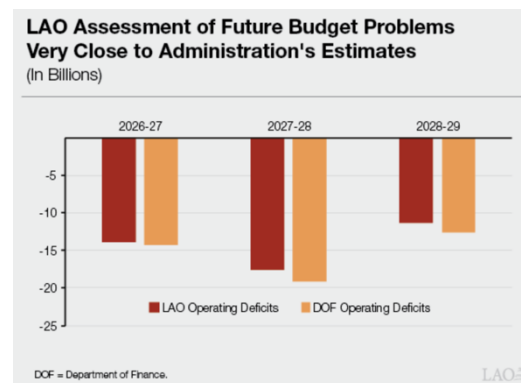
The procedure known as the “suspense file” is one of the state Legislature’s most confidential and expedited biannual hearings. During this process, the chairs of the Assembly and Senate Appropriations committees swiftly reject costly proposals with minimal explanation, often exerting more stringent actions during times of budget constraints.

Bills that would incur a cost of at least \$50,000 in the Senate and \$150,000 in the Assembly are placed in suspense files by the appropriations committees. Initially designed to enable lawmakers to evaluate policy proposals involving state expenditures collectively, balancing them against one another, this mechanism has become well-accepted for its secondary purposes. In Sacramento, it is an open secret that the suspense file proceedings provide legislators an opportunity to terminate contentious bills clandestinely, cater to influential special interests, or reduce the volume of legislation for floor debate. Decisions on whether bills should advance to the full Senate or Assembly, or be held, are made in advance in private. The public hearings merely serve to announce these decisions rapidly.

The Senate Appropriations Committee rejected 29% of the 432 bills listed, although some were retained for further consideration next year. This reflects a more aggressive reduction compared to May of the previous year. Similarly, the Assembly Appropriations Committee dismissed 35% of the 666 measures on its suspense file, a rate consistent with that of the preceding year. Legislators had been advised to minimize the financial impact of their proposals, according to Wicks.

State Budget

The Legislative Analyst assessed the state's multiyear budget condition under the Governor's May Revision policies. As shown below, their estimates project operating deficits ranging from \$10 billion to \$20 billion over the next 3-year period. These shortfalls represent future budget problems that would require additional budget-balancing decisions. That said, the actual budget condition will differ, possibly significantly, from these projections, primarily due to revenue volatility. While their revenue forecast is designed to balance the risk of over- and underestimation, history shows that actual revenues can vary from the median projection by billions or even tens of billions of dollars over a multiyear period.



Several Democratic lawmakers and progressive interest groups expressed concerns about Governor Gavin Newsom's revised budget proposal last week, particularly regarding the proposed reduction in Medi-Cal benefits for individuals who are not legal state residents.

Critics suggested tax increases to fund higher spending. Assembly Member Patrick Ahrens called for reviewing corporate tax breaks, including incentives for job creation in California. Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, representing the Legislative Women's Caucus, urged lawmakers to reject proposed cuts to childcare by Newsom and instead provide cost-of-living increases and additional funding for childcare programs.

David Huerta, president of SEIU California and SEIU-United Service Workers West, stated that SEIU members vowed to fight for jobs and workers' values. They urged legislators to reject proposed budget cuts and find revenue options to reinvest in improving lives and opportunities in California. Over 100 organizations signed an SEIU letter advocating for increased taxes, according to Luan Huynh from the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

The California Budget and Policy Center, known for advocating higher taxes on employers in the state, has criticized the governor's proposal. They described the proposed expansion of tax credits for film studios as a "misguided" measure that would compromise the state's ability to assist Californians in managing the high cost of living and meeting basic needs. Governor Newsom has emphasized that the tax credit is essential for retaining film industry jobs within California.

During a press conference on May 19 addressing the Medi-Cal reductions, leaders from the Democratic Legislative Latino Caucus suggested that tax increases should be considered in budget discussions. According to KCRA News, the Caucus did not present specific solutions. Still, it fielded multiple questions regarding potential cuts to other state services or the creation of new taxes to cover additional costs.

Newsom, who many believe is running for President in 2028, is unlikely to approve tax increases but will face a tough final two years with an unbalanced budget.

Legislation

ADA

[AB 649 \(Lowenthal - D\)](#) One of two bills dealing with ADA. Under existing law, Defendants are exempt from liability for minimum statutory damages for 120 days if a Certified Access Specialist (CAsp) report identifies the violation, given specific conditions: the CAsp inspection must precede the claim or demand letter, and the defendant must not be previously aware of the violation. This bill extends this to allow defendants who have corrected all violations identified in a CAsp report to have a 120-day period to address new allegations within 10 years. During this period, if defendants meet certain conditions, including pre-inspection correction of violations and lack of prior notice, they can also recover attorney's fees and costs for claims made. 5/27/2025-A. THIRD READING **ASCE R9 Position:** Watch

APM/DB/CMaR

[AB 533 \(Flora - R\)](#) Current law allows specific health care districts, like the Sonoma Valley and Last Frontier Health Care Districts, to use a design-build approach for constructing hospital-related facilities. This bill proposes allowing any health care district to use this design-build process. 5/7/2025-S. L. GOV. **ASCE R9 Position:** Watch

[SB 272 \(Becker - D\)](#) SB 272 authorizes the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) to enter into job order contracts (JOCs). Requires JOCs to be subject to the project labor agreement (PLA) between SamTrans and the San Mateo Building Trades Council or an amendment or extension of that agreement. 5/12/2025-A. L. GOV. **ASCE R9 Position:** Rec Support

Bonds

[AB 736 \(Wicks - D\)](#) would enact the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026, which, if adopted, would authorize the issuance of bonds for \$10,000,000,000 under the State General Obligation Bond Law. Proceeds from the sale of these bonds would be used to finance programs to fund affordable rental housing and home ownership programs, including, among others, the Multifamily Housing Program, the CalHome Program, and the Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program. 5/27/2025-A. THIRD READING **ASCE R9 Position:** Rec Support

[SB 90 \(Seyarto - R\)](#) This bill adds new eligible projects under the \$10 billion Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act, allowing grants for

public evacuation route improvements, mobile rigid dip tanks and prepositioned mobile rigid water storage, enhancements to fire engine and helicopter response capabilities, and backup electrical generators. 5/23/2025-S. 2 YEAR **ASCE R9 Position:** Disfavor

Business Issues

AB 339 (Ortega - D) Like AB 2557 from 2024, which failed, this bill may violate Article XXII of the Constitution regarding architecture and engineering (AE) services. Public agencies must notify employee bargaining organizations before contracting for various services, including AE, currently performed by agency employees. Per fiscal analysis, "Costs of an unknown, but potentially significant amount, more than \$150,000, across local agencies (nearly 4,000 cities, counties, and special districts) to plan and provide advance notice before procuring a contract, meet and confer with the recognized employee organization, and reopen MOU negotiations. If the Commission on State Mandates determines this bill's requirements to be a reimbursable state mandate, the state would need to reimburse these costs to local agencies (General Fund)." 5/27/2025-A. THIRD READING **ASCE R9 Position:** Rec OUA

CEQA

AB 35 (Alvarez - D) This bill would, except as provided, require a lead agency to determine whether to approve the clean hydrogen environmental assessment and issue a discretionary permit or authorization for the project no later than 270 days after the application for the project is deemed complete. 5/1/2025-A. 2 YEAR **ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

AB 66 (Tangipa - R) This bill, effective until January 1, 2032, exempts egress route projects meant to improve emergency access and evacuation in subdivisions lacking secondary routes from CEQA, provided the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection recommends this and certain conditions are met. 5/27/2025-A. THIRD READING **ASCE R9 Position:** Watch

AB 295 (Macedo - R) This bill, which ends in 2034, extends the Environmental Leadership Act of 2021 to include water-related projects like water storage, conveyance, and recharge that offer public benefits and help in drought preparedness. The bill requires lead agencies to document proceedings for these projects, adding a state-mandated local program. 5/1/2025-A. 2 YEAR **ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

AB 314 (Arambula - D) This bill would require agencies to assess if locations of high-speed rail stations qualify as major transit stops for CEQA exemption purposes, forming a state-mandated local program. 5/23/2025-A. 2 YEAR **ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

AB 317 (Jackson - D) Establishes an exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for new construction of a single-family dwelling that is 1,500 square feet or less with no more than three bedrooms and is intended to be sold to a first-time homebuyer for less than \$400,000. Also provides for deferral of property taxes on eligible dwellings. 5/28/2025-S. RLS. **ASCE R9 Position:** Watch

AB 571 (Quirk-Silva - D) This bill would exempt activities or approvals necessary for completing the Gypsum Canyon Veterans Cemetery in Orange County from CEQA requirements, with this exemption validated by local agencies. The exemption would expire on January 1, 2030. 5/28/2025-S. E.Q. **ASCE R9 Position:** Watch

AB 609 (Wicks - D) This bill would exempt qualifying housing development projects from CEQA requirements, with the condition that local governments mandate the completion of a phase I environmental assessment by the development proponent. This process requires the lead agency to ascertain if a project qualifies for exemption. 5/20/2025-S. RLS. **ASCE R9 Position:** Rec Support

B 941 (Zbur - D) AB 941 proposes that the Public Utilities Commission must certify the environmental impact report for priority electrical infrastructure projects within 270 days after acknowledging a complete application unless specified otherwise. Applicants must identify and justify priority projects in their applications. The commission's staff should review applications within 30 days, notify applicants of any deficiencies, and require corrections or explanations within 60 days. A complete application should be accompanied by a preliminary ruling defining the project's scope and schedule. 5/23/2025-A. 2 YEAR **ASCE R9 Position:** Rec Support

AB 975 (Gallagher - R) Exempts projects to repair or reconstruct a bridge up to 30 feet long or a culvert up to 70 feet long, in the County of Sutter, that has been damaged or destroyed by a fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide since 2021 from the need to obtain a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) from the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). Sunsets this provision on January 1, 2029 5/23/2025-S. RLS. **ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

AB 1456 (Bryan - D) This bill exempts public agency-led vegetation fuel management projects from CEQA. It requires a lead agency to file a notice of exemption if a project fits this category. 5/27/2025-A. THIRD READING **ASCE R9 Position:** Rec Support

SB 71 (Wiener - D) This bill removes the January 1, 2030 sunset on existing CEQA exemptions for various transportation plans and projects. Retains a January 1, 2032, sunset for transportation projects using near-zero emission, natural gas, or low-NOx technology. Expands the existing exemption to include changes to plans redesigning transit networks and for projects for microtransit, paratransit, shuttles, and ferries 5/29/2025-S. SECOND READING **ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

SB 231 (Seyarto - R) SB-231 would require the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation to create a new appendix in the CEQA guidelines to establish best practices for lead agencies to follow when determining if a proposed project will significantly affect the environment. 5/23/2025-S. 2 YEAR **ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

SB 232 (Seyarto - R) SB-232 will study the effects of a lock-in period for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regulations at issuance of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) to promote project efficiency while preserving environmental diligence. Supported by LHC. 5/23/2025-S. 2 YEAR **ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

SB 252 (Valladares - R) This bill proposes to exempt projects that involve undergrounding powerlines from CEQA requirements. This exemption task requires a lead agency to assess eligibility, thus creating a state-mandated local program. 5/1/2025-S. 2 YEAR **ASCE R9**
Position: Pending

Codes

AB 306 (Schultz - D) It proposes a moratorium on the adoption or modification of new state and local building standards affecting residential units from June 1, 2025, to June 1, 2031, with limited exceptions. 4/23/2025-S. HOUSING **ASCE R9** **Position:** Rec Oppose

Construction Practices

AB 289 (Haney - D) This bill introduces the Safe Highway Work Zone Account in the State Transportation Fund to collect such revenues for program administration. The bill maintains the \$25 filing fee for appeal processes related to violations. 5/27/2025-A. THIRD READING **ASCE R9** **Position:** Pending

AB 978 (Hoover - R) AB 978 (Hoover) would require a local agency with jurisdiction over a street or highway to allow for the use of recycled materials when paving streets and highways. The bill would specifically allow for using up to 25% recycled asphalt pavement in road projects, which is the current Caltrans specification allowance. AB 978 also removes a sunset date tied to a previous statute created by AB 2953 (Salas, 2022). 5/21/2025-S. TRANS. **ASCE R9** **Position:** Pending

GHG

SB 348 (Hurtado - D) SB 348 directs the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to revisit and revise the recent Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) updates to reduce the financial burden on California consumers. 5/23/2025-S. 2 YEAR **ASCE R9** **Position:** Watch

Groundwater

AB 293 (Bennett - D) This bill would require each groundwater sustainability agency to publish its board of directors' membership on its website or the local agency's website, as provided. The bill would also require each groundwater sustainability agency to publish a link on its website or its local agency's website to the location on the Fair Political Practices Commission's website where the statements of economic interests filed by the agency's board members and executives can be viewed. ACWA opposes this bill, arguing that it establishes unique requirements for GSAs and does not apply to any other special district. Furthermore, ACWA asserts that with the passage of SB 1156 (Hurtado) last year, existing transparency laws are sufficient, and this bill is, therefore, unnecessary. 5/7/2025-S. N.R. & W. **ASCE R9** **Position:** Watch

AB 709 (Gonzalez, Jeff - R) This bill would provide that nothing in existing law relating to submission of groundwater sustainability plans to Department of Water Resources shall be construed to prohibit groundwater sustainability agencies that have developed multiple

groundwater sustainability plans for a basin from amending the coordination agreement following department issuance of an assessment of the plans. 5/21/2025-S. N.R. & W. **ASCE R9 Position:** Watch

AB 1466 (Hart - D) Makes changes to the comprehensive groundwater adjudication statute to set a higher burden of proof for certain challenges and ensure the court has technical information regarding groundwater pumpers that use less than five acre-feet (AF) of water annually or that are not a party to the comprehensive groundwater adjudication. 5/8/2025-A. **THIRD READING ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

SB 838 (Durazo - D) This bill requires that a lead agency review groundwater sustainability plans, management plans, or alternatives in accordance with specific groundwater management laws. 5/8/2025-S. **THIRD READING ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

Housing

SB 79 (Wiener - D) It allows transit-oriented development on specified sites, gives transit agencies more flexibility under the Surplus Land Act, and exempts specified projects from CEQA. 5/29/2025-S. **SECOND READING ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

SB 681 (Wahab - D) This bill makes several changes to laws governing housing approvals, elements, common interest developments, and building standards. Among other provisions, it prohibits landlords from charging tenants certain fees, limits the application screening fee a landlord can charge, and deems subordinate mortgages abandoned if the mortgage servicer fails to provide certain notices. 5/27/2025-S. **THIRD READING ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

Infrastructure

AB 417 (Carrillo - D) This bill updates existing law, allowing enhanced infrastructure financing districts to finance projects aimed at broader community economic recovery. It modifies the process for public financing authorities, which must hold meetings and conduct annual reviews of infrastructure financing plans. This allows amendments to be approved by majority votes with proper notice. This bill also facilitates the participation of additional taxing entities in these districts' financing plans and clarifies the requirements for adopting an annual report after the fiscal year ends. 5/7/2025-S. L. GOV. **ASCE R9 Position:** Rec Support

SB 21 (Durazo - D) The Housing Crisis Act of 2019 restricted housing development projects in affected cities or counties, particularly those involving the demolition of protected housing units. According to the law, any new housing development must replace all demolished protected units and match the highest number of residential units on the site in the last five years. SB 21 proposes that the number of replacement units can be reduced for certain single-room occupancy buildings if the project aims to convert these into affordable rental units while meeting specific criteria. 5/27/2025-A. **DESK ASCE R9 Position:** Watch

SB 74 (Seyarto - R) SB-74 will establish the Infrastructure Gap Fund, which, upon appropriation by the Legislature, provides grants of up to 20 percent of necessary remaining funding to cities

and local agencies for critically delayed and vital infrastructure projects— including but not limited to roads, schools, and broadband— throughout California 5/29/2025-A. DESK ASCE R9
Position: Rec Support

[SB 769 \(Caballero - D\)](#) Establishes the Golden State Infrastructure Corporation (Corporation) within the State Treasurer's Office as a not-for-profit corporation to finance infrastructure projects. 5/28/2025-A. DESK ASCE R9 **Position:** Rec Support

[SB 833 \(McNerney - D\)](#) This bill mandates state agencies, defined as operators overseeing critical infrastructure with artificial intelligence (AI) systems, to implement human oversight for real-time monitoring and pre-execution approval of AI actions. Additionally, the Department of Technology must provide specialized AI safety and risk management training for oversight personnel. Agencies must also conduct annual assessments of their AI systems, submitting a summary of their findings to the department. 5/23/2025-S. THIRD READING ASCE R9
Position: Watch

Licensure

[AB 667 \(Solache - D\)](#) Requires licensing boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to allow applicants who cannot read, speak, or write in English to use an interpreter when taking examinations required for licensure or certification. 5/27/2025-A. THIRD READING ASCE R9 **Position:** Watch

[AB 1341 \(Hoover - R\)](#) AB 1341 (Hoover) clarifies that existing provisions of the Contractors' State License Law, which make violations of the "building laws of the state" subject to discipline by the Contractors' State License Board, include the unlicensed practice of architecture, engineering, and land surveying. This clarification protects the public by helping prevent unlicensed practice in these critical disciplines. 5/28/2025-S. B., P. & E.D. ASCE R9 **Position:** Support

Public Works

[AB 963 \(Petrie-Norris - D\)](#) Requires owners and developers undertaking any public works project to make specified records available to the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE), multi-employer Taft-Hartley trust funds, and to joint labor-management committees (JLMCs). Supported by unions, opposed by developers and contractors. Opposed by California Housing Consortium, California Housing Partnership Corporation, Housing California 5/27/2025-A. THIRD READING ASCE R9 **Position:** Watch

[AB 1198 \(Haney - D\)](#) It requires contractors to pay the new prevailing wage whenever DIR changes it. AB 2182 (Haney) of 2024 contained identical provisions to this bill. Governor Newsom vetoed the measure. AB 1140 (Daly) of 2013 was identical to this bill and was vetoed by Governor Jerry Brown. Will third time be a charm? 5/23/2025-A. 2 YEAR ASCE R9
Position: Rec Oppose

SB 469 (Smallwood-Cuevas - D) This bill directs the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) to establish the California Public Infrastructure Task Force (Task Force) and tasks it with, among other things, making recommendations for increasing the participation of underrepresented communities in public infrastructure projects. 5/23/2025-S. 2 YEAR **ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

SCR 62 (Becker - D) 5/29/2025-A. RLS. **ASCE R9 Position:** Rec Support

Transportation

AB 830 (Rogers - D) Would require Caltrans to pay to relocate or remove the encroachment of a public utility district (PUD) with a ratepayer base of 5,000 households or fewer in the event of a future improvement to the highway, and to notify the PUD at each stage of a project. 5/27/2025-A. THIRD READING **ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

AB 902 (Schultz - D) The Connected Communities Act is intended to improve California wildlife and climate resilience by requiring metropolitan planning organizations and regional transportation planning agencies to consider and minimize impacts to wildlife movement and habitat connectivity through their regional planning processes 5/27/2025-A. THIRD READING **ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

AB 1421 (Wilson - D) This bill serves as a legislative vehicle to develop an evidence-based, long-term funding solution to replace declining gas tax revenues in a fair, sustainable and effective way to ensure the state's transportation infrastructure improvements meet Californians' needs. 5/1/2025-A. 2 YEAR **ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

SB 63 (Wiener - D) SB 63 authorizes a 10- to 15-year regional public transportation operations sales tax measure on the November 2026 ballot in specified Bay Area counties to provide critical funding for transit agencies with major operations shortfalls. Specifically, SB 63 authorizes a ½-cent sales tax measure in Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco Counties - with up to 1 cent in San Francisco to provide greater Muni funding. SB 63 provides San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties the opportunity to decide to opt into the measure by July 31, 2025, and envisions determining the exact rate structure by July 31, 2025. SB 63 states the preference of the legislature for San Mateo County to opt into the regional funding measure. 5/27/2025-S. THIRD READING **ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

SB 78 (Seyarto - R) SB-78 will task Caltrans with publishing a study that identifies the top 15 locations in the state highway system with the highest rate of vehicle collisions, projects that could improve safety at the identified sites, and any common factors contributing to the delay in the delivery of these projects on or before January 1, 2027. 5/29/2025-A. DESK **ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

Water

AB 93 (Papan - D) Establishes requirements for business licenses, cities and counties, state agencies, and urban water suppliers to report water use by data centers and require data centers to use water efficiently. 5/29/2025-S. RLS. **ASCE R9 Position:** Pending

AB 532 (Ransom - D) AB 532 clarifies the statutory authority for urban retail water suppliers to run low-income water rate assistance programs within their communities and establishes the California Low Income Household Water Rate Assistance Program. 5/27/2025-A. **THIRD READING ASCE R9 Position:** Watch

AB 638 (Rodriguez, Celeste - D) AB 638 requires the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to develop guidance for using captured urban stormwater to encourage and enhance climate resilience. The SWRCB must establish statewide guidelines so existing stormwater infrastructure and future projects can provide vital non-potable water for the irrigation of public spaces. No opposition. Per Appropriations: "To meet the bill's six-month implementation timeline, the State Water Board estimates one-time costs of approximately \$2.5 million (General Fund or Waste Discharge Permit Fund). This includes roughly \$1.5 million for limited-term positions to conduct public outreach and draft the required guidance, as well as \$1 million in contracting costs for work associated with establishing criteria for pathogens and pathogen indicators, total suspended solids, toxics, and structural and nonstructural best management practices to reduce potential health risks to exposed populations." 5/27/2025-A. **THIRD READING ASCE R9 Position:** Rec Support

SB 31 (McNerney - D) SB 31 is intended to help CA close the gap in its water needs by making it easier to use recycled water in outdoor irrigation at homes, businesses, parks, and golf courses. No opposition 5/29/2025-A. **DESK ASCE R9 Position:** Support

SB 72 (Caballero - D) This bill revises the contents of the California Water Plan, which is updated every five years by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), requires DWR to develop a long-term water supply planning target for 2050, establishes an interim target to develop an additional 9 million acre-feet (AF) of water, and requires that each plan update includes specified components. 5/23/2025-S. **THIRD READING ASCE R9 Position:** Rec Support

SB 224 (Hurtado - D) This bill requires DWR to adopt a water supply forecasting model incorporating climate change impacts by January 1, 2027. It should also document its operational plans and reasoning for water reservoir releases. The department must establish criteria for the model's predictive capabilities and publish these online. Starting January 1, 2028, it must report annually to the Legislature and publish reports on the progress of the new model and the rationale behind its operations for the previous year. 5/27/2025-S. **THIRD READING ASCE R9 Position:** Favor

SB 473 (Padilla - D) SB 473 offers a permanent solution to water affordability and encourages water conservation by ensuring the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) permits water utilities to use a 'decoupling' mechanism when requested. The program lets water utilities separate the fixed water infrastructure costs from the variable water consumption costs. SB 473 will assist in establishing equitable rates so water suppliers can charge higher rates for high-use

customers, while those who use less water and conserve pay less, promoting fair rates for customers while maintaining a reliable funding stream for infrastructure improvements. 5/23/2025-S. THIRD READING **ASCE R9 Position:** Watch

SB 697 (Laird - D) This bill gives the State Water Resources Control Board flexibility in the manner used to investigate a stream system, rather than requiring the Board to conduct a detailed field investigation, and, when conducting these investigations, authorizes the Board to issue an information order to any person or entity that diverts or uses water or claims a water right. 5/28/2025-A. DESK **ASCE R9 Position:** Watch

Water Quality

AB 1313 (Papan - D) Requires the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to establish, as provided, a statewide commercial, industrial, and institutional National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) order to regulate stormwater and authorized non-stormwater discharges from facilities with impervious surfaces that are significant contributors of pollutants to federally-protected surface waters. 5/27/2025-A. THIRD READING **ASCE R9 Position:** Watch

SB 454 (McNerney - D) This bill creates the PFAS Mitigation Fund in the State Treasury and authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to use the fund to cover or reduce the costs associated with treating per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water and wastewater. 5/28/2025-A. DESK **ASCE R9 Position:** Favor

SB 601 (Allen - D) This bill requires dischargers to demonstrate enrollment in state or federal discharge permits when applying for local permits; maintains stringency in drinking water and water quality standards; defines “nexus waters” and enacts the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act for “nexus waters”; expands enforcement authority for the State Water Board and enacts citizen enforcement for “nexus waters”. 5/27/2025-S. THIRD READING **ASCE R9 Position:** Disfavor

SB 682 (Allen - D) This bill prohibits a person from distributing, selling, or offering for sale covered products that contain intentionally added PFAS beginning January 1, 2027. Prohibits certain specified products that contain intentionally added PFAS unless the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) made a determination that the use of PFAS in the product is a currently unavoidable use. By banning essential materials—from heat pumps to electrical cabling—SB 682 would drive up housing costs, jeopardize safety, and further exacerbate the state’s housing crisis. 5/27/2025-S. THIRD READING **ASCE R9 Position:** Rec Support

Appointments

By Governor

Does require Senate confirmation.

Reappointed to Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission: **David Rabbitt**, Democrat, Petaluma, supervisor, Sonoma County since 2011; **Vincent Wells**, Democrat, Elk Grove, president, United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County Local 1230 since 2008; **Debra Garnes**, Democrat, Rio Dell, mayor, City of Rio Dell since 2019; **Cindy Silva**, no party preference, Walnut Creek, councilmember, City of Walnut Creek since 2006. Salary: \$100 per diem.

Does not require Senate confirmation.

To Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists: **Desirea Haggard**, no party preference, Pinon Hills, vice president of sustainability and environment, Unacem North America since 2024; **Christina Wong** (reappointed), Democrat, Chico, self-employed psychotherapist since 2024. Salary: \$100 per diem.

Reports of Interest

Legislative Analyst's Office releases [Assessing California's Climate Policies: Cap-and-Trade Reauthorization](#), finds "state met its 2020 goal several years ahead of schedule," but "emissions will need to decline at a much faster rate in order to meet the 2030 and 2045 targets, which are significantly more ambitious;" also finds that "Cap-and-Trade Program imposes costs on emitters and, ultimately consumers" and that "historically, legislature has delegated many decisions on Cap-and-Trade to California Air Resources Board," says if the legislature chooses to reauthorize the program, "providing greater direction in key areas would ensure legislative priorities are reflected."

LAO also released "[May Revision Proposals for Cap-and-Trade Reauthorization and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#)," which recommends that the Legislature "modify the Governor's proposal, as relevant, to provide additional statutory direction to ensure that legislative priorities are reflected as part of the cap-and-trade reauthorization."