

**RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**REPORT ON PENDING LEGISLATION****SB 937, as introduced, McGuire. Disaster relief: Lake County Fires.**

The California Disaster Assistance Act generally provides that the state share for disaster project allocations to local agencies is no more than 75% of total state eligible costs, except for specified events for which the state share is up to 100% of state eligible costs. This bill would add the forest fires that occurred in the County of Lake in 2015 to the list of events for which the state share of state eligible cost is up to 100%. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

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| 05/27/2016<br>Status | Held Under Submission |
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**SB 1028, as amended, 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 approval, 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.

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| 06/29/2016<br>Status | On Senate Appropriations Suspense File |
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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.

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| 04/04/2016<br>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.

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| 02/29/2016<br>Status | Referred to Assembly Committee on Natural Resources |
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**AB 1958, as amended, Wood. Forest practices: oak woodlands.**

The Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973, which regulates timber harvesting, requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to divide the state into districts, taking into account differing characteristics, and to adopt, and continuously review and revise, district forest practice rules and regulations for each district in accordance with specified policies.

This bill would also, until 7 years after the effective date of regulations adopted by the board implementing the provisions of the bill, authorize the board to exempt a person cutting or removing trees in specified areas, including through commercial harvest, to restore and conserve California black or Oregon white oak woodlands and associated grasslands, as specified. *The bill would require the department to evaluate the effects of this authorization and make recommendations based on that evaluation to the Legislature.*

This bill would define "growing of timber," for these purposes, to include restoration and conservation forest management activities, which may include the removal of commercial species, if necessary to achieve specific forest health and ecological goals, that are not conducted in conjunction with the cutting or removal of trees or other forest products during the conversion of timberlands to other uses.

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| 06/21/2016<br>Status | In Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee |
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**SB 1463, as amended, 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 are ~~at high risk from the consequences of wildfires~~ *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.

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| 06/30/2016<br>Status | Assembly Appropriations Committee |
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**SB 1402, as amended, 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.

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| 05/27/2016<br>Status | Senate Appropriations Committee – held under submission |
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**SB 1043, as amended, 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.

*(The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:...(e) Using forest biomass collected as part of a sustainable forestry plan can significantly reduce the risks and impacts of catastrophic wildfires, including black carbon emissions and air pollution, impacts on water supply and quality, impacts on utility and other infrastructure, threats to public safety and communities, impacts on fisheries and wildlife, and effects on precipitation.*

HSC 39735 39735.

*(a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:*

*(1) "Biogas" has the same meaning as defined in Section 25420, except that it does not include gas produced from forest biomass unless it is produced from forest waste remaining after all other reasonable forest products have been produced and it meets one or more of the following conditions:*

*(A) The waste was generated pursuant to the Governor's state of emergency proclamation issued on October 30, 2015.*

*(B) The waste was generated as a result of activities necessary to clear defensible space within 300 feet of a legally permitted structure.*

*(C) The waste was produced pursuant to an approved timber harvest plan, nonindustrial timber management plan, or working forest management plan that will increase the average stand diameter of residual crop trees, and the biogas produced from the waste will provide long-term reductions in greenhouse gas and emissions of short-lived climate pollutants pursuant to the life-cycle accounting method specified in subdivision (c).*

*(D) The waste was generated from fuel reduction or ecological forest restoration thinning activities on national forest land that increase stand heterogeneity, create openings of less than one acre, and increase the average stand diameter of residual trees....*

*(b) In order to meet the state's climate change, low-carbon fuel, renewable energy, landfill diversion, and wildfire reduction goals, the state board shall consider and adopt policies to significantly increase the sustainable production and use of renewable gas. In doing so, the state board shall do all the following:.... (5) Coordinate with the Public Utilities Commission, the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, publicly owned utilities, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.)*

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| 05/27/2016<br>Status | In Senate Appropriations – held under submission |
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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.*

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| 02/26/2016<br>Status | In committee |
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**AB 1555, as amended, 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.

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| 04/14/2016<br>Status | Assembly Budget Committee |
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**SB 1396, as amended, Wolk. *Wildlife Conservation Board: Inner Coast Range Program.***

Existing law, the Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947, establishes the Wildlife Conservation Board in the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Under existing law, the board consists of the president of the Fish and Game Commission, the Director of Fish and Wildlife, and the Director of Finance. Existing law prescribes the board’s duties with regard to, among other things, real property acquisitions for property used for wildlife preservation and conservation purposes.

This bill would establish the Inner Coast Range Program with specified goal areas and authorization related to the Inner Coast Range Region, as defined. This bill would require the board to establish an advisory board for the program consisting of representatives of counties within the region and would authorize the board to invite certain legislators and representatives of federal agencies to participate as members on the advisory board. The bill would create the Inner Coast Range Program Fund in the State Treasury and would provide that moneys in the fund would be available, upon appropriation, for the purposes of the program.

The bill would require the board to make an annual report to the Legislature and to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency regarding expenditures, land, management costs, and administrative costs for the purposes of the program. The bill, by January 1, 2027, would require the board, in consultation with the advisory board, to review the program and issue a report to the relevant policy committees of the Legislature about the possible creation of a state conservancy for the Inner Coast Range Region.

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| 06/16/2016<br>Status | In Assembly – hearing canceled on request on author |
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