Threats to the Delta and its values are not new, but they are becoming more serious with ongoing climate change. Delta communities have already lost farmland to the sea, and the Herlong Dam, which serves less than 100 homes, is the last major barrier to the ocean. We have been working on efforts to build more resilience in the Delta and work with the Governor and Legislature to address the Delta’s needs.

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PCL has worked closely with Senator Ben Allen’s office on SB 1205, which will require that the State Water Board consider climate change impacts on hydrology when developing the Water Availability Analysis.

PCL also sponsored Assembly Bill 2690 on protecting the waters of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta watershed. Under the Clean Water Act, this bill would require the State Water Board to implement a Water Quality Control Plan once every few years. This plan is used to determine how much water is available in a watershed, which then calculates how much is available for diversion and how much is left for the environment. However, the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan has not been significantly updated since 1995. For years, water diversions have stalled the process by preventing the development of the plans, which is the state’s water management plan. Unfortunately, these “agreements” tend to put the needs of the water users before environmental concern.

Assembly Bill 2690 would have required the State Water Board to complete the update for the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Board by December 31, 2022, and would have prohibited approved any new permits or extensions resulting in increased diversions to surface water storage from the Sacramento-San Joaquin watershed until updated Plan is adopted. Unfortunately, the bill narrowly failed a vote on the Assembly floor.

Additionally, PCL worked with its allies at the California Coastkeeper Alliance in support of Assembly Bill 2128 to require more environmental, tribal, and representation on the state’s water board. AB 2128 passed with some improvements to environmental justice analysis and community outreach in agency operations, but the representation requirements were opposed by the Governor in September, will now fix that by requiring the State Water Board to consider climate change impacts on hydrology when developing the Water Availability Analysis.

Donation Information
PCL’s success has been due to your unwavering support. You can visit PCL.org/donate to learn about the many donation options we provide. Please consider contributing today to help our environment is protected for future generations.

Contact PCL
1107 9th Street, Suite 901
Sacramento, California 95814
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email: palma@pcl.org

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PCL and our allies focused resources on efforts to work with Senate leader Senate Bill 1219, which would have dissolved the State Water Resources Control Board by 2025 transferring all of the responsibilities of the State Board to the Department of Water Resources. This initiative would have been a doozy, with major legislation on the full range of issues PCL is engaged in—water, wildlife, housing, transportation, and wildfire… wrapped up in one bill. Senator Ben Allen’s office on SB 1205, signed by the Governor, will now focus on that by requiring the State Water Board to consider climate change impacts on hydrology when developing the Water Availability Analysis.

Another Californian legislative session is in the books, and it was a doozy, with major legislation on the full range of issues PCL is engaged in—water, wildlife, housing, transportation, and wildfire… wrapped up in one bill. Next year, PCL plans to dive even deeper into California’s water policy. We will continue to work with our allies and experts to refine our remaining water law reform recommendations, as well as new ideas, and we are currently discussing legislation with potential authors to further more of these recommendations in 2023.

More dams and other wasteful water projects that would harm the aquatic ecology and generate more revenue for powerful special interests. PCL joined forces with many other alliances to successfully stop Senate Bill 1219, which would have abolished the State Water Resources Control Board by 2025 transferring all of the responsibilities of the State Board to the Department of Water Resources. This initiative would have been a doozy, with major legislation on the full range of issues PCL is engaged in—water, wildlife, housing, transportation, and wildfire… wrapped up in one bill. Senator Ben Allen’s office on SB 1205, signed by the Governor, will now focus on that by requiring the State Water Board to consider climate change impacts on hydrology when developing the Water Availability Analysis.

PCL understands that the way California manages water is inadequate, and this year we’ve spent countless hours working to fix it. Next year, PCL will continue our focus once again on the course of the entire month. This virtual format was met with huge success as our attendance rose by over 50%! People who previously couldn’t afford to attend due to travel costs and commitments were now able to view and participate in manageable online sessions. Doing this remarkable success of this format, we are planning to continue the virtual format again this year.

The title of the 2023 Assembly is Extreme Measures for Extreme Times. What we need to do now. PCL strongly believes that we are facing short of enacting measures that will curb the climate crisis fast enough to avoid catastrophic impacts. Thus, we are designing our panels this year to focus on both immediate short-term solutions and strategies for the future. The sessions will focus on the topics of water, energy, transportation, CEQA/ environmental litigation, habitat connectivity, and wildfire. The 2023 Assembly will have a total of eight sessions held each Thursday starting at 9 am the other starting at 10:45 am. There will be two sessions a day on each date from 9 am and the other starting at 10:45 am. To learn more or to register for the 2023 Assembly please visit pcl.org/assembly.
Dear Members,

What a great year! 2022 was a busy and successful legislative year for us at Planning and Conservation League (PCL). As the primary environmental organization in the state, we are dedicated to working with the legislature to pass bills that help us mitigate and adapt to climate change. This newsletter will give you a summary of our legislative accomplishments for the year and highlight some key bills that we worked on.

Our annual assembly this year will again tackle the existential threat, it is more than ever necessary to mitigate the effects of climate change. Our Senior Water Policy Advisor, Jonas Minton (read more about Jonas here), contributed to making this happen. Jonas Minton directed PCL’s water program for nearly 20 years before he brought stakeholders together to identify small steps that were in everyone’s best interests. He had a drop of water as it wound from our highest peaks, through our rivers, into the Bay-Delta, and out to the ocean, giving us a sense of what it means for people and the environment. Jonas brought to the PCL staff a statutory green light for building in high-risk fire areas, and working land landscape-carbon values for integration into Air Resources Board’s GHG Reduction Scoping Plan.

Jonas Minton (read more about Jonas here) was cut from the final bill. He had a statutory green light for building in high-risk fire areas, and working land landscape-carbon values for integration into Air Resources Board’s GHG Reduction Scoping Plan. This was a significant amendment to current water law to consider climate change as part of water supply analysis. We have a team of water attorneys and scientists providing you with the most relevant articles to post on our site for those who need our news distribution list (please sign up on our website at pcl.org/newsletters). This newsletter also included some new articles about current issues at the legislature. We hope you will find educational.

Dear Members,

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AB 30 (Support) - Signed

AB 2344 (Support) - Signed

SB 867 (Support) - VETOED

SB 396 (Opposed) – Failed

SB 886 (Neutral) - Signed

SB 887 (Support and Amend) - Signed

AB 1713 (Failed)

SB 1132 (Support) - Signed

AB 911 (Support and Amend) - Signed

AB 1154 (Oppose Unless Amended) – Failed

AB 1757 (Support) – Signed

The efficacy of CCUS strategies is questionable at best, and PCL does not think the state should rely on these dangerous technologies to meet our climate mandates.

Transportation:

AB 1722 (Failed)

SB 222 (Support) - Signed

SB 1919 (Support) – Vetoed

AB 1713 (Failed)

Ramona’s Water: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act” bill, establishing a robust and equitable Water Rate Assistance Program.

SB 867 (Support) - VETOED

AB 2344 (Support) - Signed

SB 887 (Support and Amend) - Signed

AB 1757 (Support) – Signed

Jonas Minton directed PCL’s water program for nearly 20 years before he brought stakeholders together to identify small steps that were in everyone’s best interests. Jonas preferred to work outside the spotlight and gave others credit. He provided knowledge, insight, and a lot of space for people to come to their own conclusions. It’s hard to find someone who didn’t enjoy working with Jonas. Now we are all learning what it is like to live without him.

In his honor, PCL is setting up a Jonas Minton Water Warrior Fund. Money donated to this fund will be dedicated to continuing Jonas’ work on his grand vision of creating sustainable water resources for all Californians, protecting the threatened resources that are disappearing all too quickly, and building a resilient water future in the midst of the climate crisis. Please designate your donations to this fund so we can support Jonas’ vision for the future. To donate click here.

To read more about Jonas please click here.

Click here to visit Jonas’ memorial website.

For a compilation of Jonas’ work please click here (This is a large file. 50+MB = please be patient).
Dear Members
What a great year! 2022 was a busy and successful legislative year as we worked to advance important legislation that will help to mitigate and adapt to climate change. See PCL.org/Assembly for more information.

In this newsletter, you will find a compilation of past and current legislation that we have worked on in our statewide policy work. We are not lacking in topics to cover and have selected the most relevant articles to publish for those not on our email distribution list (please sign-up on our website at pcl.org/mailto). The PCL.org/Assembly page also included some new articles about current issues at the legislature, which we hope you will find educational.

Jonas Minton directed PCL’s water program for nearly 20 years before his sudden and unexpected death on June 22, 2022. He seemed to be in the midst of the climate crisis. Please designate your donations to this fund in his honor, PCL is setting up a Jonas Minton Water Warrior Fund.

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Dear Members

What a great year! 2022 was a busy and successful legislative year. We read more about our legislative recap article included in this newsletter. The article covers much of our work, but I want to highlight one of our Water Law Reform recommendations that made it into law this year — AB 1205 (Allen). This was a significant amendment to current water law to consider climate change as part of water supply analysis. We have a team of water attorneys and water policy advisors from across the state to think and most importantly - plan. Allen for authoring the bill, and our Senior Water Policy Advisor, Jonas Minton, who we suddenly lost this year due to complications (Jonas here).

Our annual assembly is more important than ever now to remove climate impacts as quickly as possible. Our membership has grown and informed as those objectives policy. We will keep you posted on continued work on climate change reform legislation, transportation justice, tribal, and racial equity impact analysis, findings and reporting on policy decisions and permitting. Unfortunately, the requirement for an environmental justice experience and representation on the SWRCB and regional boards was cut from the final bill.

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This year will again tackle the climate crisis and related topics that help mitigate and adapt to climate changes. See PCL's Fall Assembly for more information on this topic. In this newsletter, you will find a recap of past and current articles that helped us get to this point of our state-wide policy work. We are not lacking in topics to cover and have included the most relevant articles to plan for those new on our email distribution list (please sign-up on our website at https://www.pcl.org/sign-up, has included some new articles about current issues at the legislature, we hope you will find educational. Your support is greatly appreciated. We know that much of our work is complicated, consuming, and often connected with the effort of our staff. We are happy, and the work we do, enjoy the holidays with the families.

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Legislative Recap | Page 1

for water rights permits. This is an overdue and essential step towards ensuring the long-term resilience of California’s water supply.

Two other bills that came from PCL’s report had different fates: AB 2150 (Support) – Signed

Spurred by CA Coast Keeper, has been signed, requiring environmental justice, tribal, and racial equity impact analysis, findings and reporting on policy decisions and permitting. Unfortunately, the requirement for an environmental justice experience and representation on the SWRCB and regional boards was cut from the final bill.

AB 2872 (Support – Failed)

This bill would require the State to adopt a final update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan before approving any new water diversions or diversions.

SB 1430 (Oppose) – Signed

PCCL led the opposition of more than 50 organizations to this bill that would limit streamlining efforts for a new water law, streamlining for better location and location, more efficient water use standards.

SB 2134 (Support) – Signed

This would allow “density bonus” incentives for 100% affordable housing projects, where water right permits or extensions.

AB 2113 (Support) – Approved

Updates indoor water use efficiency standards. Standards to be determined by the Governor’s Climate Package: SB 905 (Opposed) – Signed

A “Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act” bill, sponsored by CA Coast Keeper, has been signed, requiring environmental justice, tribal, and racial equity impact analysis, findings and reporting on policy decisions and permitting. Unfortunately, the requirement for an environmental justice experience and representation on the SWRCB and regional boards was cut from the final bill.

AB 1436 (Signed)

A CEQA exemption for emergency routes in high fire risk areas. PCCL was very hard with the sponsors on how to do this right before it failed. There was still a long way to go, but California, does not need to figure out a way to provide safe access to our communities at risk, without compromising the environment or the public, and without inadvertently putting a path for more people to be in harm’s way.

SB 396 (Opposed) – Failed

Would kick-start and enhance planning requirements for the state’s sea-level rise. PCCL was very hard with the sponsors on how to do this right before it failed. There was still a long way to go, but California, does not need to figure out a way to provide safe access to our communities at risk, without compromising the environment or the public, and without inadvertently putting a path for more people to be in harm’s way.

Wildlife:

AB 2344 (Support) – Signed

Budgeted more than $300,000 for the PCCL’s work on the Liberty Canyon wildlife crossing that broke ground this year. This bill will allow the PCCL to contract with qualified organizations to implement transportation projects to ensure that wildlife movement is protected.

AB 1577 (Support) – Signed

Would mandate development of a methodology and targets for natural and working lands carbon sequestration for integration into Air Resources Board’s GHG Reduction Scoping Plan.

SB 2075 (Opposed) – Signed

Establishes a guidelines development program for carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS) technologies. The efficacy of CCUS strategies is questionable at best, and PCCL does not think the state should rely on these dangerous technologies to meet our climate mandates.

SB 507 (Support) – Vetoed

Would lack Iranian and enhance planning requirements for the state’s sea-level rise.

Housing:

AB 2013 (Support if Amended) and SB 56 (Support) – Amended Both Signed

These bills offer differing approaches to by-right approval of new housing projects on underutilized commercial, retail, and parking parcels, that meet various criteria. The basic concept is something PCCL strongly supports, but, as with all CEQA streamlining bills for PCCL’s position on this bills is very nuanced. We were able to help strengthen these bills in their first legislative reading, but ultimately fail that streamlining of incentives of this magnitude should be further targeted to low-income, low-income location, more efficient water use standards.

SB 3297 (Support - Vetoed)

Would allow “density bonus” incentives for 100% affordable housing projects to low-income areas, which meet the first time the low-VMT areas has been encoded in low outside of the CEQA guidelines.

SB 866 (Support) - Approved

Was an option available for campus student housing meeting various strict conditions. PCCL could not get support on this bill, but we did help improve and encourage that campuses do be much better long-range planning for housing if they are to receive these incentives.

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PCL’s 2023 Environmental Assembly | Extreme Measures for Extreme Times

We are excited to announce the 2023 California Environmental Assembly! Come on board our议题 for exciting panels on how we can innovate for action and face some of the greatest challenges California is currently facing.

Over the last two years, PCL has hosted our assembly virtually, and offered our audience the chance to participate in the course of an entire month. This virtual format was met with huge success as our attendance grew by over 50%. People who previously couldn’t attend due to conflicting travel constraints were now able to view and participate in our events online.

This overwhelming success of this format, we are planning to continue the virtual format again this year.

The title of the 2023 Assembly is Extreme Measures for Extreme Times. What we need to do now. PCL strongly believes that we are failing short of enacting measures that will curb the climate crisis fast enough to avoid catastrophic impacts. Thus, we are designing our panels this year to focus on both immediate short-term solutions and strategies for the future. The sessions will focus on the topics of water, wildfire, CEQA/environmental litigation, habitat connectivity, and wildfire. The 2023 Assembly will have a total of eight sessions held each Thursday during our two-week period and Friday, March 17 and March 18.

To learn more or to register for the 2023 Assembly please visit pcl.org/assembly.

Another California legislative session is in the books, and it was a doozy, with major legislation on the full range of PCL’s issues spanning in—water, wildlife, housing, transportation, and wildfires—rapped up by the end of the year. Most bills PCL supported passed, and most that we opposed having failed. But we had some losses too, including at the Governor’s desk.

The full report can be viewed at the following link: https://www.pcl.org/2022-legislative-recap.
PCL's 2022 Legislative Recap

Another Californian legislative session is in the books, and it was a doozy, with major legislation on the full range of issues PCL is engaged in. PCL has worked tirelessly with Assembly Member Freidman, sponsor of AB 2438, and many other partners in support of AB 2438, which will require that the guidelines of the State's major transportation plans be aligned with that of our Regional Transportation Plans and Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection (SCCP) strategies of the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI). Further, the bill will require for the first time that the California Transportation Plan (TCP) include a financial evaluation that will help identify alignment and prioritization of state investments with that of Regional Transportation Plans and Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection (SCAP). The Governor vetoed AB 2438 stating that CAPTI is already being implemented successfully by the relevant agencies without this measure. On balance, we had a very good year, with most bills PCL supported having passed, and most that we opposed having failed. But we had some losses too, including at the Governor's desk.

AB 2348 (Support) – VETOED

PCL has worked tirelessly with Assembly Member Member Friedman, sponsor of AB 2348, which will require the Climate Plan to consider the extent to which water resource management plans provide for the efficient, environmentally sustainable, and equitable use of water to support the state’s economy and ecological health and that recognize the need to adapt to the looming concern of climate change. The Governor vetoed AB 2348 stating that CAPTI is already being implemented successfully by the relevant agencies without this measure. On balance, we had a very good year, with most bills PCL supported having passed, and most that we opposed having failed. But we had some losses too, including at the Governor's desk.

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