



PCL INSIDER: News from the Capitol

Two Coastal Resources Bills Pass First Hearing

On Monday April 1st, two PCL-supported coastal resources bills were passed in the [Assembly Committee on Natural Resources](#) – the first hearing in their [process to become law](#). These bills, AB 203 and AB 976, help provide incentive for the reduction and resolution of California Coastal Act violations and strengthen protection of valuable coastal environments and resources. AB 203 (Stone) gives the [California Coastal Commission](#) the authority to take existing Coastal Act violations into consideration when approving new development on the same property – a similar level of authority to that already given to virtually every local jurisdiction and other state agency. [AB 976 \(Atkins\)](#) – co-sponsored by PCL and Sierra Club of California – authorizes the Coastal Commission, by majority vote and at a public hearing, to impose an administrative civil penalty on a person who intentionally and knowingly violates the Coastal Act. AB 203 next moves to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and AB 976 will be heard in the Assembly Judiciary Committee. PCL continues to support these bills on their journey! If your organization is interested in endorsing these important measures, please contact [Rebecca Crebbin-Coates](#).

CEQA Legislative Updates – Flurry of Hearings on the Horizon

The first PCL-supported CEQA bill, [AB 380](#) (Dickinson), passed out of its first committee hearing on April 1st as well. Thanks to all who [signed on](#) in support of this bill that will mandate electronic notice posting and ensure that the scoping process is public! We are still gathering support as this bill will go to a second committee hearing on May 1st; click [here](#) to see the support letter and email aokrent@pcl.org to add your organization.

We are supporting several other positive CEQA bills that will be coming up for hearing soon. To add your support for any of them, email aokrent@pcl.org. PCL-sponsored [AB 953](#) (Ammiano) would make environmental reviews take into account the effects of the physical environment (e.g., building in a floodplain, near a fault line, etc.) on the project in order to protect public safety; it will be heard in Assembly Natural Resources Committee on April 15th, and you can view the support letter [here](#). [AB 543](#) (Campos) will require that certain key notices be translated if a significant portion of the population affected by the project is limited English proficient; that's set for hearing in Assembly Natural Resources on

April 29, and the support letter is [here](#).

A number of CEQA bills are coming up for hearing in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on May 1st, including PCL-supported [SB 617](#) (Evans) and SB 754 (Evans); to view fact sheets on SB 617 click [here](#). Check back on our website for updates on SB 754 as the language gets introduced.

While good CEQA bills are garnering lots of support, there are still a few bad bills including a CEQA exemption for landfills ([AB 794](#) (Gorell)) and two standards bills, [AB 1302](#) (Hagman) and [SB 787](#) (Berryhill).

For a summary of all 28 CEQA bills and PCL's position on them, check out our [full list](#) on our website. Contact [Abigail Okrent](#) for more information or to add your organization to our various support and oppose letters.

Seal Beach CEQA Workshop a Success!

PCL Foundation hosted its second CEQA Community Workshop of 2013 in Seal Beach last weekend. The event, sponsored by [Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust](#), [Banning Ranch Conservancy](#), [El Dorado Audubon Society](#), [Friends of Harbors Beaches and Parks](#), [Residents for Responsible Desalination](#), and [Surfrider Foundation](#) drew a crowd of 40 people inside on a beautiful spring day to hear Amy Minter, an attorney from [Chatten-Brown and Carstens](#), explain how to engage in the environmental review process.

[Community workshops](#) are a great way to bring local organizations together to learn how to shape your community's environmental future. We are hoping to do two more workshops this year, one in the Bay Area and one in the Central Valley. Please contact [Abigail Okrent](#) if you are interested in hosting a workshop and want to learn more.

PCL Comings and Goings

After serving over two months as a Legislative Intern with PCL, we are pleased to welcome Michelle Oyewole as our new Membership and Events Coordinator. Michelle graduated magna cum laude from the University of California Los Angeles, with a B.A. in Communication Studies and a minor in Geography/Environmental Studies. She was a student organizer in the statewide campaign to protect AB 32 in 2010, and has since worked for environmental organizations in San Diego, California, and Lagos, Nigeria. She has also volunteered on an organic farm in northern Ecuador. Michelle plans to continue in her environmental research as she begins graduate study at UC Santa Barbara in the fall. She believes that her previous non-profit experience and zeal for natural resource protection will allow her to play a large role in supporting PCL in its planning and fundraising capacities.

As we welcome a new addition to the staff, we are saddened by the departure of another member, Margaret Lecey. Margaret served as our Membership and Events Coordinator from 2012 to April 2013. She worked diligently to organize

events and outreach projects, and brought a warmth and charisma to our office. She has moved on to a new opportunity, and we wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors. PCL would like to thank Margaret for her dedicated work as a part of our team!

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