



PCL INSIDER: News from the Capitol

What to Expect When the Legislature Reconvenes

As the California Senate and Assembly get ready to reconvene for the last month of the session, we wanted to provide a brief look at some of the environmental bills that are still on the table. While the most publicized efforts – around CEQA reform and fracking – have been more bark than bite to this point, we expect to see things heat up over the coming weeks. Additionally, many good environmental bills that haven't gotten as much press are still out there and worthy of support, while we continue to keep a close watch on legislation that could weaken environmental protections. We are especially pleased to see many bills focusing on environmental health and justice still alive.

Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg's [SB 731](#), which makes a number of revisions to **CEQA**, has taken on parts of other CEQA bills that PCL supported, including allowing for concurrent record preparation. There are still ongoing negotiations on what will end up in the final bill – including proposals from the Governor's office – and we'll keep you looped in as things develop. [AB 52](#) (Gatto), a bill that would increase protection of tribal cultural resources under CEQA, is something else to watch as we move forward. PCL-supported [AB 380](#) (Dickinson), creating an electronic notice posting system has been turned into a 2-year bill, as has [AB 543](#) (Campos), the translation bill, as well as the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust fix bills [AB 953](#) (Ammiano) and [SB 617](#) (Evans).

In **land use**, Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg's [SB 1](#) authorizes the creation of Sustainable Communities Investment Authorities to carry out redevelopment. This bill builds on previous efforts to revive portions of redevelopment in key infill areas that were vetoed by Governor Brown last year, but it is hoped that with some tweaks this can be signed into law. [SB 391](#) (DeSaulnier) would create the California Homes and Jobs Act of 2013, while Assemblymember Mike Gatto's [AB 440](#) would extend redevelopment clean-up powers over contaminated sites to local agencies in exchange for some limited immunity. [AB 1329](#) (V.M. Perez), which started as a bill that would have imposed stringent restrictions on locating hazardous waste in communities disproportionately affected by environmental justice issues, has been weakened under pressure from the administration into a bill prioritizing enforcement actions of hazardous waste violations in environmental justice high priority areas.

All of the Assembly bills regulating **hydraulic fracturing** were merged into [AB 7](#) (Wieckowski), which then stalled. The only remaining fracking bill is [SB 4](#) (Pavley), which would require a study on fracking techniques as well as various oversight measures. The environmental community is divided over this bill, and it is uncertain what will become of the last fracking bill standing.

Several **coastal** bills are still active, including [AB 691](#) (Muratsuchi), which requires local trustees to report how they will address sea level rise, and [SB 461](#) (Leno), which appropriates tideland oil revenue to address coastal climate change. PCL-sponsored [AB 976](#) (Atkins), giving the Coastal Commission the ability to levy administrative penalties for violations of the Coastal Act, is also moving

forward. Related Coastal Commission bill [AB 203](#) (Stone) has become a 2-year bill.

Remaining **drinking water** bills [AB 30](#) (Perea) and [AB 115](#) (Perea) are delayed in Appropriations, while the rest – [AB 21](#) (Alejo), [AB 69](#) (Perea), [AB 145](#) (Perea & Rendon), and [AB 467](#) (Stone) – await committee hearings when the Senate reconvenes. These bills all build on last year's Human Right to Water bill. Also in water, Senator Wolk's sub-metering bill [SB 750](#) continues to be fine-tuned, but is making good progress through the Assembly.

Remaining bills dealing with **toxics and waste** are [AB 127](#) (Skinner), a building fire retardant bill; and [SB 691](#) (Hancock), non-vehicular pollution control. In case you missed it before, [SB 405](#) (Padilla), a single-use bag ban, failed.

Speaker of the Assembly John Perez' **environmental justice** legislation – [AB 1330](#) – would ensure that time taken for translation at public meetings is not counted towards limiting a speaker's time, and mandates that each department of California EPA maintain a publicly available website showing ongoing enforcement actions and compliance histories.

Both bills protecting **California's big cats**, Senator Hill's mountain lion bill [SB 132](#) and Assemblymember Bloom's [AB 1213](#) dealing with commercial bobcat trapping, are still in play, although AB 1213 has been whittled down significantly. [AB 711](#) (Rendon), a bill that would prohibit leaded ammunition from being used in hunting, is delayed in Appropriations.

PCL Discusses Bay-Delta Conservation Plan on KWMR

Last week, PCL's Jonas Minton joined Natural Resources Agency Deputy Director Jerry Meral on West Marin Community Radio to discuss the merits of BDCP – the Governor's plan to build two massive tunnels in the Delta that would transport water from the Sacramento River to agricultural and urban users in other parts of the state. Jonas raised a number of concerns with BDCP, including tunnel operations, financing, and the lack of serious analysis of more feasible and environmentally-friendly alternatives.

Said Jonas: "The BDCP has been going on for 7 years. So far it has cost about a quarter of a billion dollars, and this is why I think it is costing so much. In this case, Jerry Brown administration inherited BDCP from the Schwarzenegger administration. And contrary to the advice of some, including the Planning and Conservation League, they started off with the project they wanted, and then they've been trying to explain or justify or scientifically demonstrate how it could work. And again in the past 7 years, the cost has gone up from \$3 billion to \$25 billion, the permitting challenges have become greater, not less; and the scientific questions have not gone away.

...

We certainly agree that things need to be done in the Delta. ... The only way one really gets to a solution is by involving people, bringing them in, getting some agreement, and some acquiescence. Currently there is such substantial opposition to [BDCP] as it's currently described, that being a water developer in the past myself, I just can't see how they bring this to a finish."

Read the [full transcript](#), or listen to the [broadcast](#) on KWMR.

Photo Contest!

Are you a budding nature photographer? An undiscovered talent at recording California's communities? A hobbyist documenter of the urban landscape?

PCL is looking to update our photo albums, and we need your help! We like to include photographs with our Insiders, our printed publications, and our website. We need all sorts of photos, but we're especially looking for pictures of:

Water: rivers, the coast, runoff, the Delta, rain, drinking water

Development: good development, bad development, undeveloped urban lots, renewables both large and small scale, conventional energy, pollution

Landscape: iconic California places, mountains, trees, deserts, agricultural lands, the Capitol and other places of civic engagement

People*: recreating, drinking water, working outdoors, civically engaging

Other animals: California wildlife

Please email no more than 5 photographs to Abigail Okrent, aokrent@pcl.org, JPEG-format preferred. Please label your photograph and spell out your full name, so we know who to credit and how to identify the photograph. If we choose to use your entry, you will be credited next to your photograph. Email Abigail with any questions.

Thanks, and we look forward to viewing your photos!

Search Continues for Outreach & Events Intern

PCL is still seeking a passionate and dedicated Outreach & Events Intern to help us plan our annual Environmental Symposium (in February), special fundraising events (two scheduled in fall), regional workshops and trainings, and other small events as needed. This position requires strong oral and written communication skills and attention to detail; a background in outreach, marketing, event management, or non-profit work is desirable. This is a volunteer position that requires a minimum commitment of 10 hours per week. It is perfect for recent college graduates or outstanding undergrads looking for experience in event planning, communication, database/Excel management, and more! For more information, [click here](#) or contact Michelle Oyewole at moyewole@pcl.org.

Also, we have received many impressive applications for our Membership & Events Coordinator position, and will review and schedule interviews within the next two weeks. It is not too late to submit your resume and cover letter to moyewole@pcl.org. For more information on this position, [click here](#).



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