

**DRAFT - CALIFORNIA SENATE REPUBLICANS: A Long Legislative Record of
Working to Protect Californians, Homes, and Communities.**

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Below is just a partial list of the highlights of Senate Republicans' efforts through legislation:

CEQA REFORM:

SB 1631 (2007 - Ackerman)

Would have made it a misdemeanor to use CEQA for leverage or to extract concessions or something of value from state or local persons involved in the process.

Status: Failed in Sen GO

SB 1210 (2008 - Dutton)

Would have enacted a "short-form" EIR process for projects meeting specified criteria.

Status: Failed in Sen EQ

SB 8 X2 (2009 - Denham)

Would have relaxed heavy-duty construction equipment standards, expedited permitting of transportation construction projects & exempted similar construction projects from CEQA review.

Status: Failed on the Senate Floor

SB 1214 (2012 - Cannella)

Would have streamlined the CEQA process for distressed communities by sending challenges that qualify under this bill directly to the Court of Appeal.

Status: Failed in Sen EQ

SB 787 (2013 - Berryhill)

Would have reformed CEQA to limit environmental review to certain projects and reduced litigation.

Status: Failed in Sen EQ

SB 389 (2015 - Berryhill)

Would have integrated 120 various federal & state laws passed since CEQA's enactment into CEQA's review process so as to eliminate the ability to challenge already adopted environmental standards or endlessly re-challenge approved plans through frivolous lawsuits.

Status: Failed in Sen EQ

SB 1415 (2016 - Bates)

Would have amended CEQA to front-load the scoping process for local water projects in order to shorten the EIR process.

Status: Failed in Sen Approps

SB 1248 (2016 - Moorlach)

Would have required full disclosure of all participating parties in CEQA litigation, removed anonymity from those who file under fake associations, & required disclosure of any party that has financially contributed over \$100 to the litigation.

Status: Failed in Sen EQ

SB 1052 (2018 - Bates)

Would have required full disclosure of all parties involved on all CEQA lawsuits filed, removing anonymity and ensuring transparency.

Status: Failed in Sen EQ

SB 659 (2019 - Borgeas)

Would have allowed the court to award reasonable attorney's fees in a CEQA action related to infill housing development projects.

Status: Held on suspense in Sen Approps

SB 1118 (2021 - Borgeas)

Would have codified a CA Supreme Court decision by stating that insubstantial or merely technical violations are not grounds for stopping projects.

Status: Held on suspense in Sen Approps

SB 506 (2021 - Jones)

Would have prohibited CAL FIRE from requiring applicants for a grant from the GHG Reduction Fund to consider GHG emissions impacts of vegetation management projects under CEQA.

Status: Held in Sen Natural Resources

AB 267 (2021 - Valladares)

Would have extended the sunset from January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2026, for the exemption from CEQA of prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken on federal lands.

Status: Died on Senate Floor Inactive File

SB 794 (2023 - Niello)

Would require CEQA suits against a commercial, housing, or public works project with at least \$25M invested in it to be resolved within one year. Also would require CEQA plaintiffs to disclose contributions of \$100 or more.

Status: Failed in Sen EQ

SB 1259 (2024 - Niello)

Would have made numerous changes to CEQA, including providing expedited judicial review for projects that lead to \$25M investments or more in the state, requiring disclosures for plaintiffs or petitioners contributing more than \$10K to a CEQA lawsuit, prohibiting staying a project unless certain criteria are met, & prohibiting approving settlements on non-environmental provisions.

Status: Failed in Sen EQ

INSURANCE:

SB 154 (2003 - Oller)

Would have provided that insurance rates, rules, and forms prescribed by insurers and approved by the Insurance Commissioner pursuant to their regulatory authority shall be deemed to comply with all applicable statutes and regulations, and would have prohibited the commissioner from challenging those previously approved items unless, after approval, changes occur in legal standards that materially affect the continued validity of those items, as approved.

Status: Held in Sen Insurance

SB 717 (2005 - Maldonado)

Would have required the Department of Insurance to publish annually, (1) the total amount of funds paid in "intervenor fees," and (2) specified information with respect to each person who initiates or intervenes in ratemaking proceedings.

Status: Held in Sen Committee on Business, Finance and Insurance

SB 1331 (2014 - Gaines)

Would have deleted provisions of existing law (enacted by Proposition 103) regarding the awarding of advocacy and witness fees and expenses (i.e., "intervenor fees"), provided that the bill's provisions are to become effective only upon approval of the voters, and provided for the submission of this bill to the voters for approval at the next statewide general election.

Status: Failed in Sen Committee on Insurance

AB 2450 (2022 - Valladares)

Would have required the Insurance Commissioner to convene a working group of stakeholders to review the feasibility of allowing insurers to offer fire insurance plans with a deductible to help consumers facing skyrocketing insurance costs or non-renewal of policies.

Status: Vetoed by Governor Newsom

PUBLIC SAFETY:

SB 637 (2003 - Pete Knight)

Allowed peace officers to drive an off-road vehicle on state or local highways during an emergency response situation.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 135, Statutes of 2003

SB 546 (2005 - Dutton)

Authorized OES to partner with private sector interests to integrate & encourage collaboration on emergency preparedness activities, & established the Disaster Resistant Communities Account to accept private donations.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 232, Statutes of 2005

SB 470 (2007 - Ashburn)

Would have required CIWMB & CDFA to draft & adopt regulations for the emergency disposal of animal carcasses during a state of emergency.

Status: Vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger

SB 1414 (2008 - Hollingsworth)

Would have required CAL FIRE to gather & publish info on the number of fires caused by campfires created/used by illegal immigrants & stated the Legislature's intent to use the data to seek federal reimbursement for the state's cost of fighting such fires.

Status: Failed in Sen Natural Resources & Water

AB 398 (2011 - Morrell)

Permitted the State Fire Marshal to accept a military firefighter certification for individuals leaving the military and applying for civilian positions in the same field.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 215, Statutes of 2011.

SB 1098 (2012 - La Malfa)

Would have required CDCR to provide complete inmate histories to CAL FIRE personnel assigned to the conservation camp in which an inmate has been placed.

Status: Vetoed by Governor Brown

AB 1345 (2015 – Brian Dahle)

Would have required the State Board of Forestry to estimate the annual GHG emissions associated with wildfires in California between the years 1990 and 2015, inclusive. Would have required the board to develop, no later than January 1, 2017, an emissions baseline for wildfires by calculating the average of the annual GHG emissions associated with wildfires between the years 1990 and 2015. Would have required the board and CAL FIRE to annually approximate, no later than July 1, 2017 the GHG emissions associated with wildfires during the prior calendar year. Beginning with the 2016-17 fiscal year, would have continuously appropriated \$100M to the department from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for activities to reduce GHG emissions by preventing the incidence of and reducing the intensity of catastrophic wildfires.

Status: Held in Asm Natural Resources

SB 39 (2009 - Benoit)

Provided that the civil immunity provided to a disaster service worker applies when the worker is performing disaster services “anywhere within the jurisdiction covered by the emergency “acting within the scope of the

disaster service worker’s responsibilities under the authority of the governmental emergency organization.”

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 27, Statutes of 2009

SB 1526 (2004 - Hollingsworth)

Required CAL FIRE & OES to develop a program to certify active duty military pilots so that they may be engaged in state firefighting operations.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 723, Statutes of 2004

SB 535 (2019 - Moorlach)

Would have increased the frequency of CARB reports assessing GHG emissions from wildfires & required the info be incorporated in future AB 32 scoping plans.

Status: Held on suspense in Asm Approps

SB 495 (2021 - Brian Dahle)

Would require ARB to include GHG emissions from wildlands & forest fires in its scoping plan.

Status: Failed in Sen EQ

AB 1103 (2021 - Megan Dahle)

Established a “livestock pass” program to allow ranchers to expedite movement of livestock out of danger during or following a natural disaster.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 609, Statutes of 2021

SB 1176 (2024 - Niello)

Would have required CAL FIRE, OES & DTSC to form a workgroup & report to the Legislature on exposure and remediation of toxic heavy metals to first responders & to communities after a wildfire.

Status: Held on suspense in Asm Approps

SB 945 (2024 - Alvarado-Gil)

Would have required state agencies, led by DPH, to create, operate, and maintain a statewide integrated wildfire smoke and health data platform that, among other things, would integrate wildfire smoke and health data from multiple databases.

Status: Held on suspense in Asm Approps

AB 1141 (2024 - Megan Dahle)

Would have expanded the “livestock pass” program to also include farmers and others to be able to move farm animals out of danger during or following a natural disaster.

Status: Held in Senate Agriculture Committee

AB 2858 (2024 - Megan Dahle)

Would have required the State Emergency Plan to be updated every four years, rather than every five years.

Status: Held in Assembly Emergency Management Committee

TAX RELIEF:

SB 1308 (2008 - Cox)

Included the Angora Fire (Lake Tahoe Basin) to the list of disasters eligible for full state reimbursement of local agency costs under the CA Disaster Assistance Act.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 400, Statutes of 2008

AB 2414 (2018 - Choi)

Would have provided a 40% tax credit of up to \$500 for the purchase and installation of an attic vent closure system, which can help prevent ember-ignited residential fires.

Status: Held on Suspense in Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 247 (2019 - Brian Dahle)

Would have provided up to 100% state reimbursement to local governments for the non-federal costs associated with the Klamathon Fire that started on July 5, 2018, in Siskiyou County and the Carr Fire that started on July 23, 2018, in Shasta County.

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations on suspense

AB 266 (2019 – Choi)

Would have provided a 40% tax credit of up to \$500 for the purchase and installation of an attic vent closure system, which can help prevent ember-ignited residential fires.

Status: Held on Suspense in Assembly Appropriations Committee

SB 462 (2021 - Borgeas)

Would have provided up to 100% state reimbursement to local governments for the non-federal costs associated with the "Creek Fire," the fourth worst wildfire in California history that burned 379,895 in Fresno and Madera Counties and started on September 4, 2020.

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations on suspense

AB 324 (Choi - 2021)

Would have provided a 40% tax credit of up to \$500 for the purchase and installation of an attic vent closure system, which can help prevent ember-ignited residential fires.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

SB 927 (2024 - Dahle)

Would have, for taxable years 2023 through 2032, enacted personal income and corporation tax exclusions for any amount received in settlement by a taxpayer to replace property damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster that was declared a state of emergency by both the Governor and the President of the United States.

Status: Held on suspense in Sen Appropriations

SB 952 (2024 - Dahle)

Would have enacted the Fire Safe Home Tax Credits Act, authorizing a new personal income tax credit for fire safe home expenditures, starting in 2025 and lasting for five years. Qualifying costs allowable for credits include home hardening and qualified vegetation management to increase the amount of fire safe hardened homes in areas at risk of wildfires. *Status: Held on suspense in Sen Appropriations*

SB 1004 (2024 - Wilk)

Would have excluded settlement payments received by victims to replace property damaged or destroyed by wildfires from income for the purpose of state income taxes.

Status: Held on suspense in Asm Appropriations

WILDFIRE PREVENTION:

SB 1255 (2004 - Hollingsworth)

Would have allowed but not required homeowners to construct a firebreak with a radius of up to 300 feet or to the property line from a home or other structure regardless of any other law, ordinance, covenant or deed restriction.

Status: Failed in Sen Natural Resources & Water

SB 1132 (2004 - Brulte)

Would have authorized the use of Prop. 50 funds to address areas affected by wildfires that may be more susceptible to flooding & mudslides.

Status: Failed in Sen EQ

SB 841 (2005 - Hollingsworth)

Authorized a state or local fire official to approve a defensible space of up to 300 feet to protect specified critical facilities from fire.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 21, Statutes of 2006

AB 1515 (2007 - La Malfa)

Extended the La Malfa Exemption for five years, until January 1, 2013. The measure also required the Board of Forestry to adopt regulations for selecting trees to be sample marked for removal, treatment of surface and ladder fuels within 500 feet of a permitted structure, or a shaded fuel break in a community wildfire plan.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 412, Statutes of 2007

SB 1618 (2008 - Hollingsworth)

Would have allowed work associated with creating defensible space to be exempted from CEQA, the ESA & the Coastal Act, if one of several specified conditions is met.

Status: Failed in Sen Natural Resources & Water

SB 1293 (2010 - Hollingsworth)

Would have amended the Public Resources Code to allow a streamlined process for strategic vegetation management activities that reduce fire hazards.

Status: Failed in Asm Natural Resources

SB 1541 (2012 - La Malfa)

Eliminated the sunset date of the Forest Fire Protection Exemption, which allows the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to exempt small property owners from Timber Harvest Plan requirements under limited circumstances.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2012

AB 744 (2014 - Brian Dahle)

Established a three-year pilot project to expand the Forest Fire Prevention Pilot Project Exemption that allowed the removal of trees less than 24 inches in stump diameter, with specific limitations designed to reduce fire risk and protect natural and archeological resources.

Status: Signed into law, chapter 647, Statutes of 2013

AB 2082 (2014 - Brian Dahle)

Allowed the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to adopt lower stocking (replanting) standards if those standards address the variables in forest characteristics.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 212, Statutes of 2014

AB 1867 (2014 - Jim Patterson)

Provided a three-year exemption/pilot project that would expand from 150 to 300 feet around a habitable structure the existing exemptions from the Forest Practices Act for the purposes of creating defensible fire space.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 804, Statutes of 2014.

AB 2029 (2016 - Brian Dahle)

Extended the sunset, from January 1, 2018, to January 1, 2021, of the Forest Fire Prevention Pilot Program that allows landowners to strategically thin up to 300 acres of land without a Timber Harvest Plan for trees less than 24 inches in stump diameter.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 563, Statutes of 2016

AB 417 (2016 - Brian Dahle)

Expanded the authority of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop alternative stocking standards, when necessary, if those alternative standards reasonably address the variables in forest characteristics and achieve suitable resource conservation.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 182, Statutes of 2015

SB 1463 (2016 - Moorlach)

Would have required the CPUC to coordinate with CAL FIRE to prioritize communities that have increased fire hazards associated with overhead utility lines in determining requirements for enhanced wildfire mitigation measures.

Status: Vetoed by Governor Brown

SB 265 (2017 - Berryhill)

Would have provided that the state will cover up to 90% of the state-eligible costs for the removal of dead and dying trees in Tuolumne County, consistent with the Governor's Executive Order and Emergency Declaration on tree mortality.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations on Suspense

SB 1463 (2018 - Moorlach)

Would have continuously appropriated 25% of cap-and-trade funds to counties to harden the state's utility infrastructure & manage wildlands & forests.

Status: Failed in Sen EQ

SB 1169 (2018 - Anderson)

Would have created the Wildfire Incident Penalty & Fine Fund & required 10% of any CPUC-assessed wildfire penalties or fines be deposited into it.

Status: Held on suspense in Sen Approps

AB 1160 (2019 – Brian Dahle)

Extends the effective period from 10 to 20 years for Sustained Yield Plans, a type of long-term commercial timber harvest plan, for large (>50,000 acres) timber landowners.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 108, Statutes of 2019

SB 584 (2019 - Moorlach)

Would have required the CPUC to require electrical corporations to develop & administer programs to provide matching funds to local jurisdictions for undergrounding electrical infrastructure in Tier 3 High Fire-Threat Districts.

Status: Held on suspense in Sen Approps

SB 70 (2019 - Nielsen)

Required electrical corporations' wildfire mitigation plans to include a description of where & how they considered undergrounding electrical distribution lines in areas identified as having the highest wildfire risk.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 400, Statutes of 2019

SB 99 (2019 - Nielsen)

Required the safety element of local general plans, upon the next revision of their housing element, to identify any residential developments in any hazard areas that do not have at least 2 emergency evacuation routes.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 202, Statutes of 2019

SB 226 (2019 - Nielsen)

Would have required the Natural Resources Agency to create a Watershed Restoration Grant Program for counties to restore watersheds within 10 miles of the boundaries of a wildfire.

Status: Held on suspense in Sen Approps

SB 709 (2021 - Brian Dahle)

Authorized up to two 2-year extensions for timber harvest plans approved between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2015.

Status: Signed into law, Chapter 734, Statutes of 2021

AB 418 (2021 - Valladares)

Would have codified in law the Community Power Resiliency Program to supply grants for communities to deal with Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

Status: Vetoed by Governor Newsom

SCA 8 (2022 - Nielsen)

Would have required the annual transfer of 1% of the General Fund to the CA Fire Response Fund & the Special District Fire Response Fund.

Status: Not taken up in committee

SB 890 (2022 - Nielsen)

Would have established the Water Storage & Conveyance Fund to build and restore water conveyance & storage capacity throughout CA.

Status: Failed in Sen Natural Resources & Wildlife

SB 470 (2023 - Alvarado-Gil)

Would have authorized grant funding for communities in high- and very-high fire hazard severity zones to upgrade water-supply systems to support fire suppression.

Status: Vetoed by Governor Newsom

AB 1099 (2023 - Megan Dahle)

Would have extended the ability of goat herders in California to continue be “independent contractors,” rather than employees, in an effort to keep them and their herds in the state helping reduce the grasses and other vegetation that fuel wildfires.

Status: Held in Assembly Labor & Employment Committee

SB 1088 (2024 - Alvarado-Gil)

Would have established the Rural Water Infrastructure for Community Wildfire Protection Program within OES.

Status: Held on suspense in Asm Approps