

**DATE:** May 20, 2019  
**TO:** Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Governing Board  
**FROM:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Item 9A: Legislation and Initiatives

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## Legislative Update

For full text and history of bills and initiatives, visit these web sites:

Federal Bills: <https://www.congress.gov>  
 State Bills: <http://www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

### Current as of 4/29/19

The following is the status of legislative bills that have been introduced in the current session by Senate and Assembly potentially of interest to the WCA. Bills can be tracked on the legislative website: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

### PARKS AND WATER

#### **AB 209 (Limón D) Parks: Environmental Education: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 1/4/2019, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee

**Summary:** This bill is a reintroduction of last year's AB 2534. As a reminder this bill would require the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at state parks and other public lands where outdoor environmental education programs take place. The bill would require the director to, among other things, give priority for funding to outdoor environmental education programs that primarily provide outreach to and serve students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, or pupils of limited English proficiency, as provided. To the extent that the skill sets of persons retained through the River Rangers Program includes interpretative/naturalist aptitudes the program envisioned in this bill can help to underwrite these positions.

#### **AB 217 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Safe Drinking Water for All Act**

**Introduced:** 1/16/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 3/28/2019, **Status:** Re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** Would enact the Safe Drinking Water for All Act and would establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury and would provide that moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the board to provide a source of funding to secure access to safe drinking water for all Californians, while also ensuring the long-term sustainability of drinking water service and infrastructure. This bill and a companion measure, SB 200, reflect a priority articulated by Governor Newsom in his 2019-20 Budget and in his state of the state, implementing a sustainable funding source to address deficient water systems.

#### **AB 556 (Carrillo D) Outdoor Experiences: Community Access Program: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 2/13/2019, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File

**Summary:** This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to develop and implement a community access program focused on engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities, to natural or cultural resources community education programs, or recreational amenities. Authorizes the agency to develop a grant program for innovative transportation projects that provide disadvantaged and low-income youth with access to outdoor experiences. Given that, in the aggregate, more than 40% of the households within WCA's jurisdictional scope are disadvantaged, this bill represents a terrific opportunity to enhance programming opportunities.

**AB 933 (Petrie-Norris D) Ecosystem Resilience: Watershed Protection: Watershed Coordinators**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Status:** Referred to Committee on Appropriations

**Summary:** Would authorize the Department of Conservation, to the extent funds are available, to establish and administer the Ecosystem Resilience Program to fund watershed coordinator positions, and other necessary costs, throughout the state for the purpose of achieving specified goals, including the goal of developing and implementing watershed improvement plans aligned with multiple statewide and regional objectives across distinct bioregions. The bill would authorize the department to develop performance measures and accountability controls to track progress and outcomes.

**AB 968 (Garcia, Cristina D) Naturalist Pathway Pilot Program**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee

**Summary:** Would, on or before the start of the 2020–21 academic year, require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop and implement a pilot program, at a voluntarily participating community college located in a disadvantaged community, that provides a pathway for participating students to become naturalists and achieve careers providing public access to, or preserving, restoring, or enhancing outdoor areas. The bill would require the chancellor to submit a report on the pilot program to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2024, and would repeal the pilot program on July 1, 2025.

**AB 1111 (Friedman D) Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation: California Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Account**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Status:** May be heard March 24, 2019

**Summary:** This bill replicates the language contained in last year's vetoed AB 1918 and would establish the Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation in state government. The bill would require the office to undertake certain activities, including supporting the outdoor recreation economy of the state by engaging in specified activities. The bill would also require the office to create an advisory committee to provide advice, expertise, support, and service to the office.

**AB 1269 (Rubio, Blanca D) Park Property: City of El Monte: Pioneer Park**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Status:** Referred to Committee on Local Government

**Summary:** Would authorize the City of El Monte to sell or dispose of specified park property, in whole or in part, for transit-oriented development, as defined, as long as specified conditions are satisfied, including that the city adopts a park relocation ordinance and approves a public park

development plan and a park relocation budget. The bill would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to approve these items, as provided.

**AB 1549 (O'Donnell D) Wildlife: Catalina Island**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Status:** Referred to the Committee on Appropriations

**Summary:** Current law vests the Department of Fish and Wildlife with jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitats necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. Current law designates the department as the trustee for fish and wildlife resources. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to address the condition of wildlife on Catalina Island.

**AB 1694 (O'Donnell D) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy: territory: Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Status:** Referred to the Committee on Appropriations

**Summary:** This bill would describe the breadth of the RMC's territory and provide greater clarity of what areas its boundaries encompass, particularly for cities and communities whose portions already fall within its territory. This bill would also expand the RMC's current boundaries to include the Dominguez Channel Watershed and Santa Catalina Island, which presently do not fall within the boundaries of the State's ten conservancies—see Exhibit A and B. Subsequently, the expansion would make proposition funds available to local entities, particularly park-poor and disadvantaged communities, and non-governmental agencies that were previously not privy to these bond funds.

**ACR 69 (Garcia, Eduardo D) "Parks Make Life Better!" Month**

**Introduced:** 4/9/2019, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Rules Committee

This measure would recognize the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health, wellness, development, inspiration, and safety of all Californians and would declare the month of July 2019 as "Parks Make Life Better!"® Month.

**SB 226 (Nielsen R) Watershed Restoration: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 2/7/2019, **Status:** Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

**Summary:** Current law authorizes the Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency to jointly develop and submit to the Legislature a plan for forest and water restoration investments for the drainages that supply specified reservoirs. This bill would require the agency to develop and implement a watershed restoration grant program, as provided, for purposes of awarding grants to private property land owners to assist them with watershed restoration on watersheds that have been affected by wildfire, as specified. The bill would require the agency to provide technical resources to the private property land owners seeking assistance with watershed restoration, as provided.

**SB 367 (Hueso D) State Coastal Conservancy: Grants: Educational Projects and Programs**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Status:** Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

**Summary:** Current law establishes the State Coastal Conservancy and prescribes the membership, functions, and duties of the conservancy with regard to the protection, preservation, and

enhancement of specified coastal lands in the state. Current law authorizes the conservancy to fund and undertake plans and feasibility studies and to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for these purposes. This bill would additionally authorize the conservancy to provide technical assistance, and award grants for that purpose.

**SB 404 (Chang R) State Parks: Chino Hills State Park: Expansion**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Status:** Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

**Summary:** Current law designates all parks, public campgrounds, monument sites, landmark sites, and sites of historical interest established or acquired by the state, or that are under its control, as the state park system, except as specified. Under current law, the Department of Parks and Recreation controls the state park system, which is made up of units, one of which is the Chino Hills State Park. This bill would require the department to seek opportunities for acquiring land to expand open space for Chino Hills State Park.

**SB 462 (Stern D) Community Colleges: Forestland Restoration Workforce Program**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Status:** Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** Requires the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges, working in collaboration with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, to establish a model curriculum for a forestland restoration workforce program that could be offered at campuses of the California Community Colleges. The bill would require the chancellor's office to distribute the model curriculum to community college districts no later than January 1, 2021, with the goal of enabling interested community college districts to offer the course to students beginning with the 2021–22 academic year. This bill contains other related provisions.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**AB 65 (Petrie-Norris D) Coastal Protection: Climate Adaptation: Project Prioritization**

**Introduced:** 12/3/2018, **Status:** Hearing in Assembly Natural Resources Committee Hearing on March 25

**Summary:** The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, approved by the voters at the June 5, 2018, statewide primary direct election as Proposition 68, authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,000,000,000 for the purpose of financing a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The act authorizes, upon appropriation by the Legislature, \$40,000,000 of those bond funds for projects that assist coastal communities, including those reliant on commercial fisheries, with adaptation to climate change, including projects that address ocean acidification, sea level rise, or habitat restoration and protection, among other things. Among other items, this bill would require specified things of the State Coastal Conservancy when it allocates any funding appropriated pursuant to the act, including that it prioritize projects that use natural infrastructure to help adapt to climate change. Hence, for possible collaborative projects between WCA and the State Coastal Conservancy subject to the \$40 million contained in Proposition 68 for the conservancy, projects must incorporate natural infrastructure such as earthen embankment and shoring, raised or elevated trail improvements so as to avoid sea level rise and inundation.

**AB 293 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Greenhouse Gases: Offset Protocols**

**Introduced:** 1/28/2019, **Last Amend:** 2/26/2019, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee

**Summary:** Current law, until January 1, 2031, establishes the Compliance Offsets Protocol Task Force to provide guidance to the state board in approving new offset protocols for a market-based compliance mechanism for the purposes of increasing offset projects with direct environmental benefits in the state while prioritizing disadvantaged communities, Native American or tribal lands, and rural and agricultural regions. This bill would require the task force to consider the development and adoption of additional offset protocols, including, but not limited to, protocols for the enhanced management or conservation of agricultural and natural lands, and for the enhancement and restoration of wetlands. To the extent that lands in the upper watersheds remain in private hands this bill may serve to assist in enhanced protections for public benefit.

**AB 352 (Garcia, Eduardo D) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Investment Plan: Transformative Climate Communities Program**  
**Introduced:** 2/4/2019, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee

**Summary:** Would, beginning July 1, 2020, require state agencies administering competitive grant programs that allocate moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to give specified communities preferential points during grant application scoring for programs intended to improve air quality, to include a specified application timeline, to allow applicants from the Counties of Imperial and San Diego to include daytime population numbers in grant applications, and to require grant eligibility and scoring criteria to define disadvantaged community consistent with specified allocation requirements of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund so as not to preclude low-income communities, as defined, from applying for or being awarded a grant. This bill would include “community access” as a potential co-benefit when scoring GGRF grant applications.

**AB 382 (Mathis R) Integrated Regional Water Management Plans: Grant Funding: Upper Watershed Health**  
**Introduced:** 2/5/2019, **Status:** Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee

**Summary:** Current law provides that an integrated regional water management plan is eligible for funding allocated specifically for implementation of integrated regional water management. Current law requires certain state agencies to include in any set of criteria used to select projects and programs for funding, a criterion that provides a preference for regional projects or programs. This bill would require the department to include in any criteria used to select a project or program for grant funding authorized on or after January 1, 2020 a criterion that provides a preference for a regional water management group undertaking a project improving upper watershed health upstream and outside of the defined geographical area covered by the group’s plan. The bill, if consistent with a general obligation bond act providing grant funding authorized on or after January 1, 2020, would require a group to contribute a lower amount of matching funds as a local cost share for a project that improves upper watershed health upstream and outside of the defined geographical area covered by the group’s plan.

**SB 45 (Allen D) Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Act of 2020**  
**Introduced:** 12/3/2018, **Last Amend:** 3/5/2019, **Status:** Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. Hearing is anticipated to take place on March 26

**Summary:** Would enact the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$4,300,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects to restore fire damaged areas,

reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources. There is a specific category contained in the bond that is LA River specific.

**SB 576 (Umberg D) State Coastal Conservancy: Coastal Climate Change Adaptation, Infrastructure, and Readiness Program**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Status:** May be heard March 27

**Summary:** Would require the State Coastal Conservancy to develop and implement a coastal climate adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness program designed to, among other things, improve the climate change resiliency of the state's coastal communities, infrastructure, and habitat, as prescribed, and host an international conference on coastal climate change not less than once every 2 years.

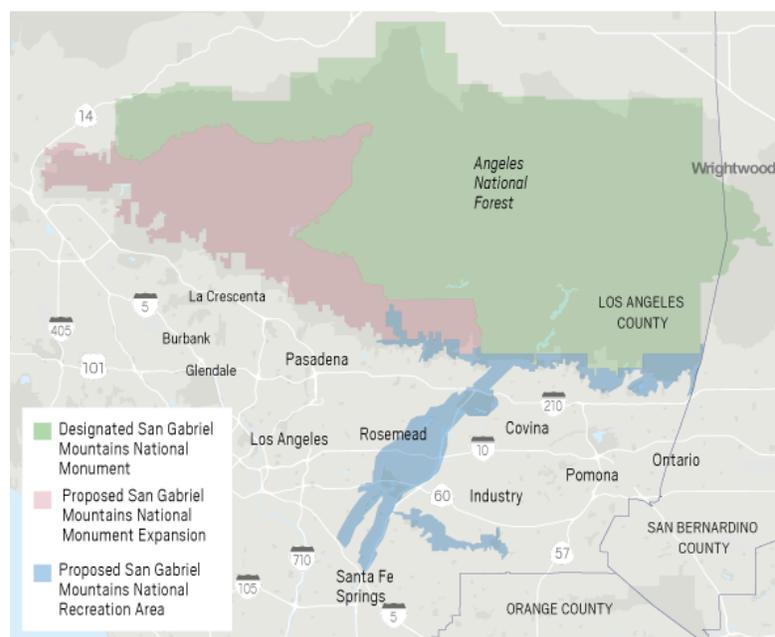
## FEDERAL LEGISLATION

**Summary: S.3704 — 115th Congress (2017-2018)**

**Introduced in Senate (12/05/2018) By: Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA)**

**San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act**

This bill establishes the San Gabriel National Recreation Area in California, establishes the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Public Advisory Council and the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Partnership, modifies the boundaries of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in California, designates specified National Forest System lands in Angeles National Forest in California as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and designates specified river segments in California as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.



Source: Rep. Judy Chu

JEFF GOERTZEN, SCNG

**Summary: H.R. 1708—116<sup>th</sup> Congress (2019-2020)**  
**Introduced in the House of Representatives By: Congressman Adam Schiff**  
**Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act**

The Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act consists of a plan to identify an alternative or combination of alternatives for a new proposed boundary within the National Recreation Area.

**The Rim of The Valley Corridor Study Area** consisted of 650,000 acres in the Los Angeles Area and included 153,000 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and 180,000 acres of National Forest Land. 80% of the land in the Study Area is undeveloped and or already protected open space run by various agencies and conservancies. The Study areas includes Griffith Park, Elysian Park, the LA River, and the Verdugo Mountains. The centerpiece of the area is the 200-mile long Marge Feinberg Rim of the Valley Trail, which is currently 40% complete.

This legislation has been re-introduced by the author after a final 400+ report was completed an exhaustive 400+ page report), where the Park Service (NPS) determined that this region contains a very high number of unique, nationally-significant resources including biological, geological, historic, and cultural sites. The list of resources is incredibly, almost overwhelmingly diverse. The Study goes into great detail on what makes this region special — including our rare Mediterranean climate, unique and active geology, many endemic species of plants and animals (our 'South Coast Ecoregion' supports more than 33% of California's native plant species in only 8% of the land area. According to the report, there are more endemic plant and animal species in this ecoregion than any other ecoregion in the country!), and our vast collection of historic and cultural sites — ranging from Native American sites and Spanish missions to historic gold and oil fields, exemplary architecture, and important Space Age sites.

