



**Agriculture, Environment, & Natural Resources Committee Meeting**  
**CSAC 129<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 14, 2023 · 9:30 am – 11:00 am**  
**Oakland Convention Center Grand Ballroom A, B, C, D**  
**Alameda County, California**

**Supervisor Chris Howard, Del Norte County, Chair**  
**Supervisor Heidi Hall, Nevada County, Vice Chair**  
**Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, Vice Chair**

- 9:30 a.m.**      **I. Welcome and Introductions**  
*Supervisor Chris Howard, Del Norte County, Chair*
- 9:35 a.m.**      **II. Opening Remarks: Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez (Assembly District 53)**  
*Chair, Assembly Emergency Management Committee*  
*Introduction by Supervisor Chris Howard, Del Norte County, Chair*
- 9:50 a.m.**      **III. Emergency Management: Planning, Evacuation, and Post-Disaster Actions**  
Moderator: Supervisor Heidi Hall, Nevada County, Vice-Chair  
*Nate Ortiz, Assistant Director, Planning, Preparedness and Prevention, at the California Office of Emergency Services*  
*John Morgan, Staff Chief, Wildfire Risk Reduction, Office of the State Fire Marshal*  
*Daniel Macon, Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension*  
*Hasan Sarsour, Senior Associate, Paragon Government Relations*
- 10:25 a.m.**      **IV. Roundtable—Lessons to Share on Emergency Management**  
Moderator: Daron McDaniel, Merced County, Vice Chair  
*Introduction by Supervisor James Gore—Counties in Transition*
- 10:50 a.m.**      **V. AENR Year in Review and 2024 Priorities - ACTION ITEM**  
*Ada Waelder, AENR Legislative Advocate, CSAC*  
*Catherine Freeman, AENR Senior Advocate, CSAC*  
*Amber Garcia Rossow, AENR Legislative Analyst*  
Attachment: AENR Year in Review and 2024 Legislative Priorities
- 11:00 a.m.**      **VI. Closing Comments and Adjournment**



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Riverside County

**1st Vice President**

Bruce Gibson  
San Luis Obispo County

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**CEO**

Graham Knaus

October 27, 2023

To: Agriculture, Environment, & Natural Resources Policy Committee

From: Catherine Freeman, Senior Legislative Representative  
Ada Waelder, Legislative Representative  
Amber Garcia Rossow, Legislative Analyst

RE: **AENR 2023 Year In Review – 2024 Legislative Priorities**

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**2023 YEAR IN REVIEW**

The Legislature introduced more bills than it has in over a decade (3,028 in total) and during the last week of session, there were more than 700 bills that were still active. California had a record number of new legislators – over a quarter took the oath for the first time. Along with many new faces, there were significant leadership changes: Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas was sworn in as the new Speaker mid-year and Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins announced that she will step down from her leadership post and be replaced by Senator Mike McGuire sometime next year. With the end of the first year of a two-year session marked by floods bringing unprecedented damage throughout California’s counties, instability in the fire insurance market, and changes in legislative power dynamics, there is much to look forward to in the second year. Below are action items and bills of interest within the Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources policy committee’s purview to round out this year.

**Budget Plays & Executive Orders**

**Water Permit Streamlining.** CSAC supported legislation (SB 23, Caballero) that would have added permit streamlining for flood and water projects statewide. The majority of this legislation was included in the Infrastructure Trailer Bill. Notably, all actions related to the Delta Tunnels were explicitly excluded.

**Stream Gaging.** After two years of work with a seat on the Stream Gage Technical Advisory Committee, CSAC supported SB 361 (Dodd) which would have allocated funding and continued programs for the recommendations of the committee. Bill language was included instead as a budget item with \$26 million over two years for the actions.

**Flood.** It's hard to say how many actions were taken this year not just by CSAC but by all of our counties and colleagues, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley and coastal communities. In addition to supporting advanced financing for flood (AB 345, Wilson), and continued support for flood subventions statewide, the Governor waived a number of CEQA and permitting rules in order to rebuild levees, remove debris, and get ready for the next wet winter through an Executive Order (EO) that was largely informed by on-the-ground staff. The EO expired November 1, 2023.

### **Legislative Actions – New Laws**

#### *Agriculture*

##### **AB 606 (Mathis) California Endangered Species Act: accidental take: farms or ranches**

This bill extends the sunset to authorize accidental take of listed species in the course of otherwise lawful and routine agricultural activities until January 1, 2029, and requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct outreach to raise awareness within the agricultural community.

##### **SB 371 (Ochoa Bogh) Undomesticated burros.**

This bill authorizes local animal control agencies to extend their authority relating to undomesticated burros and the nonprofits they contract with for purposes such as relocation of an undomesticated burro.

##### **SB 701 (Hurtado) Fruit and vegetable wholesalers: registration fees**

This bill makes changes to the board of supervisors' authority to impose a registration requirement and annual fee schedule on fruit and vegetable wholesalers by deleting the limitation of the authority of a county board of supervisors to impose the fee only to counties of more than six million people and increases the maximum amount of the fee from \$250 to \$500. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 7, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

#### *Cannabis*

##### **AB 1171 (Rubio) Cannabis: private right of action**

This bill serves as an additional enforcement tool by allowing a private person or persons with a cannabis license under the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act to bring an action in superior court against a person engaging in unlicensed commercial cannabis activity. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 8, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

##### **AB 1448 (Wallis) Cannabis: enforcement by local jurisdictions**

This bill enhances local enforcement mechanisms against unlicensed cannabis activities and allows a 50/50 state-local split of the statutory penalties recovered in actions brought by local jurisdictions, as originally enacted by the Legislature in the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act. CSAC supported AB 1448. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 13, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

[AB 1684 \(Maienschein\)](#) **Local ordinances: fines and penalties: cannabis**

Serving as another enforcement tool, this bill permits a local agency to adopt an ordinance to declare commercial cannabis activity without a license to be a public nuisance with the ability to impose administrative fines and penalties. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 8, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

[SB 622 \(Allen\)](#) **Cannabis regulation: plant identification program: unique identifier**

This bill allows the Department of Cannabis Control to determine through regulations how a unique identifier on cannabis products is recorded as opposed to state law. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 8, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

[SB 753 \(Caballero\)](#) **Cannabis: water resources**

This bill makes it a felony to intentionally or with gross negligence cause substantial environmental harm to surface or groundwater during the process of growing six or more cannabis plants. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 8, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

[SB-756 \(Laird\)](#) **Water: inspection: administrative procedure: notice: service**

This bill gives new authority to the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards to inspect unlicensed cannabis cultivation site for illegal activities such as violations of water right laws. Governor Newsom signed this bill on September 1, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

[SB 833 \(McGuire\)](#) **Cannabis licensing: cultivation licenses: changing license type: inactive status.**

This bill requires the Department of Cannabis Control to begin allowing cultivators to select a smaller license type or place their license in inactive status. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 13, 2023, and will take effect no later than March 1, 2024.

*Coastal*

[AB-882 \(Davies\)](#) **Coastal resources: State Coastal Conservancy: advance payments**

This bill authorizes, until July 1, 2025, the State Coastal Conservancy to authorize advance payments under its contract or grant programs. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 13, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

[SB 272 \(Laird\)](#) **Sea level rise: planning and adaptation**

This bill requires a local government in the coastal zone or within the San Francisco Bay to develop a sea level rise plan including sea level rise adaptation strategies and recommended projects. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 7, 2023, and requires local governments to comply by January 1, 2034.

*Disaster Preparedness*

[AB 781 \(Maienschein\)](#) **Accessibility to emergency information and services: emergency shelters: persons with pets**

This bill requires county and city plans to update their emergency plan and designate emergency shelters able to accommodate persons with household pets on their next schedule update. This bill additionally requires counties and cities, to the extent practicable, to designate a cooling center or warming center open to pets when centers are opened. Governor Newsom signed this bill on September 1, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

**[AB 1638 \(Fong\)](#) Local government: emergency response services: use of languages other than English**

This bill requires in the event of an emergency a local agency to provide information related to the emergency in all languages spoken by five percent or more of the population whenever those same people also speak English less than very well, and will have to reassess the data every five years. Starting January 1, 2027, the state will survey a sample of local agencies every three years to determine compliance rate. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 8, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2025.

**[SB 38 \(Laird\)](#) Battery energy storage facilities: emergency response and emergency action plans**

This bill requires each battery energy storage facility located in the state to have an emergency response plan and emergency action plan. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 7, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

*Energy*

**[AB 50 \(Wood\)](#) Public utilities: timely service: customer energization**

This bill expedites the timely delivery of service by electrical utilities regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission and establishes expectations for how quickly utilities are expected to deliver service to new customers and fulfill requests for increased load from existing customers. CSAC supported AB 50. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 7, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

**[AB 1132 \(Friedman\)](#) Solar energy systems: permit fees**

This bill extends the existing fee cap on what county or city may charge for a permit to install a residential and commercial solar energy system from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2034. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 7, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

**[SB 286 \(McGuire\)](#) Offshore wind energy projects**

This bill forms the California Offshore Wind Energy Fisheries Working Group to develop a statewide strategy to minimize impacts to ocean fisheries. The Coastal Commission will need to forward an application for a consolidated coastal development permit to local governmental agencies having land use and jurisdiction in the area in which a project would occur. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 7, 2023, with the working group convening January 1, 2025.

**[SB 410 \(Becker\)](#) Powering Up Californians Act**

This bill requires the state to set reasonable average and maximum target energization time

periods to connect new customers and upgrade the service of existing customers. CSAC supported SB 410. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 7, 2023, and will take effect on or before September 30, 2024.

#### *Water*

##### [AB 345 \(Wilson\)](#) **Habitat restoration: flood control: advance payments**

This bill provides the Department of Water Resources with discretionary authority to utilize an advanced payment option when funding local projects that restore vital habitat and/or improve flood protection. CSAC supported AB 345. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 10, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

##### [AB 755 \(Papan\)](#) **Water: public entity: water usage demand analysis**

This bill requires a public entity, including a county, to conduct a water usage demand analysis which includes identifying the annual volume of water delivered to high water users before or during completing a cost-of-service analysis used to set fees and charges for water service. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 8, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

##### [AB 779 \(Wilson\)](#) **Groundwater: adjudication.**

This bill makes procedural changes to when parties ask a court to resolve conflicts over groundwater rights such as requiring a Groundwater Sustainability Agency to host a public meeting to explain the adjudication process and the status of the adjudication to water users within the basin and the public, among other requirements. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 10, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

##### [AB 1572 \(Friedman\)](#) **Potable water: nonfunctional turf**

This bill bans the use of water suitable for human consumption to be used to irrigate nonfunctional turf on commercial, municipal, institutional (except for cemeteries), homeowners' association, common interest development, and community service organization properties. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 13, 2023, with a phase-in beginning January 1, 2027.

##### [SB 389 \(Allen\)](#) **State Water Resources Control Board: investigation of water right**

This bill gives the State Water Resources Control Board the authority to investigate if a water right is valid with the ability to enforce any unauthorized diversion of water as a trespass. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 8, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

#### *Waste*

##### [AB 592 \(Wilson\)](#) **Vehicles: commercial nonfranchise solid waste haulers: pilot program**

This bill allows the counties of Solano, Contra Costa, and Alameda to create a three-year pilot program to regulate the transport of solid waste by commercial nonfranchise solid waste haulers on public roads in unincorporated areas. CSAC supported AB 592. Governor Newsom signed this bill on September 22, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

[AB 1548 \(Hart\)](#) **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: grant program: recycling infrastructure projects**

This bill expands CalRecycle's existing solid and organic waste recycling grant program to help local governments get recycled material into the marketplace, find new homes for useful consumer goods, and expand local edible food recovery programs. CSAC supported AB 1548. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 10, 2023 and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

[SB 568 \(Newman\)](#) **Electronic waste: export**

This bill requires that when a person exports electronic waste or a covered electronic device for recycling or disposal to a foreign country to demonstrate that the person attempted to locate an in-state recycler and/or could not be managed by an in-state e-waste recycler. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 4, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

[SB 613 \(Seyarto\)](#) **Organic waste: reduction goals: local jurisdictions: low-population waiver**

This bill provides an exemption until December 31, 2028 to local jurisdictions, including a county, from their organic diversion and methane emission reduction targets under SB 1383 if they have fewer than 7,500 people and dispose of fewer than 5,000 tons of solid waste per year. Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill would authorize the department to renew the waiver. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 13, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

[SB 642 \(Cortese\)](#) **Hazardous materials: enforcement: county counsel**

This bill will close a loophole to provide County Counsels with complete civil enforcement authority over hazardous waste violations, as originally intended by the Legislature. SB 642 will complete the Legislature's intent by granting county counsels complete civil enforcement authority over hazardous waste violations. CSAC sponsored SB 642. Governor Newsom signed this bill on September 1, 2023 and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

[SB 806 \(Archuleta\)](#) **Trash receptacles and storage containers: reflective markings: enforcement**

This bill makes changes to the type of reflective markings required to be placed on trash receptacles. CSAC supported SB 806. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 10, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

*Wildfires & Forestry*

[AB 297 \(Fong\)](#) **Wildfires: local assistance grant program: prescribed grazing: advance payments**

This bill extends the sunset deadline on the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CalFIRE) ability to offer advance payments of up to 25 percent of the total grant reward from its Wildfire Prevention Grants program to January 1, 2034. CSAC supported AB 297. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 8, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

[AB 338 \(Aguiar Curry\)](#) **Fuel reduction work**

This bill requires workers conducting contracted fuel reduction work over \$500,000 to be paid at



least the general prevailing wage. CSAC opposed AB 338. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 8, 2023, and will take effect starting July 1, 2026.

[AB 570 \(Gallagher\)](#) **Fire protection: Special District Fire Response Fund: county service areas**

This bill makes county service areas that are formed exclusively for fire protection services eligible to receive grants that are funded by the Special District Fire Response Fund. Governor Newsom signed this bill on October 7, 2023, and will take effect on January 1, 2024.

**ON TRACK FOR NEXT YEAR.**

**Water Planning:** Sponsored a bill (2-year) to re-focus water planning to more practical means. SB 366 (Caballero) revises the water plan from a technical advisory plan to an action plan. The bill will be heard in January 2024.

**Climate Bonds.** Controversial but a major focus on the Legislature in this two-year session. CSAC has engaged with various bond-development groups and the Administration to ensure that counties are included as eligible recipients, that bond are considered exclusively for funding (for example, in lieu of needed ongoing maintenance funding), and that cost-sharing is not onerous or challenging. Still in progress...stay tuned!



## 2024 AENR PRIORITIES

***Emergency Preparedness.*** 2023 brought unprecedented disasters and emergencies to every corner of the state—from expansive rain, flood and snow events, to a first-in-decades hurricane, wildfires and earthquakes. CSAC staff will advocate for appropriate state, federal and local emergency support and planning, funding for emergency management planning, and aid for all community residents affected by disasters. Counties need investment from state and federal partners, including in areas where they are the majority landowner, to reduce risk from catastrophic future disasters—whether from wildfire, flood or other extreme weather events.

***Organic Waste.*** The world of organic waste collection is rapidly changing as local governments race to keep up with the regulation’s ambitious timelines. CSAC has been advocating on this issue since SB 1383 was passed in 2016, and throughout Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) formal and informal rulemaking process. However, counties are struggling to come into compliance with CalRecycle regulations after they became enforceable in January 2022. CSAC plans to make SB 1383 cleanup, reform, and funding a legislative priority in 2024. To ensure maximum success we will partner with other stakeholders including other local government organizations as well as environmental and industry advocates.

***Permit Streamlining.*** Throughout 2023 CSAC staff worked with partners to identify and support permit streamlining for water and flood projects. CSAC also collaborated with local county-affiliated organizations to educate counties and project proponents on types of permit streamlining available to our teams. Moving into 2024, CSAC will continue to build upon these permit streamlining successes to develop permanent actions that improve county water, flood and environmental restoration projects while reducing the amount of time it takes to obtain state permits.