ARCCA 2017 California Legislative Update: Climate Change


» Extends the applicability of a regulation that establishes a system of market-based declining annual aggregate emissions limits for sources or categories of sources that emit greenhouse gases to December 31, 2030.

» Requires the State Air Resources Board (ARB) to prepare, approve, and update every 5 years a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

AB-546 | Land use: local ordinances: energy systems

» Requires cities and counties to make all documentation and forms associated with the permitting of advanced energy storage available on a publicly accessible Internet Web site and allow for the electronic submittal of permit applications and associated documentation.

AB-574 | Potable reuse

» Requires the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse through raw water augmentation.

AB-617 | Nonvehicular air pollution: Criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants

» Requires ARB to develop a uniform statewide system of annual reporting of emissions of criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants of stationary sources.

» Requires ARB to prepare a monitoring plan regarding technologies for monitoring criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants and the need for and benefits of additional community air monitoring systems, and to prepare a statewide strategy to reduce emissions of toxic air contaminants and criteria pollutants in communities affected by a high cumulative exposure burden.

» Requires ARB to select locations around the state for the preparation of community emissions reduction programs, and to provide grants to community-based organizations for technical assistance and to support community participation in the programs.

AB-733 | Enhanced infrastructure financing districts: projects: climate change

» Expands the types of projects that can be funded with enhanced infrastructure financing districts to include projects that enable communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

AB-1284 | California Financing Law: Property Assessed Clean Energy program: program administrators

» Prohibits a program administrator from approving an assessment contract for funding and recordation by a public agency, unless the program administrator makes a reasonable good faith determination that the property owner has a reasonable ability to pay the annual payment obligations for the PACE assessment.

» Commencing January 1, 2019, requires a program administrator that administers a PACE program on or behalf of a public agency to be licensed by the commissioner under the California Financing Law.

» Requires program administrators to submit to the commissioner information beneficial to evaluating various aspects of the PACE program to be included in an annual report, and requires program administrators to use a real-time registry or database system for tracking PACE assessments.

Please note that this fact sheet only provides a snapshot of key climate change bills that were signed into law in 2017. For full context and bill language, please visit leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.
AB-1530 | Urban forestry
» Requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention to implement a program in urban forestry to encourage better tree management and planting in urban areas.
» Requires the department to provide technical assistance to urban areas with respect to the improvement and enhancement of local water capture for urban forest maintenance.

SB-1 | Transportation funding
» Creates the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program, the Solutions or Congested Corridors Program, and the Advance Mitigation Program, and specifies revenue estimated to be available for allocation under the act to local agencies are estimated over the next 10 years for local street and road maintenance, transit operations and capital, the local partnership program, the Active Transportation Program, and local planning grants.
» Provides up to $20 million to local and regional agencies for climate change adaptation planning.

SB-5 | California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018
» If approved by the voters, authorizes the issuance of bonds in an amount of $4,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program.

SB-51 | Professional licensees: environmental sciences and climate change: whistleblower and data protection
» Prohibits licensing entities, except the State Bar of California, from taking disciplinary action against a public employee, as defined to include those persons working in the environmental sciences and climate-change-related fields who are conducting scientific or technical research, in connection with actions taken by that person to report improper federal governmental activity or disclose the results of or information about scientific or technical research to the public.
» Requires the Secretary for Environmental Protection to make every reasonable effort to preserve and make available to the public scientific information that may be at risk of censorship or destruction by the federal government.

SB-150 | Regional Transportation Plans
» Requires ARB to prepare a report that assess progress made by each metropolitan planning organization in meeting the regional greenhouse gas emission targets set by the board, which also includes best practices and challenges in meeting the targets, by September 1, 2018 and every 4 years thereafter.

SB-338 | Integrated resource plan: peak demand
» Requires the Public Utilities Commission and the governing boards of local publicly owned electric utilities to consider, as part of the integrated resource plan process, the role of distributed energy resources and other specified energy- and efficiency-related tools, in helping to ensure that each load-serving entity or local publicly owned electric utility meets energy needs and reliability needs while reducing the need for new electricity generation and new transmission in achieving the state’s energy goals at the least cost to ratepayers.

SB-667 | Department of Water Resources: riverine and riparian stewardship improvements
» Upon appropriation of funds, requires the Department of Water Resources to establish a program to implement watershed-based riverine and riparian stewardship improvements by providing technical and financial assistance in support of projects with certain benefits.

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