

2019 Legislative Update

Climate Adaptation Bills Passed in California

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AB-38 Fire safety: low-cost retrofits: regional capacity review: wildfire mitigation.

- » Requires the Natural Resources Agency, in consultation with the State Fire Marshal and the Forest Management Task Force, to review the regional capacity of each county that contains a very high fire hazard severity zone to improve forest health, fire resilience, and safety by July 1, 2021.
- » Requires the Office of Emergency Services to enter into a joint powers agreement with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop and administer a comprehensive wildfire mitigation program to encourage cost-effective structure hardening and retrofitting to create fire-resistant buildings.
- » Requires the seller of any real property located in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone to provide a prescribed disclosure notice and information relating to fire hardening improvements to the buyer.

AB-65 Coastal protection: climate adaption: project prioritization.

- » Requires the State Coastal Conservancy to prioritize projects that use natural infrastructure in coastal communities to help adapt to climate change when allocating Prop 68 funding.
- » Revises the definition of "natural infrastructure" to using natural ecological systems or processes to reduce vulnerability to climate change related hazards, or other related climate change effects, while increasing the long-term adaptive capacity of coastal and inland areas by perpetuating or restoring ecosystem services. It also includes systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes for specified purposes.

AB-661 Wildfire Smoke Air Pollution Emergency Plan: Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District.

- » Requires the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) to prepare a wildfire smoke air pollution emergency plan as an informational source for local agencies and the public during a wildfire smoke air pollution emergency, and to submit a report regarding the plan to the Legislature by January 1, 2022.
- » Authorizes SMAQMD to conduct public education, marketing, demonstration, monitoring, research, and evaluation programs or projects with respect to wildfire smoke impact control measures.
- » Requires the State Air Resources Board, in coordination with air districts, to submit to the Legislature a report on information regarding wildfire smoke air pollution emergency response programs.

AB-747 Planning and zoning: general plan: safety element.

- » Requires the safety element to be reviewed and updated as necessary to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios upon the next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan on or after January 1, 2022, or beginning on or before January 1, 2022 if a local jurisdiction has not adopted a local hazard mitigation plan.
- » Authorizes a city or county that has adopted a local hazard mitigation plan, emergency operations plan, or other document that fulfills commensurate objectives to use that information in the safety element to comply with this requirement by summarizing and incorporating by reference that other plan or document in the safety element.

AB-836 Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers for Vulnerable Populations Incentive Pilot Program.

» Establishes until January 1, 2025, the Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers for Vulnerable Populations Incentive Pilot Program, administered by the State Air Resources Board, to provide funding to retrofit ventilation systems and create a network of clean air centers to mitigate adverse public health impacts due to wildfires and smoke events.

SB-70 Electricity: undergrounding of electrical infrastructure.

» Requires each electrical corporation's wildfire mitigation plan to additionally include a description of where and how the electrical corporation considered undergrounding electrical distribution lines within those areas of its service territory identified to have the highest wildfire risk in a Public Utilities Commission fire threat map.

SB-99 General plans: safety element: emergency evacuation routes.

» Requires the city or county, upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2020, to review and update the safety element to include information identifying residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least 2 emergency evacuation routes.

SB-160 Emergency services: cultural competence.

- » Requires a county to integrate cultural competence into its emergency plan upon the next update to its plan.
- » Requires a county to provide a forum for community engagement in geographically diverse locations in order to engage with culturally diverse communities within its jurisdiction, and authorizes a county to establish a community advisory board for the purpose of the community engagement forums.

SB-167 Electrical corporations: wildfire mitigation plans.

- » Requires each electrical corporation to include additional protocols related to mitigating the public safety impacts of disabling reclosers and deenergizing portions of the electrical distribution system that consider the impacts on customers who are receiving medical baseline allowances.
- » Authorizes electrical corporations to deploy backup electrical resources or provide financial assistance for backup electrical resources to customers receiving medical baseline allowances and meet specified requirements.

SB-209 Office of Emergency Services: Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center.

» Requires the Office of Emergency Services and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to jointly establish and lead the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Center to serve as the state's integrated central organizing hub for wildfire forecasting, weather information, and threat intelligence gathering, analysis, and dissemination and to coordinate wildfire threat intelligence and data sharing while protecting sensitive information.

SB-560 Wildfire mitigation plans: deenergizing of electrical lines: notifications: mobile telephony service providers.

- » Requires that electrical corporations provide notice to all public safety offices, critical first responders, health care facilitates, and operators of telecommunications infrastructure of an impending deenergization of electrical lines.
- » Requires each electrical corporation to include protocols for the deenergization of transmission infrastructure in the wildfire mitigation plan for instances when deenergization may impact dependent customers and entities.
- » Requires a facilities-based mobile telephony services provider, upon receipt of a notification, to communicate relevant situational information relative to communications capabilities during the projected outage to electrical corporations, local publicly owned electric utilities, electrical cooperatives, and appropriate public safety stakeholders.

SB-576 State Coastal Conservancy: coastal climate change adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness program.

» Establishes the State Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Program in statute and requires the Ocean Protection Council, subject to the availability of funding, to develop and implement a coastal climate adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness program to recommend best practices and strategies to improve the climate resiliency of the state's coastal communities, infrastructure, and habitat.

SB-632 California Environmental Quality Act: injunction: vegetation treatment projects.

» Requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, as soon as practicably feasible, but no later than February 1, 2020, to complete and certify its Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the vegetation treatment program.