

ARCCA 2016 Climate Change Legislative Update

This legislative update provides brief highlights of the key climate change-related bills, primarily focused on climate change adaptation, passed in the 2016 legislative session. Please note that these highlights are not comprehensive and do not provide any analysis. For full bill language, refer to leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

AB 197 (Eduardo Garcia) State Air Resources Board: Greenhouse Gases: Regulations

- » Requires the Air Resources Board, when adopting rules and regulations to achieve GHG reductions beyond the statewide emissions limit and to protect the state's most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, to prioritize rules and regulations that result in direct emission reductions at large stationary sources of GHG emissions sources and from mobile sources.

AB 1550 (Gomez) Greenhouse Gases: Investment Plan: Disadvantaged Communities

- » Requires the investment plan to allocate a minimum of 25% of the available moneys in the fund to projects located within, and benefitting individuals living in, disadvantaged communities and a separate and a minimum of 20% to projects that benefit low-income households, with a fair share of those moneys targeting households with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

AB 2139 (Williams) Ocean Protection Council: Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia

- » Authorizes the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to develop an ocean acidification and hypoxia science task force to ensure that council decision-making is supported by the best available science.
- » Requires the OPC to take specified actions to address ocean acidification and hypoxia, as prescribed, and adopt recommendations for further actions that may be taken to address ocean acidification and hypoxia.

AB 2480 (Bloom) Source Watersheds: Financing

- » Declares it to be state policy that source watersheds are recognized and defined as integral components of California's water infrastructure, including the importance of maintaining the reliability, quantity, timing, and quality of California's environmental, drinking, and agricultural water supply as climate change advances.
- » States that the maintenance and repair of source watersheds is eligible for the same forms of financing as other water collection and treatment infrastructure and would specify that the maintenance and repair activities that are eligible are limited to specified forest ecosystem restoration and conservation activities.

AB 2722 (Burke) Transformative Climate Communities Program

- » Creates the Transformative Climate Communities Program, which will award competitive grants to specified eligible entities for the development of plans, and projects that implement plans, that contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions and demonstrate potential climate, economic, workforce, health, and environmental benefits in disadvantaged communities that have a demonstrated need for these benefits.

AB 2800 (Quirk) Climate Change: Infrastructure Planning

- » Requires state agencies to take into account the expected impacts of climate change when planning, designing, building, and investing in state infrastructure.
- » Requires the Natural Resources Agency to establish a Climate-Safe Infrastructure Working Group to examine how to integrate scientific data concerning projected climate change impacts into state infrastructure engineering, and to make specified recommendations to the Legislature and the Strategic Growth Council.

SB 32 (Pavley) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Emissions Limit

- » Requires the Air Resources Board (ARB) to approve a statewide GHG emissions limit that is equivalent to 40% below the 1990 level to be achieved by 2030.
- » Requires ARB to prepare and submit a report relating to the GHG emissions reductions achieved toward those limits to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and appropriate policy committees.

SB 1000 (Leyva) Land Use: General Plans: Environmental Justice

- » Adds to the required elements of the general plan an environmental justice element that identifies disadvantaged communities, as defined, within the area covered by the general plan.
- » Requires cities and counties to identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities, identify objectives and policies to promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process, and identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

SB 1363 (Monning) OPC: Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Reduction Program

- » Requires the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to establish and administer the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Reduction Program for the purpose of achieving specified goals, which include developing demonstration projects to research how important environmental and ecological factors influence functions for carbon dioxide removal and hypoxia reduction, and generating an inventory of potential restoration sites to mitigate ocean acidification and hypoxia.
- » Authorizes moneys in the trust fund to be expanded for grants or loans for projects or activities that further public purposes consistent with the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Reduction Program.

SB 1383 (Lara) Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

- » Requires the Air Resources Board (ARB) to approve and begin implementing a comprehensive strategy to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants to achieve a reduction in methane by 40%, hydrofluorocarbon gases by 40%, and anthropogenic black carbon by 50% below 2013 levels by 2030.
- » Establishes targets for reducing organic waste in landfills and imposes a state-mandated local program.
- » Requires ARB to adopt regulations to reduce methane emissions from livestock and dairy manure management operations.
- » Authorizes local governments to charge and collect fees to recover the costs incurred in complying.

SB 1386 (Wolk) Resource Conservation: Working and Natural Lands

- » Declares it to be the policy of the state that the protection and management of natural and working lands are a key strategy in meeting the state's GHG reduction goals.
- » Require all state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions to consider this policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, expenditures, or grant criteria relating to the protection and management of natural and working lands.

SB 1464 (De León) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: GHG Emissions Reduction

- » Requires that the investment plan assess how proposed investments interact with current state regulations, policies, and programs, and evaluate if and how the proposed investments could be incorporated into existing programs.
- » Requires the investment plan to recommend metrics that would measure progress and benefits from the proposed programmatic investments.

