



NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP (NCRP)

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (LC) & TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE (TPRC) MEETING SUMMARY

Friday, August 26, 2022; 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

I WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Co-Chair Gore welcomed all to the meeting and delivered a brief message on the NCRP's accomplishments and propensity for action.

At the direction of the co-chair, Karen Gaffney led introductions of the Leadership Council (LC) while all others were invited to introduce themselves in the chat (see meeting participant list at the end of this summary).

Sherri Norris introduced new Tribal Reps. More elections to be held before next NCRP meeting.

- Barry McCovey Jr – Leadership Council alternate, North District, Yurok Tribe
- Salvina Norris – Leadership Council alternate, South District, Dry Creek Rancheria
- Jose Baquero – TPRC alternate, South District, Dry Creek Rancheria

Co-Chair Gore introduced Susan Gorin, District 1 Supervisor, Sonoma County – who he has worked with extensively, especially on fire resilience. She is serving her 10th year on the Board and serves on the Bay Conservation & Development Council as well.

TPRC Co-Chair Sandra Perez introduced Rosanna Bower and Jonathan Olsen – both are engineers who will be joining the TPRC.

Brian Newman-Lindsay of the Department of Conservation and Matt St. John of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board will be speaking later. Patrick Wright had an emergency and will not be able to attend.

II ZOOM MEETING LOGISTICS

Cybelle Immitt reviewed Zoom logistics. The Leadership Council was asked to keep their cameras on for the duration while others were invited to turn their camera on while speaking during public comment.

III REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

Karen gave an overview of the agenda and a preview of agenda items related to the RFFC Regional Priority Plan. She also acknowledged the Ad Hoc committee members for their contributions.

None opposed to agenda as presented.

IV PUBLIC COMMENT for items not on the agenda

None.

V NCRP REGIONAL FOREST AND FIRE CAPACITY DRAFT PLAN

The Regional Priority Plan is in a digital format as intended instead of a static PDF. Karen gave a brief walkthrough of the RPP webpages, and the Prioritization Framework in particular. The Framework demonstrates the NCRP's process of incorporating western and Tribal science to identify projects; how those projects are selected equitably and transparently; how they are developed with technical assistance; and how they are evaluated and reported on before the cycle starts over. This section tells people how we make decisions about allocating large block grants.

The Outcomes & Solutions section is the work of a wide variety and number of individuals. Each Outcome is tied to several Solutions, each of which is proposed to be achieved through a set of Actions and backed by references and resources. All Outcomes & Solutions have been vetted by the Ad hoc committee.

Invited all to check out the Demonstration Projects – a significant portion of the block grant was dedicated to supporting and showcasing innovative means of advancing pace and scale.

There has been a significant level of review from Tribes, RCDs, and state agency partners like the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, CAL FIRE, USFS, Coastal Conservancy, and many more.

Tribal Engagement Director Sherri Norris described her work with Kathy McCovey (experienced as a THPO and steward of cultural resources) to incorporate Tribal content into the plan, NCRP's support for the Karuk Tribe in publishing the Good Fire Report which has been an incredible resource/reference for the RPP, and the long sessions reviewing content with the Tribal Representatives to dive deep into RPP content. More to come.

Brian Newman-Lindsay

Conservation and Community Development Programs Manager, Division of Land Resource Protection, California Department of Conservation

The RFFC Program started from the ground up in 2019 knowing that a wildfire resilient future for CA wouldn't be possible without the involvement and leadership of the regions. In 2022, the RFFC Program is maturing – new guidelines and new funding, emphasis on building capacity and supporting place-based practitioners. DOC is looking to support a shared vision of resilience developed among its partners.

\$100 million in state funding through 2028 to support the Program. Excited to work with staff to develop an expanded scope for RFFC in the North Coast. Brian has reviewed the entire RPP as presented by the NCRP and is very encouraged.

Karen polled the members of the Leadership Council for any additional comments and none other than general support were shared. Karen then walked through the Staff Recommendation described in detail below.

Ad hoc Committee Changes – can have as many as 7 LC members; currently have 4

- Supervisor Hemmingsen would like to step off the committee at the end of the year.
- Michelle Downey would like to join.
- Supervisor Ogren would like to join.
- Supervisor Bohn would like to join.
- *With these changes, a quorum of LC members has been reached.*

Motion: Supervisor Madrone motioned to approve the Staff Recommendation incorporating changes to the Ad Hoc committee membership noted above.

Second: Supervisor Howard

Public Comment: None.

Vote: None opposed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve NCRP staff activities to complete the plan for final approval of the NCRP Leadership Council in December 2022, via the following steps:

- A. Integrate feedback from the Leadership Council meeting on August 26, 2022
- B. Meet with any interested Leadership Council members who wish to review the draft plan in more depth and provide additional information
- C. Finalize incomplete plan sections (executive summary, site map, graphic corrections, integration of Project Tracker, outstanding recommendations from partners that are incomplete, etc.)
- D. Hold a Tribal workshop and a CAL FIRE workshop (with other agencies invited per CAL FIRE request) to discuss the draft plan and hear additional suggested refinements or revisions
- E. Release the draft plan for broad partner, public and community review (simultaneously with workshops as needed)
- F. Convene 1-2 additional RFFC Ad Hoc Committee meetings between now and December Leadership Council meeting to review updates to the draft plan based on Tribal workshop and CAL FIRE/agency workshop, and public review process
- G. Reconfigure the RFFC Ad Hoc Committee to focus on continued RFFC plan development and add an emphasis on plan implementation, and continue the Committee for another year
- H. Consider whether any changes or updates are needed to the RFFC Ad Hoc Committee membership. Maximum number of LC members = 7, current members:
 - a. Co-Chair: Leaf Hillman, Karuk Tribe, Northern Region
 - b. Co-Vice-Chair: Supervisor Steve Madrone, Humboldt County
 - c. Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County
 - d. Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County
 - e. TPRC Co-Chair: Dale Roberts, Engineer, Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County
 - f. Toz Soto, Senior Fisheries Biologist, Karuk Tribe, Northern Region
 - g. Wayne Haydon, Certified Engineering Geologist, Sonoma County
 - h. Mark Lancaster, Director, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, Trinity County
- I. Approve the RFFC Ad Hoc Committee to work with NCRP staff team to provide guidance and review for the OPR Woody Feedstock Initiative, and other initiatives related to RFFC plan implementation. Meetings that address the OPR Woody Feedstock initiative will include NCRP Leadership Council member Supervisor Rex Bohn, appointed by the LC as liaison to the OPR Woody Feedstock initiative, and other consultants as appropriate.

VI NORTH COAST PROJECT TRACKER

Staff have been making progress over the last year. The intention is to track progress of NCRP planning and other initiatives. This platform was selected after an evaluation of a number of tools and checking in with partners about the tools they use. This open-source tool rose to the top and is in use by the RCDs (collaborating with them to conceive of improvements).

This tool is expected to assist with many of the essential functions of staff and to serve as a more centralized system for project and contract management. It is also intended to streamline solicitation and review processes, as well as collecting data from monitoring and generating project fact sheets (for funder reporting and outreach), and rolling up benefits associated with individual projects and funding rounds.

It's in development and will be rolled out in tandem with the RPP and staff will immediately begin using it for delivering TA and building out the project database.

It offers many options for viewing projects by different attributes – goals/objective, funding source, county, etc. as well as detailed project level information – goals/objectives, benefits, photos, etc.

Another way to view project info is via NCRP goals/objectives and drilling down to associated projects. In this way, users can grasp overall impacts to costs avoided, jobs created, carbon sequestration, in-stream habitat and more. Also, by project type – gives a sense of trends in projects and funding, those that are receiving TA.

Project solicitation made easy and centralized – proposers can create an account and upload project details and attachments.

The value of the Project Accomplishments functionality is significant. It includes the ability to roll up benefits and display as a dashboard. Currently tracking 55 performance measures – spanning a broad range given the wide variety of projects funded by NCRP. A huge improvement over the manual process of pulling out benefits from project reports.

Myriad resources in document form and video tutorials are available. Resources for project proponents who want to upload project info as well as for staff who will be using the site.

Discussion:

- Supervisor McGourty asks whether this is an in-house effort? Staff are working with Sitka Technology to build out this open-source platform to be customized for NCRP's needs.
- Supervisor Ogren thanked staff for spending the time to develop a tool that will showcase all that the NCRP has to offer in a clear, concise, and transparent way.
- A great evolution for the TPRC who will be using this tool to evaluate proposals.

VII NCRP BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

The original NCRP boundary developed circa 2004-2005 was intentionally aligned with the IRWM hydrologic boundary. The boundary hasn't been changed since, despite multiple requests to do so. DOC is now asking the NCRP to consider adjusting the boundary to include the entirety of Sonoma County (adjustment not requested for Siskiyou or Modoc because these areas are covered by the Sierra Cascade region RFFC grantee).

Staff are looking for provisional approval in order to move forward with working with partners and Tribes in Sonoma to understand their perspectives/thoughts on joining the NCRP and if not, start to identify an alternative.

Discussion:

Supervisor Gore of Sonoma County – To clarify, this was not brought forward by Sonoma County and is not a bid to pull in more funding for Sonoma. Feels the provisional approval is appropriate and is supportive of incorporating the entirety of Sonoma.

Supervisor Gorin – Represents the area proposed to be added. This area has a lot in common with the Bay Area and is very active with Bay restoration and is familiar with the issues affecting Bay Area counties, including Napa. Also has commonalities with the other North Coast counties, like fire. Question: would eastern Sonoma's issues with flooding and bay-related issues get lost if incorporated into the NCRP?

Karen – Funding of projects addressing these issues would be consistent with NCRP's emphasis on multi-objective projects and support for community health & safety. What's more an issue for a consideration is the cost associated with analysis of these new areas and potentially bringing the NCRP out of being eligible for economically disadvantaged funding.

Sherri – the region often gets additional support for funding because of its economically disadvantaged status, and it remains to be explored what the impact of adding Sonoma entirely would be.

Cybele – interested in seeing the addition expanded in a way that does not disrupt existing IRWMP funding designed around the existing boundary.

Patricia Rabano – map including the extension? This would help her make an informed decision and communicate the basis of that decision to her Tribe.

Supervisor Gorin – Eastern Sonoma has a strong Tribal presence and influence in the area that could contribute to and be supported by the NCRP.

Supervisor Madrone – Expressed support. There were early concerns about Sonoma's relative higher capacity than the other counties, but it's been his observation that this high capacity has been wielded professionally and graciously and has ultimately been to the benefit of the NCRP.

Chris Ott – Seems like there is a lot more work to do before the LC comes to a decision. What work remains to be done? Would be helpful to have a map that lays out the ecological differences that illustrates why the boundary was laid where it was. There are failsafe mechanisms within the TPRC to ensure equitable distribution of funds throughout the region—making an concerns over Sonoma sucking up a greater share of funds less of an issue.

Karen – strategy behind the Staff Recommendation is to get provisional approval so this could be communicated to DOC that it is moving forward/buy more time and to ask the NCRP what considerations should be made/avenues pursued during this interim period.

Michelle Downey – seconded the request for additional mapping tools such as vegetation and firehatched boundaries.

- Staff will follow up to make sure this is provided to tribes

Supervisor McGourty – No strong feelings though acknowledges have the whole of counties included could make things easier. Eastern Sonoma does share a lot of ecological, economic, and cultural characteristics of other areas in the region.

Supervisor Gjerde – No concerns. Assuming this would be less of a draw on Sonoma's staff resources to just be involved with NCRP instead of being split.

Brian Newman-Lindsay – clarified DOC's position. Has a statutory mandate to provide coverage of all of CA. Intent not necessarily to push the NCRP to make this change but to identify a means for this area to have access to the RFFC Program. Napa RCD has signaled that they could potentially incorporate this area if NCRP does not.

Grant Davis – Thanked Supervisor Madrone for his comments and concurs with comments in support and shares the question of how existing relationships and projects related to the Bay Area will fit in.

It seemed to be the consensus of the group that further conversations and due diligence were warranted before a decision can be made.

Karen suggested staff, executive committee, and other interested NCRP members and staff have a workshop around this topic between now and the December meeting in addition to the other due diligence outlined in the staff rec and the addition of more maps.

Brian meanwhile committed to finding out whether DOC had a deadline by which eastern Sonoma needs to be incorporated into an RFFC region.

Motion: Supervisor Madrone motioned to authorize staff to move forward with due diligence (as opposed to provisional approval) and that the notion of approval be brought back at the December NCRP meeting.

Second: Hemmingsen seconded

Public comment: None

Vote: None opposed.

VIII NCRP MOMU & HANDBOOK UPDATE

Karen provided background on the origins of the MoMU as part of the Integrated Regional Water Management Program. All partners are asked to sign on. Staff were asked to improve it and bring it in line with the NCRP's current state of being. It is expected that it will be updated every 5-10 years. The Handbook is related to day-to-day procedures and is updated much more frequently. Karen outlined some of the changes related to staff roles, Tribal Sovereignty, and more; proposed changes are provided in the meeting materials.

One edit missed in the finalization of this draft but if the staff rec is approved, staff would be empowered to update as needed.

Questions or refinements? None.

The plan is to bring a fully revised MoMu and Handbook to the NCRP for approval in December. Staff will work with LC on refinements in the meantime. Decision needed today on smaller adjustment to the Handbook including an update of Appendix D (not C as stated in Meeting Materials). Katherine explained that the impetus for the Appendix update is related to a contracting requirement of Department of Water Resources that projects be included in a plan before they can be funded. This is necessary for Humboldt County to move forward with the already approved Drought Relief projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- A. NCRP staff integrate direction and guidance from the Leadership Council based on the August 26 2022 review of the draft MOMU. See meeting materials Attachment A for a review draft version of the MoMU.
- B. Maintain the NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook as the guidance document for the NCRP, with regular updating and approval by the Leadership Council.
- C. Review and approve an August 2022 version of the NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook that includes updated Goals and Objectives, Guiding Principles, funding awards, and NCRP Projects (Handbook, Appendix D). An updated Handbook with excerpted sections for approval can be found as Attachment B.

- D. NCRP staff work with the Executive Committee to make additional refinements and bring updated drafts of the MOMU and Handbook for review and approval to the Leadership Council for consideration during the December 2022 Quarterly Meeting
- E. Future Action (prior to and during December 2022 Quarterly Meeting)
 - a. NCRP Tribal Engagement Director Sherri Norris will coordinate discussions with NCRP Tribal representatives for the December 2022 update to the Handbook.
 - b. Review and approve additional refinements to the MOMU based on staff and Executive Committee review
 - c. Update the NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook with new and updated elements that reflects Leadership Council direction – including the standards and values of the NCRP that we expect all partners to acknowledge if working in collaboration with the NCRP
 - d. Review and approve the Handbook, Appendix C: Policies during December 2022 Quarterly Meeting
 - e. Staff to develop a proposed process for Leadership Council consideration that would integrate the Handbook into all grant agreements and contracts, including for demo projects, consulting, technical assistance and sub-grant awards for planning or implementation
 - f. Discuss whether Leadership Council and TPRC Representatives should receive an orientation to the NCRP and formally sign onto the Handbook and MOMU when appointed.

Motion: Supervisor Madrone motioned to make the changes described in the staff recommendation.

Second: Supervisor Ogren seconded

Public comment: None

Vote: None opposed.

IX FUNDING APPROVALS FOR THE NCRP

There is a lot of funding available and the reputation of the NCRP and integrity of Humboldt County administration makes us well-positioned to take advantage.

Matt St. John

Executive Officer of the North Coast Regional Water Control Board

Regarding Item 2 on the Funding List in the Meeting Materials

The NCRP’s partnership with his agency has been strong and will continue. Acknowledged some key successes like the RFFC RPP and Project Tracker – incredibly impressive.

With regard to the Technical Assistance contract under consideration, it is a great opportunity for the NCRP to provide TA primarily to address wastewater infrastructure needs and to build on needs assessments initiated by NCRP and being built upon by water board staff. More TA is needed to increase success of communities and Tribes in securing funding for wastewater infrastructure.

McGourty – Signaled that he would like speak with Matt further on these issues given Mendocino’s extensive water infrastructure issues, including groundwater.

Matt – Groundwater Policy Statement being queued up for consideration by the water board in October and in December, they’ll be considering a permitting pathway to facilitate diversion aboveground to support recharge.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve NCRP staff and Humboldt County to apply for, negotiate the terms of, and enter into contracts or grant agreements for the following projects and/or initiatives, totaling approximately \$45 million. See Meeting Materials for a

table describing the various awards.

Motion: Supervisor Ogren motioned to accept the funding described in the staff recommendation.

Second: Supervisor McGourty seconded

Public comment: None

Vote: None opposed.

X NCRP Progress Dashboard

In response to a request by the NCRP Executive Committee, staff developed a draft Progress Dashboard to track and report the actions and accomplishments of various NCRP initiatives and planning. This is in draft form and will continue to be refined by staff.

XI NCRP MEETINGS

Members of the Leadership Council were polled on their thoughts regarding a 2-day Strategic Planning Retreat & Quarterly Meeting in December, in Yreka.

Some expressed concern over the travel time for those traveling to Yreka. A long way for many but this will be true for many areas in the region. A hybrid meeting could be considered.

Most expressed support for holding the meeting in Yreka in December.

Staff will consult the Co-Chairs and move forward with planning the combination meeting the week of December 15th in Yreka or splitting out the quarterly meeting to be held virtually the week of December 9th.

Co-chair Gore thanked the meeting participants and acknowledged the need for continuing to meet and collaborate.

Meeting adjourned the meeting at 12:28 pm.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Leadership Council

Co-Chair: Supervisor James Gore, Sonoma County

Co-Vice-Chair: Supervisor Steve Madrone, Humboldt County

Executive Committee Member: Supervisor Nancy Ogren, Siskiyou County

Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County

Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County

Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County

Supervisor Keith Groves, Trinity County

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County

Supervisor Susan Gorin, Sonoma County

Alternate: Grant Davis, Sonoma Water

Alternate: Michelle Downey, Round Valley Indian Tribe

Alternate: Patricia Rabano, Tribal Historic Preservation Manager, Round Valley Indian Tribe, Central Region

Technical Peer Review Committee

Co-Chair: Sandra Perez, Program Manager, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, Trinity County

Chris Ott, Environmental Director, Dry Creek Rancheria

Hank Seemann, Deputy Director, Humboldt County Department of Public Works, Environmental Services

Joe Scriven, Project Manager/Fisheries Biologist, Mendocino Resource Conservation District, Mendocino County

Pat Kaspari, General Manager, McKinleyville Community Services District, Humboldt County

Rosanna Bower, Assistant County Engineer, Del Norte County

Wayne Haydon, Certified Engineering Geologist, Sonoma County

NCRP Staff

Cybelle Immitt, NCRP Director of Administration and Contracting (Humboldt County)

Denise Monday, Humboldt County

Julia Cavalli, Humboldt County

Karen Gaffney, NCRP Director of Strategic Planning and Communications (West Coast Watershed)

Katherine Gledhill, West Coast Watershed, NCRP Director of Project Development (West Coast Watershed)

Sherri Norris, NCRP Director of Tribal Engagement (California Indian Environmental Alliance)

Susan Haydon, NCRP Director of Legislation and Policy Development (Sonoma Water)

Additional Attendees

Ali Ong Lee, Humboldt Area Foundation & WRCF

Alydda Mangelsdorf, North Coast Regional Water Control Board

Brian Newman-Lindsay, Department of Conservation

Eric Martinez, Department of Water Resources

Gary Knoblock, NCRP consultant

George Jennings Ore-Cal RC&D Council, Siskiyou County

Javier Silva, Tribal NCRP consultant

Jose Baquero, NCRP Tribal Representative

Kate Reza, NCRP consultant

Matt St. John, North Coast Regional Water Control Board

Mike Reese, North Coast Regional Water Control Board

Rebecca Jacobsen, Department of Conservation

Rose Roberts, NCRP Consultant

Salvina Norris, NCRP Tribal Representative

Steve Nevarez, Tribal NCRP consultant

Following is information that did not make it into the meeting materials but are added to the summary for information purposes.

Bills to Watch

Biodiversity

[SB 1077](#) ([Bates R](#)) Coastal resources: Climate Ready Program: grants: nonnative and invasive plants: removal and restoration.

Current Text: Amended: 5/19/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: Died in Senate Appropriations

Summary: Would specifically authorize the State Coastal Conservancy to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations that increase resilience of habitat and natural lands. The bill would require the conservancy, in awarding grants, as part of the prioritization of projects described above, to include those projects that accomplish the removal of nonnative and invasive plants from coastal features, habitats, and ecosystems, and their replacement with native plant species, upon appropriation. The bill would authorize the conservancy to consult, as needed, with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Invasive Species Council of California, and other entities in determining the invasive status of any species.

Bonds

[AB 2387](#) ([Garcia, Eduardo D](#)) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022.

Current Text: Amended: 3/21/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: Died in Assembly Appropriations

Summary: Would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$7,430,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs.

Climate Policy

[AB 1395](#) ([Muratsuchi D](#)) The California Climate Crisis Act.

Current Text: Amended: 9/3/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: Pending before the Senate Floor

Summary: The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 requires the State Air Resources Board to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and to update the scoping plan at least once every 5 years. This bill, the California Climate Crisis Act, would declare the policy of the state both to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, but no later than 2045, and achieve and maintain net negative greenhouse gas emissions thereafter, and to ensure that by 2045, statewide anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 90% below the 1990 levels.

[AB 2133](#) ([Quirk D](#)) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: emissions limit.

Current Text: Amended: 8/23/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: The bill will be heard in Senate Environmental Quality on Thursday, August, 24, 2022 and will then proceed to the Senate Floor.

Summary: Increases the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal from to at least 40% to 55% below the 1990 level by no later than December 31, 2030.

Forest Management

[AB 1717](#) ([Aguiar-Curry D](#)) Public works: definition.

Current Text: Amended: 5/19/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: Pending before the Senate Floor

Summary: This bill would expand the definition of “public works” to include fuel reduction work done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of public funds performed as part of a fire mitigation project, which would then require prevailing wage be paid for work performed.

[AB 2463](#) ([Lee D](#)) Public works: exemption.

Current Text: Enrollment: 8/16/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: Passed Legislature and awaiting Governor Newsom’s signature or veto.

Summary: This bill extends the exemption from prevailing wage for work performed by a volunteer, a volunteer coordinator, or a member of the California Conservation Corps or a community conservation corps. The exemption would be extended from January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2031.

Prescribed Fire

[SB 926](#) ([Dodd D](#)) Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program: Prescribed Fire Claims Fund.

Current Text: Enrollment: 8/22/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: Passed Legislature and awaiting Governor Newsom’s signature or veto.

Summary: Current law authorizes a person, firm, or corporation, or a group or combination of persons, firms, corporations, or groups, that owns or controls brush-covered land, forest lands, woodland, grassland, shrubland, or any combination thereof within a state responsibility area to apply to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) for permission to utilize prescribed burning for specified public purposes. Current law requires, on or before January 1, 2020, the Forest Management Task Force, or its successor entity, in coordination with the Department of Insurance, to develop recommendations for the implementation of an insurance pool or other mechanism for prescribed burn managers that reduces the cost of conducting prescribed fire while maintaining adequate liability protection for lives and property when conducting prescribed burns. This bill would delete the provision requiring the task force to develop recommendations for the implementation of an insurance pool or other mechanisms for prescribed burn managers. The bill would establish, until January 1, 2028, the Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program, to be administered by CalFire, to increase the pace and scale of the use of prescribed fire and cultural burning, as defined, and to reduce barriers for conducting prescribed fires and cultural burning. The bill would create the Prescribed Fire Claims Fund in the State Treasury to support coverage for losses from prescribed fires and cultural burning by nonpublic entities, such as cultural fire practitioners, private landowners, and nongovernmental enti

Public Meetings

[AB 2449](#) ([Rubio, Blanca D](#)) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

Current Text: Amended: 8/8/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: 8/9/2022-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Calendar: Pending before the Senate Floor

Summary: The Ralph M. Brown Act requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. The act generally requires posting an agenda at least 72 hours before a regular meeting that contains a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, and prohibits any action or discussion from being undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. The act authorizes a legislative body to take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda under specified conditions. The act contains specified provisions regarding providing for the ability of the public to observe and provide comment. The act allows for meetings to occur via teleconferencing subject to certain requirements, particularly that the legislative body notice each teleconference

location of each member that will be participating in the public meeting, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that members of the public be allowed to address the legislative body at each teleconference location, that the legislative body post an agenda at each teleconference location, and that at least a quorum of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the local agency's jurisdiction. The act provides an exemption to the jurisdictional requirement for health authorities, as defined. This bill would revise and recast those teleconferencing provisions and, until January 1, 2026, would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements that each teleconference location be identified in the notice and agenda and that each teleconference location be accessible to the public if at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda that is open to the public and situated within the local agency's jurisdiction. Under this exception, the bill would authorize a member to participate remotely under specified circumstances, including participating remotely for just cause or due to emergency circumstances.

[AB 2647](#) ([Levine D](#)) Local government: open meetings.

Current Text: Enrollment: 8/22/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: Passed Legislature and awaiting Governor Newsom's signature or veto.

Summary: The Ralph M. Brown Act requires the meetings of the legislative body of a local agency to be conducted openly and publicly, with specified exceptions. Current law makes agendas of public meetings and other writings distributed to the members of the governing board disclosable public records, with certain exceptions. Current law requires a local agency to make those writings distributed to the members of the governing board less than 72 hours before a meeting available for public inspection, as specified, at a public office or location that the agency designates. Current law also requires the local agency to list the address of the office or location on the agenda for all meetings of the legislative body of the agency. Current law authorizes a local agency to post the writings on the local agency's internet website in a position and manner that makes it clear that the writing relates to an agenda item for an upcoming meeting. Current law requires a local agency to post the agenda for a special meeting at least 24 hours prior to the special meeting in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public. This bill would instead require a local agency to make those writings distributed to the members of the governing board available for public inspection at a public office or location that the agency designates and list the address of the office or location on the agenda for all meetings of the legislative body of the agency unless the local agency meets certain requirements, including the local agency immediately posts the writings on the local agency's internet website in a position and manner that makes it clear that the writing relates to an agenda item for an upcoming meeting.

Recreation Economy

[SB 307](#) ([McGuire D](#)) Great Redwood Trail Agency: County of Humboldt: state moneys: compatible offices.

Current Text: Amended: 8/23/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: Pending before the Assembly Floor

Summary: Current law creates the North Coast Railroad Authority with various powers and duties relating to rail service in the north coast area of the state, and, on March 1, 2022, renamed the authority the Great Redwood Trail Agency, as specified. Current law requires the agency, to the extent funding is available, to complete a railbanking process on its rail rights-of-way and to plan, design, construct, operate, and maintain a trail in, or parallel to, those rail rights-of-way. Under current law, the state is not liable for any contracts, debts, or other obligations of the authority or agency. This bill would prohibit the use of state moneys to initiate or operate rail service on those rail rights-of-way north of the City of Willits or for a project that is designed to rehabilitate, modernize, maintain, or repair an existing operation or facility, including a rail terminal, a railyard, a rail facility, and rail infrastructure, except for trail design or construction or to satisfy railbanking requirements, on those rail rights-of-way north of the City of Willits.

Regions

[AB 1384](#) ([Gabriel D](#)) Resiliency Through Adaptation, Economic Vitality, and Equity Act of 2022.

Current Text: Enrollment: 8/23/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: Passed Legislature and awaiting Governor Newsom's signature or veto.

Summary: Current law requires the Natural Resources Agency to release a draft of the state's climate adaptation strategy, known as the Safeguarding California Plan, by January 1, 2017, and every 3 years thereafter, to update the plan by July 1, 2017, and every 3 years thereafter, and to coordinate with other state agencies to identify vulnerabilities to climate change by sectors and priority actions needed to reduce the risks in those sectors. Existing law requires, to address the vulnerabilities identified in the plan, state agencies to maximize specified objectives. This bill would instead require the agency to release the draft plan by January 1, 2024, and every 3 years thereafter,

and to update the plan by July 1, 2024, and every 3 years thereafter.

[AB 1640](#) ([Ward D](#)) **Office of Planning and Research: regional climate networks: regional climate adaptation and resilience action plans.**

Current Text: Amended: 5/19/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: Died in Senate Appropriations

Summary:

Current law establishes the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program to be administered by the Office of Planning and Research to coordinate regional and local efforts with state climate adaptation strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change, as prescribed. This bill would authorize eligible entities, as defined, to establish and participate in a regional climate network, as defined. The bill would require the office, through the program, to encourage the inclusion of eligible entities with land use planning and hazard mitigation planning authority into regional climate networks. The bill would authorize a regional climate network to engage in activities to address climate change, as specified.

Tribes

[AB 2225](#) ([Ward D](#)) **Resource conservation: Native American tribes: traditional ecological knowledge: policy: conservation and management of lands.**

Current Text: Amended: 5/19/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: This bill was not presented in Senate Natural Resources & Water and died in that committee.

Summary: Would require the Natural Resources Agency, no later than January 1, 2024, to conduct regional workshops with Native American tribes across the state to solicit the input, priorities, and concerns of Native American tribes regarding the state's collection, acquisition, storage, and use of traditional ecological knowledge, as defined. The bill would require the agency, no later than July 1, 2024, in consultation with the Governor's tribal advisor, to adopt a policy regarding the state's collection, acquisition, storage, and use of traditional ecological knowledge, as provided. The bill would require, on and after July 1, 2024, every department, board, conservancy, and commission under the agency to, among other things, incorporate the policy described above, including in guidelines for grant programs that offer land conservation or management funds

Wildfires

[SB 1062](#) ([McGuire D](#)) **The Fixing the Firefighter Shortage Act of 2022.**

Current Text: Amended: 4/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: Died in Assembly Appropriations

Summary: Would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to increase its existing firefighter fuel crews, as specified. The bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2024, to provide to the Legislature a long-term staffing plan to meet the new era of wildfire firefighting.