



TO: SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA – MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
FROM: BILL MAGAVERN, DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: THE HEAT'S ON IN SACRAMENTO.....AND IT'S
NOT JUST THE WEATHER!
DATE: JUNE 8, 2010

Your Sierra Club California Advocacy Team (Jim Metropulos, Michael Endicott and I) has been busy with an array of legislative, regulatory, budgetary and electoral issues. Last week was the deadline for policy bills to move out of their houses of origin, so both the Assembly and the Senate acted on a flurry of bills.

At the beginning of last week, we prioritized 6 bills for passage in the Assembly, and I'm happy to report that all of them passed. We prioritized 5 Senate bills, and 4 of them passed.

As usual, the formula for passing a bill was to hold the environmental Democrats and pick up enough of the business Democrats to get to 41 votes in the Assembly and 21 in the Senate, since the number of Republicans in the Legislature who will vote for significant environmental legislation ranges from zero to very few.

Now all of the Assembly bills (**AB**) are in the Senate and the Senate bills (**SB**) are in the Assembly. **Deadline for passage is August 31.** Here's more information on these priority bills. **AB 1975** is sponsored by Sierra Club California.

AB 1975 (Fong): Water Conservation

- Would require the installation of meters and sub-meters on individual units in a newly constructed building for which the first occupancy permit is issued or after January 1, 2012. Sub-metering ensures water users receive an appropriate signal regarding the volume and cost of their water use, and thus incentivizes residents to undertake responsible water use.

AB 1947 (Fong): Solar Energy

- Would allow publicly-owned utilities to use up to 1 megawatt worth of California Solar Initiative funds to build large solar systems within their service area, and provide their customers the opportunity to offset a part or all of their electricity needs with the power generated by these solar systems. Enactment of AB 1947 would result in more distributed solar power, new green jobs, and more equitable participation in the CSI program.

AB 1998 (Brownley): Solid Waste: Single Use Carryout Bags

- Would prohibit a store from providing a single use carryout bag to a customer after January 1, 2012. In lieu of single use bags, stores would be required to make reusable bags available for purchase by the customer.

AB 2223 (Nava): Wildlife Protection

- Would prohibit the use of toxic shot in state wildlife management areas. Lead shot is extremely toxic to wildlife. It can linger in the environment for years as a potent contaminant that harms the health of wildlife up and down the food chain.

AB 2289 (Eng): Smog Check Program Reform

- Would save money for consumers and the state and reduce air pollution by 70 tons per day by enacting critical updates to California's Smog Check program. Would implement on-board diagnostic testing for vehicle model years 2001 and newer and more stringent performance standards for facilities testing older, more polluting vehicles.

AB 2575 (Chesbro): Salmon Protection

- Would direct the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFIRE) to implement a pilot project for the improved protection and repair of the riparian zone in watersheds with listed anadromous salmonids.

SB 1100 (Corbett): Battery Recycling

- Would make the manufacturers of household batteries responsible for their collection and recycling, saving money for taxpayers and ratepayers.

SB 1157 (DeSaulnier): Toxic Pesticides in Schools

- Would prohibit all public schools from using the most highly toxic pesticides on school property, with certain exceptions.

SB 1207 (Kehoe): Fire Planning

- Would direct the Office of Planning and Research to update its general plan advice document relating to fire hazards and its CEQA guidelines to address wildfire risks. After 2015, cities and counties to update the safety element of their general plans to address risks of wildfire in state responsibility areas (SRAs) and Very High Hazard Fire Severity Zones. Given the crushing expense of defending fires in developed-wildland boundary areas, this planning is necessary to manage risks to people, property and forest ecosystems appropriately.

SB 1445 (Desaulnier): Reducing Vehicular Emissions

- Would provide much needed planning funds to assist local transportation planning agencies complete their strategic plans to move people efficiently while reducing greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks. The funds would come from a \$1 increase in the vehicle license fee.

The one priority bill we supported that fell short last week was:

SB 1291 (Leno): Toxic flame retardants

- Would require DTSC to evaluate all flame retardants before any new ones are put into common household furnishings. Many flame retardants use highly toxic chemicals.