
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

SB 790 (Stern) - Wildlife connectivity mitigation credits

Version: April 14, 2021

Policy Vote: TRANS. 16 - 0, N.R. & W. 9 -
0

Urgency: No

Mandate: No

Hearing Date: May 20, 2021

Consultant: Ashley Ames

Bill Summary: This bill would create a new compensatory mitigation credit program at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) projects that improve wildlife connectivity, among other environmental improvements.

***** **ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE** *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on May 20, 2021

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown ongoing costs, likely in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually (General Fund), for CDFW staff to support Habitat Conservation Planning Branch permitting and banking, coordinating connectivity crediting activities, and project review and approvals.
- CalTrans notes that the department could realize savings in terms of project time and costs through the bill's environmental mitigation programs. CalTrans estimates that its costs to assist with establishing those programs would be minor and absorbable.

Author Amendments: These amendments would limit the number of new transportation projects for which CDFW can provide compensatory mitigation credits to ten per fiscal year, and make other minor clarifying changes.

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