
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1663 (Wallis) - Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: removal: trimming

Version: June 25, 2026

Policy Vote: N.R. & W. 7 - 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Consultant: Ashley Ames

Bill Summary: This bill would allow a property owner's agent to submit a permit application, and satisfy other requirements imposed on a property owner, for the removal or trimming of dead western Joshua trees or the trimming of live western Joshua trees under the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (WJTCA); delete the requirement that the permit request include a signed attestation or certification that the tree meets the definition of a dead western Joshua tree; and authorize memoranda of understanding with California Native American tribes to include the purchase or sale of western Joshua trees for tribal cultural purposes, as provided.

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

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown ongoing costs, likely less than a few hundred thousand dollars annually (General Fund), for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to review and respond to permit requests within specified timeframes.

Committee Amendments: Committee amendments would delete the provisions authorizing CDFW to issue permits, without payment of fees or other mitigation, for the removal or trimming of western Joshua trees on parcels containing owner-occupied single-family residences, and to instead allow a property owner's agent to submit the permit request and satisfy related requirements, among other changes.

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