
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1808 (Carrillo) - Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: industrial projects and commercial projects: single-family residences: public works projects

Version: July 2, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: N.R. & W. 7 - 0, E.Q. 6 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Ashley Ames

Bill Summary: This bill would authorize the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to delegate to a city permitting authority under the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (WJTCA) for commercial and industrial projects to take up to 40 western Joshua trees (WJTs); further authorize CDFW to authorize, without fees or other mitigation the removal or trimming of up to 10 WJTs by the owner of a single family residence or up to 40 WJTs for a public works project where certain criteria are met; and waive the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for these single-family home projects until CDFW certifies a programmatic environmental impact report; among other provisions, as provided.

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

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

Fiscal Impact:

- Ongoing costs of an unknown amount, likely around or less than \$1 million annually (General Fund), for CDFW to support the new permitting pathway that would be created by this bill, including development of new application materials and forms, instructions and guidance materials, website updates, permit templates, education and outreach materials, and updated tracking metrics.

Author Amendments: Author amendments would expand the types of projects for which a city or county operating under an agreement with CDFW would be able to authorize takes. These amendments would also require CDFW to adopt regulations adjusting the fees for the taking of a western Joshua tree paid in lieu of mitigation, and add an urgency clause.

With regard to these amendments, CDFW notes with these changes the department may not need a whole new permitting process, which would decrease the necessary staff and lower costs relative to the committee's prior fiscal estimate. However, CDFW adds that some additional staff would still be needed due to the complexity of the fee changes, regulation updates, and management/coordination needs.

-- END --