

Date of Hearing: April 20, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Isaac G. Bryan, Chair

AB 2791 (Committee on Natural Resources) – As Introduced March 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Public resources

SUMMARY: Makes nonsubstantive, conforming changes to various statutes throughout the Public Resources Code.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Coastal Act), establishes the California Coastal Commission (Commission), and prescribes the membership and duties of the Commission. (Public Resources Code (PRC) 30000 *et seq.*)
- 2) Defines “nonprofit organization” under the Coastal Act as a private, nonprofit organization that qualifies under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (PRC 30109.5)
- 3) Defines "state university" as the University of California and the California State University. (PRC 30119)
- 4) Requires all trees that are harvested or all trees that are retained shall be marked or sample marked by, or under the supervision of, a registered professional forester (RPF) before felling operations begin. (PRC 4584 (j)(i)(D)(v))
- 5) Requires all trees harvested to be marked by, or under the supervision of, a RPF before felling operations begin. PRC 4584 (j)(i)(vii)

THIS BILL:

- 1) Eliminates a redundant requirement for a RPF to mark a tree before harvesting.
- 2) Updates the terminology used throughout the Coastal Act to refer to state university or college or private university.
- 3) Defines a nonprofit organization for purposes of the Coastal Act.
- 4) Makes various nonsubstantive and conforming changes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose of the bill.** The Assembly Natural Resources Committee often introduces technical code cleanup bills to update statutes by correcting cross references, deleting obsolete provisions, or correcting updated terminology. This bill is an omnibus Public Resources Code cleanup up measure.

- 2) **Forestry citation.** AB 2276 (Wood), Chapter 388, Statutes of 2024, made various changes to the Forest Practices Act to consolidate and update exemptions, and extend specified exemption sunset dates. There are three locations in the bill that developed the Forest Resilience Exemption that refers to registered professional foresters (RPF) marking trees to be harvested prior to operations. PRC 4584 (j)(i)(vii) is redundant with 4584 (j)(i)(D)(v) and PRC 4584 (j)(i) (vi) and are actually in conflict. The latter two subdivisions provide specificity on marking standards, to whereas PRC 4584 (j)(i)(vii) is all encompassing. This bill removes that reference for purposes of clarity and consistency.
- 3) **Coastal Act references to universities.** In the majority of the coastal zone, once a local government submits a local coastal program to the Commission, and the Commission certifies it, then the Commission delegates Coastal Development Permit authority to the local government. However, Section 30519(b) excludes certain coastal areas of statewide significance from this delegation, and in these areas of “retained jurisdiction” the Commission remains the primary permitting authority. These generally included tidelands and submerged lands as well as coastal lands that are part of the University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) systems.

When the Coastal Act was enacted in 1976, the CSU system was named the California State University and Colleges, so all references throughout the Coastal Act referred to “state university or college.” In 1982, the system dropped the “and Colleges” and became the California State University. To reflect this change, in 1983 the Legislature passed AB 1949 (Hughes), Chapter 143, Statutes of 1983, an omnibus bill dedicated to updating references to the “California State University and Colleges” throughout various state codes to “California State University.” This bill shortened the term “state university and college” as defined in PRC 30119 to “state university.” However, the bill unintentionally neglected to remove the words “or college” from the other sections of the Coastal Act that include the term “state university or college.” This has created the impression that, in addition to state universities, the Commission also retains permitting jurisdiction over all community college lands in the coastal zone, which has never been the case and the Commission has never asserted such authority. While local governments have been processing coastal development permits for community college projects in the coastal zone for years without issue, given the growing emphasis on constructing student housing on community college campuses, this lack of statutory clarity is a problem waiting to happen. The amendments below would finish the work of AB 1949 by removing all remaining references to “or college” from the Coastal Act.

- 4) **Coastal Act references to nonprofits.** The Coastal Act contains multiple references to nonprofit associations/entities/organizations, which are all intended to apply to nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under United States Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). The amendments below would standardize these references by defining “nonprofit organization” for purposes of the Coastal Act—using the same definition codified for PRC 31013—and by cleaning up references throughout the Coastal Act to conform to this defined term.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Paige Brokaw / NAT. RES. /