

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

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

Policy Committee: Natural Resources

Vote: 14 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This omnibus committee bill makes various changes to the Public Resources Code (PRC).

Specifically, this bill, among other things:

- 1) Eliminates a redundant requirement for a registered professional forester (RPF) to mark a tree before harvesting.
- 2) Updates terminology used throughout the California Coastal Act of 1976 to refer to “state university or college or private university.”
- 3) Defines a “nonprofit organization” for purposes of the Coastal Act.
- 4) Makes various non-substantive and conforming changes.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Minor and absorbable, if any, costs to the California Coastal Commission (Commission) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

**COMMENTS:**

**Background. *Forestry Citation.*** AB 2276 (Wood), Chapter 388, Statutes of 2024, made various changes to the Forest Practices Act to consolidate, update, and extend exemptions. There are three places in the bill that refer to RPFs marking trees to be harvested prior to operations, causing confusion and potential conflict. This bill eliminates redundant language for purposes of clarity and consistency.

***Coastal Act References to Universities.*** In most of the coastal zone, once a local government submits a local coastal program (LCP) to the Commission, and the Commission certifies the LCP, the Commission delegates Coastal Development Permit (CDP) authority to the local government. However, Section 30519(b) of the PRC 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 include 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, the Legislature passed AB 1949 (Hughes), Chapter 143, Statutes of 1983, an omnibus bill to update references to the “California State University and Colleges” throughout various state codes to “California State University.” AB 1949 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 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 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 CDPs for community college projects in the coastal zone for years without issue, the Assembly Natural Resources Committee contends that given the growing emphasis on constructing student housing on community college campuses, “this lack of statutory clarity is a problem waiting to happen.” This bill removes all remaining references to “or college” from the Coastal Act.

***Coastal Act References to Nonprofits.*** The Coastal Act contains multiple references to nonprofit associations, entities, and organizations, all of which refer to nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under United States Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). This bill standardizes these references by defining “nonprofit organization” for purposes of the Coastal Act and by cleaning up references throughout the Coastal Act to conform to this definition.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Nikita Koraddi / APPR. / (916) 319-2081