

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 900 (Papan)

As Amended August 29, 2025

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Requires the Natural Resources Agency (NRA) to develop strategies to reduce barriers and increase support for stewardship of conserved lands, and requires NRA to collaborate with stakeholders, California Native American tribes, and relevant state agencies to prepare a section on stewardship as part of the 2027 annual report on progress made toward achieving the 30x30 goal.

**Senate Amendments**

- 1) Strike authorizing language related to Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 allocations for land acquisition.
- 2) Require NRA to collaborate with stakeholders, California Native American tribes, and relevant state agencies to prepare a section on stewardship as part of the 2027 annual report on progress made toward achieving the 30x30 goal.
- 3) Require the report to additionally include:
  - a) Recommendations to increase ancestral land return.
  - b) Recommendations to increase consultation and partnership with California Native American tribes and tribal cultural practitioners throughout the state, including, but not limited to, support for tribal stewardship activities, traditional ecological knowledge, and cultural practices.

**COMMENTS**

The state has a goal of conserving 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030 – known as 30x30. Many of the areas currently conserved and counting toward the 30x30 goal are within our state parks, national parks, national forests, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands and are counted in the 24.4% of what NRA calls "durably protected and managed" 30x30 lands. The state may need to redefine what it determines is "durably managed" as it relates to those lands under federal jurisdiction; since taking office, President Trump has downsized the federal workforce by more than two million employees, including more than 7,000 employees at the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and hundreds of positions at the National Park Service, the Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), and BLM. Further, the Department of Government Efficiency plans to terminate lease contracts at nearly two dozen California offices including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US EPA, USFS, and Geological Survey. The result will undoubtedly lead to sparse and unreliable land management for conserved areas on federal lands.

Given the need for land managers on state lands and the uncertainty of federal land management, identifying stewardship needs will be critical if these lands are genuinely to be conserved in perpetuity.

**According to the Author**

AB 900 is the next step in furthering the state's 30x30 initiative. California has been making steady progress toward conserving lands that support biodiversity, access, and climate resiliency. However, with over a quarter of state lands considered '30x30 conservation areas,' it is important that we follow through and promote strategies that ensure these lands are both 'durably protected and managed.' 30x30 is a critical safeguard in the face of climate change, so it is essential to support our statewide partners in their pursuit of sustainably managing and stewarding our precious natural resources.

**Arguments in Support**

A coalition of environmental groups write, "California must take proactive steps to address the long-term needs of conserved lands across the state. Without necessary support and funding structures in place, the benefits of conservation efforts could be diminished over time. AB 900 strengthens the state's ability to maximize the environmental, economic, and public health benefits of open spaces by bolstering land management capacity and providing a sustainable path forward for conservation lands."

**Arguments in Opposition**

None on file

**FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, this bill will result in one-time costs of about \$500,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 and ongoing costs of about \$600,000 starting in 2026-27 and annually thereafter (General Fund or bond funds) for NRA to update the Pathways to 30x30 Report with recommendations and strategies to increase and improve stewardship of 30x30 lands, including innovative ways to reduce barriers and increase federal, state, and local support stewardship, as specified.

**VOTES:****ASM NATURAL RESOURCES: 14-0-0**

**YES:** Bryan, Alanis, Connolly, Ellis, Flora, Garcia, Haney, Hoover, Kalra, Muratsuchi, Pellerin, Schultz, Wicks, Zbur

**ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4**

**YES:** Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Sanchez, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0-2**

**YES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Ellis, Tangipa

**SENATE FLOOR: 37-0-3**

**YES:** Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener  
**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto

**UPDATED**

VERSION: August 29, 2025

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