
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 946 (Bryan) - Natural resources: equitable outdoor access: 30x30 goal: urban nature-based projects

Version: June 10, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: June 22, 2026

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

Mandate: No

Consultant: Ashley Ames

Bill Summary: This bill would provide that, to advance and promote environmental, conservation, and public access policies and budget actions, the Governor's office, state agencies, and the Legislature, when distributing resources, shall aspire to recognize the coequal goals and benefits of the 30x30 goal and the Outdoors for All initiative, and, to the extent practical, maximize investment in historically underserved urban communities consistent with those initiatives.

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown, potentially significant cost pressures on the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). To the extent this bill requires urban nature-based projects to be prioritized over other wildlife projects, it would leave less funding available for important wildlife and habitat projects outside of urban areas, thereby creating cost pressures.

Background:

30x30. California's 30x30 initiative to conserve 30% of the state's land and coastal waters by 2030 is part of an international movement to conserve natural areas across our planet, through which scores of countries have established their own 30x30 commitments. California's initiative seeks to protect and restore biodiversity, expand access to nature, and mitigate and build resilience to climate change.

Equitable Outdoor Access Act. The Equitable Outdoor Access Act (AB 30, Kalra, Chapter 939, Statutes of 2022) established that it is the policy of the state to 1) ensure all Californians have equitable opportunities to the benefits of nature; 2) maximize public access to public lands; and 3) prevent and minimize the intentional and unwarranted limitation of sustainable public access to public lands.

Proposed Law: This bill would:

- 1) Incorporate the priorities and implementation strategies of the November 2023 Outdoors for All Strategy into statute.
- 2) Require the Governor's office, state agencies and state departments, and the Legislature to recognize the coequal goals and benefits of the 30x30 goal and the Outdoors for All initiative. Also requires those offices to maximize investment in historically underserved urban communities, to the extent practical.

- 3) Encourage decisionmakers to consider factors unique to urban settings when distributing resources to achieve the goals and benefits of 30x30 and Outdoors for All.
- 4) Encourage regulatory agencies to work with local communities to restore degraded lands.
- 5) Allow state agencies to fund urban nature-based projects that are eligible and competitive for such funds, consistent with the funding program's authorizing statutes.
- 6) Make related findings and declarations.

Related Legislation:

SB 1268 (Gonzalez, 2026) would codify the Outdoors for All Initiative.

AB 900 (Papan, Chapter 385, Statutes of 2025) requires CNRA to develop strategies to reduce barriers and increase support for stewardship of conserved lands.

AB 2440 (Reyes, Chapter 716, Statutes of 2024) requires CNRA to prioritize promoting and supporting partnering state agencies and departments that acquire and steward state land, and requires the 30x30 progress report include information on the amount of funding expended by each partnering state agency and department for land and water conservation, science and research, public outreach and engagement, and managing, monitoring, and restoring conserved lands and water, as well as information on state funding invested in equitable outdoor access.

SB 1402 (Min, 2024) would have required all state agencies, departments, boards, offices, commissions, and conservancies to consider the 30x30 goal when adopting, revising, or establishing plans, policies, or regulations that directly affect the use of coastal waters or land, management of natural resources, or biodiversity conservation. This bill was held on the Assembly Appropriations suspense file.

AB 30 (Kalra, Chapter 939, Statutes of 2022) established the Equitable Outdoor Access Act.

Staff Comments:

The California Natural Resources Agency notes that the successful achievement of both 30x30 and Outdoors for All will be dependent on continued investment from the legislature in regional conservation planning and initiatives, Nature-Based Solutions programs, tribal partnerships, management and monitoring programs, and community capacity building.

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