

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1268
Author: Gonzalez (D)
Amended: 4/23/26
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/21/26

AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Laird, Stern

NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Grove

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SUBJECT: Outdoor public recreation spaces: equitable access

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill establishes the Outdoors for All initiative, to be administered by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes CNRA and vests it with the responsibility to restore, protect, and manage the state's natural, historical, and cultural resources for current and future generations (Government Code (GOV) § 12805).
- 2) Establishes a goal to conserve 30 percent of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 ("30x30") (Public Resources Code (PRC) § 71450 and Executive Order No. N-82-20).
- 3) Requires relevant state agencies, including CNRA and its departments, boards, offices, conservancies, and commissions, and the Department of Transportation to consider and incorporate state policy regarding equitable outdoor access when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, or grant criteria, or making expenditures (PRC § 1002).

- 4) Establishes the Equitable Outdoor Access Act, and sets forth the state's commitment to ensuring all Californians can benefit from, and have meaningful and sustainable access to, the state's rich cultural and natural resources (PRC § 1000).
- 5) Requires CNRA to submit a report to the Legislature regarding the implementation of the Equitable Outdoor Access Act by January 1, 2024 (PRC § 1003).
- 6) Requires meetings of state bodies be open and public, and all person permitted to attend any meeting, except as provided (GOV § 11123).

This bill:

- 1) Establishes common definitions for relevant terms in the bill, including:
 - a) "30x30 goal."
 - b) "Agency."
 - c) "Outdoors for All initiative."
 - d) "Outdoor public recreation spaces."
- 2) Establishes the Outdoors for All initiative to be administered by CNRA in consultation with the Department of Parks and Recreations (State Parks) and other relevant state agencies.
- 3) Requires CNRA to implement the priorities in the Outdoors for All Strategy published on November 15, 2023.
- 4) Requires CNRA to maintain the position of Deputy Secretary for Access to coordinate the initiative's implementation.
- 5) Requires CNRA to update the Outdoors for All Strategy on or before December 31, 2028, and every five years thereafter. The update shall:
 - a) Align with relevant goals of the statute, including the state's outdoor equity goals and the 30x30 goal
 - b) Ensure conservation strategies enhance public access and benefits for disadvantaged and low-income communities.
- 6) Requires CNRA, in implementing updates to the Strategy, to:

- a) Consult with diverse stakeholders, including community-based organizations, local governments, and environmental justice advocates, to ensure inclusive decision making and prevent loopholes.
 - b) Host at least three public meetings during the update process. These meetings may be in-person, virtual, or hybrid.
 - c) Provide at least one 30-day public comment period on the update.
 - d) Post the final update on its internet website in a publicly accessible location.
- 7) Requires CNRA to submit a report to the relevant policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature detailing the progress made to achieve the initiative's goals on or before January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter.
- 8) Makes relevant findings and declarations.

Background

Outdoors for All Initiative. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) administers the Outdoors for All initiative championed by Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom. CNRA published a strategy (Strategy) for the initiative in November 2023 identifying six priorities:

1. Establish Spaces for People and Nature to Thrive.
2. Foster Belonging.
3. Connect People and the Outdoors.
4. Co-Create with Communities.
5. Build Equitable Career Pathways and a Representative Workforce.
6. Align Funding to Achieve Outdoors for All.

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.

The Outdoors for All initiative is championed by Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom to implement the Equitable Outdoor Access Act.

Related/Prior Legislation

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

AB 2440 (Reyes, Chapter 716, Statutes of 2024) required 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.

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

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis:

CNRA estimates ongoing costs of \$250,000 annually (General Fund) for staff support and potential consulting costs to develop and produce strategy updates and progress reports as required by this bill.

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/14/26)

Active San Gabriel Valley	California Native Plant Society, Alta Peak Chapter
Allensworth Progressive Association	California Outdoor Recreation Partnership
Amigos de los Rios	California Park and Recreation Society
Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement	California State Parks Foundation
Audubon California	Californians for Western Wilderness
Azul	CalWild
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council	Center for Biological Diversity
CactusToCloud Institute	Center for Progressive Reform
California Association of Local Conservation Corps	Central Valley Partnership
California Association of Recreation and Parks Districts	Children and Nature Network
California Environmental Voters	City of Huron
California Native Plant Society	Clean Earth 4 Kids
	COFEM

Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology
Day One	Center
Endangered Habitats League	National Parks Conservation
Environmental Action Committee of	Association
West Marin	Nature for All
Environmental Council of Sacramento	Outdoor Outreach
Environmental Protection Information	Prevention Institute
Center	Resource Renewal Institute
Friends of Harbors, Beaches, and	River Partners
Parks	Salted Roots
Friends of the Dunes	Santa Clara Valley Open Space
Friends of the River	Authority
GreenLatinos	Save Mount Diablo
Habitat 2020	Save the Redwoods League
Hispanic Access Foundation	Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Justice Outside	Sierra Club
KABOOM!	Sierra Nevada Alliance
Latino Outdoors	Siskiyou Crest Coalition
League of California Cities	South Yuba River Citizens League
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land	Surfrider Foundation
Trust	The LEAP Institute
Los Angeles United Methodist Urban	Tias on Trails
Foundation	Tuleyome
Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust	Wildlands Network
Los Padres ForestWatch	Winter Wildlands Alliance
Mono Lake Committee	

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/14/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, “California is one of the world’s premier destinations for outdoor recreation, home to hundreds of national and state parks along with countless regional, county[,], and city parks and open spaces. Outdoor recreation has clear benefits not only for California’s economy, but also for public health – research shows that people who visit outdoor spaces for

30 minutes or more during a week have lower rates of depression and high blood pressure, and higher rates of community connection.”

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5/16/26 11:00:38

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