

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1268
Author: Gonzalez (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
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

SENATE FLOOR: 37-0, 5/18/26

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

NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones, Niello, Padilla

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

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).

Assembly Amendments change the frequency of the reporting required by this bill.

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, 2031, and every eight 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 decisionmaking 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.

Comments

Outdoors for All Initiative. The 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.

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

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis of a previous version, 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 8/24/26)

Active San Gabriel Valley
 All About Owls
 Allensworth Progressive Association
 Alta Peak Chapter, California Native
 Plant Society
 Amigos De Los Rios
 Asian Pacific Islander Forward
 Movement
 Audobon California

Audubon California
 Azul
 Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
 Cactustocloud Institute
 California Academy of Sciences
 California Association of Local
 Conservation Corps
 California Association of Recreation
 & Park Districts

California Environmental Voters	Trust
California Native Plant Society	Los Angeles United Methodist Urban
California Outdoor Recreation	Foundation
Partnership	Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust
California Outdoors Recreation	Los Padres Forestwatch
Partnership (CORP)	Midpeninsula Open Space Trust
California Park & Recreation Society	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space
California State Parks Foundation	District
Californians for Western Wilderness	Mono Lake Committee
Calwild	Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology
Center for Biological Diversity	Center
Center for Progressive Reform	Nature for All
Central Valley Partnership	Outdoor Outreach
Children & Nature Network	Outward Bound Adventures
City of Huron	Peninsula Open Space Trust
Clockshop	Pogo Park
Cofem	Prevention Institute
Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Resource Renewal Institute
Conservation Lands Foundation	River Partners
Day One	Salted Roots
East Bay Regional Park District	Save Mount Diablo
Endangered Habitats League	Save the Redwoods League
Environmental Information Protection	Sea and Sage Audubon Society
Center	Sempervirens Fund
Fish on	Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and	Sierra Business Council
Parks	Sierra Club
Friends of the Dunes	Sierra Nevada Alliance
Friends of the Lost Coast	Siskiyou Crest Coalition
Friends of the River	Sonoma Ecology Center
Greenlatinos	South Yuba River Citizens League
Habitat 2020	Surfrider Foundation
Hispanic Access Foundation	The Leap Institute
Justice Outside	Tias on Trails
Kaboom!	Trout Unlimited
Latino Outdoors	Trust for Public Land; the
League of California Cities	Wildlands Network
Los Angeles County	Winter Wildlands Alliance
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land	Yes Nature to Neighborhoods

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

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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