
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Senator Blakespear, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: SB 1300
Author: Stern
Version: 2/20/2026
Urgency: No
Consultant: Heather Walters
Hearing Date: 4/22/2026
Fiscal: Yes

SUBJECT: California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: report

DIGEST: This bill adds international climate and climate agreements to the required topics in the annual presentation of the California Air Resources Board to the Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Under the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Health and Safety Code (HSC) §38500 et seq.):
 - a) Establishes the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as the state agency responsible for monitoring and regulating sources emitting greenhouse gases.
 - b) Requires CARB to approve a statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions limit equivalent to the statewide GHG emissions level in 1990 to be achieved by 2020 (AB 32, 2006) and to ensure that statewide GHG emissions are reduced to at least 40% below the 1990 level by 2030 (SB 32, 2016).
 - c) Requires CARB to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in GHG emissions and to update the scoping plan at least once every five years.
- 2) States, under the California Climate Crisis Act—AB 1279 (Muratsuchi, Chapter 337, Statutes of 2022), that it is the policy of the state to achieve net zero GHG emissions no later than 2045, and to ensure that by 2045 statewide anthropogenic GHG emissions are reduced to at least 85% below the 1990 level.

- 3) Establishes the Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies (JLCCCP) to ascertain facts and make recommendations to the Legislature concerning the state's programs, policies, and investments related to climate change. (Government Code § 9147.10)
- 4) Requires the chair of CARB to appear annually before JLCCCP to present an annual informational report on the reported emissions of GHGs, criteria pollutants, and toxic air contaminants from all sectors covered by the scoping plan. (GOV § 9147.10)

This bill includes international agreements on climate change and clean technology innovation within the scope of required discussion topics for CARB to discuss before the JLCCCP.

Background

- 1) *Independent oversight.* To empower CARB in its efforts to reduce statewide GHGs, the Legislature has granted broad authority to the Board under the AB 32 framework and carried that forward with SB 32 and AB 1279. These bills focus on targets and leave many implementation details to CARB. But the Legislature also made clear, by packaging AB 197 (E. Garcia, 2016) with SB 32, that greater authority would only be delegated if it came with expanded Legislative oversight and accountability. In recognition of the immense complexity of the work underway, the Legislature added two new legislatively appointed ex officio members to the CARB Board, and further strengthened its independent oversight of CARB's efforts to achieve the state's climate goals.

At this point, there are three different entities who the Legislature has tasked with understanding and reporting on the highly complex work being done at CARB on achieving our climate goals:

- a) JLCCCP: This joint committee was established by AB 197 (E. Garcia, 2016) to ascertain facts and make recommendations to the Legislature concerning the state's programs, policies, and investments related to climate change.
- b) Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO): Since 1941, the LAO has served as the "eyes and ears" for the Legislature to ensure that the executive branch is implementing legislative policy in a cost efficient and effective manner. AB 398 (E. Garcia, 2017) further required the LAO to annually report to the Legislature on the economic impacts and benefits of specified GHG

emissions targets.

- c) Independent Emissions Market Advisory Council (IEMAC): Established by AB 398 (E. Garcia, 2017), the IEMAC analyzes the environmental and economic performance of the state's cap-and-trade program and other relevant climate policies, then reports its findings to CARB and the JLCCCP.

Comments

- 1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author, “The State of California has a long and successful track record of entering into voluntary agreements on the topic of climate change, both sharing mitigation and adaptation strategies with other countries and subnational jurisdictions. These agreements have been growing in recent months, including announcements about clean technology investments. This bill would empower the Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies to receive an annual report about international agreements on the topic of climate change or clean technology innovation so the Legislature can play a role in the implementation and execution of these agreements.”
- 2) *California on the world stage.* California—as the world's fourth largest economy and a longstanding driver of domestic climate and clean energy policy—often participates in international environmental policy diplomacy. California shares and leverages its experiences and policies on climate change, clean energy, and alternative transportation to maximize the benefits of climate action around the globe.

According to the California Energy Commission, California's climate change partnerships include 90 bilateral agreements with 28 nations and 19 multilateral agreements.¹ Primarily enacted through memoranda of understanding (MOUs), these agreements span a range of topics from lowering methane emissions, wind energy, transport decarbonization, and partnerships with multiple Brazilian states in the Amazon, among many others.

Engagement in many of these MOUs is primarily carried out through CARB activities. Particularly at a time where so many other axes of policy California climate policy are under attack from an adverse federal government, these voluntary international agreements may be of particular interest in understanding CARB's breadth of work. As such, this bill may help provide

¹ Climate Change Partnerships. CEC. <https://www.energy.ca.gov/about/international-cooperation/climate-change-partnerships> Accessed 4/10/20206

more useful information to members in the required annual JLCCCP hearing.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1136 (Stern, Chapter 184, Statutes of 2024) changed the scope of the required annual JLCCCP hearing to exclude trends in emissions and include factors that influence the implementation of the Scoping Plan.

SOURCE: Author

SUPPORT:

None received

OPPOSITION:

None received

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