

Date of Hearing: June 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Isaac G. Bryan, Chair

SB 1300 (Stern) – As Amended May 27, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 35-0 (not relevant)

SUBJECT: Natural Resources Agency: Secretariat for International Climate Coordination and Cooperation

SUMMARY: Authorizes the Natural Resources Secretary to appoint a Secretariat for International Climate Coordination and Cooperation.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the Natural Resources Agency, and requires the secretary of an agency to be generally responsible for the sound fiscal management of each department, office, or other unit within the agency; review and approve the proposed budget of each department, office, or other unit; hold the head of each department, office, or other unit responsible for management control over the administrative, fiscal, and program performance of his or her department, office, or other unit; review the operations and evaluate the performance at appropriate intervals of each department, office, or other unit, and; seek continually to improve the organization structure, the operating policies, and the management information systems of each department, office, or other unit. (Government Code (GC) 12800)
- 2) Provides that the Natural Resources Agency consists of the departments of Forestry and Fire Protection, Conservation, Fish and Wildlife, Parks and Recreation, and Water Resources; the State Lands Commission; the Colorado River Board; the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission; the Central Valley Flood Protection Board; the Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission; the Wildlife Conservation Board; the Delta Protection Commission; Exposition Park; the California Science Center; the California African American Museum; the Native American Heritage Commission; the California Conservation Corps; the California Coastal Commission; the State Coastal Conservancy; the California Tahoe Conservancy; the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy; the San Joaquin River Conservancy; the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; the Baldwin Hills Conservancy; the San Diego River Conservancy; and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. (GC 12805)

THIS BILL authorizes the Secretary to appoint an individual or identify one or more University of California centers to oversee and administer a Secretariat for International Climate Coordination and Cooperation to assist the legislative and executive branches' engagement in international climate policy, including, but not limited to, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties processes and the state's existing and future international climate change memoranda of understanding, technical cooperation agreements, and other voluntary frameworks.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:**Author's statement:**

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.

For decades, California has demonstrated that subnational governments can play a meaningful role in addressing climate change. Through partnerships with governments and regions around the world, California has advanced innovation, strengthened clean energy investment, and shared successful climate solutions that benefit communities both at home and abroad.

Historically, these voluntary agreements, often called Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), have been led through the Executive Branch. As international climate engagement continues to expand globally, California must strengthen and coordinate these efforts to ensure they are informed by the best available scientific and policy expertise.

SB 1300 builds on California's longstanding climate leadership by creating a framework to support international climate cooperation. At a time when climate challenges increasingly transcend national borders, California must continue to collaborate with partners around the world to accelerate solutions and promote innovation.

SB 1300 strengthens California's ability to engage strategically and effectively in international climate efforts that support our environmental, economic, and public-health goals.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Lawrence Lingbloom / NAT. RES. /