



CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

OUR MISSION

Protect, enhance, and develop Calaveras County's water resources and watersheds to provide safe, reliable, and cost-effective services to our communities.

2021-2026 Strategic Plan, Adopted April 28, 2021, can be viewed at this [link](#)

Regular Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 4, 2025
1:00 p.m.

Calaveras County Water District
120 Toma Court
San Andreas, California 95249

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Administration Office at 209-754-3028. Notification in advance of the meeting will enable CCWD to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. Any documents that are made available to the Board before or at the meeting, not privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure, and related to agenda items, will be made available at CCWD for review by the public.

District Board Meetings are open to in-person attendance by the public and are conducted virtually. The public may participate in the District's Board meeting with the link below. Members of the public who participate in the meeting via teleconference or web conference will be given the opportunity to speak and address the Board, and their comments will be included in the recording of the meeting.

While the District makes efforts to facilitate remote participation, please be aware that remote Teams involvement is offered solely for convenience. In the event of a technological malfunction, the Board can only guarantee the receipt of live comments through in-person attendance. With the exception of a noticed teleconference meeting, the Board retains the right to proceed with the meeting without remote access in case of a malfunction.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 323-647-8603,,588444949#](#)

Phone Conference ID: 588 444 949#

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. ROLL CALL

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Scott Ratterman, Chair Jeff Davidson, Director

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

At this time, members of the public may address the Committee on any non-agendized item. The public is encouraged to work through staff to place items on the agenda for consideration. No action can be taken on matters not listed on the agenda. Comments are limited to three minutes per person.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3a Approval of Minutes for the October 8, 2024, Committee Meeting
(Rebecca Hitchcock, Clerk to the Board)

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

4a* Federal Legislative Update
(Michael Minkler, General Manager)

4b State Legislative Update
(Kelly Gerkensmeyer, External Affairs Manager and
Kylie Wright, ACWA State Relations Advocate)

5.* **DIRECTOR COMMENTS OR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

6. **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

- Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**



**CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
Legal Affairs Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 2024**

The following Committee Members were present:

Director Davidson
Director Ratterman

Staff Present:

Michael Minkler, General Manager
Rebecca Hitchcock, Clerk to the Board
Kelly Gerkensmeyer, External Affairs Manager
Mark Rincon-Ibarra, District Engineer*
Bana Rouson-Gedese, Water Resources Specialist*
Haley Arola, Engineering Coordinator*
Tiffany Burke, Operations Administrative Technician*

Others Present:

Kyle Packham, CSDA*

Members of the Public:

Francisco de la Cruz*
Mike Rogers*

*Attended Virtually

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. ROLL CALL

Director Ratterman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3a Approval of Minutes for June 4 and August 6, 2024, Committee Meetings
(Rebecca Hitchcock, Clerk to the Board)

Director Davidson moved to approve the minutes and Director Ratterman seconded the motion.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 4a [Federal Legislative Update](#)
(Kelly Gerkenmeyer, External Affairs Manager)

DISCUSSION: Kelly Gerkenmeyer provided an update on Federal Affairs on behalf of Mia O'Connell of O'Connell & Dempsey and addressed questions from the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was provided by Francisco de la Cruz.

- b [State Legislative Update](#)
(Kelly Gerkenmeyer, External Affairs Manager)

DISCUSSION: Kyle Packham, representing CSDA, delivered a presentation outlining the legislative initiatives undertaken by CSDA in 2024 and addressed questions from the Committee.

Kelly Gerkenmeyer presented a State Legislative update and addressed questions from the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was provided by Francisco de la Cruz.

5. **DIRECTOR COMMENTS OR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Director Davidson had nothing to report.

Director Ratterman stated he would like the Board of Directors to support Proposition 4.

6. **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

- Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Hitchcock
Clerk to the Board



LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

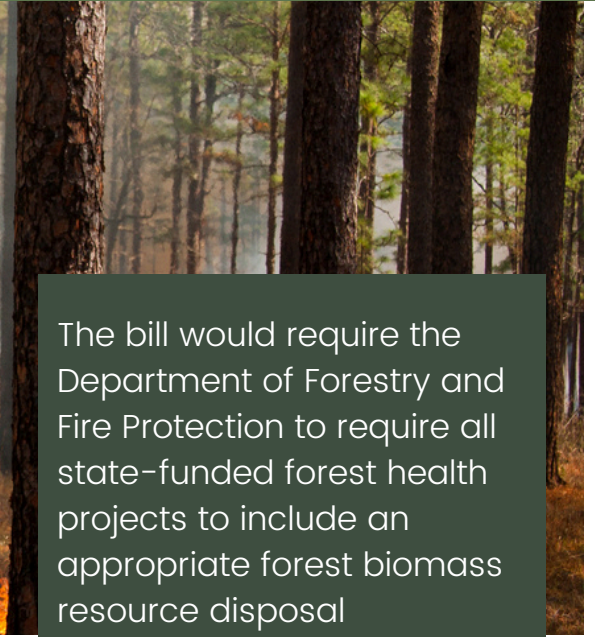
FEBRUARY 4, 2025



SB 88

as introduced, Caballero.

Air resources: carbon emissions: biomass.



Existing law requires the State Air Resources Board, in consultation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention, to develop a standardized system for quantifying the direct carbon emissions and decay from fuel reduction activities for purposes of meeting the accounting requirements for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund expenditures, as specified, and, in consultation with academic experts, a historic baseline of greenhouse gas emissions from California's natural fire regime reflecting conditions before modern fire suppression, on or before December 31, 2020.



This bill would require the state board, on or before January 1, 2027, to finalize the standardized system and historic baseline described above. The bill would require the state board, on or before January 1, 2028, to adopt a method of quantification or a lifecycle model for avoided carbon emissions, including, but not limited to, carbon dioxide, methane, and black carbon, from wildfire from the application of prescribed fire to forest biomass resources and agricultural biomass resources, and to develop a carbon credit or offset protocol for biochar and other beneficial carbon-removal products that result from the avoidance of megafires and prescribed fire using existing methodologies.

The bill would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to require all state-funded forest health projects to include an appropriate forest biomass resource disposal component that includes a scientifically based, verifiable method to determine the amount of biomass to be physically removed and the amount to be burned by prescribed fire. The bill would require the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to include the value proposition of using biomass for low- and negative-carbon liquid and gaseous fuels, including hydrogen, from noncombustible methods and other emerging and innovative approaches in relevant reports and other agency-sponsored documentation.

SB 72 as introduced, Caballero.

The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.

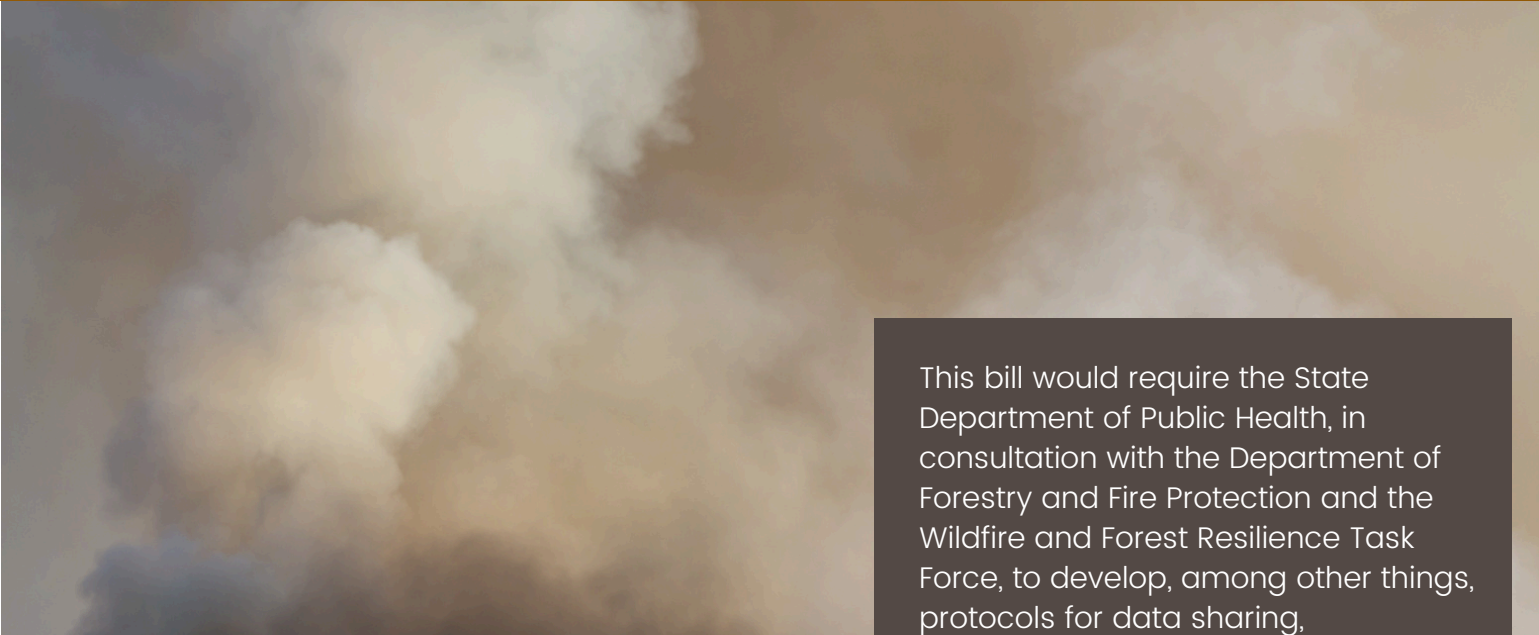


This bill would revise and recast certain provisions regarding The California Water Plan to, among other things, require the department to expand the membership of the advisory committee to include tribes, labor, and environmental justice interests. The bill would require the department, as part of the 2033 update to the plan, to update the interim planning target for 2050, as provided. The bill would require the target to consider the identified and future water needs for a sustainable urban sector, agricultural sector, and environment, and ensure safe drinking water for all Californians, among other things. The bill would require the plan to include specified components, including a discussion of the estimated costs and benefits of any project type or action that is recommended by the department within the plan that could help achieve the water supply targets. The bill would require the department to report to the Legislature the amendments, supplements, and additions included in the updates of the plan, together with a summary of the department's conclusions and recommendations, in the session in which the updated plan is issued. The bill would also require the department to conduct public workshops to give interested parties an opportunity to comment on the plan.

Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources to update every 5 years the plan for the orderly and coordinated control, protection, conservation, development, and use of the water resources of the state, which is known as "The California Water Plan." Existing law requires the department to include a discussion of various strategies in the plan update, including, but not limited to, strategies relating to the development of new water storage facilities, water conservation, water recycling, desalination, conjunctive use, and water transfers, that may be pursued in order to meet the future needs of the state. Existing law requires the department to establish an advisory committee to assist the department in updating the plan.

SB 223

as introduced, Alvarado-Gil. The Wildfire Smoke and Health Outcomes Data Act



Existing law establishes the State Department of Public Health and sets forth its powers and duties pertaining to, among other things, protecting, preserving, and advancing public health. Existing law requires the department, in consultation with specified stakeholders, to develop a plan, addressing specified issues, with recommendations and guidelines for counties to use in the case of a significant air quality event caused by wildfires or other sources. This bill, the Wildfire Smoke and Health Outcomes Data Act, would require the State Department of Public Health, in consultation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, to create, operate, and maintain a statewide integrated wildfire smoke and health data platform on or before July 1, 2028, that, among other things, would integrate wildfire smoke and health data from multiple databases. Under the bill, the purposes for the data platform would include providing adequate information to understand the negative health impacts on California's population caused by wildfire smoke and evaluating the effectiveness of investments in forest health and wildfire mitigation on health outcomes in California.

This bill would require the State Department of Public Health, in consultation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, to develop, among other things, protocols for data sharing, documentation, quality control, and promotion of open-source platforms and decision support tools related to wildfire smoke and health data. This bill would authorize the State Department of Public Health, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, where appropriate, to utilize data from existing sources, including open source data and other external data, for purposes of implementing the act. This bill would create the Wildfire Smoke and Health Administration Fund. Under the bill, moneys in the fund would be available, upon appropriation, to the State Department of Public Health, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force for the collection, management, and improvement of wildfire smoke and health data for the purposes of the act. The bill would make related findings and declarations.

H.R. 471 **Fix Our Forests Act**



House Passes ACWA Supported Wildfire Legislation, January 23.

The Fix Our Forests Act ([H.R. 471](#)) passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 279-141. This bipartisan legislation encourages more active management of federal forest lands, improves the regulatory process for forest health projects on federal lands, promotes federal, state and local government collaboration, coordinates federal grant programs to better serve communities in high fire risk areas, and expands the use of technologies to address wildfire threats. This legislation was introduced by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR-4) and Congressman Scott Peters (D-CA-50) and is supported by Congressional Western Caucus Chair Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-1). ACWA actively advocated for this legislation and organized a cross-industry coalition letter supporting the bill. The letter was signed by the American Farm Bureau, the American Forest Resource Council, ACWA, The California Farm Bureau, the Family Farm Alliance, the Federal Forest Resource Coalition, the National Association of Counties, the National Water Resources Association, and the Washington State Water Resources Association.



LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 4, 2025



CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC