CAL[‡]COAST

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OCCC STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE (7/24/14)

SB 270 (Padilla) - would prohibit stores from providing single use plastic bags to customers and allow the sale of recycled paper or reusable bags for no less than ten cents. Allows cities and counties or other public agencies that have adopted an ordinance relating to reusable grocery bags, single-use plastic carryout bags, or recycled paper bags, to continue to enforce the ordinance if it was adopted before September 1, 2014. Any amendments to the ordinances after January 1, 2015 are pre-empted by the provisions of the bill except if the amendment only increases the amount the store charges for a reusable bag to no less than 10 cents. Violators would be assessed a civil fine for non-compliance. Stores affected by the bill would retain the money collected from the sale of paper or reusable bags. (Assembly Appropriations – No hearing date set)

AB 2516 (Gordon) - would require the Natural Resources Agency, in collaboration with the Ocean Protection Council, to create, update biannually, and post on an Internet website a Planning for Sea Level Rise Database describing steps being taken throughout the state to prepare for, and adapt to, sea level rise. Many cities, counties, and regions have already begun to address the challenge of sea level rise. Numerous activities have been completed or are underway, including studies, modeling, mapping, cost-benefit analyses, and vulnerability assessments throughout the state to help understand and plan for sea level rise. The information that exists is not centrally located, but found piecemeal among many agencies and entities. According to the author, it would be beneficial for a variety of reasons to create a database and obtain an inventory of the work being done to address this critical issue. (Senate Appropriations 8/4/14)

SB 861 (Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee) - authorizes the Coastal Commission, by a majority vote of the commissioners at a duly noticed public hearing, to impose an administrative civil penalty upon a person who knowingly violates public access provisions of the Coastal Act. All funds collected by the Commission would be deposited in an existing account managed by the State Coastal Conservancy. The bill also establishes the Climate Resilience Account to provide additional funding to specifically address the risk and impacts of climate change, sea level rise, and associated extreme events and allows the Environmental License Plate Fund to be used for climate assessment. These provisions became law when the FY 2014/15 State Budget was passed and signed into law (Ch. 35).

SB 1168 (Pavley) - would empower local agencies to regulate groundwater and require that they develop groundwater management plans. California is the only western state that doesn't manage groundwater. (Assembly Appropriations – No hearing date set)

AB 2100 (Campos) - would bar homeowners associations from fining property owners who stop watering their lawns during drought emergencies. The governor declared such an emergency last January and the State Water Resources Control Board last week authorized up to \$500 per day fine for over-watering. (Signed into law 7/21/14, Ch. 164)

For more information, including bill status and staff analyses, log onto leginfo.ca.gov, click on "Bill Information," and enter the bill number in the "Search" window

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