



THE STAR REPORT

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2026 Legislative Update

- What Parks & Recreation Staff Need to Know
 - CPRS Watch List – August 2026
 - Recent Legislative Action



End of Session Proposals



Wildfire Liability Reforms Limiting Public Agency Recovery

- Status: Not yet introduced, expected before August 31 adjournment.
- Would limit what public agencies can recover after a utility-caused wildfire
- Public facilities could be reimbursed at depreciated value instead of replacement cost
- Could limit recovery of emergency response and mutual aid costs and eliminate recovery of Property Tax \$\$
- Parks, pools, recreation centers, trails, sports fields, and cultural facilities could be impacted
- Older facilities may be worth far less “on paper” than what it costs to rebuild them today
- Agencies could be forced to use General Fund, reserves, grants, or capital improvement dollars to cover the difference
- Recovery gaps could delay reopening facilities and restoring recreation programs after a disaster
- Position: OPPOSE



Sheep & Goat Herder Wage Parity Restoration

- Status: Proposed/ Anticipated Budget Trailer Bill or Urgency Measure
- Would restore wage parity for sheep and goat herders used in prescribed grazing
- Reinstates the alternative minimum mthly wage standard that previously applied equally to sheep herders, goat herders, and mixed herds
- Addresses a recent change that increased labor costs for goat-grazing contractors
- Many park agencies use goats and sheep for vegetation management and fire fuel reduction
- Higher contractor costs can make prescribed grazing unaffordable for local agencies
- Agencies may be forced to shift to mechanical clearing, herbicide use, or reduced vegetation management
- Position: SUPPORT



Bill Update



AB-946: Urban Parks & 30x30

- Author: Bryan (D)
- Status: Held under Submission, Senate Appropriations
 - **FAILED PASSAGE**
- Ensures 30x30 conservation goal includes urban parks
 - Recognizes city parks as essential conservation spaces
 - Impact: More funding for urban parks
 - More projects in underserved neighborhoods
 - More urban greening jobs & community programming
- Position: Sponsor



SB-1268: Outdoor Public Recreation Spaces : Equitable Access

- Author: Gonzalez (D)
- Status: Passed Assembly Appropriations as amended;
Pending Assembly Floor (will return to Senate for concurrence)
- Establishes a Natural Resources Agency initiative to advance equitable access to outdoor public recreation spaces.
 - Would align access goals with state's 30x30 conservation targets
 - Annual reporting to Legislature would be required beginning Jan. 2028
- Position: Support (Signed Letter of Support)



AB-35: Climate & Parks Bond Implementation

- Author: Alvarez (D)
- Status: Signed 
- Implements \$10B voter-approved climate & parks bond
 - Funds parks, shade, trees, wildfire, water & clean air projects
 - Reduces red tape for faster grant rollout
 - Impact: More grant-funded park projects & programming
 - Expect projects to move faster than rulemaking
- Position: Support



AB-1804: State Parks: Passes Through Libraries

- Author: Hart (D)
- Status: Passed Senate Appropriations;
Pending Senate Floor
- Authorizes the Dept. of Parks & Rec to partner with the CA State Library and Local Library Systems to distribute park passes.
- Bill reaffirms the State's commitment to equitable and inclusive access to state park system
- Position: Watch/Monitoring



AB-2184: Cap & Invest: Nature Based Climate Solutions Funding

- Author: Wilson (D)
- Status: Held in Appropriations
- Appropriates \$250M annually from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund from FY 27/28 through FY 45/46 for nature based climate solutions
 - Including \$150m to the natural resources agency and \$100M at legislative discretion.
 - An additional \$150m annually goes to the Dept. Food and Agriculture for sustainable Agricultural practices
- Position: Watch/Monitoring

FAIL



AB 2578- Outdoor Recreation Partnerships

- Author: Rogers (D)
- Status: Held in Appropriations
- Expands partnerships for recreation and outdoor economy
 - Brings funding and project support
 - Impact: More programs and collaboration opportunities
 - This could establish a new, influential outdoor recreation entity at the state level.
- Position: Support

FAIL



AB 387 :Youth Sports Safety – (Two-Year Bill)

- Author: Alanis (R)
- Status: Passed Senate Education Committee; Pending Senate Floor
- ~~By January 1, 2027~~ Amended to reflect January 1, 2028
- Expands AED requirements for youth sports practices and games at public and private recreation facilities
- Would require sports facilities to purchase & maintain AEDs
 - Impact: Equipment costs
 - Ongoing inspections & compliance tracking
 - Increased liability exposure
- Position: Neutral





FAIL

AB-1639: Drowning Prevention & CPR Awareness

- Author: Davies (R)
- Status: Held in Committee
- Strengthens CPR education & drowning emergency messaging
 - Direct impact on aquatics and swim operations
 - Impact: Increased CPR training emphasis
 - More public education responsibilities
- Position: Active Watch



AB-1571: Kids' Life Jackets Naming Cleanup

- Author: Rodriguez, Michelle (D)
- Status: Signed
- Updates term 'puddle jumper' to 'swim vest' in safety law
 - Improves clarity and consistency in safety messaging
 - Impact: Minimal operational change
 - Supports clearer aquatics safety communication
- Position: Support





AB-1819: AED: Senior Centers

- Author: Sanchez (R)
- Status: Held in Appropriations
- Requires senior center, including those run by local governments to have an AED on site.
 - Imposes training and maintenance standards
 - Provides liability protection for employees or volunteers who use AED in an emergency
- Position: Monitoring

FAIL



SB-945: PE Framework: CPR and AED Content

- Author: Weber Pierson (D)
- Status: Passed Assembly Appropriations; Pending Assembly Floor
- Requires the instructional quality commission when it next revises the physical education framework after 1/2027 to consider adding content on the importance & proper use of CPR and AEDs
- Position: Monitoring



AB 1626- Mental Health Training

(Youth Sports, Interscholastic Athletics)

- Author: Gabriel (D)
- Status: Passed both houses; pending Assembly concurrence and enrollment (almost ready for signature!)
- Requires mental health training for coaches
 - Expands focus beyond physical safety
 - Impact: New training and better youth support tools
- Position: Active Watch



AB 2241- Inclusive Playgrounds

- Author: Boerner (D)
- Status: Passed Senate Appropriations as amended; Pending Senate Floor
- Creates accessibility-focused playground guidelines
 - Prioritizes inclusive design
 - Impact: New standards and funding opportunities
- Position: Monitoring



AB 2649- Parent Volunteers (Youth Organizations)–

- Author: Wicks (D)
- Status: Held in Committee
- Parent volunteers exempt from some training
 - Still require background checks
 - Impact: Easier volunteer recruitment
 - Introduced
- Position: Monitoring

FAIL



AB 1954- Golf Reservations

- Author: Ward (D)
- Status: Cleared Assembly Floor & 2 Senate Committees unanimously;
Pending Senate Appropriations and Senate Floor
- Prevents unauthorized third-party tee time sales
 - Protects city golf operations
 - Impact: More control over reservations
- Position: Monitoring



SB 239: Brown Act: Teleconferencing for Subsidiary Bodies – (2 yr Bill)

- Author: Arreguin (D)
- Status: No longer impacts profession
- Allows flexible teleconferencing for advisory bodies
 - Impact: Easier quorum
 - Improved participation
 - Flexible meeting logistics
- Position: Support

AMENDED



AB 1772: Fish and Wildlife: Invasive Mussels

- Author: Papan (D)
- Status: Held in Appropriations
- Strengthens invasive mussel management by requiring water supply system operators to update their control plans as of 1/2026.
- Builds on existing law prohibiting mussel possession and requires cooperation with Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Position: Monitoring

FAIL



SB 1036: Mitigation Fee Act: Development Impact Fees

- Author: Grayson (D)
- Status: Signed 
- Modifies how development fees are calculated when a project demolishes or changes an existing use.
- The fee amount would be offset to reflect only the incremental new impact on public facilities not the replaced use.
- Position: Monitoring



SB 1139: Monterey Peninsula Water District: Nonfunctional Turf Enforcement

- Author: Laird (D)
- Status: Signed 
- Authorizes the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to impose civil penalties on properties that irrigate nonfunctional turf in violation of existing conservation rules.
- Position: Monitoring



AB-2007: Youth Programs: identifying information of youth

- Author: Bauer-Kahan
- Status: Senate Appropriations; Pending Senate Floor
- Requires separate parent/guardian consent before using minors' photos or videos in marketing, social media, or promotional materials.
- Youth participation cannot be denied if families opt out of photo/media consent.
- Parks & Recreation agencies would need to update registration forms, consent tracking systems, staff training, photo/social media procedures.
- Staff must verify participant media permissions before posting or sharing images.
- Increases administrative oversight and privacy compliance responsibilities for recreation and communications staff.
- Position: Oppose unless amended (Active Watch)

AMENDED



ROUNDTABLE – Questions?