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California will see 770 new laws take effect in 2022, many impacting local governments statewide. This Legislative Digest is intended to outline some of those statutory changes affecting RCRC member counties, as well as measures that either failed passage in the Legislature, or were not signed by the Governor, but will continue to be eligible for a policy discussion in the upcoming legislative cycle.

Below are a few highlights of the legislative changes that may have significant impacts for counties to implement.

AB 177 (Committee on Budget) a budget trailer bill that: (1) repeals as of January 1, 2022, the authority to collect another round of specified criminal justice administrative fees upon conviction or arrest; (2) vacate all previously levied debt associated with these same fees on the effective date of the repeal; and (3) appropriates funds to backfill associated revenue losses.

AB 215 (Chui) adds a new step in the housing element certification process that require 40 additional days and creates a new three-year statute of limitations for any action brought pursuant to the AB 72 enforcement process.

AB 361 (Rivas) authorizes a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act when a legislative body of a local agency holds a meeting for the purpose of declaring or ratifying a local emergency.

AB 428 (Mayes) ensures that county Boards of Supervisors that are subject to a term limit are limited to no fewer than two terms and clarifies that county Boards of Supervisors are responsible for prescribing compensation for all county officers.

AB 602 (Grayson) requires, on and after January 1, 2022, a local agency that conducts an impact fee nexus study to follow specific standards and practices, including, but not limited to, (1) that prior to the adoption of an associated development fee, an impact fee nexus study be adopted, (2) that the study identify the existing level of service for each public facility, identify the proposed new level of service, and include an explanation of why the new level of service is necessary, and (3) if the study is adopted after July 1, 2022, either calculate a fee levied or imposed on a housing development project proportionately to the square footage of the proposed units, or make specified findings explaining why square footage is not an appropriate metric to calculate the fees.

AB 819 (Levine) requires lead agencies to post California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) notices and documents on their internet websites and to submit CEQA documents to the State Clearinghouse in electronic form.
AB 843 (Aguiar-Curry) allows Community Choice Aggregators to access the CPUC BioMAT program, which promotes small renewable bioenergy projects, including biomass and biogas, to achieve wildfire risk reduction goals.

AB 970 (McCarty) requires applications to install EV charging stations to be deemed complete by a local jurisdiction within five business days for one to 25 charging stations on a single site, or 10 business days to construct 25 or more, and also requires such applications to be deemed approved within 20 or 40 business days (respectively) after the application was submitted, as specified. For a local jurisdiction with a population of less than 200,000 residents, the bill’s provisions would become operative on January 1, 2023.

AB 1103 (Dahle) authorizes a county agricultural commissioner, or other designated agency, the establishment within a county of a livestock pass program for the purpose of issuing identification documents granting any qualifying livestock producer or other entity, as specified, access to the qualifying ranch property during or following a disaster.

AB 1124 (Friedman) expands the definition of “solar energy system” to include solar devices or features that are designed to serve one or more utility retail customers on the same, adjacent, or contiguous properties, as specified, and is not designed for procurement of electricity by an electric utility. These may include facilities not attached to structures, as currently required by law.

AB 1344 (Arambula) exempts the approval of needle and syringe exchanges services from the California Environmental Quality Act.

SB 2 (Bradford) creates a statewide decertification process for peace officers by granting new powers to the Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training. The measure establishes processes for investigating and determining the fitness of a person to be a peace officer as well as for suspending or revoking the certification of officers found to have engaged in serious misconduct.

SB 16 (Skinner) expands the categories of police personnel records subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act. Records related to the use of excessive or unreasonable force must be sustained in order to qualify for expanded public access.

SB 52 (Dodd) clarifies that deenergization events (also known as PSPS events) qualify as events for which a local emergency can be declared under the California Emergency Services Act.

SB 270 (Durazo) allows public employee unions to file an unfair labor practice charge before the Public Employment Relations Board against public employers that fail to fully or accurately disclose employee information to public employee unions. The bill also contains the ability for agencies to cure violations three times in twelve months, and extends the period to remedy violations to 20 days.
SB 278 (Leyva) requires public employers to reimburse CalPERS and pay a penalty when CalPERS deems part of a pension to be unlawful after a member has retired. Public agencies will be required to pay 20 percent of the current actuarial value of benefits deemed unlawful by CalPERS as a penalty.

SB 552 (Hertzberg) requires a county to establish a standing county drought and water shortage task force to facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county’s jurisdiction. Authorizes a county, in lieu of establishing a standing task force, to establish an alternative process that facilitates drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county’s jurisdiction.

SB 619 (Laird) provides local governments with one additional year to come into compliance with SB 1383 organic waste recycling regulations without being subject to penalties by CalRecycle, if certain conditions are met.

The RCRC Government Affairs staff advocated on behalf of member counties on hundreds of bills over the last year. Below is a list of significant bills representing these efforts, organized by policy area.

AGRICULTURE
While agricultural policy was largely seen through the lens of severe drought, the Legislature did consider other agriculture-related policy in both legislation and the state budget. Legislatively, the focus largely revolved around changes to existing programs and practices, such as process changes to the Williamson Act, and establishing baseline rules for local Ag Pass programs. In the budget, significant new funding was provided in statehouse-favorite policies like water use efficiency and replacement of old diesel equipment. The University of California’s Cooperative Extension program did score a big win this budget year: restoration of its budget to pre-pandemic levels, and a one-time appropriation of $30 million to fill dozens of staff vacancies systemwide.

AB 434 (R. Rivas): Grazing Leases, would require that a management plan for an area to be leased pursuant to certain of those leases include detailed habitat objectives that must be achieved and maintained by the lessee and set minimum requirements for monitoring to ensure those objectives are met, or that the lease specify minimum agricultural and animal husbandry practices to ensure the protection of ecological resources. Two-Year Bill

AB 1103 (Dahle): Livestock Pass Program: Disaster Access to Ranch Lands, authorizes, upon the approval of a county board of supervisors, a county agricultural commissioner, or other designated agency, the establishment within a county of a livestock pass program for the purpose of issuing identification documents granting any qualifying livestock producer, as defined, or a managerial employee, of the qualifying livestock producer, access to the qualifying livestock producer’s ranch property, or to the ranch property owned by another holder of a livestock pass with permission, during or following a flood, storm, fire, earthquake, or other disaster. Signed, (Chapter 609, Statutes of 2021)
SB 264 (Min): Firearm Sales at the OC County Event Center, prohibits the sale of firearms and firearm components at the Orange County Fair and Event Center. This bill was amended during the last two weeks of the legislative session from the previous, RCRC-opposed version, which included all state property, most notably District Agriculture Associations-operated fairs. Signed, (Chapter 684, Statutes of 2021)

SB 574 (Laird): Williamson Act, makes several changes to the Land Conservation Act of 1965, including no longer requiring county assessors, county boards, and city councils to notify Department of Conservation (DOC) (1) if a certificate of tentative cancellation is withdrawn, (2) if a contract is nonrenewed by a landholder or it otherwise expires, and (3) for other notices related to the cancellation or nonrenewal of a contract, as specified. Additionally, the bill removes some requirements for notice by DOC when the department deals directly with a landholder. Also, the bill removes several process requirements for counties and cities, but adds a requirement that counties and cities send map information to DOC as electronic GIS data files instead of paper or electronic maps. Signed, (Chapter 644, Statutes of 2021)

AIR QUALITY

Following the enactment of emboldening legislation in 2021, in mid-October the California Air Resources Board (CARB) initiated a formal rulemaking to transition the purchase of new small off-road engine (SORE) equipment to zero emission beginning with Model Year 2024 for most equipment, except portable generators. While legislation and regulations do not affect the usage of existing gas-powered SORE equipment, RCRC supports tailoring requirements to address the unique circumstances of rural communities.

AB 1346 (Berman): Small Off-Road Engine Emissions, requires CARB, by July 1, 2022, to adopt cost-effective and technologically feasible regulations to prohibit engine exhaust and evaporative emissions from new SORE equipment, which include portable generators as well as lawn and garden equipment. Signed, (Chapter 753, Statutes of 2021)

CEQA/NEPA

After a major attempt to overhaul the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) failed passage in 2020, this year was relatively quiet on the CEQA front. Most CEQA-related bills attempted to create new exemptions for various kinds of projects; however, nearly all of those stalled throughout the process. Two particularly troubling bills that would have limited the use of CEQA exemptions at tens of thousands of sites throughout the state and that would have increased regulation of warehouse projects also became two-year bills. One of the most contentious proposals would have exempted public needle and syringe exchange programs (and related waste) from public nuisance laws and the CEQA process; however, that bill was ultimately narrowed to just create a CEQA exemption for those facilities.

AB 819 (Levine): California Environmental Quality Act: Electronic Filing of Notices and Documents, requires lead agencies to post CEQA notices and documents on their internet websites and to submit CEQA documents to the State Clearinghouse in electronic form. RCRC
avoided taking a position by working with the author to narrow the bill’s scope. **Signed, (Chapter 97, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 1154 (Patterson): California Environmental Quality Act Exemption for Secondary Egress Routes**, would exempt from CEQA egress route projects undertaken by a public agency and that are recommended by the Board of Forestry to improve fire safety of an existing subdivision. RCRC sponsored AB 1154. **Two-Year Bill**

**AB 1344 (Arambula): CEQA Exemption for Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs**, exempts the approval of needle and syringe exchanges services from CEQA. The bill is in response to local efforts to oppose the state’s permitting of needle and syringe exchange programs by arguing that the Department of Public Health failed to comply with CEQA in approving those projects. RCRC withdrew its opposition when provisions were removed that would have exempted those programs and the illegal disposal of sharps waste from public nuisance laws. **Signed, (Chapter 480, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 1547 (Reyes): Warehouse Projects**, would allow the Air Resources Board to regulate indirect sources of air pollution, like those resulting from warehouses, and requires local governments to undertake many other actions to identify and address the potential environmental impacts of warehouse development projects. RCRC opposed AB 1547. **Two-Year Bill**

**SB 30 (Cortese): State Funding for Buildings Connected to the Natural Gas Grid**, would prohibit state agencies from designing or constructing a state facility that is connected to the natural gas grid and prohibit state agencies from funding projects for the construction of residential and nonresidential buildings that are connected to the natural gas grid. RCRC opposed SB 30. **Two-Year Bill**

**SB 37 (Cortese): CEQA Common Sense Exemption at Cortese List Sites**, would eliminate the ability to use a “common sense exemption” under CEQA for any projects undertaken at over 40,000 sites throughout the state that appear on the Cortese List of currently or formerly contaminated properties. SB 37 would instead allow specified types of projects to use either a statutory or categorical CEQA exemption is if certain circumstances are met. RCRC strongly opposed earlier versions of the bill that would have added unnecessary costs, time, and complexity to a wide variety of routine maintenance projects at many local government facilities, but removed its opposition after extensive negotiations and modifications to the bill. **Two-Year Bill**

**SB 412 (Ochoa Bogh): CEQA Exemption for Emergency Projects**, seeks to broaden an existing CEQA exemption for projects to prevent or mitigate the impacts of an emergency. RCRC supported SB 412. **Two-Year Bill**

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

This was a monumental year for infrastructure investment, both at the federal and state level of government. The state budget provided funding, much from federal sources, including $1.45 billion for housing unsheltered residents (AB 140, Chapter 111, Statutes of 2021) and $6 billion
for broadband infrastructure (SB 156, Chapter 112, Statutes of 2021). In addition to funding, numerous policy bills made significant changes in broadband infrastructure grant rules, local permitting of solar installations and residential zoning and development.

Telco

AB 14 (Aguiar-Curry): California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), extends the ability of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to collect monies to fund CASF and revises the methodology for the surcharge calculation. RCRC supported the measure and worked on with the author to ensure the bill addressed internet connectivity issues in RCRC member counties. Signed, (Chapter 658, Statutes of 2021)

AB 34 (Muratsuchi): Broadband Bond, would have enact the Broadband for All Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would have authorize the issuance of $10 billion in State General Obligation Bonds to support the 2022 Broadband for All Program that would provide funding for broadband deployment infrastructure and broadband internet access services. The bill failed to move forward after the Governor announced his initiative to fund middle and last mile broadband infrastructure through the State Budget. Failed Passage

AB 41 (Wood): Dig Once, requires the Department of Transportation, as part of those projects that are funded by the Budget Act of 2021 and are located in priority areas, to ensure that construction includes the installation of conduits capable of supporting optic communication. Current law, enacted in 2016 by Assemblymember Wood’s AB 1549, requires the Department of Transportation to notify companies and organizations working on broadband deployment on its internet website of specified department-led highway construction projects and authorizes those companies and organizations to collaborate with the department to install broadband conduits as part of those projects. Signed, (Chapter 659, Statutes of 2021)

AB 537 (Quirk): Wireless Telecommunications Facility Permitting, requires that a collocation or siting application for a wireless telecommunications facility be deemed approved if a city or county fails to approve or disapprove the application within the time periods specified in updated applicable Federal Communications Commission decisions. Also provides that the time period for a city or county to approve or disapprove a collocation or siting application commence when the applicant makes the first required submission or takes the first required step, as specified. RCRC initially opposed this bill, but worked with the author’s office and the sponsor, Crown Castle, to find an acceptable compromise to the bills’ requirements. Signed, (Chapter 467, Statutes of 2021)

AB 665 (E. Garcia): Internet Access, requires residential facilities serving adults, residential care facilities for persons with chronic life-threatening illness, and residential care facilities for the elderly with existing internet service to provide at least one internet access device that can support real-time interactive applications, is equipped with videoconferencing technology, and is dedicated for client or resident use, as specified. Signed, (Chapter 469, Statutes of 2021)

SB 4 (Gonzalez): California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), increases the maximum annual amount of funding the California Public Utilities Commission can collect for the CASF program and adds flexibility to CASF subaccount funding allocations. RCRC supported this bill. Signed, (Chapter 671, Statutes of 2021)
SB 28 (Caballero): Cable Franchise Reform, expands the authority of CPUC to collect data to enforce the requirements for cable franchises and authorizes the CPUC to set customer service requirements for cable providers. RCRC supported this bill. Signed, (Chapter 673, Statutes of 2021)

SB 378 (Gonzalez): Microtrenching, requires a local agency to allow, except as provided, microtrenching for the installation of underground fiber if the installation in the microtrench is limited to fiber. SB 378 also requires a local agency with jurisdiction to approve excavations to adopt or amend existing policies, ordinances, codes, or construction rules to allow for microtrenching. RCRC worked with the author on amendments to address county concerns before final passage. Signed, (Chapter 677, Statutes of 2021)

SB 556 (Dodd): Small Wireless Facility Siting, would have prohibited a local government or local publicly owned electric utility from unreasonably denying the leasing or licensing of its street light poles or traffic signal poles to communications service providers for the purpose of placing small wireless facilities on those poles. SB 556 would have also required that street light poles and traffic signal poles be made available for the placement of small wireless facilities under fair, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory fees, as provided. RCRC opposed this bill and requested a Veto by the Governor. Vetoed

SB 743 (Bradford): Broadband Adoption, upon appropriation by the Legislature, would require CPUC to establish a grant program to fund broadband adoption, digital literacy, and computer equipment for eligible publicly supported communities, low-income mobilehome parks, and farmworker housing. Two-Year Bill

Housing

AB 68 (Quirk-Silva): Housing Plan Annual Reports, requires, beginning with any update or revision to a Statewide Housing Plan on or after January 1, 2023, requires the plan to include specified information, including, the number of affordable units needed to meet the state’s affordable housing needs and recommendations for modernizing statutory and regulatory terminology. Signed, (Chapter 341, Statutes of 2021)

AB 215 (Chiu): Housing Element Violations, adds a new step in the housing element certification process that require 40 additional days; creates a new three-year statute of limitations for any action brought pursuant to the AB 72 enforcement process; and allows the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to appoint or contract with other counsel to represent the department when the Attorney General declines to represent HCD in an AB 72 enforcement action. RCRC opposed AB 215. Signed, (Chapter 342, Statutes of 2021)

AB 602 (Grayson): Development Fees, requires, on and after January 1, 2022, a local agency that conducts an impact fee nexus study to follow specific standards and practices, including, but not limited to, (1) that prior to the adoption of an associated development fee, an impact fee nexus study be adopted, (2) that the study identify the existing level of service for each public facility, identify the proposed new level of service, and include an explanation of why the new level of service is necessary, and (3) if the study is adopted after July 1, 2022, either calculate a fee levied or imposed on a housing development project proportionately to the square footage of the proposed units, or make specified findings explaining why square footage is not an
appropriate metric to calculate the fees. RCRC was opposed unless amended to AB 602, however local government amendments were rejected by the author and a veto was requested. **Signed, (Chapter 347, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 787 (Gabriel): Converted Affordable Housing Units**, authorizes a city or county to include in its annual report to Department of Housing and Community Development, for up to 25 percent of a jurisdiction’s moderate-income regional housing need allocation, the number of units in an existing multifamily building that were converted to deed-restricted rental housing for moderate-income households by the imposition of affordability covenants and restrictions for the unit. **Signed, (Chapter 350, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 803 (Boerner Horvath): Starter Home Revitalization Act of 2021**, authorizes a development proponent to submit an application for the construction of a small home lot development that meets specified criteria. A small home lot development must be located on a parcel that is no larger than five acres, is substantially surrounded by qualified urban uses, and is zoned for multifamily residential use. **Signed, (Chapter 154, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 880 (Aguiar-Curry): Affordable Disaster Housing Revolving Development and Acquisition Program**, would expedite relief funding for the development or preservation of affordable housing in the state’s declared disaster areas that have experienced damage or loss of homes that were occupied by lower-income households. RCRC supported AB 880. **Failed Passage**

**AB 1029 (Mullin): Pro-housing Local Policies**, an urgency measure, adds the preservation of affordable housing units as a pro-housing local policy that Department of Housing and Community Development can consider in developing a pro-housing designation. **Signed, (Chapter 353, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 1180 (Mathis): Local Governments Surplus Land**, adds to the definition of “exempt surplus land,” land transferred by a local agency to a federally recognized California Indian tribe. **Signed, (Chapter 62, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 1304 (Santiago): Affirmatively Further Fair Housing**, clarifies that a public agency has a mandatory duty to administer its programs and activities relating to housing and community development in a manner to affirmatively further fair housing, and to not take any action that is materially inconsistent with this obligation. Specifically, AB 1304 expands the ways in which local agencies must affirmative further fair housing in their housing elements. **Signed, (Chapter 357, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 1398 (Bloom): Pro-housing Local Policies**, requires a local government that fails to adopt a housing element that the Department of Housing and Community Development has found to be in substantial compliance with state law within 120 days of the statutory deadline to complete this rezoning no later than one year from the statutory deadline for the adoption of the housing element. **Signed, (Chapter 358, Statutes of 2021)**

**SB 6 (Caballero): Neighborhood Homes Act**, would have deemed a housing development project, as defined, an allowable use on a neighborhood lot, which is defined as a parcel within an office or retail commercial zone that is not adjacent to an industrial use. The bill would require
the density for a housing development under these provisions to meet or exceed the density deemed appropriate to accommodate housing for lower income households according to the type of local jurisdiction, including a density of at least 20 units per acre for a suburban jurisdiction. RCRC opposed SB 6 and requested amendments to address incompatible use concerns, eligible site credit, and zoning issues. **Two-Year Bill**

**SB 8 (Skinner): Housing Crisis Act of 2019**, extends the sunset on the Housing Crisis Act of 2019 (Act) by five years, to January 1, 2030, and provides that until January 1, 2034, the Act’s provisions apply to a housing development project that submits a preliminary application before January 1, 2030. SB 8 also extends by one year, up to three and a half years, the period during which a local government may not impose new rules or standards on an affordable housing project, as defined. Lastly, this bill clarifies that appeals and public meetings related to density bonus law are counted for the purposes of the five hearing limit in the Act and includes technical changes to the limitation on a local government’s ability to reduce the intensity of land use in its jurisdiction. **Signed, (Chapter 161, Statutes of 2021)**

**SB 9 (Atkins): Housing Development Approvals**, requires a proposed housing development containing no more than two residential units within a single-family residential zone to be considered ministerially, without discretionary review or hearing, if the proposed housing development meets certain requirements, including, but not limited to, that the proposed housing development would not require demolition or alteration of housing that is subject to a recorded covenant, ordinance, or law that restricts rents to levels affordable to persons and families of moderate, low, or very low income, that the proposed housing development does not allow for the demolition of more than 25 percent of the existing exterior structural walls, except as provided, and that the development is not located within a historic district, is not included on the State Historic Resources Inventory, or is not within a site that is legally designated or listed as a city or county landmark or historic property or district. This bill also requires local governments to ministerially approve an urban lot split, thus creating two independent lots that may be sold separate. RCRC took a support if amended position on the bill, however, county requested amendments were not made. **Signed, (Chapter 162, Statutes of 2021)**

**SB 477 (Weiner): Annual Progress Report**, would significantly increase reporting burdens under county and city Housing Element Annual Progress Reports, including adding the submission of information regarding CEQA related issues. RCRC opposed this bill unless amended to exempt small counties from the reporting requirements and delete CEQA provisions. The amendments were not taken and RCRC requested a veto. **Vetoed**

**SB 478 (Wiener): Housing Development Projects**, prohibits a local agency from imposing a floor area ratio standard that is less than 1.0 on a housing development project that consists of three to seven units, or less than 1.25 on a housing development project that consists of eight to ten units. RCRC was initially opposed unless amended to this bill, and move to a neutral position after county requested amendments were made to the bill. **Signed, (Chapter 363, Statutes of 2021)**

**SB 581 (Atkins): Annual Housing Report**, requires a local government planning agency include in its annual housing report whether the city or county is a party to a court action related to a violation of state housing law, and the disposition of that action. **Two-Year Bill**
Land Use

ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry): Local Bond Vote Threshold, would lower the vote threshold to 55 percent for approval of local bonded-indebtedness and specially-dedicated taxes imposed to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing. RCRC supported this measure. **Two-Year Bill**

AB 500 (Ward): California Coastal Commission, would require a local government lying within the coastal zone that has a certified land use plan or a fully certified local coastal program to adopt streamlined permitting procedures in nonhazardous zones for the approval of accessory dwelling units, specified affordable housing projects, and Low Barrier Navigation Centers. The bill would require that the amended plan be approved by the California Coastal Commission. RCRC opposed AB 500. **Two-Year Bill**

AB 950 (Ward): Excess State Property, would authorize the California Department of Transportation to sell its excess real property to the city, county, or city and county where the real property is located if the local government agrees to use the real property for the sole purpose of implementing affordable housing. This bill would also exempt these transfers and sales from the California Environmental Quality Act. RCRC supported AB 950. **Two-Year Bill**

AB 1124 (Friedman): Solar facility permitting, expands the definition of “solar energy system” to include solar devices or features that are designed to serve one or more utility retail customers on the same, adjacent, or contiguous properties, as specified, and is not designed for procurement of electricity by an electric utility. These may include facilities not attached to structures, as currently required by law. RCRC opposed this bill due to concerns regarding allowing large-scale solar installation permitting through the prescribed ministerial process. **Signed, (Chapter 235, Statutes of 2021)**

AB 1271 (Ting): Surplus Land, would add to the definition of “exempt surplus land” a former military base or other planned residential or mixed-use development of parcels greater than 5 total acres where at least one of the owners is a local agency and meets other specified criteria. RCRC initially opposed AB 1271, but removed opposition when amendments were taken to address concerns of local governments. **Two-Year Bill**

AB 1295 (Muratsuchi): Very High Fire Risk Areas, would prohibit a city or county from entering into a residential development agreement for property located in a very high fire risk area, as defined. RCRC staff discussed concerns with the author and was assured the bill would not move forward in the drafted form. **Failed Passage**

SB 12 (McGuire): Development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, would establish wildfire reduction standards and planning requirements for new housing developments in fire prone areas of the state. RCRC has been working with the author to address concerns, but has not taken a formal position. **Two-Year Bill**

SB 55 (Stern): Development in High Fire Areas, would prohibit all retail, commercial, industrial, or residential development in specified fire-prone areas of the state. RCRC opposed SB 55. **Two-Year Bill**
SB 617 (Weiner): solar permitting, would require every city and county to implement an online, automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and instantaneously issues permits for a solar energy system that is no larger than 38.4 kilowatts alternating current nameplate rating and an energy storage system paired with a solar energy system that is no larger than 38.4 kilowatts alternating current nameplate rating, as specified. Sb 617 would also require a city or county to amend a certain ordinance to authorize a residential solar energy system and an energy storage system to use the online, automated permitting platform. Counties with a population of less than 150,000 and all cities within a county with a population of less than 150,000 are exempt from the provisions of this bill. **Two-Year Bill**

SB 791 (Cortese): California Surplus Land Unit, establishes the California Surplus Land Unit within the Department of Housing and Community Development with the primary purpose of facilitating the development and construction of residential housing on local surplus land. SB 791 authorizes the unit to, among other things, facilitate agreements between housing developers and local agencies that seek to dispose of surplus land; provide advice, technical assistance, and consultative and technical service to local agencies with surplus land and developers that seek to develop housing on the surplus land; and collaborate with specified state agencies to assist housing developers and local agencies with obtaining grants, loans, tax credits, credit enhancements, and other types of financing that facilitate the construction of housing on surplus land. The provisions of this bill are enacted only upon appropriation by the legislature. **Signed, (Chapter 366, Statutes of 2021)**

Building Standards

AB 838 (Friedman): Building Standard Complaints, requires, beginning July 1, 2022, a city or county that receives a complaint of a substandard building or a lead hazard violation from a tenant, resident, or occupant, or an agent of a tenant, resident, or occupant, except as specified, to inspect the building, portion of the building intended for human occupancy, or premises of the building, document the lead hazard violations that would be discovered based upon a reasonably competent and diligent visual inspection of the property and identify any building, portion of a building intended for human occupancy, or premises on which such a building is located that is determined to be substandard, as applicable. This bill requires the city or county to advise the owner or operator of each violation and of each action that is required to be taken to remedy the violation and to schedule a reinspection to verify correction of the violations. RCRC was opposed to AB 838 unless amended, however, local government amendments were rejected by the author, and a veto was requested. **Signed, (Chapter 351, Statutes of 2021)**

Homelessness

AB 362 (Quirk-Silva): Homeless Shelters Safety Regulations, requires a city or county that receives a complaint from an occupant of a homeless shelter, as defined, or an agent of an occupant, alleging that a homeless shelter is substandard to inspect the homeless shelter. This bill requires a city or county that determines that a homeless shelter is substandard to issue a notice to correct the violation to the owner or operator of the homeless shelter within 10 business days of the inspection or issue the notice to correct the violation immediately if the violation constitutes an imminent threat to the health and safety of the occupants of the
homeless shelter. Additionally, this measure authorizes a city or county to issue an emergency order directing the owner or operator to take immediate action to rectify violations if the city determines that the violations are dangerous, hazardous, imminently detrimental to life or health, or otherwise render the homeless shelter unfit for human habitation. Signed, (Chapter 395, Statutes of 2021)

**AB 816 (Chiu): Homelessness Funding**, requires HCD to allocate National Housing Trust Fund monies to projects serving individuals experiencing homelessness, to the extent that a sufficient number of projects exist. The Housing Trust Fund, established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, provides grants to states to increase the supply of rental housing for extremely low and very low-income families, including homeless families, and home ownership for extremely low and very low-income families. RCRC opposed the bill in prior form which would have required local governments to develop actionable homelessness plans and would require each city in the county’s jurisdiction to participate in the plan development, making the county responsible for city participation. A coalition of county organizations worked with the author to amend the bill into its final form. Signed, (Chapter 396, Statutes of 2021)

**AB 977 (Gabriel): Homeless Coordinating and Finance Council Data Reporting**, requires grantees or entities that receive funding from a state homeless program or programs, such as No Place Like Home, to report certain data to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council on the populations they serve. Signed, (Chapter 397, Statutes of 2021)

**AB 1202 (Cervantes): The California Disaster Assistance Act**, would authorize the Office of Emergency Services to establish a model process to assist a community in recovering from an emergency proclaimed by the Governor which may include, among other things, the role of the office to facilitate the establishment of temporary structures, including local assistance centers, showers and bathroom facilities, and temporary administrative offices. This bill would require a county to ensure that local assistance centers are accessible to people with access and functional needs, provide accessible notifications about local assistance centers, and provide diverse communication services through partnerships with the county homeless and housing services. AB 1202 would require a county, including a city and county, to designate, prearrange, and procure space, as necessary, to aid in sheltering and transporting its homeless population during local and state emergencies and emergency evacuations. Two-Year Bill

**AB 1360 (Santiago): Project Roomkey**, would require each city, county, or city and county to make every effort to ensure that individuals housed pursuant to Project Roomkey do not return to homelessness. RCRC was opposed AB 1360 unless it was amended to include funding for the local requirements of the bill. Failed Passage

**COUNTY OPERATIONS**

This year, legislation introduced covered a wide range of issues impacting county operations, including Brown Act/Open meetings, employee relations, retirement systems, workers’ compensation, elections, and cannabis. With the emergence of virtual participation in public opening meetings due to the pandemic, this year saw several bills addressing the Brown Act, including flexibilities for local governments to use teleconferencing for public meetings during
declared emergencies. In addition, the Governor vetoed important legislation public agencies opposed, including RCRC, that attempted to expand remote participation indefinitely for members of the public to all open meetings in jurisdictions over 250,000. Within the budget, the Governor and Legislature also focused on cannabis, including the consolidation of the three cannabis licensing agencies, extension of provisional licenses, and funding to cities and counties to assist in local permitting.

Brown Act

AB 361 (Rivas): Open Meetings, an RCRC-supported bill, authorizes a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act when a legislative body of a local agency holds a meeting for the purpose of declaring or ratifying a local emergency. **Signed, (Chapter 165, Statutes of 2021)**

AB 339 (Lee and Garcia): Open Public Meetings, RCRC-opposed bill would have required county boards of supervisors and city councils governing jurisdictions of at least 250,000 people to provide either a two-way telephonic or two-way internet-based option for members of the public to attend all open and public meetings. **Vetoed**

Cannabis

AB 141 (Committee on Budget): Department of Cannabis Control, consolidates the three cannabis licensing agencies into a new Department of Cannabis Control and includes language extending the cannabis provisional license program. RCRC opposed provisions within the bill around provisional licenses renewals that would not have allowed the full range of commonplace mechanisms utilized by lead agencies to meet the State’s CEQA obligations for cannabis licensure. **Signed, (Chapter 70, Statutes of 2021)**

AB 1138 (Rubio): Unlawful Cannabis Activity, imposes a civil penalty on persons aiding and abetting unlicensed commercial cannabis activity of up to 3 times the amount of the license fee for each violation but in no case more than $30,000 for each violation. RCRC successfully amended the bill to include explicit anti-preemption language preserving local enforcement tools and help minimize preemption arguments based on the bill. **Signed, (Chapter 530, Statutes of 2021)**

SB 160 (Committee on Budget): Cannabis Licensure, RCRC secured amendments in AB 160 to address CEQA concerns regarding cannabis provisional licenses resulting from the passage of AB 141. The amendments account for the varied CEQA processes utilized by local jurisdictions when regulating cannabis production and provides further clarity regarding the environmental review expectations for provisional license renewals. **Signed, (Chapter 87, Statutes of 2021)**

Elections

AB 37 (Berman): Vote By Mail Ballots, permanently extends the requirements to mail a ballot to every registered voter for all elections and requires county elections officials to use a specified Secretary of State vote by mail tracking system or a system that meets the same specifications. In addition, this bill includes vote-by-mail drop-off location requirements for
counties. AB 37 builds on previous legislation, which required universal mailed ballots for elections in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. Signed, (Chapter 312, Statutes of 2021)

**AB 428 (Mayes): Board of Supervisors**, ensures that county Boards of Supervisors that are subject to a term limit are limited to no fewer than two terms and clarifies that county Boards of Supervisors are responsible for prescribing compensation for all county officers. RCRC supported AB 428 and submitted a request for signature to Governor Newsom. Signed, (Chapter 462, Statutes of 2021)

**AB 759 (McCarty): County Officers**, would require the election to select district attorney, sheriff, and assessor to be held with the presidential primary and would require if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for the office at the presidential primary, the two candidates who received the most votes to advance to a general election held with the presidential general election. As specified, the bill would provide a six-year term for a district attorney, sheriff, or assessor elected in 2022. Two-Year Bill

**SB 594 (Glazer): Redistricting**, makes various changes to state law governing candidate filing for the 2022 statewide primary election, redistricting in special districts following the 2020 census, and districting and redistricting for local governments. The bill provides clarification on the ability for counties to adopt maps by resolution or ordinance. These changes accommodate the delayed receipt of data from the United States Census Bureau and subsequent redistricting processes leading up to the 2022 elections. RCRC supported SB 594 and submitted a request for signature to Governor Newsom. Signed, (Chapter 320, Statutes of 2021)

**Labor/Pension/Workers Compensation**

**SB 270 (Durazo): Labor Relations**, allows public employee unions to file an unfair labor practice charge before the Public Employment Relations Board against public employers that fail to fully or accurately disclose employee information to public employee unions. The bill also contains the ability for agencies to cure violations three times in twelve months, and a recent amendment extends the period to remedy violations to 20 days. RCRC, along with a coalition of public sector employers, opposed SB 270. Signed, (Chapter 330, Statutes of 2021)

**SB 278 (Leyva): Disallowed Compensation**, requires public employers to reimburse CalPERS and pay a penalty when CalPERS deems part of a pension to be unlawful after a member has retired. Public agencies will be required to pay 20 percent of the current actuarial value of benefits deemed unlawful by CalPERS as a penalty. Signed, (Chapter 331, Statutes of 2021)

**SB 284 (Stern): Workers’ Compensation**, would extend Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) workers' compensation presumption to State firefighters, public safety dispatchers, public safety telecommunicators, and emergency response communication employees and expand the list of peace officers who can claim the PTSD presumption. Public agencies, including RCRC, continue to be concerned with this measure and believe it is unnecessary to provide California employees fair access to the workers’ compensation system for psychiatric injuries. Two-Year Bill
SB 335 (Cortese): Workers’ Compensation Liability, would fundamentally alter longstanding rules and timeframes for determining eligibility for workers' compensation claims and move California outside of the mainstream compared to other states. RCRC, along with a collation of both public and private sector organizations, remain opposed. Two-Year Bill

Taxes

SB 792 (Glazer): Online Sales Tax Returns, would have required online retailers with annual online transactions more than $50 million to report for each local jurisdiction the gross receipts from the qualified sale of tangible personal property shipped or delivered to a purchaser in that jurisdiction. SB 792 was an RCRC-supported bill. Vetoed

FOREST & PUBLIC LANDS STEWARDSHIP

The year 2020 saw a record-setting wildfire season in California, with the August Complex Fire ultimately registering as the largest wildfire in the state’s history. As a result, the health and resilience of California’s forests and public lands was a major topic during the 2021 Legislative session, with several measures supported by RCRC, including an RCRC-sponsored bill to address the state’s progress on meeting it’s wildfire mitigation and forest resilience goals.

Forest Resilience

AB 267 (Valladares): CEQA Exemption for Fuels Treatment on Federal Lands, would extend the sunset currently in place for prescribed fire, thinning and fuels reduction projects on federally-managed lands subject to the provisions of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) which exempts them from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Currently the provisions sunset in 2023, and the RCRC-supported AB 267 would extend the sunset to 2026. Two-Year Bill

AB 648 (Fong): Healthy Forests and Fire Prevention, would have continuously appropriated, beginning in the 2021–22 fiscal year and ending in the 2028–29 fiscal year, $200,000,000 of the annual proceeds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for (1) healthy forest and fire prevention programs and projects that improve forest health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by uncontrolled wildfires and (2) prescribed fire and other fuel reduction projects through proven forestry practices consistent with the recommendations of the California Forest Carbon Plan, including the operation of year-round prescribed fire crews and implementation of a research and monitoring program for climate change adaptation.

While the RCRC-supported AB 648 did not pass the Legislature, the continuous $200 million annual appropriation from the GGRF for forest health and wildfire prevention projects was passed as part of the 2021–22 State Budget Package and signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom. Failed Passage

AB 680 (Burke): California Jobs Plan Act of 2021, enacts the California Jobs Plan Act of 2021, which requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to work with the labor agency to update, by July 1, 2025, GGRF funding guidelines for administering agencies to ensure that
all applicants to grant programs funded by the GGRF meet standards including prevailing wage for construction projects. The bill also requires, among other things, administering agencies, on and after the adoption of the update to the funding guidelines, to give preference to applicants that demonstrate a partnership with an educational institution or training program targeting residents of under-resourced, tribal, and low-income communities in the same region as the proposed project and to applicants that demonstrate the creation of high-quality jobs by the proposed project. The bill would exclude from these requirements applicants for projects that involve specified funding, technical assistance, or research, applicants who are not employers, as defined, and housing projects that will feature 100 percent-affordable units, as defined.

Currently, projects related to forest management and community fire prevention could be included in the definition of "construction projects" funding by GGRF dollars, which is why RCRC opposed AB 680. The author of the bill committed to running a clean-up bill in 2022 clarifying that the provisions contained in AB 680 do not apply to forest health and fire prevention projects. Signed, (Chapter 746, Statutes of 2021)

AB 1431 (Frazier): Forest and Carbon Resilience Goals, an RCRC-sponsored bill, would have codified various portions of the 2021 Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and 2018 California Forest Carbon Plan, and required the Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency, on or before January 1, 2023, to submit a report to the appropriate policy and budget committees of the Legislature on the positions and resources needed to achieve those state goals. While the bill did not pass the Legislature, similar provisions were passed in Senate Bill 456 (Laird). Two-Year Bill

AB 1519 (Gallagher): Biomass Fuels Transportation Program, would require the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to develop and implement a fuels transportation program that provides competitive grants or other financial incentives for projects in eligible communities to offset the costs of transporting fuels to a biomass energy facility. The RCRC-supported AB 1519 would authorize CNRA to allocate moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for the program. Two-Year Bill

SB 456 (Laird): Wildfire and Forest Resilience, requires the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force to develop an implementation plan for the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. The RCRC-supported bill also requires the California Natural Resources Agency and CalEPA to report on the progress of the implementation plan annually to the Legislature. Signed, (Chapter 387, Statutes of 2021)

SB 709 (Dahle): Timber Harvesting Plan Exemptions, allows approved timber harvesting plans (THP) expiring in 2021 and 2022 to be extended for a period of two years without landowners having to prepare a new THP. SB 709 was an RCRC-supported bill. Signed, (Chapter 734, Statutes of 2021)

Insurance

SB 11 (Rubio): The California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan Association Exclusions, removes certain statutory barriers to enable homes and structures
used to conduct business on farmland to be covered through the California FAIR Plan for fire insurance. SB 11 was supported by RCRC. **Signed, (Chapter 128, Statutes of 2021)**

**Parks/Conservancies**

**SB 208 (Dahle): Sierra Nevada Conservancy Region Definition**, modifies areas listed under the definitions of the “Sierra Nevada Region” and its “subregions,” adding Siskiyou County and portions of Trinity County to the boundaries of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. SB 208 was an RCRC-supported bill. **Signed, (Chapter 182, Statutes of 2021)**

**Wildfire**

**AB 9 (Wood): Fire Safety and Prevention**, codifies the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity program under the California Department of Conservation and moves oversight of several fire prevention activities from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, including:

- The Fire Prevention Grants Program;
- Defensible space requirements;
- The California wildfire mitigation financial assistance program;
- The establishment of fire hazard severity zones and very high fire hazard severity zones;
- Working with local governments to identify subdivisions that are without secondary egress routes, and developing recommendations to improve the subdivision’s fire safety;
- Utility wildfire mitigation plans;
- General plan safety element review; and,
- Wildland building code standards.

While RCRC did not have a formal position on the final bill, AB 9 represents a significant change in how these programs are managed by the state. **Signed, (Chapter 225, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 297 (Gallagher): Fire Prevention**, would continuously appropriate $480,000,000 and $20,000,000 to the Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention and the California Conservation Corps, respectively, for fire prevention activities, as well as provide exemptions from the Z’berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 and the California Environmental Quality Act for specific forest management and wildfire prevention activities. AB 297 is an RCRC-supported bill. **Two-Year Bill**

**AB 431 (Patterson): Defensible Space Exemptions**, extends exemptions to January 1, 2026 from timber harvesting plan requirements for residents who are complying with state defensible space statutes. AB 431 was an RCRC-supported bill. **Signed, (Chapter 230, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 642 (Friedman): Wildfires**, establishes policies and programs at CAL FIRE to increase the pace and scale of prescribed fire for wildfire prevention in California. The bill also requires the Director of CAL FIRE to identify moderate and high fire hazard severity zones in California and requires a local agency, within 30 days of receiving a transmittal from the director that identifies fire hazard severity zones, to make the information available for public review and comment. AB 642 imposes requirements on local governments subsequent to CAL FIRE’s identification of the new fire hazard zones. **Signed, (Chapter 375, Statutes of 2021)**
SB 462 (Borgeas): Disaster Relief, an RCRC-supported bill, would add the Creek Fire of 2020 in Madera County and Fresno County to the emergencies eligible for the state to pay up to 100 percent of the costs out of the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) fund. SB 462, an RCRC-supported bill, represents the latest legislative attempt to relieve local governments of the 25 percent match requirement for CDAA funds in certain emergency circumstances. **Two-Year Bill**

**ENERGY**

After several years of declining electrical grid reliability, several bills were introduced to improve local energy resiliency, provide financial assistance to local governments to mitigate the loss of electricity, and clarify local authority to declare public safety power shutoff (PSPS)-related emergencies. Several other bills successfully sought to facilitate biomass energy generation, both through broadening existing programs and directing research, development, and demonstration funding to biomass projects that can help with fuels reduction, forest health improvement, and organic waste management. Other measures that continue to work their way through the process would remove barriers for utilities to clear vegetation that poses a risk to the grid.

**AB 33 (Ting): Energy Conservation Assistance Account**, expands the Energy Commission’s State Energy Conservation Assistance Account to provide financial assistance to local governments, public institutions, and tribes to install energy storage systems and transportation electrification infrastructure. RCRC supported AB 33. **Signed, (Chapter 226, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 322 (Salas): Electric Program Investment Charge – Biomass**, requires the Energy Commission to consider bioenergy projects for biomass conversion when awarding funds under the Electric Program Investment Charge program. RCRC supported AB 322. **Signed, (Chapter 229, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 418 (Valladares): Community Power Resiliency**, would have established a Community Power Resiliency Program through which the Office of Emergency Services will award grants to counties, cities, special districts, and tribal governments for energy resilience improvements. RCRC helped to draft the bill and strongly supported it. **Vetoed**

**AB 843 (Aguiar-Curry): Biomass Energy**, allows Community Choice Aggregators to access the CPUC BioMAT program, which promotes small renewable bioenergy projects, including biomass and biogas. Sponsored by Pioneer Community Energy, RCRC supported AB 843 as a way to spur the development of local biomass projects that can help achieve wildfire risk reduction goals. **Signed, (Chapter 234, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 1078 (Patterson): Residential Rebuild Exemption From Solar Power Mandate**, seeks to exempt residential buildings damaged or destroyed in a disaster during the 2020 calendar year from having to install solar energy systems under the California Energy Commission’s recently adopted building requirements. RCRC supported AB 1078, which builds upon similar relief granted to victims of previous wildfires. **Two-Year Bill**
AB 1403 (Levine): California Emergency Management Act, sought to clarify that the Governor may declare statewide emergencies resulting from public safety power shutoffs (PSPS). RCRC supported AB 1403 as it originally would have clarified both local and state authority to declare PSPS emergencies; however, late amendments narrowed the scope of the bill to just address gubernatorially declared emergencies. **Vetoed**

SB 52 (Dodd): California Emergency Management Act, clarifies that deenergization events (also known as PSPS events) qualify as events for which a local emergency can be declared under the California Emergency Services Act. RCRC strongly supported SB 52, which was sponsored by Napa County. **Signed, (Chapter 597, Statutes of 2021)**

SB 99 (Dodd): Community Energy Resiliency Grant Program, would have required the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to develop and implement a grant program for local governments to develop community energy resilience plans. RCRC helped to modify the proposal to increase its appeal to local governments and reduce derivative burdens. **Failed Passage**

SB 341 (McGuire): Telecommunications Service Outages, makes several changes to increase oversight and accountability of telecommunications service outages. RCRC supported SB 341. **Signed, (Chapter 425, Statutes of 2021)**

SB 396 (Dahle): Vegetation Management and Utility Line Clearances, seeks to facilitate utility removal of cut/felled trees at no expense to the property owner and clarify that utilities can access and remove material that may fall onto a power line and which is located outside of the boundaries of their easement. While sharing the author’s objectives, RCRC reluctantly opposed SB 396 because late amendments eliminated some landowner protections and increased wildfire risk after utility vegetation management. SB 396 is expected to be amended to address many stakeholder concerns in early 2022. **Two-Year Bill**

SB 533 (Stern): Wildfire Mitigation Plans, requires utilities to discuss in their Wildfire Mitigation Plans efforts to improve their electrical systems, focused on those areas and assets that have been deenergized the greatest number of times. RCRC supported SB 533. **Signed, (Chapter 244, Statutes of 2021)**

**HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL SERVICES**

Throughout 2020 and into 2021 the COVID-19 pandemic played an important role in Health Services policy decisions. RCRC advocated for pandemic response funding and resources, ongoing state investment in local public health infrastructure and permanent continuation of telehealth flexibilities utilized in the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, RCRC with county partner organizations worked to ensure the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) current cost-sharing ration of 65 percent state/35 percent county was preserved preventing a significant increase in local county costs for the program.

**Local Public Health Jurisdiction Budget Request (Committee on Budget): CA Can’t Wait Coalition**, RCRC joined a coalition of local public health officials, county governments, frontline health workers, and community advocates requesting the Legislature and Governor adopt a
$200 million annual investment in local public health workforce and infrastructure in the 2021-22 budget. The coalition's efforts resulted in Governor Newsom, and Legislators committing to a new, $300 million annual public health investment beginning in 2022-23 budget and a study regarding public health infrastructure needs in fiscal year 2021-22. The investments will be targeted to local health infrastructure, workforce development, and health equity measures. RCRC, along with coalition partners, will continue advocacy efforts to ensure the funding commitment in long-term public health is including in next year's budget.

**AB 133 (Committee on Budget): Health**, this trailer bill, among other provisions, contains an extension of existing telehealth flexibilities, including video and audio visits paid at parity with in-person visits until December 31, 2022. Additionally, the bill creates an advisory group on telehealth to inform the 2022–23 proposed Governor’s Budget. The Advisory Group will provide recommendations to inform the department in establishing and adopting billing and utilization management protocols for telehealth modalities to increase access and equity and reduce disparities in the Medi-Cal program. RCRC supported similar provisions within AB 32 that were ultimately folded into AB 133. Telehealth access and flexibility remain a key priority for RCRC moving into 2022. **Signed, (Chapter 143, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 135 (Committee on Budget): Human Services**, RCRC joined CSAC and numerous other county partner organizations and provider unions in sponsoring a coalition budget proposal to preserve collective bargaining funding mechanisms, including maintaining the IHSS cost-sharing ratio at 65 percent state/35 percent County for wages, health benefits and non-health benefits, the continuation of the state participation cap and ten percent over three years tool. The coalition was a success in getting this proposal included in AB 135. In addition, RCRC opposed the provision within the bill that imposes a seven percent realignment withholding penalty on counties that fail to reach an In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) collective bargaining agreement. The penalty was included in the final bill that was signed into law. The coalition was successful in ensuring the withholding is one-time. **Signed, (Chapter 85, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 410 (Fong): Nurse Licensure**, would authorize state licensing entities to issue a multistate nursing license and allow the license holder to practice as a registered nurse or a licensed vocational nurse in all party states under a multistate licensure privilege. AB 410 will enable high-quality nurses to quickly relocate and provide relief to nurses and patients in California as well as utilize telehealth to increase access to care in underserved populations throughout the state. RCRC supported AB 410. **Two-Year Bill**

**AB 640 (Cooley): Foster Care**, is related to eligibility redeterminations for Extended Foster Care (EFC). The bill allows a county to do eligibility redeterminations to establish Title IV-E eligibility for many of these youth as they enter EFC, without any disruption in services or supports to these youth. RCRC supported AB 640 and submitted a request for signature to Governor Newsom. **Signed, (Chapter 622, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 808 (Stone): Foster Youth**, would create the Children’s Crisis Continuum Pilot Program to support child welfare-involved youth with complex care needs who have historically been sent out-of-state for treatment. AB 808 would create integrated continuums of intensive, highly
individualized treatment settings to support stabilization and step-down to home-based care across California. RCRC supported AB 808. **Two-Year Bill**

**AB 988 (Bauer-Kahan): Mental Health**, was intended to provide a framework in state law to implement the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 (NSHD) by July 16, 2022, designating "988" as a three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. While discussions continue around “988”, the budget included a $20 million investment as a first step to build the 988 call center network and support infrastructure required for future implementation. **Two-Year Bill**

**PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

California’s rural counties play a critical role in protecting their local communities. RCRC works to ensure that county public safety programs and services are provided adequate funding and advocates for long-term funding mechanisms that support the county’s role to protect local communities. This legislative year included methodology to distribute AB 1869 (2020) backfill to counties for court fine and fee elimination for five years to compensate for revenue loss, as well as a new slate of court fine and fee eliminations with $50 million annually backfill ongoing to be distributed starting in 2021. Moving into next year, bail reform, juvenile justice, and additional court fine and fees elimination are likely to be hot topics.

**SB 2 (Bradford): Peace Officer Certification**, creates a statewide decertification process for peace officers by granting new powers to the Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training. The measure establishes processes for investigating and determining the fitness of a person to be a peace officer as well as for suspending or revoking the certification of officers found to have engaged in serious misconduct. **Signed, (Chapter 409, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 586 (Bradford): Peace Officer Certification**, was amended late in the session to make corrective changes to carry out the statewide decertification process for peace officers established in SB 2. RCRC previously submitted a letter of concern for the bill, which would have eliminated an array of court-related fees without county backfill. **Signed, (Chapter 429, Statutes of 2021)**

**SB 16 (Skinner): Release of Records**, expands the categories of police personnel records subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act. As amended late in the session, SB 16 requires that records related to the use of excessive or unreasonable force must be sustained in order to qualify for expanded public access. **Signed, (Chapter 402, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 143 (Committee on Budget): Courts**, specifies the methodology to distribute the $65 million in backfill authorized in AB 1869, a 2020-21 budget trailer bill that repealed about two dozen criminal justice administrative fees and vacated all associated debt. Pursuant to the provisions of AB 1869, the backfill will be paid to counties for five years (2021-22 through 2025-26) in recognition of revenue loss connected to the elimination of fee authority. Distribution of funds to counties by the Controller is slated for December. **Signed, (Chapter 79, Statutes of 2021)**
AB 177 (Committee of Budget): Public Safety, this trailer bill, among other provisions, (1) repeals as of January 1, 2022, the authority to collect another round of specified criminal justice administrative fees upon conviction or arrest; (2) vacate all previously levied debt associated with these same fees on the effective date of the repeal; and (3) appropriate to counties $25 million in 2021-22 (for half-year implementation) and $50 million annually thereafter to backfill associated revenue losses. RCRC along with Urban Counties of California and California State Association of Counties, engaged extensively in policy conversation on court-related fine and fee reform since 2019 to ensure counties receive backfill to address the direct fiscal impacts to county governments resulting from the repeal of court fines and fees. RCRC supported AB 177 and submitted a request for signature to Governor Newsom. **Signed, (Chapter 257, Statutes of 2021)**

SB 493 (Bradford): Juvenile Justice, would permit the redirection of nearly every dollar of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funds, revise the composition of local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils, and recast various elements of required multiagency juvenile justice plans. RCRC firmly opposed this bill. **Two-Year Bill**

SB 262 (Hertzberg): Bail, would make various changes to the current cash bail system, including, among other provisions, requiring the Judicial Council to adopt a uniform statewide bail schedule. Senator Hertzberg remains committed to bail reform and has expressed his clear intent to pursue this measure in 2022. **Two-Year Bill**

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Much of the legislative focus in the solid waste arena centered around reorganization of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), efforts to increase recycling of single use packaging, and attempts to improve the beverage container recycling program. Long criticized for administrative problems and fiscal insolvency, DTSC reform efforts have been underway for the last decade. In 2021, those efforts culminated in a budget trailer bill that enhances oversight of DTSC’s governance, improves the permitting process, and provides a significant influx of revenues to enable DTSC to regulate hazardous wastes and oversee remediation of contaminated sites.

Efforts to improve recycling of single-use packaging were a hot topic in 2021, with several proposals to increase minimum recycled content requirements and improve recyclability and compostability of consumer products. Placeholder language moved its way through the process to offer an alternative to a looming ballot measure that places a new fee on manufacturers of single-use packaging and food service ware to fund state and local recycling and waste prevention programs.

Finally, several major bills to rework the beverage container recycling program worked their way through the Legislature; however, only minor incremental approaches to increase administrative flexibility were ultimately signed into law.

**AB 1 (C. Garcia): DTSC Governance and Fiscal Reform**, would have made substantial changes to the governance of the DTSC. It would have also increased various fees that fund DTSC and repealed existing local government fee exemptions. RCRC expressed deep concerns with the structure of the bill and ultimately worked with the author and administration.
to resolve those issues. AB 1 was dropped with enactment of SB 158 (noted below) which was an improved version of the DTSC overhaul bill. **Two-Year Bill**

**AB 246 (Quirk): Illegal Dumping**, allows the Contractors State Licensing Board to take disciplinary actions against a contractor who violates state or local laws prohibiting illegal dumping. RCRC supported AB 246. **Signed, (Chapter 46, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 318 (Levine): Characterization of Green Waste**, sought to require the Department of Toxic Substances Control to provide guidance to certified unified program agencies on how to characterize green waste under state and federal hazardous waste control laws. The author intended to ensure that cannabis waste was not considered hazardous and so barred from landfill disposal and use in compost. RCRC did not adopt a formal position, but worked closely with the author to narrow the scope of the bill and avoid unintentionally adding costs and burdens on local governments. **Two-Year Bill**

**AB 332 (ESTM): Treated Wood Waste**, reestablishes a viable pathway for the alternative management and disposal of treated wood waste in a landfill. With Governor Newsom’s veto of SB 68 in 2020, Californians were left with no practical or viable options for proper disposal of treated wood waste. RCRC worked with the Department of Toxic Substances Control to develop and implement a stop-gap permitting solution while the Legislature considered AB 332. RCRC supported AB 332. **Signed (Chapter 147, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 478 (Ting): Minimum Recycled Content Requirement for Thermoform Plastic Containers**, sought to establish minimum recycled content requirements for thermoform plastic packaging (often used for clamshell food packaging), similar to a recent law for plastic beverage containers. Late in the process, the bill was amended to eliminate the ability to receive the commingled rate for bales of plastic beverage containers that contain any amount of thermoform packaging. This would have had a substantial negative impact on ratepayers, local governments, and the solid waste industry. While supportive of the minimum recycled content requirements, RCRC joined several other solid waste industry organizations in opposing AB 478 unless the provisions restricting payment of the commingled rate were removed from the bill. **Two-Year Bill**

**AB 734 (E. Garcia): Organic Waste**, seeks to authorize edible food recycled into animal or livestock feed to count toward a local government’s requirement to recover at least 20 percent of edible food waste by 2025. The bill was amended late and so did not receive a policy committee hearing. RCRC is closely tracking the bill and other SB 1383 organic waste recycling legislation. **Two-Year Bill**

**AB 881 (Gonzalez): Plastic Waste Export**, repeals the ability for local governments to claim diversion credit for certain plastic waste that is exported for recycling. RCRC did not take a formal position, but worked extensively with the author and other local government entities to narrow the scope of the bill to ensure it did not preclude the ability for local governments to claim diversion credit for plastics exported in compliance with the Basel Accord. **Signed (Chapter 591, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 1201 (Ting): Compostable Products and Collection**, improves the quality of compostable products that enter the waste stream and labeling of those products so consumers
and facilities can easily determine what is compostable. RCRC led local government efforts to support AB 1201, but ultimately opposed the bill when late amendments were added at the end of session. Those late changes unintentionally require CalRecycle to order the bifurcation of organic waste collection and processing systems if CalRecycle determines it is feasible to do so. Stakeholders argued that they intended to limit CalRecycle’s authority to ordering bifurcation of compostable product labeling, not the collection system. RCRC and others convinced the author to write a Letter to the Assembly Journal clarifying that this was not his intent and secured his commitment to introducing clean-up legislation to address this ambiguity in 2022. **Signed, (Chapter 504, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 1311 (Wood): Beverage Container Recycling**, provides CalRecycle with additional flexibility increase consumer access to beverage container redemption opportunities by allowing CalRecycle to approve operation of redemption centers with alternative hours of operation. RCRC provided technical assistance on, and lent its support to, AB 1311. **Signed, (Chapter 506, Statutes of 2021)**

**AB 1454 (Bloom): Beverage Container Recycling**, makes several changes to the Beverage Container Recycling Program, including creation of a new $25,000 startup loan for the creation of new recycling centers in unserved or underserved areas and increased payments to redemption centers with an even greater increase in rural areas. RCRC supported AB 1454 and worked with the author and sponsors to include the rural assistance pieces. **Two-Year Bill**

**SB 38 (Wieckowski): Beverage Container Recycling**, seeks to replace the existing Beverage Container Recycling Program (Bottle Bill) with a new recycling program administered by beverage container manufacturers and increases the CRV from $0.05 to $0.10 per container. SB 38 also seeks to repeal the $10.5 million annually set aside for payments to cities and counties to address recycling and litter. RCRC opposed SB 38 and suggested several programmatic and structural changes to avoid adversely impacting local governments and protect consumers. **Two-Year Bill**

**SB 54 (Allen): Single Use Packaging and Food Service Ware**, seeks to require manufacturers of single-use, disposable packaging and food service ware to ensure that those products sold, distributed, or imported into the state are either recyclable or compostable. RCRC and other local governments Supported in Concept SB 54. The bill will be heavily amended in 2022 in an attempt to broker a deal between environmentalists, manufacturers, and local governments to withdraw a competing initiative from the November 2022 ballot. **Two-Year Bill**

**SB 158 (Budget and Fiscal Review): DTSC Governance and Fiscal Reform**, makes substantial changes to the governance of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), substantially increases various fees and taxes that fund DTSC and contaminated site cleanup, and improves the permitting and oversight of hazardous waste facilities. SB 158 also included $822 million for hazardous site cleanups throughout the state. RCRC opposed early versions of the bill and engaged vigorously with DTSC and the Legislature to remove provisions that would have substantially increased costs for local governments. RCRC ultimately removed its opposition to the proposal when its amendments were adopted. **Signed, (Chapter 73, Statutes of 2021)**
SB 207 (Dahle): Solar Panel Recycling, sought to establish an advisory group to make recommendations to ensure that, to the extent possible, all solar photovoltaic panels in the state are reused or recycled at the end of their lives in a safe and cost-effective manner. RCRC supported the measure as a way to help the state prepare for the coming flood of waste solar panels. The bill was ultimately gutted and amended to allow Siskiyou County to transfer responsibilities of the county road commissioner to the director of public works. Two-Year Bill

SB 244 (Archuleta): Lithium-ion Battery Fire Prevention, sought to prevent lithium-ion battery fires by requiring the state to develop best practices for the detection, safe handling, and suppression of fires that originate from discarded lithium-ion batteries in solid waste collection vehicles, transfer and processing stations, and disposal facilities. RCRC supported the bill after amendments were taken to ensure that local governments would not have to duplicate existing efforts. Vetoed

SB 289 (Newman): Battery Recycling, sought to require producers of battery and battery-embedded products to create stewardship organizations and programs for the collection, transportation, and recycling of those products. RCRC strongly supported SB 289 as a way to reduce the risk of battery-caused fires, disposal costs for ratepayers, and ensure that consumers have convenient access to proper management opportunities. Failed Passage

SB 619 (Laird): Organic Waste, provides local governments with one additional year to come into compliance with SB 1383 organic waste recycling regulations without being subject to penalties by CalRecycle, if certain conditions are met. Provisions providing flexibility for rural organic waste collection services were removed from the bill. RCRC worked closely with the author and strongly supported the bill as it moved through the Legislative process, but removed its support when the rural flexibility sections were removed from the bill. Signed, (Chapter 508, Statutes of 2021)

TRANSPORTATION

As with other major areas of policy this legislative year, much of the focus in transportation policy focused on near- and long-term budgetary challenges. The state provided a healthy allocation of transportation funding this budget year, and the prospect of a second surplus state budget year, combined with major new federal infrastructure spending, suggests that historic investments in surface, air, rail and water transportation will be made in coming years. There are two areas of transportation policy outside of budget spending that should be noted. On the electric vehicle (EV) front, the Legislature appears anxious to clear budgetary, process and permitting hurdles to deploy a robust EV charging network. RCRC continues to advocate that state policy and funding must focus on rural roadways, as many of the issues relating to range and access particularly manifest in rural areas—for both rural residents and for urbanites who are increasingly wanting to take their electric vehicles to rural destinations.

The Legislature also pushed a raft of major transportation planning legislation in an attempt to further usher local and regional transportation planning to prioritize reduction of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and related climate-focused transportation metrics. RCRC strongly opposed these bills, including because of their intrusion into local and regional transportation policy priorities.
AB 33 (Ting): Energy Storage Systems and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure, Requires the Energy Commission to provide grants and loans to local governments and public institutions to maximize energy use savings, expand installation of energy storage systems, and expand the availability of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, including technical assistance, demonstrations, and identification and implementation of cost-effective energy efficiency, energy storage, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure measures and programs in existing and planned buildings or facilities. Signed, (Chapter 226, Statues of 2021)

AB 970 (McCarty): Deemed Approved Permitting for EV Charging Stations, requires applications to install EV charging stations to be deemed complete by a local jurisdiction within five business days for one to 25 charging stations on a single site, or 10 business days to construct 25 or more, and also requires such applications to be deemed approved within 20 or 40 business days (respectively) after the application was submitted, as specified. For a local jurisdiction with a population of less than 200,000 residents, the bill’s provisions would become operative on January 1, 2023. Signed (Chapter 710, Statutes of 2021)

AB 1147 (Friedman): Transportation Planning: Active Transportation Program, would require a city, county, and city and county, not later than one year after State Air Resources Board’s acceptance of an applicable metropolitan planning organization’s submittal of a regional strategy, to submit a report to the applicable metropolitan planning organization that describes the actions the local agency has taken to implement, and that are consistent with, the strategy and identifies the barriers to further implementation of the strategy. Two-Year Bill

SB 261 (Allen): Sustainable Community Strategy Vehicle Miles Traveled Reductions, would require ARB to adopt new greenhouse gas emission and vehicle miles traveled reduction targets for incorporation into the sustainable communities’ strategies prepared by the state’s 18 metropolitan planning organizations. RCRC and many other local organizations opposed SB 261. The bill would make various conforming changes to integrate those additional targets into regional transportation plans. Two-Year Bill

SB 475 (Cortese): Transportation Planning: Sustainable Communities Strategies, would require the State Air Resources Board, on or before June 30, 2023, and in coordination with the California Transportation Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development, to issue new guidelines on sustainable communities strategies and require these guidelines to be updated thereafter at least every 4 years. The bill would require the State-Regional Collaborative for Climate, Equity, and Resilience to develop a quantitative tool for metropolitan planning organizations to use to evaluate a transportation plan’s consistency with long-range greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and recommend guidelines for metropolitan planning organizations to use when crafting long-range strategies that integrate state goals related to climate resilience and social equity. Two-Year Bill

WATER

Despite California entering a second year of record drought, much of the legislation introduced this session to address drought and water conservation were placed on two-year status or otherwise failed passage. Instead, the Legislature elected to focus its drought response policy through budget bills that bolstered existing local water assistance program funding, or that
established entirely new programs for emergency drought assistance. Similarly, legislation focused on groundwater conservation and sustainable yield management were sidelined in favor of funding in the state budget.

AB 128 (Ting): Budget Act of 2021, appropriated hundreds of millions in drought response, including $1,930,200,000 from the General Fund, $1,535,000,000 from the Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund of 2021, $7,000,000 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014, and $3,500,000 from the Safe Drinking Water Account for a water and drought resilience package. Signed, (Chapter 21, Statues of 2021)

AB 252 (R. Rivas): Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program, would establish the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program, for purposes of assisting groundwater sustainability agencies in critically overdrafted basins achieve their groundwater sustainability goal by providing grants to public and private entities for projects and programs that reduce groundwater use by converting irrigated agricultural land to new uses that both reduce groundwater demand or use and provide some other measurable benefits to the environment or broader community. A similar program was enacted through state budget legislation at an allocation of over $200 million. Two-Year Bill

AB 350 (Villapadua): Technical Assistance for Groundwater Management Planning, would require, upon an appropriation of funds, the Department of Food and Agriculture to establish and administer a 3-year grant program to fund technical assistance to support landowners located in a critically overdrafted basin in reaching water use reduction goals established pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Related technical assistance to critically overdrafted basins was allocated through state budget legislation. Two-Year Bill

AB 377 (R. Rivas): Impaired Waters, would require, by January 1, 2023, State Water Resources Control Board and regional boards to prioritize enforcement of all water quality standard violations that are causing or contributing to an exceedance of a water quality standard in a surface water of the state. The bill would require the state board and regional boards, by January 1, 2025, to evaluate impaired state surface waters and report to the Legislature a plan to bring all water segments into attainment by January 1, 2050. Two-Year Bill

AB 754 (Mathis): Groundwater Sustainability Plans, would authorize the Department of Water Resources to extend the deadline for a high- or medium-priority basin not subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated plans by up to 180 days after January 31, 2022, upon request of a local agency or groundwater sustainability agency for an extension of a specified period of time. Two-Year Bill

AB 1195 (C. Garcia): Transfer of Water Rights by Public Water Systems, would prohibit a public water system from transferring or abandoning a water right held by the public water system except upon approval of the state board. Two-Year Bill

AB 1434 (Friedman): Indoor Residential Water Use Objectives, would establish, beginning January 1, 2023, until January 1, 2025, the standard for indoor residential water use as 48 gallons per capita daily, and beginning January 1, 2025, the standard as 44 gallons per capita daily and, beginning January 1, 2030, 40 gallons per capita daily. Two-Year Bill
SB 170 (Skinner): **Budget Act of 2021**, appropriated hundreds of millions in drought response, including $200,000,000 to Department of Water Resources (DWR) for a new Small Community Drought Relief Program, and $100,000,000 to DWR for an Urban Community Drought Relief program. **Signed, (Chapter 240, Statues of 2021)**

SB 222 (Dodd): **Water Rate Assistance**, would establish the Water Rate Assistance Fund in the State Treasury to help provide water affordability assistance, for both drinking water and wastewater services, to low-income ratepayers and ratepayers experiencing economic hardship in California. **Two-Year Bill**

SB 223 (Dodd): **Discontinuation of Residential Water Service**, would prohibit a very small community water system, defined as a public water system that supplies water to 200 or fewer service connections, from discontinuing residential water service for nonpayment until a payment by a customer has been delinquent for at least 60 days. **Two-Year Bill**

SB 426 (Rubio): **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems: Financial Capability Analysis**, would require the State Water Resources Control Board, by July 1, 2022, to establish financial capability assessment guidelines for municipal separate storm sewer system permittees that are adequate and consistent when considering the costs to local jurisdictions. **Two-Year Bill**

SB 552 (Hertzberg): **Drought Planning and County Task Forces**, requires a county to establish a standing county drought and water shortage task force to facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county’s jurisdiction. Authorizes a county, in lieu of establishing a standing task force, to establish an alternative process that facilitates drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county’s jurisdiction. Provides that a county that has established a drought task force on or before January 1, 2022, shall be deemed in compliance with these requirements as long as the task force continues to exist. The bill would require a county to develop a plan that includes potential drought and water shortage risk and proposed interim and long-term solutions. **Signed, (Chapter 245, Statues of 2021)**

**Resources Bond Bills (Drought Response, Flood Protection, Safe Drinking Water, and Sustainable Agriculture)**

All three of the major resources bond proposals were placed on hold as the state received record revenues in 2021. It is unlikely these proposals will be advanced in 2022.

**AB 125 (R. Rivas): Equitable Economic Recovery, Healthy Food Access, Climate Resilient Farms, and Worker Protection Bond Act of 2022**, would authorize a $3.3 billion bond proposal to be considered by voters in 2022 to finance projects for agricultural land conservation, agricultural workforce development and training, climate resilience, fishing facilities, and fairgrounds. **Two-Year Bill**

**AB 1500 (E. Garcia): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022**, would authorize a $7 billion bond proposal to be considered by voters in 2022 to finance
projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, and extreme heat mitigation. **Two-Year Bill**

**SB 45 (Portantino): Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022**, would authorize a $5.6 billion bond proposal to be considered by voters in 2022 to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, and flood protection. **Two-Year Bill**

**WILDLIFE**

The Legislature had an active year legislating wildlife policy, particularly hunting policy. Some of the more far-reaching legislation—including a legislative resolution to U.S. Congress on wild horse policy, and a bill that would ban bear hunting—were temporarily shelved once faced with a large amount of stakeholder pushback, including by RCRC. Other bills sought to expand hunting access, including a bill emphatically directing the Director of Fish and Wildlife to declare two free hunting days annually, as is already required by law.

**AJR 5 (L. Rivas): Wild Horses and Burros Roundup Moratorium**, would urge the federal government to declare a moratorium on all further wild horse and burro round-ups and would urge the United States Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service to introduce and support populations in areas of California where wild horses and burros were historically present. **Two-Year Bill**

**AB 379 (Gallagher): Tribal Agreements for Wildlife Conservation**, authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the approval of the Wildlife Conservation Board, to enter into agreements with a California Native American tribe to provide for the construction, management, or maintenance of the facilities authorized by the board, and authorizes the tribe to construct, manage, or maintain those facilities pursuant to the agreement. **Signed, (Chapter 701, Statues of 2021)**

**AB 804 (Dahle): Free Hunting Days**, requires, rather than authorizes, the Director of Fish and Wildlife to establish 2 free hunting days per year no later than July 1, 2023. The bill would require Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue a registration for free hunting days to any California resident who provides the department with all information required to issue a California hunting license and evidence of completing a course in hunter education. **Signed, (Chapter 413, Statues of 2021)**
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