

california league of conservation voters

2006 LEGISLATIVE RESULTS



What a difference a year makes. CLCV responded to a lackluster legislative year in 2005 by reinvigorating its long-standing role as a convener of regular meetings of environmental advocates. The results: a shared agenda for California's environmental community and a more effective working relationship with the Legislature. Combined with our continued application of grassroots pressure, many more of our priority bills passed; 20 out of 29 reached the Governor's desk.

This year's disappointment lies in the continued mediocrity of the Governor's performance. Despite the Governor's high-profile signing of the landmark global warming bill (AB 32) and his public embrace of the environment, his record on signing strong environmental bills into law remains mixed. Of the 20 priority bills that reached the Governor's desk, he signed just 10. Several of his vetoes stood in stark contrast to his own stated goals of reducing pollution and they deprived California of crucial information and dollars needed to achieve those goals. The highlights—and lowlights—are below:

SIGNED INTO LAW: CLCV's innovative Member Action Campaign generated over 1500 real-time calls to legislators and the Governor, passing our members directly through to their lawmakers the moment their voice was most needed—resulting in these significant wins.



Global Warming

AB 32 (Núñez and Pavley) - A historic bill that reduces greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, refineries and other stationary sources to 1990 levels by 2020, a 20% reduction.

SB 1368 (Perata) - Prohibits California utilities from buying out-of-state electricity that does not meet the state's greenhouse gas emission standard.



Renewable Energy

SB 107 (Simitian) - Accelerates the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), now requiring all privately-owned utilities to get 20% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2010 instead of 2017.



Toxics & Public Health

AB 289 (Chan) - Allows state agencies to require manufacturers of chemicals to give the state their analytical method for detecting those chemicals.

SB 1379 (Perata & Ortiz) - Establishes a state biomonitoring program for voluntary testing of human blood, urine and breast milk for the presence of synthetic chemicals suspected of contributing to illness.

AB 1953 (Chan) - Requires faucets, fittings and fixtures that come in contact with drinking water to be lead-free by 2010, reducing exposure to lead which has long-term toxic effects, especially on infants and children.



Wildlife

SB 1535 (Kuehl) - Strengthens the chronically underfunded Department of Fish and Game by increasing fees to account for inflation.

AB 2485 (Jones) - Protects sea otters by increasing penalties for poaching, authorizing a state tax check-off for the newly-established California Sea Otter Fund, and requiring a warning on cat litter sold in the state (since cat feces may be contributing to exposure to disease and pathogens).

VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR:

These bills made it through the legislature to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's desk before he vetoed them—sometimes in contradiction to his previously stated environmental goals.



Air Quality

SB 927 (Lowenthal) - Would have reduced pollution from Southern California's biggest air polluters—the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach—by imposing a \$30 fee on each container entering the ports, to fund air pollution mitigation, rail improvements, and port security. **VETOED.**



Renewable Energy & Alternative Fuels

AB 1012 (Nation) - Would have required that 50 percent of the vehicles sold in California by 2020 run on clean alternative fuels and that retail fuel providers (i.e. gas stations) provide an alternative fuel once a threshold number of vehicles are in the state. **VETOED.**

SB 757 (Kehoe) - Would have established a policy directing state agencies to take every cost-effective and technologically feasible action to reduce the state's dependence on petroleum and to increase vehicle efficiency and the use of alternative fuels. **VETOED.**



Land Use

AB 1020 (Hancock) - Would have required regional transportation planning agencies to update their transportation models to incorporate policies that reduce traffic jams, travel times, air pollution, and urban sprawl. **VETOED.**

SB 1796 (Florez) - Would have reconstituted the Reclamation Board to improve flood protection in the Central Valley, the region of the country most poorly protected against floods. **VETOED.**



Toxics

AB 2490 (Ruskin) - Would have safeguarded the state from the proposed Bush rollback to the federal Toxics Release Inventory—the right-to-know law about toxics released into the environment—by requiring the state to continue to collect toxics release data in the event that the Bush rollback becomes implemented. **VETOED.**



Water Quality

SB 1640 (Kuehl) - Would have required increased reporting on surface water and groundwater uses to help the state understand the ways in which people use water, how they manage water, and how to meet the needs of California's growing population. **VETOED.**



Coastal Protection

AB 2444 (Klehs) - Would have helped to fund management of traffic congestion and mitigation of coastal pollution by allowing individual Bay Area counties to each increase vehicle registration fees by up to \$5 per vehicle. **VETOED.**

AB 2838 (Pavley) - Would have authorized any of 12 coastal and Bay Area counties to impose a fee of up to \$6 per vehicle to mitigate the environmental impacts of vehicles and roads; unlike AB 2444, AB 2838 required only a majority vote of county supervisors to approve the fee. **VETOED.**