



CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS 2014 LEGISLATIVE RESULTS



It's no exaggeration to say that 2014 was a historic year for California's environment. Here are a number of the year's most significant battles CLCV and the state's environmental community fought in Sacramento. Find a full review of 2014 in the *California Environmental Scorecard*, available online by the end of October at www.ecovote.org/scorecard.

WINS: PASSED AND SIGNED INTO LAW



BANNING PLASTIC BAGS: Plastic bags are wasteful and they clutter our cities, coastline, and waterways. **SB 270** (Padilla) makes California the first state in the nation to enact a statewide ban of single-use plastic bags in grocery stores, convenience stores, and pharmacies. With over 120 California cities and counties already implementing some kind of plastic bag ban, the statewide ban once again positions California as the nation's leading environmental state.

MANAGING GROUNDWATER: Nearly 75% of the state relies on groundwater for some portion of their water needs. Prior to this year, however, California was the only Western state that did not manage its groundwater. Three bills signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown, **AB 1739** (Dickinson), **SB 1168** (Pavley), and **SB 1319** (Pavley), create a much-needed framework for local and regional groundwater management, especially for the most threatened groundwater basins in the state.



REDUCING VEHICLE EMISSIONS: Two bills this year encourage the development of alternative vehicle technology. **SB 1275** (de León), the "Charge Ahead California Initiative," directs the Air Resources Board to develop a long-term funding plan to put one million electric cars on the road. **SB 1204** (Lara & Pavley) picks up where **SB 1275** leaves off, directing the ARB to fund the development of technology to reduce pollution from medium- and heavy-duty trucks and buses. Both bills direct funds toward the communities who suffer the most.

CLOSING A GREEN WASTE LOOPHOLE: To mitigate odors and risks to public health, landfills are required to be covered each day with clean material. Previously, the state allowed yard trimmings that were used as landfill cover to be counted as "diverted" from landfills; consequently, much green waste was ending up in landfills despite the growth of our composting infrastructure. **AB 1594** (Williams) eliminates that loophole, which means more green waste will be composted.



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WINS: PASSED AND SIGNED INTO LAW, CONTINUED

REQUIRING FLAME RETARDANT LABELING: 85% of couches contain toxic flame retardant chemicals that don't prevent fires but *do* jeopardize childrens' and firefighters' health. The good news is that California has been gradually updating flammability rules. **SB 1019** (Leno) establishes a simple but important labeling requirement: furniture manufacturers must disclose flame retardant content.



WINS: BAD BILLS STOPPED IN THE LEGISLATURE

IMPLEMENTING CLIMATE PROTECTIONS: The oil industry unleashed several last-ditch attacks against the implementation of AB 32, California's landmark climate and clean energy law. Bills such as **AB 69** (Perea), which would have jeopardized funding for clean air programs by delaying the inclusion of transportation fuels in the state's cap-and-trade program, loomed over the final month of the legislative session. However, the environmental community and lawmakers made a strong stand and warded off these attacks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: FAILED IN THE LEGISLATURE

These bills did not pass in 2014, but we will continue to fight to pass meaningful environmental laws on these and other important issues. Find out how you can take action to support strong environmental laws at act.ecovote.org.



PUTTING A HALT TO FRACKING: The dangers of fracking and other extreme methods of extracting oil and gas have become well-known over the last several years. **SB 1132** (Mitchell), which would have imposed a moratorium on fracking and other unconventional drilling practices, fell five votes short in the State Senate. California's oil lobby, led by the Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA), spent an estimated \$15 million this legislative session on lobbying activities to defeat the fracking moratorium. And, despite their deep pockets, we came very close to getting this bill through the State Senate, which represents significant progress. More than 100 environmental, business, labor, health, social justice, and other groups worked together to advocate for **SB 1132**, and several counties and cities are now working to pass local moratoria on fracking and other risky drilling practices.

REDUCING PLASTIC POLLUTION: Many personal care products, including some soaps, gels, and toothpastes, contain plastic microbeads. These tiny plastic particles offer dubious benefits but are a big environmental problem. As they are flushed down drains, they're becoming more and more pervasive in our waterways and in the ocean, where they absorb toxins and bioaccumulate up the food chain, posing a serious health threat to both people and wildlife. **AB 1699** (Bloom), which would have restricted the use of plastic microbeads in personal care products, failed in the State Senate by one vote.



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