



CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS 2013 LEGISLATIVE RESULTS



The first year of California's 2013-14 legislative session is over, and the tally is in. The final days of the session brought a flurry of legislative action on a number of CLCV's and the environmental community's highest priority bills, followed by a month in which Governor Jerry Brown signed or vetoed the legislation that reached his desk.

We had important wins as well as hard-fought losses in 2013, detailed below. Read a full review of 2013 in the *California Environmental Scorecard* at www.ecovote.org/scorecard, available online by the end of October. We have more work to do, but with your help, we will keep up the fight.

WINS

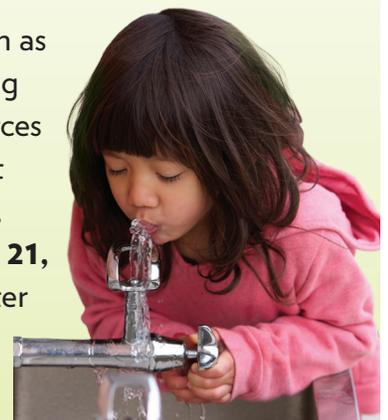
LEAD AMMO: Lead ammunition is a toxic threat to California condors, eagles, fish, and other wild animals, as well as to people who eat the meat of animals caught or hunted in California. **AB 711** (Rendon) will phase in a ban on lead ammunition in hunting over a four-year period.



CLEANER ENGINES: **AB 8** (Perea) reauthorizes the Carl Moyer Program (AB 923) and the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Fund (AB 118). The Carl Moyer program reduces health risks by supporting early upgrades and replacements of polluting diesel engines; to date, it has cleaned up 48,000 engines, preventing the release of 146,000 tons of smog-forming emissions. Since 2007, AB 118 has supported the deployment of 23,000 clean- and alternative-fueled vehicles and the creation of more than 7,600 jobs.

FLAME RETARDANTS: All building insulation in California is currently required to include flame retardant chemicals, which are both toxic and ineffective. **AB 127** (Skinner) calls for a revision of the California Building Code to reduce the use of flame retardant chemicals in building insulation while maintaining building fire safety and encouraging healthy building practices.

CLEAN WATER: In recent years, the legislature passed several important bills known as the Human Right to Water package. These bills were a huge step toward ensuring access to clean drinking water for all Californians; however, the State Water Resources Control Board reports that 21 million Californians in 680 communities still do not have access to uncontaminated water. Several Assemblymembers (Alejo, Perea, Rendon, and Stone) therefore introduced another package of bills, including **AB 21**, **AB 30**, and **AB 115**, which will provide funding for the state's work to provide water to small and disadvantaged communities.



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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Since this was the first year of a two-year legislative session, several of our priority bills will be back next year. We'll be ready to work—with your help—to pass them and make sure the governor signs them into law.

PLASTIC BAG POLLUTION: Cities and counties throughout California continue to pass local bag bans, but statewide efforts have fallen just short. **SB 405** (Padilla) would have phased out plastic carryout bags in grocery, convenience, and drug stores; it failed narrowly in the Senate. Senator Padilla plans to bring the bill back in 2014.

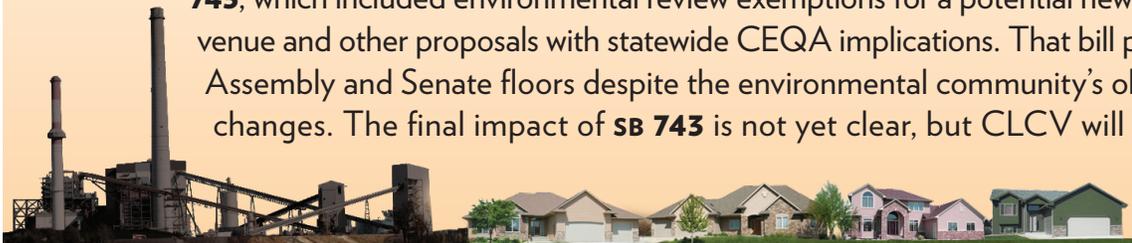


COASTAL ENFORCEMENT: The California Coastal Commission is charged with implementing the Coastal Act, which was passed in 1976 to protect the state's 1,100 mile coastline and public access to the coast. But the Commission doesn't have the power to impose fines on those who intentionally violate the Coastal Act. **AB 976** (Atkins), which would have given the Coastal Commission that power, initially passed the Assembly and Senate. However, when it came back to the Assembly for what should have been a routine concurrence vote on amendments, it failed.

FRACKING: For the past three years, CLCV has worked to address the health and environmental risks of hydraulic fracturing for oil, or "fracking." Early in 2013, CLCV worked to stop **AB 7** (Wieckowski) because its fracking regulations would not have gone far enough. CLCV worked all year with environmental allies in support of **SB 4** (Pavley), because the bill includes substantial new requirements to assess risks and put protections in place. **SB 4** requires groundwater monitoring before and after fracking operations, disclosure of chemicals used, and notification of local residents of the practice. Unfortunately, last-minute amendments weakened its environmental review requirements; consequently, CLCV and other environmental groups could no longer support the bill. CLCV is now calling on Governor Brown to immediately impose a moratorium on fracking and acidizing (another risky oil extraction technique).



CEQA: Every year, it seems like there's a new attack on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on behalf of interests that benefit from reduced environmental review. In 2013, refreshingly, Senate President *pro Tem* Darrell Steinberg introduced a CEQA reform bill, **SB 731**, that earned the support of many environmental organizations. At the end of the session, though, **SB 731** was shelved. Senator Steinberg then introduced **SB 743**, which included environmental review exemptions for a potential new Sacramento basketball venue and other proposals with statewide CEQA implications. That bill passed easily off the Assembly and Senate floors despite the environmental community's objections to the CEQA changes. The final impact of **SB 743** is not yet clear, but CLCV will continue to fight to preserve CEQA's bedrock protections.



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