

2007

LEGISLATIVE RESULTS



california league of conservation voters

The story of this year's legislative session starts with last year's elections. As promised, CLCV helped usher out some of California's most under-performing legislators and replaced them with freshmen ready to deliver. We were able to boost our effectiveness with the coordinated lobbying power of our statewide coalition of environmental and public health groups, Green California.

The result: we moved a record number of bills to Governor Schwarzenegger's desk — 28 of our 33 priority bills — and he modestly improved his environmental score by signing 19 into law. In 2008, we will continue to push the Governor to lead by example and improve his environmental record even more.

SIGNED INTO LAW:

In true grassroots style, CLCV members helped pass laws through their participation in our Membership Action Campaigns.

We generated more than 1250 real-time calls to legislators and the Governor, giving CLCV members a direct connection to Sacramento when it was needed the most.



Air Quality

SB 719 (Machado): Reforms the San Joaquin Unified Air Pollution Control District by including representation from the medical and scientific community — a huge step in addressing the nation's worst air quality.



Toxics

AB 1108 (Ma): Prohibits the use of phthalates — toxic chemicals used to soften plastic — in toys and childcare products designed for children age 3 and younger.

AB 833 (Ruskin): Counteracts federal rollback of the Toxics Release Inventory — the right-to-know law that provided pollution information on 650 industrial chemicals — by requiring the state to report toxic releases as previously required.



Renewable Energy/ Global Warming

AB 1470 (Huffman): Establishes a \$250 million/year incentive program to encourage homeowners and businesses to reduce natural gas use by installing solar hot water heaters.

AB 1613 (Blakeslee): Authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to require utilities to buy excess electricity from combined heat and power (CHP) facilities, which can greatly increase efficiency.



Wildlife

AB 821 (Nava): Bans the use of lead ammunition when hunting big game within the range of the California condor, removing one of the biggest threats to condor survival — ingestion of lead ammunition in carrion.



Water

AB 70 (Jones), SB 5 (Machado), and SB 17 (Florez): Help protect the state's most flood-vulnerable areas by limiting development in flood plains and expanding local liability for damage resulting from improper development in flood plains.



VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR: These bills made it through the legislature to the Governor's desk before he vetoed them — sometimes in contradiction to his previously stated environmental goals.



Global Warming/
Energy

SB 210 (Kehoe): Would have expanded on the Governor's Low-Carbon Fuel Standard by reducing carbon content from transportation fuels 10% by 2020.

AB 888 (Lieu and Laird): Would have required large commercial buildings built after 2013 to meet green building standards, helping reduce energy use, water consumption, and waste generation.



Wildlife

AB 828 (Ruskin): Would have required the state to study and identify California's critical wildlife corridors and natural habitat lands, providing necessary information to ensure the long-term health of our natural communities.

AB 1032 (Wolk): Would have helped protect critical habitat for threatened and endangered fish by limiting suction dredge gold mining on certain salmon and trout streams.



Water

SB 862 (Kuehl): Would have taken key steps to strengthen long-term water planning by establishing enforceable reporting and planning requirements for large water users.



Toxics

AB 48 (Saldaña): Would have prohibited the sale in California, after 2010, of electronic devices that contain lead, mercury or other toxic heavy metals, following the example of the European Union.

FAILED IN THE LEGISLATURE: Unfortunately, several of the environmental community's top priority bills never made it to the Governor. There is still hope for two extremely important environmental protection bills, SB 375 and SB 974. They will be on the docket in 2008, in the second year of the two-year legislative session.



Land Use

SB 375 (Steinberg): Would establish incentives for local governments to adopt plans that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel consumption, and conserve farmland and habitat by encouraging transit-friendly communities. **HELD IN COMMITTEE (Assembly Appropriations); 2-YEAR BILL.**



Air Quality

SB 974 (Lowenthal): Would create ongoing funding to clean up the ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Oakland, which comprise the single largest source of air pollution in the state. **HELD ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR; 2-YEAR BILL.**



Global Warming/
Energy

AB 493 (Ruskin): Would have given rebates to buyers of vehicles that emit the lowest levels of greenhouse gases and added surcharges to vehicles that are the worst contributors to global warming, a simple market-based program to put more clean cars and trucks on the road. **FAILED ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR.**



Coastal
Protection

AB 904 (Feuer): Would have greatly reduced plastic marine waste, helping protect wildlife and our coastline, by requiring food providers to use only recyclable or compostable take-out containers. **HELD IN ASSEMBLY.**

