

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1482 (Gordon)

As Amended September 1, 2015

Majority vote

ASSEMBLY: 63-12 (June 2, 2015)

SENATE: 27-13 (September 8, 2015)

Original Committee Reference: **NAT. RES.**

SUMMARY: Requires the California Natural Resources Agency (NRA) to update its climate adaptation strategy, the Safeguarding California Plan (Plan), by July 1, 2017, and every three years thereafter by coordinating adaptation activities among lead state agencies in each sector. This bill also requires the relevant state agencies to maximize specified objectives across sectors to address vulnerabilities identified in the Plan and requires the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) to identify and review activities and funding programs of state agencies that may be coordinated to meet the goals of the strategies and priorities in the Plan.

The Senate amendments:

- 1) Add the requirement that NRA update the Plan, by July 1, 2017, and every three years thereafter and specify which sectors, at a minimum, should be included in the plan.
- 2) Rather than requiring that NRA, in coordination with the SGC, review and coordinate existing grants and programs to maximize objectives to address climate impacts, the amendments instead require relevant state agencies to maximize specified objectives across sectors to address vulnerabilities identified in the Plan.
- 3) Rather than requiring that SGC oversee and coordinate state agency actions to adapt to climate change, the amendment instead require SGC to identify and review activities and funding programs of state agencies that may be coordinated to meet the goals of the strategies and priorities in the Plan.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires, pursuant to the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32 (Núñez), Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006), the Air Resources Board (ARB) to adopt a statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions limit equivalent to 1990 levels by 2020 and to adopt rules and regulations to achieve maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective GHG emission reductions.
- 2) Pursuant to Executive Order S-13-08 (Schwarzenegger), requires NRA, through the Climate Action Team, to coordinate with local, regional, state, federal, and private entities to develop, by 2009, a state Climate Adaptation Strategy. Requires the strategy to summarize the best known science on climate change impacts to California, assess California's vulnerability to the identified impacts, and outline solutions that can be implemented within and across state agencies to promote resiliency.
- 3) Pursuant to Executive Order B-30-15 (Brown), in addition to establishing a 40% GHG emission reduction goal by 2030, requires several actions on adaptation including:

- a) Requires NRA to update every three years the state's climate adaptation strategy and ensure that its provisions are fully implemented. Requires the state's climate adaptation strategy to:
 - i) Identify vulnerabilities to climate change by sector and regions, including, at a minimum, the following sectors: water, energy, transportation, public health, agriculture, emergency services, forestry, biodiversity and habitat, and ocean and coastal resources;
 - ii) Outline primary risks to residents, property, communities, and natural systems from these vulnerabilities, and identify priority actions needed to reduce these risks; and,
 - iii) Identify a lead agency or group of agencies to lead adaptation efforts in each sector.
- b) Requires each sector lead to prepare an implementation plan by September 2015 to outline the actions that will be taken as identified in state's climate adaptation strategy, and report back on those actions to the NRA.
- c) Requires state agencies to take climate change into account in their planning and investment decisions, and employ full life-cycle cost accounting to evaluate and compare infrastructure investments and alternatives.
- d) Requires state agencies' planning and investment to be guided by the principles of climate preparedness, flexibility and adaptive approaches for uncertain climate impacts, protective of vulnerable populations, and prioritization of natural infrastructure solutions.
- e) Requires the state's Five-Year Infrastructure Plan to take current and future climate change impacts into account in all infrastructure projects.
- f) Requires OPR to establish a technical, advisory group to help state agencies incorporate climate change impacts into planning and investment decisions.
- g) Requires the state to continue its rigorous climate change research program focused on understanding the impacts of climate change and how best to prepare and adapt to such impacts.

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) Unknown ongoing costs in the low millions of dollars to the General Fund for each update of the Plan after 2017.
- 2) Unknown cost pressures in the millions of dollars to the General Fund and various special funds to implement the climate adaptation strategy and the Infrastructure Plan.

COMMENTS: According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, "adaptation is the adjustments that society or ecosystems make to limit negative effects of climate change. It can also include taking advantage of opportunities that a changing climate provides." In 2009, the NRA described adaptation as a relatively new concept in California policy and stated the term means, "efforts that respond to the impacts of climate change – adjustments in natural or human systems to actual or expected climate changes to minimize harm or take advantage of beneficial opportunities."

California's adaptation efforts can be traced back to 2008, when Governor Schwarzenegger ordered the NRA, through the Climate Action Team, to coordinate with local, regional, state, federal, public and private entities to develop, by 2009, the state's Climate Adaptation Strategy. The Governor Schwarzenegger's Executive Order required the strategy to summarize the best known science on climate change impacts for California, assess California's vulnerability to the identified impacts, and outline solutions that can be implemented within and across state agencies to promote resiliency. As a result, NRA drafted *The 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy*. The state's Climate Adaptation Strategy represents the work of seven sector-specific working groups led by 12 state agencies, boards, and commissions, and numerous stakeholders. The state's Climate Adaptation Strategy proposes a comprehensive set of recommendations designed to inform and guide California decision makers as they begin to develop policies that will protect the state, its residents, and its resources from a range of climate change impacts. In July of 2014, NRA released an update to the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy, *Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk*.

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