

2011

LEGISLATIVE RESULTS



2011 was a tough year for the environment. At the state and federal levels, radical anti-environment legislators tried to roll back common-sense health and safety protections and safeguards. The California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV) and our allies in the state's environmental movement were faced with an uncertain economy and greatly outnumbered and outspent by industry lobbyists.

That dark cloud, however, had a silver lining. **The legislature passed 18 of our 28 highest priority bills, and Governor Jerry Brown signed the vast majority of the environmental bills that reached his desk.** Though the governor was focused almost singularly on the state budget, he showed that he recognizes a healthy, clean environment and a strong California economy go hand-in-hand.

CLCV and our allies also stopped dozens of bills that would have rolled back environmental protections or undermined the state's ability to enforce them. This included more than two dozen bills that would have weakened the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the law that enables everyday citizens to help protect their communities from harmful developments. *(continues on reverse)*

SIGNED INTO LAW:



Public Health

AB 1319 (Butler): Will ban the use of the toxic chemical bisphenol A (BPA) in children's feeding containers.



Ocean & Coast

AB 376 (Fong, Huffman): Will help stabilize ocean ecosystems by banning the possession, sale, trade, and distribution of shark fins.



Energy

SB 454 (Pavley): Will improve the enforcement of and compliance with California's appliance and building energy efficiency standards.



Water Quality & Supply

AB 1221 (Alejo): Will ensure disadvantaged communities have access to funds for the cleanup of contaminated water and sewage waste water.



Open Space & Parks

AB 42 (Huffman): Will help with funding shortfalls for state parks by allowing nonprofit organizations to operate, restore, or maintain parks.



Recycling

AB 341 (Chesbro): Will bring commercial recycling to businesses and apartment buildings and set a statewide solid waste diversion goal of 75% by 2020.



Natural Resources

AB 1112 (Huffman): Will help prevent potential oil spills by requiring state agencies to beef up monitoring and inspection efforts, and increase the per barrel fee through 2015 to prevent drastic budget cuts to oil spill prevention programs.

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CLCV's work to elect more environmental champions in 2012, which is already well underway, will help give us the votes necessary to strengthen the state as the nation's leader on environmental protections. Because many bills pass or fail by the closest of margins—sometimes one or two votes—our electoral work pays dividends to the environment long after the election.

In 2012, CLCV will focus our energy on key California elections, in which the conservation vote will make a difference between electing a friend or foe of environmental protection and progress. In the state's new electoral landscape, with reapportioned districts and open primaries, our work to help voters make educated choices is especially important—and we can only do it with the support of our grassroots membership base.

For nearly four decades, CLCV has tracked and influenced California environmental politics. Read a full review of 2011 in the *California Environmental Scorecard* at www.ecovote.org/scorecard, available online by the end of October.

VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR:



Public Transit

SB 582 (Yee): Would have created a commuter benefit pilot program to encourage employees to ride public transit, carpool, or bike to work. **VETOED 8/1/11.**

AB 650 (Blumenfeld): Would have helped identify sustainable funding sources for California's public transit systems. **VETOED 9/26/11.**

HELD IN THE LEGISLATURE:



Toxics

AB 591 (Wieckowski): Would have mandated that the companies that extract oil and gas via hydraulic fracturing – fracking – disclose the chemicals they use, the amount of water they're pumping, and where they are fracking. **HELD IN COMMITTEE (Senate Appropriations).**

SB 568 (Lowenthal): Would have phased out Styrofoam take-out containers – a source of toxics entering our bodies and of persistent litter in our waterways. **HELD IN ASSEMBLY.**



Water

AB 685 (Eng): Would have established the access to safe, clean, and affordable water as a human right. **HELD IN COMMITTEE (Senate Appropriations).**



Global Warming

SB 535 (De León): Would have directed a portion of the revenues generated from the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) to help Californians who are least able to confront the expected effects of the climate crisis at a local level. **HELD IN COMMITTEE (Assembly Appropriations).**