

Introduced by Assembly Member Stone

February 21, 2014

An act to add Chapter 4.3 (commencing with Section 39740) to Part 2 of Division 26 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to greenhouse gases.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2348, as introduced, Stone. Natural Resources Climate Improvement Program.

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases. The state board is required to adopt a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit equivalent to the statewide greenhouse gas emissions level in 1990 to be achieved by 2020. The act authorizes the state board to include use of market-based compliance mechanisms. Existing law requires all moneys, except for fines and penalties, collected by the state board from the auction or sale of allowances as part of a market-based compliance mechanism to be deposited in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and to be available upon appropriation. Existing law requires the Department of Finance, in consultation with the state board and any other relevant state agency, to develop, as specified, a 3-year investment plan for the moneys deposited in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

This bill would establish the Natural Resources Climate Improvement Program, which would be administered by the state board, in coordination with the Natural Resources Agency, to assist in the development and implementation of highly-leveraged, regionally integrated natural resources projects that maximize greenhouse gas emissions reductions or sequestration. This bill would authorize moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the state board to implement the Natural Resources Climate Improvement Program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

P2 1 SECTION 1.
 2 Chapter 4.3 (commencing with Section 39740)
 3 is added to Part 2 of Division 26 of the Health and Safety Code,
 4 to read:
 5
 6 CHAPTER 4.3. NATURAL RESOURCES CLIMATE IMPROVEMENT
 7 PROGRAM
 8 39740.
 9 (a) The Natural Resources Climate Improvement
 10 Program is hereby established and shall be administered by the
 11 state board, in coordination with the Natural Resources Agency,
 12 to assist in the development and implementation of
 13 highly-leveraged, regionally integrated natural resources projects
 14 that maximize greenhouse gas emissions reductions or
 sequestration.

(b) Moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the state board to implement this chapter.

39741.

(a) The state board, in coordination with the Natural Resources Agency, shall develop guidelines for the implementation of this chapter consistent with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500)) and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Investment Plan and Communities Revitalization Act (Chapter 4.1 (commencing with Section 39710)).

(b) The guidelines adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall do all of the following:

(1) Ensure that project investments funded pursuant to this chapter utilize consistent accounting and modeling approaches to estimate and monitor greenhouse gas emissions and reductions over time.

(2) Promote innovative natural resources projects that protect existing greenhouse gas emissions sinks or assist with the enhancement of other climate-related projects in the transportation and energy sectors that can be replicated regionally.

(3) Promote projects based on the potential to increase climate benefits and reduce extreme weather events, including, but not limited to, the risk of fire, flood, water supply, sea-level rise, and urban heat island effect associated with climate change.

(4) Promote projects that assist the state in reaching its climate goals beyond 2020, consistent with Sections 38550 and 38551.

(5) Prioritize projects that are consistent with, and assist in, the implementation of county or regional land use greenhouse gas emissions reduction plans or programs, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

(A) A sustainable communities strategy.

(B) A local or regional plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(C) A local or regional climate adaptation plan.

(D) A natural community conservation plan and a habitat conservation plan.

(6) Ensure projects are consistent with Section 39716.

(7) Promote investments in projects that include cobenefits, including, but not limited to, state and federal air quality goals.

(8) Ensure projects funded pursuant to this chapter maximize moneys appropriated, provide environmental benefits, create jobs for residents, and do not conflict with other areas of law.

(9) Promote the use of the best climate science and greenhouse gas emissions reduction analytics.

(10) Promote project consistency with the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy and its most recent update, adopted pursuant to Executive Order S-13-2008.

39742.

To provide greater coordination among state agencies, boards, and departments, the Natural Resources Agency, in coordination with the state board, shall do all of the following:

(a) Provide updates to the Strategic Growth Council on critical issues related to climate change.

(b) Identify and notify state conservancies and the Wildlife Conservation Board regarding major infrastructure projects that would impact project planning and implementation.

(c) Identify and conduct climate research to assist with the state's understanding on how to reduce or sequester greenhouse gas

3 emissions in the natural resources sector.

4 (d) Promote state implementation of the Climate Adaptation
5 Strategy, adopted pursuant to Executive Order S-13-2008.

6 (e) Provide technical assistance grants to project applicants from
7 disadvantaged communities applying for funding from the state
8 conservancies or the Wildlife Conservation Board.

9 39743.

10 (a) State conservancies and the Wildlife Conservation
11 Board shall identify, develop, and implement projects within their
12 jurisdictions consistent with the guidelines developed pursuant to
13 this chapter, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

14 (1) Management and restoration of public lands to increase
15 carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

16 (2) Development and implementation of projects and programs
17 that encourage or provide incentives for increased carbon
18 sequestration or reduced greenhouse gas emissions related to the
19 use or management of natural resources on private lands.

20 (3) Provide incentives for the protection of agricultural and open
21 space lands to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and preserve
22 carbon sequestration potential.

23 (4) Fund investments in projects that use natural systems,
24 including, but not limited to, forests, wetlands, sustainable
25 agriculture, and urban forests, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
26 or increase the sequestration of carbon to mitigate the impacts of
27 greenhouse gas emissions and create greater climate resiliency.

28 (5) Fund the research and development of methods to increase
29 carbon sequestration and decrease greenhouse gas emissions related
30 to the use and management of natural resources and of methods
31 to measure and verify these climate benefits.

32 (6) Encouraging the diversion of organic waste to bioenergy
33 and composting.

34 (b) In evaluating potential projects to be funded pursuant to this
35 chapter, the state conservancies and Wildlife Conservation Board
36 shall give priority to projects that demonstrate one or more of the
37 following characteristics:

38 (1) Regional implementation.

39 (2) The ability to leverage additional public and private funding.

40 (3) The potential for cobenefits or multibenefit attributes.

41 (4) The potential for the project or program to be replicated.

42 (5) The use of existing programs.

43 (6) Consideration of geographic and socioeconomic issues.

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