

Assembly Bill 2278

30x30 Biodiversity and Conservation

Assemblymember Ash Kalra

SUMMARY

AB 2278 would require the California Natural Resources Agency to provide an annual report on their progress and plans for implementation of the 30x30 initiative outlined in Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-82-20 to reach 30% conservation of our lands and waters by 2030.

This bill would create a mechanism to ensure the Legislature and public are regularly updated on the implementation of EO N-82-20, provide accountability for public investments, and better inform the Legislature on how to invest in the ongoing efforts of accomplishing the goals of the 30x30 initiative.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, Governor Newsom adopted Executive Order N-82-20, an initiative to protect 30% of our lands and waters by 2030. The California Department of Natural Resources (CNRA) is currently preparing the 30x30 pathways to illustrate how the EO will be implemented.

The EO established California as the first state in the nation committed to protecting 30% of our lands and waters by 2030. This EO followed the efforts of AB 3030 (Kalra, 2019) which sought to set a state goal to protect 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030. There have been several international efforts that aimed to protect 30% of the earth's lands, preserve wildlife habitats, and protect against climate change. This global movement has highlighted the importance of protecting our lands that are at risk with California leading the nation in setting the tone to reach a goal to conserve 30% of our lands and waters by 2030.

By setting this goal and developing a plan to implement the 30x30 initiative, California is ensuring we know how to maintain and preserve California's biodiversity and improve equitable access to nature for all Californians.

While California has taken the first step to protect our habitats, wildlife, air, and water, there is still a lot of work to do to accomplish the goal of 30x30. We have less than eight years left to protect approximately six million acres to reach 30% conservation by 2030 and ensure measures are being taken to reduce climate change and allow for greater accessibility for all Californians.

SOLUTION

AB 2278 would create a process that would ensure the legislature and public are updated on the progress and plans to develop a pathway to implement the EO N-82-20, 30x30 goal. By requiring CNRA to submit an annual report on its progress to the Legislature and the public, we will be better informed of their progress in reaching the state's goal. This report must also include clear points of engagement for partners and communities to further regional priorities.

This bill would also require a directive to all state agencies to coordinate across agencies, departments, and programs to ensure relevant state efforts complement one another and strategically enhance each entity's ability to achieve the 30x30 goals. This will help build transparency and accountability to implement the efforts to reach our goal to conserve 30% of our lands and waters.

SPONSORS

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