

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 4, 2020

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 2020

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2019–20 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 3030

Introduced by Assembly Member Kalra
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bloom, Gonzalez, Reyes, and
Robert Rivas)

February 21, 2020

An act to add Section 9001.6 to the Public Resources Code, relating to resource conservation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3030, as amended, Kalra. Resource conservation: land and ocean conservation goals.

Existing law declares it to be the policy of the state that the protection and management of natural and working lands, as defined, is an important strategy in meeting the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, and requires all state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions to consider this policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, expenditures, or grant criteria relating to the protection and management of natural and working lands.

This bill would declare it to be the goals of the state by 2030 to protect at least 30% of *the state's* land areas and ~~waters within the state; waters;~~ *to protect at least help advance the protection of* 30% of the ~~ocean waters off the coast of the state; nation's oceans;~~ and to support regional, national, and international efforts to protect at least 30% of the world's land areas and waters and 30% of the world's ocean. The bill would ~~require~~ *authorize the state to achieve* these ~~goals to be accomplished~~

goals through an effort that includes specified objectives: specified activities.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Access to public land, nature, and a healthy environment
4 should be a right for all people, as that access is essential to the
5 health, well-being, identity, culture, and economic prosperity of
6 California.

7 (b) California faces a biodiversity and climate crisis, with nature
8 in a steep decline and greenhouse gas emissions not declining at
9 the rate scientists say is needed in the United States and worldwide.

10 (c) Scientists are documenting a rapid loss of natural areas and
11 wildlife in California, the United States, and throughout the world,
12 including all of the following:

13 (1) From 2001 to 2017, a quantity of natural areas equal to the
14 size of a football field disappeared to development every 30
15 seconds in the United States, constituting more than 1,500,000
16 acres per year.

17 (2) The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on
18 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services found that approximately
19 1,000,000 plant and animal species are threatened with extinction
20 over the coming decades as a result of land conversion, water
21 diversions, development, climate change, invasive species,
22 pollution, other stressors, and direct exploitation, including wildlife
23 trade.

24 (3) The Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on
25 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services found that more than 500,000
26 terrestrial species have insufficient habitat for long-term survival
27 without habitat restoration.

28 (4) From 2001 to 2017, California has lost more than 1,000,000
29 acres of natural area.

30 (5) At least 686 California species are at risk of future extinction,
31 and native species in California have already declined by 20
32 percent.

1 (d) Climate change is accelerating the decline of nature in
2 California and the United States.

3 (e) The Third National Climate Assessment found that climate
4 change is reducing the ability of ecosystems to provide clean water
5 and regulate water flows, limiting the ability of nature to buffer
6 communities against disasters, such as fires, storms, floods, and
7 marine heatwaves. Many of these changes disproportionately
8 impact the health of communities of color and indigenous
9 populations, and have far-reaching effects on marine and terrestrial
10 wildlife, including by altering habitats, forcing changes to
11 migratory patterns, altering the timing of biological events, causing
12 shifts in species distributions, and warming and acidifying the
13 ocean.

14 (f) Nature, like the climate, is nearing a tipping point where the
15 continued loss and degradation of the natural environment will
16 push many ecosystems and wildlife species past the point of no
17 return, threaten the health and economic prosperity of California
18 and the United States, and increase the costs of natural disasters.

19 (g) The existing protections for land, water, the ocean, and
20 wildlife in California and the United States are insufficient to
21 prevent a further decline of nature.

22 (h) Protected land, water, and ocean areas must support thriving
23 biodiversity, contribute to climate resilience, and provide
24 ecosystem services; be established with enduring measures; and
25 managed so that their natural character, resources, and functions
26 are preserved, maximized, and not impaired for current and future
27 generations.

28 (i) Conserving and restoring nature is one of the most efficient
29 and cost-effective strategies for fighting climate change.

30 (j) The implementation of this policy includes promoting
31 voluntary cooperation with private land owners.

32 (k) To confront the deterioration of natural systems and the loss
33 of biodiversity around the world, and to remain below a 1.5 degrees
34 Celsius increase in average global temperature, scientists
35 recommend that roughly one-half of the planet be conserved.

36 (l) As a step toward achieving that goal, scientists have
37 recommended that all countries commit to conserving and
38 protecting at least 30 percent of land areas and waters and 30
39 percent of the ocean in each country by 2030, with a long-term
40 goal of conserving one-half of the planet.

SEC. 2. Section 9001.6 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

9001.6. (a) It is the goal of the state to protect at least 30 percent of *California's* land areas and waters ~~within the state and to help advance the protection of~~ 30 percent of the ~~ocean waters off the coast of California~~ nation's oceans by 2030.

(b) It is further the goal of the state to support regional, national, and international efforts to protect at least 30 percent of the world's land areas and waters and 30 percent of the world's ocean by 2030.

~~(c) The goals described in subdivisions (a) and (b) shall be accomplished through an effort that includes all of the following objectives:~~

(c) The state may achieve the goals described in subdivisions (a) and (b) through activities that include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

(1) Working with the federal government, local communities, Native American tribes, other countries, and private landowners to conserve natural places and resources.

(2) Improving access to nature for all people in the state, with a specific emphasis on increasing access for communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities.

(3) Preventing extinction by recovering and restoring biodiversity, including species listed under the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code).

(4) Enhancing climate resilience by protecting genetic diversity.

(5) Sequestering carbon and greenhouse gas emissions through natural measures in the land, waters, and ocean.

(6) Focusing work at a scale that is biologically and ecologically meaningful, including at a landscape or seascape scale, where appropriate.

(7) Collaborating with federal, regional, and international governments to support and advance protections for habitats that lie outside of the state's jurisdiction to ensure effective protections for California species that travel, are migratory, or have ranges that extend beyond the borders of the state.

~~(8) Securing the protection of ocean areas equivalent to 30 percent of the state's ocean waters through protections in state waters or in federal ocean waters that the state helps to secure, or through a combination of both.~~

1 (8) *Considering how existing state marine protected areas*
2 *contribute to the goals described in subdivisions (a) and (b) during*
3 *the science-based decadal review of the state's marine protected*
4 *area network and considering potential complementary measures*
5 *to protect marine biodiversity and ecological integrity.*

6 (9) *Working, in relation to the consideration described in*
7 *paragraph (8), with federal, tribal, and other partners to identify*
8 *and implement actions to advance the goals described in*
9 *subdivisions (a) and (b), including in state and federal waters off*
10 *the coast of California.*

11 (9)
12 (10) *Stabilizing ecosystems and the services of ecosystems,*
13 *restoring degraded ecosystems, and maintaining and enhancing*
14 *ecological functions, including functional ecological connectivity*
15 *across the state's landscape in the face of human development and*
16 *climate change.*

17 (10)
18 (11) *Aligning the state's economic and purchasing power with*
19 *efforts to protect ecosystems and threatened biodiversity within*
20 *the state, nationally, and internationally.*

21 (11)
22 (12) *Ensuring that protected areas within the state are effectively*
23 *managed and enforced.*

24 (12)
25 (13) *Securing protections for habitat types that are*
26 *underrepresented in protected areas.*