



AB 202
ASSEMBLYMEMBER DEVON J. MATHIS
Safe Harbor Agreement Program Extension

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL

This bill would delete the sunset date of the California State Safe Harbor Agreement Program Act.

BACKGROUND ON THE PROGRAM

In 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 448 into law, enacting the California State Safe Harbor Agreement Program Act (SHAPA) to encourage landowners to manage their lands voluntarily, by means of state safe harbor agreements approved by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), to benefit endangered, threatened, or candidate species without being subject to additional regulatory restrictions as a result of their conservation efforts.

Under these agreements, the landowner voluntarily agrees to implement DFW's recommendations for management activities and other recommendations that will contribute to the recovery of a listed species, and works with CDFW to develop the safe harbor agreement. In exchange, the landowner receives regulatory assurances that the owner can alter or modify property enrolled in the safe harbor agreement and return it to the originally agreed upon baseline conditions at the end of the agreement, even if this means incidentally taking the covered species. The species ultimately benefits by making progress towards recovery. However, the program will sunset on January 1, 2020.

PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE SUNSET

Because many California Endangered Species Act listed species occur primarily or exclusively on privately owned property, DFW believes it is critical to species recovery to collaborate with private landowners (i.e., individuals, municipalities, timberland owners, and other non-state and non-federal entities) to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance listed species and their habitats.

Since the creation of the program, there have been 8 completed safe harbor agreements aiding in the recovery of 6 species. However, continued progress to recover these species, along with several others, will be hindered should this program expire.

NEED FOR THIS BILL

This measure simply removes the sunset date of this proven program. Without the renewal of this program, many endangered species on the road to recovery stand to suffer.

SUPPORT

None on file

OPPOSITION

None on file

CO-AUTHORS

Senator Nielsen

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Justin Boman

Phone: (916) 319-2026

Email: Justin.Boman@asm.ca.gov