



SB 337

30x30: Land and Coastal Waters Conservation Goal

Senator Dave Min, 37th District

SUMMARY

This bill would codify a goal to conserve 30 percent of California's land and coastal waters by 2030.

BACKGROUND

There is broad scientific consensus that we are in a sixth mass extinction, with extinction rates hundreds or thousands of times faster than what would naturally occur. A U.N. report estimates that a quarter of all species face extinction, many within decades. California is not exempt from this crisis. The state is home to one of 25 global biodiversity hotspots, but its biodiversity is under threat from climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species, disease, pests, and pollution.

Similar to climate change, this crisis is human-caused and represents an existential threat to humanity. Every time a species or population vanishes, the associated ecosystem's capacity to function and provide services upon which we depend erodes. These effects are expected to worsen over time. According to some scientists, the extinction crisis is the most serious environmental threat to the persistence of civilization because extinctions are irreversible.

In response to this crisis in California, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-82-20 in 2020 to adopt a goal to conserve at least 30 percent of California's land and coastal waters by 2030. This goal is part of a larger 30x30 movement to protect 30 percent of the world's land and waters as intact natural ecosystems by 2030. It is a milestone to a larger goal to protect 50 percent of these areas by 2050.

Conserving the Earth's lands and waters is one of the best tools we have to prevent further extinctions and protect biodiversity and ecosystem services. Importantly, protections

must be combined with restoration and management efforts to protect the function and services of the Earth's ecosystems. Further, conservation, restoration, and management can avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon, helping to advance climate goals.

At the federal level, the Biden Administration launched the "America the Beautiful" initiative in 2021, which includes the first national conservation goal to conserve at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. More recently, almost 200 countries agreed to protect 30 percent of the planet by 2030 at the 2022 United Nations Biodiversity Conference of the Parties in Montreal, Canada under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

While the Newsom Administration has shown great leadership in adopting an ambitious goal in line with recommendations from the scientific community, the goal's deadline will extend past this Governor's term. Establishing the goal in statute will ensure it persists until 2030.

THIS BILL

SB 337 would codify a goal to conserve 30 percent of California's land and coastal waters by 2030.

SUPPORT

None on file

OPPOSITION

None on file

STAFF CONTACT

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