

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 1, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 29, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 2, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2016

SENATE BILL

No. 1386

Introduced by Senator Wolk
(Coauthor: Senator Wieckowski)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member McCarty)

February 19, 2016

An act to add Section 9001.5 to the Public Resources Code, relating to resource conservation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1386, as amended, Wolk. Resource conservation: working and natural lands.

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 act requires all state agencies to consider and implement strategies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

This bill would declare it to be the policy of the state that the protection and management of natural and working lands, as defined, ~~is a key~~ *an important* strategy in meeting the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals, and would require 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.

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) To address the critical issue of global warming, California
4 is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The conservation
5 and management of natural and working lands has been identified
6 as a key strategy to meet greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

7 (b) Natural and working lands store considerable amounts of
8 carbon. Terrestrial ecosystems store 2,100 gigatons of carbon.
9 Natural and working lands are unique in that they can actively
10 remove carbon from the atmosphere and store or sequester that
11 carbon in, above, and below the ground.

12 (c) Promoting the conservation and management of natural and
13 working lands will result in a variety of outcomes that contribute
14 to carbon sequestration, including, but not limited to, conservation
15 and agricultural easements on natural and working lands, no- or
16 low-till agriculture, cover cropping on agricultural lands, the
17 restoration of degraded lands, including the restoration of
18 vegetation, and agency decisions that avoid the loss of natural and
19 working lands.

20 (d) The conservation and management of natural and working
21 lands to promote carbon sequestration will also deliver important
22 additional public benefits, including, but not limited to, the
23 protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat, parks and open
24 spaces, and recreational and economic opportunities, the production
25 of food and fiber, the improvement of air and water quality, and
26 flood protection.

27 SEC. 2. Section 9001.5 is added to the Public Resources Code,
28 to read:

29 9001.5. (a) It is the policy of the state that the protection and
30 management of natural and working lands is ~~a key~~ *an important*
31 strategy in meeting the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction
32 goals. The protection and management of those lands can result
33 in the removal of carbon from the atmosphere and the sequestration
34 of carbon in, above, and below the ground.

1 (b) The protection and management of natural and working
2 lands provides multiple public benefits, including, but not limited
3 to, assisting with adaptation to the impacts of climate change,
4 improving water quality and quantity, flood protection, ensuring
5 healthy fish and wildlife populations, and providing recreational
6 and economic benefits.

7 (c) All state agencies, including, but not limited to, the Natural
8 Resources Agency, the Department of Food and Agriculture, and
9 the California Environmental Protection Agency, and their
10 respective departments, boards, and commissions, shall consider
11 the policy set forth in this section when revising, adopting, or
12 establishing policies, regulations, expenditures, or grant criteria
13 relating to the protection and management of natural and working
14 lands. *State agencies shall implement this requirement in*
15 *conjunction with the state's other strategies to meet its greenhouse*
16 *gas emissions reduction goals and with the intent to, among other*
17 *things, promote the cooperation of owners of natural and working*
18 *lands.*

19 (d) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
20 following meanings:

21 (1) "Working lands" means lands used for farming, grazing, or
22 the production of forest products.

23 (2) "Natural lands" means lands consisting of forests, grasslands,
24 deserts, freshwater and riparian systems, wetlands, coastal and
25 estuarine areas, watersheds, wildlands, or wildlife habitat, or lands
26 used for recreational purposes such as parks, urban and community
27 forests, trails, greenbelts, and other *similar* open-space land. For
28 purposes of this paragraph, "parks" includes, but is not limited to,
29 areas that provide public green space.

30 (e) *Nothing in this section shall affect the existing authority of*
31 *a city, county, city and county, state agency, department,*
32 *commission, or board relating to natural and working lands.*