

**Introduced by Senator Strickland**

February 27, 2009

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An act to amend Section 5096.520 of the Public Resources Code, relating to resource conservation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 573, as introduced, Strickland. Resource conservation: conservation easement registry.

Existing law requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to establish a central public registry of all conservation easements held or required by the state, or purchased with state grant funds provided by an agency, department, or division of the state on or after January 1, 2000. Existing law specifies the information that is required to be included in the registry, and limits the information that the secretary is required to post on the Internet.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to those provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 5096.520 of the Public Resources Code
- 2 is amended to read:
- 3 5096.520. (a) The Secretary of the *Natural* Resources Agency
- 4 shall establish a central public registry of all conservation
- 5 easements held or required by the state, or purchased with state
- 6 grant funds provided by an agency, department, or division of the
- 7 state on or after January 1, 2000. In constructing the registry, the

1 *Natural* Resources Agency shall draw upon the Department of  
2 General Services' property inventory, and other information held  
3 by a state agency, department, division, or other sources.

4 (b) For the purposes of this section, "conservation easement"  
5 means any limitation in a recorded instrument that contains an  
6 easement, restriction, covenant, condition, or offer to dedicate,  
7 that has been executed by or on behalf of the owner of the land  
8 subject to that limitation and is binding upon successive owners  
9 of the land, and the purpose of which is to retain land  
10 predominantly in its natural, scenic, historical, agricultural,  
11 forested, or open-space condition. "Conservation easement"  
12 includes a conservation easement as defined in Section 815.1 of  
13 the Civil Code, an open-space easement as defined in Section  
14 51075 of the Government Code, and an agricultural conservation  
15 easement as defined in Section 10211.

16 (c) The registry shall only include the following information on  
17 each conservation easement listed in the registry:

18 (1) The assessor's parcel numbers for the property covered by  
19 the easement.

20 (2) The purpose of the easement.

21 (3) The location of the easement, identified by county and  
22 nearest city.

23 (4) The identity of the ~~easement holder~~ *easement holder*.

24 (5) The size of the easement in acres.

25 (6) The date the easement transaction was recorded.

26 (7) The amount of funding provided by the agency, department,  
27 or division of the state holding or requiring the easement or  
28 providing state grant funds for the easement.

29 (d) An agency, department, or division of the state with  
30 conservation easements that are held or required by the state or  
31 purchased with state grant funds shall enter and keep current the  
32 information specified in subdivision (c) for those easements in the  
33 registry established pursuant to this section.

34 (e) On or before January 1, 2009, the Secretary of the *Natural*  
35 Resources Agency shall make the registry available for use by the  
36 general public. Only the information pertaining to paragraphs (2)  
37 to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (c) regarding conservation  
38 easements held or required by the state, or purchased with state  
39 grant funds provided by an agency, department, or division of the  
40 state on or after January 1, 2006, shall be provided by the Secretary

1 of the *Natural* Resources Agency on the Internet. Personal  
2 identifying information shall not be posted on the Internet. The  
3 registry shall be updated biennially.

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