

- ❖ All statutes passed in the previous legislative session came into effect on January 1.
- ❖ The legislature reconvened on January 11.
 - January 22 was the last day for legislators to submit bill requests to the office of Legislative Counsel. (The Counsel offers feedback regarding constitutionality and general interpretation.)
- ❖ February 19 was the last day for bills to be introduced

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New Legislation

SB109 | Senator Dodd (D – [SD3](#))

Office of Emergency Services: Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development

“This bill would establish the Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development within the Office of Emergency Services under the direct control of the Director of the Office of Emergency Services.” This office would procure technologies and tools for preventing and suppressing wildfires. Among other enumerated responsibilities, the office will “work with public, private, and nonprofit entities in identifying new technologies and tools.”

GIS Concerns: These “technologies and tools” will inevitably include GIS solutions. How could OES GIS personnel (as well as professionals outside of the office) recommend and advise this new office in the utilization of GIS solutions? What “lessons-learned” do county and local government GIS professionals have to offer to this discussion?

Referred to [Senate Standing Committee on Government Organization](#); passed (13-0) at [March 9 meeting \(1hr 57min\)](#) and re-referred to [Committee on Appropriations](#); sent to Suspense File at [March 22 meeting \(42min\)](#).

SB407 | Senator Archuleta (D – [SD32](#))

Professional Land Surveyors' Act

This bill would expand the definition of “land surveying” in existing law to include radar, sonar, and electromagnetic waves. This broadens the scope of practices that are criminal if practiced without legal authorization.

GIS Concerns: The GIS field often overlaps the Surveying field. Professionals will need to be cognizant of these changes and determine how this may affect their work. Is there any reason to object to these change from a GIS perspective? See [AB1030](#), which proposes similar and additional modifications.

Referred to [Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development](#); passed (14-0) at [March 22 meeting](#) and re-referred to [Committee on Appropriations for the Consent Calendar](#) (April 5 hearing).

AB299 | Assemblymembers Villapudua (D – [AD11](#)), Cristina Garcia (D – [AD58](#)), and Waldron (R – [AD75](#))
Career technical education: California Apprenticeship Grant Program

This bill proposes a California Apprenticeship Grant Program (starting 2022-2023), administered by the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. The program “will provide supplemental financial resources for qualified individuals working as an apprentice, aiming to lower the barriers to access for these valuable work-based learning opportunities. Qualified students are those “who participate in qualified, state-approved apprenticeship programs through high schools, campuses of the California Community Colleges, and industry-driven and -funded state-approved apprenticeship and vocational programs.” Participating employers will need to “register as *related and supplemental instruction* with the chancellor’s office in order for their students to receive grants.”

GIS Concerns: Are there any current GIS-based apprenticeships that could utilize such a program? Could this incentivize the creation of additional GIS apprenticeship programs? As mentioned in the bill, California seeks to double the number of apprenticeships in the state from 64,000 to 128,000. This could be an opportunity for the GIS community to grow and diversify.

Referred to [Committee on Higher Education](#); Amended by committee chair; re-referred to committee; hearing postponed.

AB909 | Assemblymember Frazier (D – [AD11](#))

Wildfire risk assessment map

This bill “would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, in consultation with the California Fire Science Consortium and the Department of Insurance to develop a fire risk assessment map for the state that quantifies the risks of wildfire for a parcel of land for a time span of 50 years.” This map would be available to the public and updated on an annual basis. If passed, it will need to be completed by January 1, 2023.

GIS Concerns: Current Fire Hazard Severity Zones are housed [here](#) on the CA State Geoportal. To what extent would this Wildfire Risk Map be akin to flood risk maps (see [DWR’s Best Available Map](#))? Are there lessons that GIS professionals who work with flood risk data could share with a project such as this? Does FEMA or another federal agency have guidance on quantifying parcel-level fire risk for a fixed temporal scale? Is the [Fire Science Consortium](#) and [California’s Department of Insurance](#) equipped to handle the geospatial technology components of this project?

Referred to [Assembly Committee on Natural Resources](#).

AB1141 | Assemblymember Frazier (D – [AD11](#))

Wildfires: Wildland Urban Interface Fire Research Center

This bill mandates the Natural Resources Agency to create a Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Research Center. The Center will be responsible for “discussing policy, exchanging information, and training fire personnel in best practices.”

GIS Concerns: How might GIS inform the understanding of the “wildland-urban interface fire problem?” Are there efforts for a spatial understanding of this problem already in the works anywhere at the local level?

Amended and referred to Assembly [Committee on Natural Resources](#).

AB1142 | Assemblymember Frazier (D – [AD11](#))

Fire prevention: detection and response

This bill requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) “to develop and implement a program to predict and respond to wildfire ignition events and to provide for the sharing of information regarding wildfire events and coordination of activities among local, state, and federal agencies in response to wildfires.”

GIS Concerns: This information sharing is expected to include the use of “emergency communication technologies.” Will this include GIS solutions?

Referred to Assembly [Committee on Natural Resources](#).

AB1176 | Assemblymembers Garcia (D – [AD56](#)), Santiago (D-[AD53](#)), and Medina(D-[AD61](#))

Communications: universal broadband service: California Connect Fund

This bill reinforces existing federal law that advances and preserves “universal service,” the principle that communication services should have a quality and cost comparable across all regions of the country. The bill established a California Connect Fund and “until January 1, 2031, require the [Public Utilities] commission to develop, implement, and administer the California Connect Program to ensure that high-speed broadband service is available to every household in the state at affordable rates.”

GIS Concerns: Here is the [California Interactive Broadband Map](#). See [this article](#) from the Electronic Freedom Foundation for context and details on additional Broadband legislation, including the larger [SB4](#) and [SB1130](#) bills. The [California State Broadband Action Plan](#) includes further details on the state’s vision for the future (see also numerous responses to the draft plan at the link). *How can the GIS community clarify to state legislators its role in Broadband solutions?*

Referred to [Assembly Committee on Communications & Conveyance](#).

AB1431 | Assemblymember Frazier (D – [AD11](#))

Forestry: forest carbon plan: state goals

This bill would build upon the objectives established in [California’s Forest Carbon Plan](#) by establishing state goals for fuel treatment and vegetation management. The bill would also require the Natural

Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency to submit a report to the “Legislature on the positions and resources needed to achieve those state goals by January 2023, and annually thereafter...on the progress made to achieve those state goals.”

GIS Concerns: Undoubtedly some of these positions and resources will be geospatial-related. The contents of this bill were recommended by the Little Hoover Commission in its 2018 report, [Fire on the Mountain: Rethinking Forest Management in the Sierra Nevada](#). As can be seen from this Report and the Forest Carbon Plan, mapping is an integral part of planning, managing, and implementing these goals.

Referred to [Assembly Committee on Natural Resources](#).

Legislative Updates

Bills that featured in previous versions of this newsletter

SB45 (2022 Climate Hazards Bond Act): Referred to [Senate Natural Resources Committee](#); [March 16 hearing \(36min\)](#) – Passed 7-2; Referred to [Senate Governance and Finance Committee](#) April 8 hearing postponed by committee

SB66 (Autonomous Vehicle advisory committee): Referred to [Senate Rules Committee](#) Re-Referred to [Senate Transportation Committee](#)

Budgetary Updates

The governor’s budget has been [released](#). The following is a selection of GIS-related items requested by the governor and/or proposed by the Senate or Assembly:

- **LiDAR:** “The Budget proposes an additional \$1 billion to support a coordinated forest health and fire prevention strategy that maximizes technology and science-based approaches to protect state forestlands, including \$39 million for LiDAR remote sensing and research.” The figure proposed specifically for remote sensing is \$15 million, according to [this](#) Legislative Analyst’s Office report. On March 2, the strategy was discussed in a Senate Budget Subcommittee 2 [meeting](#) (2hr 12min). They proposed an [Early Action Plan](#) (EAP) which would allocate \$3 million for remote sensing this fiscal year (2020-2021). The EAP also includes an allocation of \$49 million for “Community Hardening,” which includes “prehazard [sic] mitigation grants for early warning/evacuation systems, fire and disaster response planning.”
- **Natural Resources Mapping:** [Maven’s Notebook](#), an exhaustive blog on California water news provides details on vegetation mapping items in the governor’s budget. Additional proposed mapping-related projections for the Natural Resource Agency can be found [here](#) (search ‘Seismic Hazards Mapping’).
- **Statewide Data Strategy:** The CA State Senate’s Budget Committee ([Subcommittee No. 4 On State Administration and General Government](#)) met on [February 24](#) (Issue 27) to vote on

GovOps's request for additional positions (3) and funds (\$558,000) to further implement the Statewide Data Strategy lead by the Chief Data Officer. The item was held open and not voted on.

- **3D Geologic Mapping:** The CA State Senate's Budget Committee ([Subcommittee No. 2](#)) met on [March 2](#) to vote on the proposed Multi-Benefit 3D Geologic Framework Mapping [Issue #11]. This is a request of \$3 million to support the California Geological Survey's Geologic Mapping Program in their 3D mapping efforts. They voted to approve as budgeted (3-1).
- **NextGen 9-11:** The CA State Senate's Budget Committee ([Subcommittee No. 5](#) On Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor and Transportation) met March 4 to vote on the Next Generation 9-1-1 Grant Program [Issue #4]. Last year, Cal OES received grant money to build a temporary 9-1-1 GIS team to fill operational gaps. Cal OES is requesting an additional \$570k from the national 9-1-1 Grant Program to continue to support this team. The item was [approved](#) 3-0 as requested.
- The **California High-Speed Rail Authority** is likely to request appropriations of the remaining [Proposition 1A](#) bonds – about \$4 billion – in the Governor's May Revision of the 2021-2022 Budget. Both houses of legislature, the [Assembly](#) and the [Senate](#), convened for separate hearings to give legislators and the public “a clear picture of the scope of the project being funded, the timeline for delivery, and its value in meeting the state's infrastructure, environmental, and economic goals.” Recording of both hearings can be found here: [Assembly & Senate](#). The project is behind schedule and construction costs exceed projections by \$1.3 billion, bringing the total cost estimate to \$13.8 billion (not including Merced & Bakersfield extensions). See the [High-Speed Rail Revised Draft 2020 Business](#) Plan for more details.

Regulatory & Executive Updates

None to report at this time.

Notable Federal Legislation

HB81 | *Redistricting Transparency Act of 2021*

HB516 | *Environmental Justice Mapping & Data Collection Act of 2021*

SB279 | *National Broadband Plan for the Future Act of 2021*

Links to Past Editions:

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