

- ❖ The 2021-2022 Regular Session officially convened Monday, December 7 at noon.
- ❖ About 300(!) bills were read and sent to the State Printer this month. (yep, there is a [State Printer](#).) Starting on January 7, these bills will be eligible to be heard in committee.

SB45 | Senators Allen (D – SD26), Hurtado (D - SD14), Portantino (D – 25), and Stern (D – 27) [Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022](#) If approved by voters (through a ballot measure in 2022), bonds will be authorized for issue in the amount of \$5.5 billion to support projects related to wildfire prevention, drinking water, droughts, and flood protection. Among several other initiatives, the act would create a “pre-hazard mitigation grant program” for Wildfire prevention the bulk of which would be allocated to assist local and state agencies.

GIS Concerns: Mapping and other geospatial services are mentioned a few times in this lengthy legislation. \$25 million are proposed to establish a “Forest Carbon Monitoring Program,” which includes a project to map carbon storage and sequestration patterns, vegetation, & habitats via field plots & LiDAR. The collected maps & data will be made publicly available. Many of the other proposed projects and initiatives will undoubtedly include GIS components (see esp. sections 80230 & 80242 in the bill).

SB66 | Senator Allen (D – SD26)

[California Council on the Future of Transportation: advisory committee: autonomous vehicle technology](#) Establishes an advisory committee for the Secretary of Transportation, the California Council on the Future of Transportation. The committee will provide recommendations for state policy as they relate to the deployment of autonomous vehicles.

GIS Concerns: Last November, USC’s Spatial Sciences Institute featured an article entitled, [“Self-Driving Cars and the Role of GIS in Transportation’s Future.”](#) Just a few months prior, Geoff Zeiss of *Between the Poles* posted [an article](#) about the necessity of high definition (HD) maps for autonomous vehicles deployment. In their [2019 Q4 Tech Trends Update](#), the Open Geospatial Consortium listed “High Definition Maps for Connected Autonomous Vehicles (CAVs)” in their Highest Priority list. (See an [MIT rebuttal](#) to HD maps.) Earlier this year, the London-based company Zenic publicized a (jam-packed!) [report](#) of their geospatial recommendations for self-driving vehicles. See ISOs [17572-1](#) and [18750](#). *Given these indicators (and others), could the GIS community provide a substantive and unique contribution to such a committee as the one proposed in this bill? Or would this topic be sufficiently covered by the appointed representative of a “technology company that develops autonomous technology?”*

Regulatory Addenda

Effective January 1, 2021 (per OAL File Number [2020-1006-02S](#)), the fee for licenses under the *Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists* will increase by a small (but noticeable) margin.

Reach out to jacob.mark@woolpert.com with any questions, comments or suggestions.