

Zero Emission Rental Vehicle Measure Through Legislature

CSDA News, 01/30/24

With support from CSDA and a coalition of public and private partners, a novel approach to aid in the compliance with the recent zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandate by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has cleared the Assembly unanimously and will soon be considered by the State Senate.

Assembly Bill 637 (Jackson), sponsored by Enterprise Mobility, would provide public and private fleets with additional options to meet the ZEV procurement requirements under the Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) Regulation adopted by CARB on April 28, 2023. Unfortunately, the ACF regulation does not currently allow a fleet owner to claim compliance credit for renting a zero-emission truck over its internal combustion counterpart.

AB 637 addresses this issue by allowing for the rental of a zero-emission vehicle or vehicles for a cumulative total of 260 days in a calendar year to be deemed the same as ownership of one zero-emission vehicle for purposes of meeting the compliance obligations.

If successful, the legislation would add one more welcome option for special districts and other fleet owners, particularly those with less resources and limited budgets, looking for the most cost-effective ways to meet the ACF's ambitious mandate.

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Governor Releases Strategy to Recover Salmon Populations Affected by Climate Change, Calls for Habitat Restoration

ACWA News, 01/30/24

Gov. Gavin Newsom today released a strategy to restore salmon populations in the face of hotter and drier weather exacerbated by climate change, the first such strategy to protect salmon on a generational scale in the state.

The “California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future: Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems in the Age of Climate Change” document outlines six priorities and 71 specific actions to build healthier, thriving salmon populations. The six priorities are:

- Remove barriers and modernize infrastructure for salmon migration;
- Restore and expand habitat for salmon spawning and rearing;
- Protect water flows and water quality in key rivers at the right times to support salmon;
- Modernize salmon hatcheries;
- Transform technology and management systems for climate adaptability; and
- Strengthen partnerships.

These priorities lay out specific actions with deadlines, as well as partnerships between responsible agencies on the local, state, federal and Tribal Nation level, to build healthier salmon populations in California. For example, the strategy calls for adopting by 2025 an updated Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, which could include the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (formerly referred to as Voluntary Agreements), to protect beneficial uses including the protection of salmon, steelhead, and other native aquatic species.

Other actions include modifying or reoperating existing water infrastructure to provide seasonal inundation of at least 10,000 acres of floodplain habitat; creating an additional 5,000 acres of floodplain habitat and reconnecting salmon to floodplains across the Central Valley; and completing supply-demand assessment pilot projects in three watersheds to better manage water allocations and provide data for local water management decisions.

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