FEW BILLS OF INTEREST TO CNPS

The last day for bills to be introduced for the 2012 California Legislature session was February 24. Thus far, CNPS has taken a position in support of one bill and in opposition to three. As amendments are made to bills during the session, CNPS may change its position or take positions on bills it previously was merely watching. The current (March 8, 2012) CNPS positions are:

Bill supported by CNPS.

AB 742, now in the Senate, would require tribal consent before a lead agency could approve a surface mining operation within 2,000 yards of an Indian reservation or within 5,000 yards of a Native American sacred site.

Bills opposed by CNPS.

In connection with the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, SB 250, now in the Assembly, would require the Department of Water Resources to complete plans for certain Delta conveyance facilities by February 15, 2013 and to complete construction of those facilities by December 31, 2025.

SB 455, now in the Assembly, would enact the California Watershed and Timberland Conservation Act of 2012. The proposed act contains many detailed environmental requirements for operations on forest lands. Unfortunately the CNPS "Legislative Tracker " website does not explain the reasons for CNPS opposition to this bill. On its face it seems like something we should support.

AB 890, now in the Senate, would, until January 1, 2026, exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, a project or activity of a city or county to improve public safety within an existing road right-of-way.

To get the status and full, official version of any bill, including the Legislative Counsel's digest, google "california legislature bills" and enter the bill number or copy and paste the following: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html into your web browser.