2012 RECAP

The California Legislature ended its 2012 regular session on August 31. During 2012 the Legislature passed 3 bills supported by CNPS and 2 bills opposed by it.

CNPS supported:
AB 1540. This bill designates the Department of Boating and Waterways as the lead agency in controlling the invasive weeds, water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes), Brazilian elodea (Egeria densa) and South American spongeplant (Limnobium laevigatum) in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Governor Brown approved AB 1540 on August 27.
SB 972. This bill imposes additional requirements for notices to individuals, organizations and agencies of meetings and actions taken under the California Environmental Quality Act. Governor Brown approved this bill on August 29.
SB 1241. This bill revises and strengthens the fire safety element requirements in city and county general plans and guidelines of the Natural Resources Agency for the implementation of CEQA. The new fire safety element requirements are for state responsibility areas and very high hazard severity zones. The Governor has until September 30 to approve or veto the bill.

CNPS opposed:
AB 890. This bill, which will be effective until January 1, 2016, exempts from CEQA requirements a project or activity carried by a city or county to improve public safety by repairing, maintaining or altering an existing roadway. Governor Brown has until September 30 to approve or veto the bill.
AB 1073. This very technical bill was passed earlier in the year and approved by the Governor on May 23, 2012. It provides that the certification process by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission would apply to a proposed conversion of a solar thermal power plant (using steam) to a solar photovoltaic electrical generating facility under certain conditions.

Following the general election in November, the incoming 2013-14 Legislature will convene on December 3, 2012 for organizational purposes.