February 21 was the last day for new bills to be introduced for the 2014 session of the California Legislature. More than 1,900 bills were introduced, giving CNPS a huge task in determining which ones are of concern. May 30 will be the last day for these new bills to pass in the house of their origin. As of April 24 the CNPS Legislative Report gives 21 of these new bills a “Watch” status, 6 a “Support” status and 4 an “Oppose” status. These positions may change as bills are amended.

CNPS supports AB 203, AB 976, AB 2104, AB 2193, AB 2402 and SB 1270.

AB 203 and 976 provide for strengthening of the administration and enforcement of the California Coastal Act of 1976. 
AB 2104 precludes groups such as home owners associations from adopting landscaping guidelines prohibiting use of low water-using plants or restricting other water conservation measures. 
AB 2193 provides for funding a new Habitat and Restoration Act to be administered by the Department of Fish & Wildlife. 
AB 2402 expands the permissible uses of funds by the Department of Food and Agriculture for noxious weed management. 
SB 1270 makes changes in the structure and administration of the agencies under the Department of Conservation, including the State Mining and Geology Board, the California Geological Survey and the Office of Mine Reclamation.

CNPS opposes AB 1849, AB 2353, AB 2417 and SB 834. 

AB 1849 exempts repair or replacement of existing levees from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). 
AB 2353 exempts from CEQA requirements projects that expand the capacity of water storage facilities owned by public entities. 
AB 2417 exempts from CEQA requirements specified types of pipelines. 
AB 834 creates a Sustainable Environmental Protection Act which would limit CEQA review of projects to specified environmental issues.

The full text of bills and the Legislative Analyst’s summary are available on the California Legislature Information website (Click Link Here). 
CNPS positions on bills are available at CNPS Legislative Report (Click Link Here). 
Overview of CNPS Legislation Program (Click Link Here).