DEADLINE PASSED FOR NEW CALIFORNIA BILLS

Under its 2015 calendar February 27 was the last day for bills to be introduced in the California Legislature. CNPS now has the enormous task of reviewing the mass of pending bills to determine which ones are of interest in relation to plant conservation and whether to support or oppose them. To date (Mar. 6) the CNPS Legislation Tracker website indicates that three Senate bills (SB-16, SB-122 and SB-127), two Assembly bills (AB-1 and AB 140) and AJR-4 (Assembly Joint Resolution -4) are of interest and being followed. When the CNPS report on positions taken is released a synopsis of the bills will follow.

AJR-4 is a joint Assembly/Senate Resolution asking President Obama to take unilateral action under the Antiquities Act to create the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. On February 17 it passed the Assembly on a vote of 54 to 20 and was referred to the Senate Rules Committee, where it now sits. The failure of the California Legislature to complete and forward AJR-4 may be due to giving deference to the Obama Administration’s stated preference to have the national monument created by an Act of Congress. President Obama has already created more national monuments under the Antiquities Act than any other President and has been under conservative criticism for it. The trouble is, the bills in Congress (H.R. 761 and S. 393) are not likely to pass the conservative 114th Congress and still sit in the Committees to which they were referred after introduction on February 5.

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).