GOVERNOR APPROVES CNPS SUPPORTED BILLS

During the last week before his October 11 deadline Governor Brown approved 3 CNPS supported bills,

Taking note that in the past 20 years the eastern population Monarch butterflies has lost 90% of its historic numbers and the western population 50%, the California Legislature has taken steps (AB 559) to conserve them. The new law authorizes the Department of Fish & Wildlife to take feasible actions to conserve Monarch butterflies and their habitat. The Department is authorized to partner with federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, academic programs, private landowners and other entities in these efforts.

AB 606 would require State Agencies to include feasible water conservation measures whenever they build upon State owned property, purchase real property or replace landscaping or irrigation. The bill appears to include State highways and associated property in these requirements, but exempts State owned property leased for agriculture. Among the required conservation measures is the requirement that replacement of landscaping be made with drought-tolerant plants with an emphasis on native plant species.

SB 350 requires public utilities and local publicly owned utilities to increase the amount of electricity generated per year from eligible renewable energy sources from the currently required 33% to 50% by December 31, 2020.

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).