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October, 2016

FOREST PRACTICES ACT OF 1973 AMENDED

On September 24 Governor Brown approved 2 of the bills CNPS had taken a position on. CNPS opposed AB 2029, but supported AB 1958. Both bills deal with forest practices. The Governor vetoed SB 1340, which dealt with permits for automatic irrigation systems and had been supported by CNPS.

AB 1958 authorizes the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to exempt, until January 2024, Forest Practices Act restrictions impeding programs to restore and conserve California black or Oregon white oak woodlands and associated grasslands. The bill also defines “growing of timber” to include restoration and conservation activities, which might otherwise be considered a change in use of timberlands requiring an application for change.

AB 2029 requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to review and submit to the Legislature, on or before December 31, 2017, a report on the effectiveness of the Forest Fire Prevention Pilot Project Exemption from timber harvest plan restrictions. Upon approval, the Department would be authorized to extend the exemption until January, 2021.

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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).