



## Grading Progress: Sierra Club California's Legislative Report Card Process

*Evaluating Legislative Actions on Conservation, Environmental Justice, and the Climate Crisis in California*

Sierra Club California's legislative scorecard shines a spotlight on how our state legislators are responding to the challenges California faces with the climate crisis, the urgent need for robust conservation efforts and greater environmental justice. Our goal is to hold these elected officials accountable for their actions—or inactions. As communities across California face unprecedented environmental threats, it's vital to evaluate the policies and initiatives that impact our air, water, and natural resources.

This fact sheet outlines Sierra Club California's comprehensive process for assessing legislative performances, focusing on key metrics that reflect progress in conservation, environmental justice, and climate action.

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## Sierra Club California's Legislative Report Card Process

Published every fall, the report card evaluates California state legislators based on their voting performances during the previous legislative session which ends September 30.

- **Bill Selection Criteria - Key Bills:** The report card typically includes assessments of 10-12 significant bills that align with Sierra Club California's goals and impact diverse communities.
- **Timing of Selection:** Priority bills are identified in early March; however, the final selection occurs only after the legislative session concludes due to the dynamic nature of legislative processes.
- **Evaluation Team:** Staff lobbyists and the director work together to choose bills that clearly distinguish pro-environmental legislators from others.
- **Diverse Representation & Impact on Various Communities:** Bills are selected to address the unique environmental concerns of different member demographics (e.g., urban vs. rural issues).
- **Selection Standards:** Bills chosen for the report card must have been included in Sierra Club California's floor alerts and actively lobbied for, ensuring the club's positions were clearly communicated.
- **Scoring Methodology and Compilation Process:** Voting records are compiled using the California legislature's official vote recording system. Scores are shared with legislators for accuracy verification before publication.
- **Governor's Evaluation - Performance Assessment:** The report card also includes an evaluation of the Governor's actions, including which bills were signed or vetoed, to assess consistency with his stated environmental commitments.

Our report card reveals how your elected officials are voting on essential environmental issues and highlights the need for legislative accountability. After reviewing the report card, we urge you to schedule in-district meetings with your current representatives, as well as candidates looking to fill those seats during election years, to discuss their environmental voting records and commitments.

For more details, visit [www.sierraclub.org/california/report-cards](http://www.sierraclub.org/california/report-cards) or contact us at [2024-ca-leg-scorecard-taskforce-list@sierraclub.org](mailto:2024-ca-leg-scorecard-taskforce-list@sierraclub.org).

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