

Legislative Committee Update
by Amanda Duchardt, CBH/SAA Legislative Director

Greetings CBH/SAA friends and family!

First, I have an important update to **SB 1160** - legislation that would require gun owners to annually register all their firearms with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and pay an annual fee to fund DOJ's administration and enforcement of the firearm registry. The bill was pulled from the April 2nd Senate Public Safety Committee agenda by the author shortly before the meeting with no explanation. Likely, Senator Portantino felt that he did not have enough support for the bill. Subsequently, on April 10, the bill was quietly gutted and amended and now deals with punishments for misdemeanor open carry of a handgun. Click [here](#) to read the amended bill.

In other State Legislature news, April 26th is the deadline for policy committees to hear and report fiscal bills introduced in their house. Here's an update on key legislation CBH/SAA is tracking:

- **SB 262 Children's Camps: Safety and Regulation** was pulled from consideration one final Assembly Floor vote short of making it to the Governor's desk, it has until the last day of the 2024 Session (August 31) to be taken up final vote.
- **AB 828 Sustainable Groundwater Management: Managed Wetlands** is still pending referral to Senate policy committee. AB 828 has until July 3 to be heard and passed out of Senate policy committee.
- **AB 1889 General Plan: Wildlife Connectivity Element** was heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee on April 10, passing out on an 8 to 1 vote. AB 1189 was then heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on April 23, passing out on a 10 to 3 vote. AB 1889 must now be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee by May 17 to meet legislative deadline but has not been set for hearing yet.
- **AB 2320 Wildlife Connectivity and Climate Adaptation Act of 2024: Wildlife Corridors** was double-referred to the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee and the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources. AB 2320 was heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on April 9 passing out on a 12 to 2 vote. The bill was then heard in the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources on April 22 passing out and to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on a unanimous vote. AB 2320 must be heard and passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee by May 17 to meet legislative deadline.
- **AB 2425 Bowie's Law: Animals: Adoption, Shelter Overcrowding, and Breeding** was heard in the Assembly Business and Professions Committee on April 16. CBH was signatory on the CHCC letter of opposition to the committee members. Following public testimony in support and opposition of the bill, the Committee Chair asked the committee if anyone would like to make a motion to move the bill. After a lengthy silence, the Chair closed discussion on AB 2425 and moved on to the next bill. Following the hearing, our lobbyist contacted the author's office and confirmed that he has no plans to try to move the bill. AB 2425 is dead.
- **AB 2875 Wetlands: State Policy** was heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on April 9, passing out to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on a unanimous vote. Upon receipt in the Assembly Appropriations Committee SB 865 was referred to suspense file. AB 2875 must be heard and passed out of Assembly Appropriations Committee by May 17 to meet legislative deadline but has not yet been set to be heard.
- **AB 3064 Firearms: Safety Devices** was heard in the Assembly Public Safety Committee on April 23, amended, and passed to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on a party-line vote. AB 3064 must be heard and passed out of Assembly Appropriations Committee by May 17 to meet legislative deadline but has not yet been set to be heard.
- **AB 3067 Residential Property Insurance: Firearms AB 3067** was set to be heard in the Assembly Insurance Committee on April 18th but was pulled from consideration by the author. Our lobbyist contacted the author's office shortly after the hearing and was told that it was unlikely that the author will try to move AB 3067 forward as introduced. AB 3067 was gutted and amended on April 22. As amended, AB 3067 now deals with the activities of the California Interscholastic Federation.
- **SB 53 Firearms Storage** is currently pending referral in the Assembly.
- **SB 921 Animal Welfare** as amended March 13, 2024, was heard in Senate Public Safety Committee on April 2, passing out on a unanimous vote. SB 921 must be heard and passed out of Senate Appropriations Committee by May 17 to meet legislative deadline but has not yet been set to be heard.

- **SB 922 Animal Cruelty** was set to be heard in Senate Public Safety Committee on April 2 but was pulled from consideration. SB 922 is dead.
- **SB 1163 Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions: Wildlife Salvage Permits** was heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on April 15, amended, and passed out and to the Senate Appropriation Committee on consent. SB 1163 has been set to be heard in Senate Appropriations Committee on April 29. CBH/SAA strongly supports this bill.
- **SB 1253 Firearms Safety Certificates** was heard in the Senate Public Safety Committee on April 2, passing out and to the Senate Appropriation Committee on a party-line vote. SB 1253 has been set to be heard in Senate Appropriations Committee on April 29.

To read more about these bills, visit <https://cbhsaa.net/Legislative/LegReports>.

The Legislative team continues to track the progress of the Catalina Island Conservancy's (CIC) application to CDFW to **eradicate all mule deer on Catalina Island**. On April 9, the City of Avalon held a meeting to determine whether to enter into an agreement with the CIC to allow the eradication of deer within City limits, thus removing a key obstacle to their goals. Specifically, the CIC proposed to amend their plans to:

1. Delay eradication to allow for a "final hunting season" in July - December of 2024. The Conservancy would ask for more tags from the FGC for this season and would "subsidize" costs for Islanders wishing to hunt.
2. Sterilized deer within the town limits and identify them with tags to prevent killing during aerial eradication of all other Island deer.
3. All untagged deer remaining on the Island after the "final hunting season" would be eradicated using aerial methods beginning in 2025.
4. The CIC would not utilize the practice of "netting and bolting" deer.

Notably, the City agenda stated, "Consequences of not agreeing to this compromise: "The CDFW will eventually issue a decision on the CIC permit as submitted and without an agreement with the CIC there will be no final hunting season or tagged and protected deer." Personally, I think this is a shameful fear tactic! Shortly before the meeting Bill Gaines sent out a VoterVoice Alert asking us to take action by submitting emails to the City staff urging them to reject this "compromise". **THANK YOU to all those that answered the call! I am excited to share that the CIC "compromise" was REJECTED by the City of Avalon!**

CBH will continue our outreach to influential members of the legislature, CDFW and FGC to try to gain traction on our request for additional scientific studies to ensure any decision made by the CDFW is based on hard science. If you would like to contribute to our efforts to oppose the CIC proposal, please donate to the CBH Legislative Defense Fund here: <https://cbhsaa.net/Legislative/Donate> and **join over 18,000 individuals that have signed the change.org petition** here: <https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-slaughter-of-mule-deer-on-catalina-island>. You can also reach out to Assemblymember Josh Lowenthal (D) and Senator Benjamin Allen (D), who represent Catalina in the State Legislature and ask them to get involved and urge the governor to direct the CDFW to deny this permit.

The last **FGC meeting** was held on April 17-18 in San Jose, CA. As expected, the FGC adopt changes to fishing and hunting regulations and tag allocations including waterfowl and mammal hunting that were previously proposed and discussed including an increase of five general draw bull elk tags for Grizzly Island and nearly 180 new elk SHARE tags throughout the rest of the state. CBH/SAA President Chriss Bowls and our lobbyist were present and provided public testimony receiving strong verbal support from the FGC on our efforts, and a public commitment from CDFW leadership for a greater partnership on enrolling landowners in SHARE, and the allocation of more elk archery only (AO) tags in 2025. To review the meeting documents or watch the recorded meeting, visit <https://fgc.ca.gov/Meetings/2024>.

Reminder: Whether you've been involved in archery or hunting your whole life, or are new to this sport, **you have something of value to add to the conversation and I encourage you to reach out to me and the CBH Legislative Committee and share your knowledge and experience!** We look forward to hearing from you soon!