



California Regulatory Notice Register

REGISTER 2026, NUMBER 3-Z

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

JANUARY 16, 2026

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The *California Regulatory Notice Register* is an official state publication of the Office of Administrative Law containing notices of proposed regulatory actions by state regulatory agencies to adopt, amend or repeal regulations contained in the California Code of Regulations. The effective period of a notice of proposed regulatory action by a state agency in the *California Regulatory Notice Register* shall not exceed one year [Government Code § 11346.4(b)]. It is suggested, therefore, that issues of the *California Regulatory Notice Register* be retained for a minimum of 18 months.

CALIFORNIA REGULATORY NOTICE REGISTER is published weekly by the Office of Administrative Law, 300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1250, Sacramento, CA 95814-4339. The Register is printed by Barclays, a subsidiary of West, a Thomson Reuters Business, and is offered by subscription for \$409.00 (annual price). To order or make changes to current subscriptions, please call (800) 328-4880. The Register can also be accessed at <https://oal.ca.gov>.

**PROPOSED ACTION ON
REGULATIONS**

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**TITLE 2. FAIR POLITICAL
PRACTICES COMMISSION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fair Political Practices Commission, pursuant to the authority vested in it by Sections 82011, 87303, and 87304 of the Government Code to review proposed conflict-of-interest codes, will review the proposed/amended conflict-of-interest codes of the following:

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CODES

AMENDMENT

MULTI-COUNTY: Ava Community Energy Authority

A written comment period has been established commencing on January 16, 2026, and closing on March 2, 2026. Written comments should be directed to the Fair Political Practices Commission, Attention: Andrea Spiller Hernandez, 1102 Q Street, Suite 3050, Sacramento, California 95811.

At the end of the 45-day comment period, the proposed conflict-of-interest code will be submitted to the Commission's Executive Director for their review, unless any interested person or their duly authorized representative requests, no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period, a public hearing before the full Commission. If a public hearing is requested, the proposed code will be submitted to the Commission for review.

The Executive Director of the Commission will review the above-referenced conflict-of-interest code, proposed pursuant to Government Code Section 87300, which designate, pursuant to Government Code Section 87302, employees who must disclose certain investments, interests in real property and income.

The Executive Director of the Commission, upon their own motion or at the request of any interested person, will approve, or revise and approve, or return the proposed code to the agency for revision and re-submission within 60 days without further notice.

Any interested person may present statements, arguments, or comments, in writing to the Executive Director of the Commission, relative to review of the proposed conflict-of-interest code. Any written comments must be received no later than March 2, 2026. If a public hearing is to be held, oral comments may be presented to the Commission at the hearing.

COST TO LOCAL AGENCIES

There shall be no reimbursement for any new or increased costs to local government which may result from compliance with these codes because these are not new programs mandated on local agencies by the codes since the requirements described herein were mandated by the Political Reform Act of 1974. Therefore, they are not "costs mandated by the state" as defined in Government Code Section 17514.

**EFFECT ON HOUSING
COSTS AND BUSINESSES**

Compliance with the codes has no potential effect on housing costs or on private persons, businesses, or small businesses.

AUTHORITY

Government Code Sections 82011, 87303 and 87304 provide that the Fair Political Practices Commission as the code-reviewing body for the above conflict-of-interest codes shall approve codes as submitted, revise the proposed code, and approve it as revised, or return the proposed code for revision and re-submission.

REFERENCE

Government Code Sections 87300 and 87306 provide that agencies shall adopt and promulgate conflict-of-interest codes pursuant to the Political Reform Act and amend their codes when change is necessitated by changed circumstances.

CONTACT

Any inquiries concerning the proposed conflict-of-interest code should be made to Andrea Spiller Hernandez, Fair Political Practices Commission, 1102 Q Street, Suite 3050, Sacramento, California 95811, or email aspiller-hernandez@fppc.ca.gov.

**AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED
CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CODES**

Copies of the proposed conflict-of-interest code may be obtained from the Commission offices or the

respective agency. Requests for copies from the Commission should be made to Andrea Spiller Hernandez, Fair Political Practices Commission, 1102 Q Street, Suite 3050, Sacramento, California 95811, or email aspiller-hernandez@fppc.ca.gov.

**TITLE 14. DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE**

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE
RE: RESCINDING SELECT COMMERCIAL
GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT MEASURES

PURPOSE OF THIS ACTION

Sections 150.06 and 150.16 were amended by emergency action, and subsequently approved by the Office of Administrative Law on August 21, 2025 (OAL #2025–0811–05E). This emergency action lifted certain restrictions on the commercial groundfish fishery due to updated information about the health of quillback rockfish (*Sebastes maliger*). Therefore, the previous conservation emergency no longer exists, and the associated depth-based restrictions and prohibition on the retention of non-nearshore groundfish stocks are unwarranted. This Certificate of Compliance, in accordance with Government Code Section 11349.6, Review of Proposed Regulations, proposes to permanently adopt regulations which are not materially different from those recently approved by prior emergency action. The proposed Certificate of Compliance is necessary to make the rescission of the earlier restrictions permanent.

The proposed regulation described below may be adopted after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action.

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held virtually via webinar/teleconference:

Public Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026,
1:00 to 2:00 p.m. PST

Location: Teleconference Details will be provided at least seven days in advance of the meeting at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/Regulations/commercial-groundfish-2025>

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Written comments may be submitted at any time before or on March 4, 2026, by mail or email to the contact as follows:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Regulations Unit
Attention: Mike Randall, Analyst
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244–2090
Email: Regulations@wildlife.ca.gov

**INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY
STATEMENT OVERVIEW**

Unless otherwise specified, all section references in this document are to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

Sections 150.06 and 150.16 were amended by emergency action and subsequently approved by the Office of Administrative Law on August 21, 2025 (OAL #2025–0811–05E). This emergency action lifted certain restrictions on the commercial groundfish fishery due to updated information, indicating that the quillback rockfish (*Sebastes maliger*) stock is healthier than previously understood. Therefore, the previous conservation needs no longer exists, and the associated depth-based restrictions and prohibition on the retention of non-nearshore groundfish stocks are unwarranted. This Certificate of Compliance, in accordance with Government Code Section 11349.6, Review of Proposed Regulations, proposes to permanently adopt regulations which are not materially different from those originally approved by emergency action. The proposed Certificate of Compliance is necessary to make the rescission of the prior restrictions permanent.

Occurring on a similar timeline to this proposed certificate of compliance rulemaking, the Department will be pursuing readoption of the emergency regulations amending sections 150.06 and 150.16 (OAL #2025–0811–05E). This will afford the Department sufficient time to complete the proposed certificate of compliance rulemaking, otherwise commercial groundfish regulations would revert back to the more constraining regulations in place at the start of 2025. It should be noted, that identical amendments are proposed to the original emergency regulations in both the readoption and this certificate of compliance rulemakings.

Due to a federal inseason regulatory change on September 18, 2025, the trip limits for lingcod and the other flatfish complex now apply to all federal waters, where previously, they only applied to a discrete portion. As a result, subsection (f), as proposed to be

amended, continues to extend federal trip limits into state waters and applies to all non–nearshore federal groundfish.

The Department does propose some amendments to the original emergency regulations which either reduce regulatory complexity or are non–substantive. Specifically, the proposed amendments either remove redundant references from the trip limit tables or remove specific versions of federal trip limit tables from the State’s regulatory text pertaining to lingcod and the other flatfish complex. However, these amendments do not change what is currently permissible under the emergency regulations. As a result, the Department’s proposed amendments reduce regulatory complexity or are non–substantive.

Background

Results of a 2021 quillback rockfish data–moderate stock assessment concluded that the population of quillback rockfish off California was in severe decline and estimated the population at only 14 percent of the unfished population. This data–moderate stock assessment utilized limited data sources and incorporated proxy data from other states. At the time, the 2021 stock assessment was deemed acceptable for use in federal management and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) subsequently declared the California stock of quillback rockfish as overfished, resulting in constraining state (e.g., California Groundfish Restriction Area (CGRA), etc.) and federal regulations being implemented.

Prior to the Department’s emergency rulemaking, regulations defined the CGRA as the area between the 20–fathom boundary line and the seaward extent of the Exclusive Economic Zone north of 37° 07' North latitude (Año Nuevo). Regulations also prohibited the take and retention or possession of federal groundfish within the CGRA, except for the purposes of continuous transit. Trip limits for nearshore groundfish species were established statewide, though the area north of 37° 07' North latitude was constrained to fishing shoreward of the 20–fathom boundary line. Further, the take of all other non–nearshore groundfish, except for an allowance for the take of yellowtail rockfish by salmon trollers, in state waters north of 37° 07' North latitude.

On June 9, 2025, a draft stock assessment for quillback rockfish off California became available. This new, more robust assessment considered all available data sources, including newly available California–specific life history information, and did not rely on proxy data from other states as the 2021 data–moderate assessment had. The 2025 assessment results indicate that the California quillback stock is healthy and not overfished, a major reversal from the 2021 data–moderate stock assessment.

The new scientific information provided by the 2025 quillback rockfish assessment indicated that the constraining regulations implemented to protect the stock were unwarranted. To reduce harm to the general welfare of the nearshore fishery, commercial groundfish fishery and coastal communities that rely upon them, the Department adopted emergency regulations to rescind the depth constraint and prohibition on the take of non–nearshore groundfish stocks in state waters. Through this proposed certificate of compliance, the Department would ensure these unwarranted constraints are removed permanently.

Benefits of the Proposed Regulation

The Department anticipates this proposed certificate of compliance action will have positive impacts on the commercial nearshore and non–nearshore fisheries and the coastal economies that rely upon them. Thus, this regulation will promote general welfare among Californians by increasing availability of sustainable seafood protein and reestablishing economic opportunities for commercial groundfish fishers and those that rely upon them. The current constraining regulations were put into place to protect quillback rockfish and are no longer needed based upon the latest updated science. By allowing these regulations to remain in place, impacted parties face unwarranted economic harm.

The proposed regulations are informed by the most current understanding of the quillback rockfish stock, which indicates the stock is healthy. These regulations are designed to restore access, economic opportunity and relieve commercial groundfish participants of undue burden.

Consistency and Compatibility with Existing Regulations

The Legislature may delegate to Department such powers relating to the protection and commercial fishery resources as the Legislature sees fit, including the authority to adopt regulations pertaining to commercial fisheries (Fish and Game Code Section 7652). Department staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has determined that other state regulations that apply to management of commercial groundfish fisheries are not inconsistent nor incompatible with the proposed regulations. The Department therefore finds that the proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations.

The Proposed Regulation Does Not Differ or Conflict with Federal Law

The proposed regulation does not differ substantially or conflict with an existing comparable federal regulation or statute. Whereas the federal government has corresponding regulations for Nearshore Rockfish trip limits in federal waters, these trip limits will ap-

ply only in state waters. The Magnuson Stevens Act specifically reserves to the states jurisdiction to regulate fisheries in state waters. See 16 U.S.C. § 1856. The proposed regulations are designed to correspond with the federal regulations.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Section 150.06

Authority cited: Sections 7071, 7652 and 8587.1, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 7071, 7652, 8585.5 and 8587.1, Fish and Game Code.

Section 150.16

Authority cited: Sections 702, 7071 and 8587.1 Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 1802, 8585.5, 8586, 8587 and 8587.1, Fish and Game Code.

Documents Incorporated By Reference:

Due to the federal inseason change, trip limits for lingcod and other flatfish may be taken in all federal waters. Therefore, the level of specificity and incorporation by reference of certain federal tables (Tables 2b and 3b North; and 2b and 3b South) in Section 150.16 amended through the original emergency action, is no longer needed. Therefore the tables previously incorporated by reference are removed from incorporation by reference with this action.

Documents Relied Upon:

Langseth, B.J., M.H. Monk, J.H. Coates, 2025. Status of the Quillback rockfish stock in U.S. waters off the coast of California in 2025. Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland, OR.

https://pam.pcouncil.org/documents/quillback_rockfish_sar_2025-pdf/

September 2025, 90 Federal Register 44998 — Magnuson–Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2025–2026 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/09/18/2025-18079/magnuson-stevens-act-provisions-fisheries-off-west-coast-states-pacific-coast-groundfish-fishery>

Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan for California, Oregon, and Washington Groundfish Fishery. June 2025. Pacific Fishery Management Council.

<https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2022/08/pacific-coast-groundfish-fishery-management-plan.pdf/>

Langseth, B.J., C.R. Wetzel, J.M. Cope, J.E. Budrick. 2021. Status of quillback rockfish (*Sebastes maliger*)

in U.S. waters off the coast of California in 2021 using catch and length data. Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Portland, Oregon.

<https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2021/12/status-of-quillback-rockfish-sebastes-maliger-in-u-s-waters-off-the-coast-of-california-in-2021-using-catch-and-length-data-december-2021.pdf/>

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

Impact Of The Regulatory Action/Results Of The Economic Impact Assessment

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulation has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States: None.

The Department does not anticipate that the proposed action will have significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed regulations removing the CGRA and extending federal trip limits for non–nearshore groundfish stocks into state waters north of 37° 07' North latitude, will increase commercial groundfish fishing opportunity. No new fees are imposed as a result of the proposed regulations, nor are any indirect costs imposed, such as the travel costs that would arise from forcing commercial fishers to target groundfish in federal waters or from costs associated with new reporting requirements.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State’s Environment:

The Department does not anticipate adverse impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs within the state given that the proposed amendments are to increase commercial groundfish opportunities in state waters. The Department does not anticipate adverse impacts on the creation of new business, the elimination of existing businesses, or the expansion of businesses in California. The proposed changes are to remove unnecessary restrictions, which would increase opportunity not only for nearshore fishery partici-

pants, but also for the greater commercial groundfish fishery. The proposed regulations would allow commercial groundfish fishers who do not hold nearshore permits to take and retain non–nearshore groundfish stocks in state waters. Meanwhile, commercial nearshore fishery participants would be able to retain non–nearshore groundfish stocks they encounter while engaging in the nearshore fishery. Taken together, the proposed certificate of compliance action is not anticipated to change the annual level of harvest activity or the demand for goods and services related to marine resource harvest that could impact the demand for labor, induce the creation of new businesses, eliminate existing businesses, or cause the expansion of businesses in California. The Department does not anticipate any benefits to the health and welfare of California residents or to worker safety from the proposed action. The Department anticipates benefits to the State’s environment through adoption of scientifically–based management measures and maintaining the harvest of healthy stocks.

(c) Cost Impacts on Representative Person or Business:

The Department does not anticipate that the proposed action will have significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed regulations to remove the CGRA and extended federal trip limits for non–nearshore groundfish stocks north of 37° 07' North latitude will expand commercial groundfish fishing opportunity. No new fees are imposed as a result of the proposed regulations, nor are any indirect costs imposed, such as the travel costs that would arise from forcing commercial fishers to target groundfish in federal waters or from costs associated with new reporting requirements.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

This certificate of compliance adoption of the emergency rulemaking will not result in any costs or savings to state agencies and does not affect federal funding to the state. The Department has determined that the certificate of compliance action for this commercial groundfish rulemaking will not affect license or landing fee revenues or the Department’s existing level of expenditures on monitoring and enforcement activities. Additionally, no other state agencies would be affected by this regulatory action.

(e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.

(g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under

Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code: None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS

The Department does not anticipate any adverse cost impacts given that the proposed amendments are to increase commercial groundfish opportunities in state waters. The proposed changes are to remove unnecessary restrictions, which would increase opportunity not only for nearshore fishery participants but also for the greater commercial groundfish fishery. The proposed regulations would allow commercial groundfish fishers who do not hold nearshore permits to take and retain non–nearshore groundfish stocks in state waters. The improved access means they would no longer have to fish in federal waters north of 37° 07' North latitude to pursue these stocks.

RESULTS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Department concludes that the proposed regulation will not create additional job opportunities; result in the elimination of jobs or existing businesses, create new businesses, eliminate existing businesses, or expand businesses in the state.

(a) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State:

The Department does not anticipate that the proposed regulation will prompt the creation or the elimination of jobs within the state. The proposed amendments would restore commercial access to all groundfish stocks in state waters north of 37° 07' North latitude. Prior to the emergency regulations currently in place, only groundfish authorized for take under a nearshore permit could be taken and retained shoreward of the CGRA. Commercial fishers pursuing other non–nearshore groundfish would have to do so outside of state waters. As a result, the proposed amendments are not expected to negatively affect current harvest activity, nor would they precipitate the creation of jobs or the elimination of jobs.

(b) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State:

The Department does not anticipate that the proposed regulation would induce impacts on the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state. The proposed regulation is not anticipated to increase demand for services or products from the existing businesses that serve individuals who engage in groundfish harvest. The proposed amendments would restore commercial access to all groundfish stocks in state waters north of 37° 07' North latitude.

(c) Effects of the Regulation on the Expansion of Businesses Currently Doing Business Within the State:

The Department does not anticipate that the proposed regulation would induce impacts on the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state. The proposed amendments would restore commercial access to all groundfish stocks in state waters north of 37° 07' North latitude. Prior to the emergency regulations currently in place, only groundfish authorized for take under a nearshore permit could be taken and retained shoreward of the CGRA. Commercial fishers pursuing other non-nearshore groundfish would have to do so outside of state waters. As a result, it is not anticipated to increase demand for services or products from the existing businesses that serve individuals who engage in commercial groundfish harvest.

(d) Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents:

The Department does not anticipate benefits to the health and welfare of California residents because the proposed regulatory change has no relation to health or welfare.

(e) Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety:

The Department does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety in California because this action will not affect working conditions.

(f) Benefits of the Regulation to the State's Environment:

The Department anticipates benefits to the State's environment directly through maintaining the harvest of healthy stocks while mitigating mortality of quillback rockfish. These regulations are designed to restore access, economic opportunity and relieve commercial groundfish participants of undue burden, while also not adversely impacting quillback rockfish. Commercial retention of quillback rockfish will remain prohibited under the proposed regulations and as a result there is little risk to the resource. It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens of the state.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.5, subdivision (a)(13), the Department must determine that no reasonable alternatives to the proposed regulation it considered or that have otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would either be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action or would be more cost-effective to af-

ected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

The Department invites interested persons to present statements or arguments with respect to alternatives to the regulations during the written comment period.

AVAILABILITY OF RULEMAKING DOCUMENTS AND CONTACT PERSONS

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulation in underline and strikeout format can be accessed through the Department website at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/Regulations/commercial-groundfish-2025>.

The proposed text (the "express terms") of the regulations, as well as all related documents upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review at 715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 (17th floor). The rulemaking file will be available electronically upon request by contacting the Department at Regulations@wildlife.ca.gov. Inquiries concerning the regulatory process or requests for documents should be directed to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mike Randall, Regulations Unit
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
Telephone: (916) 902-9109
Email: Regulations@wildlife.ca.gov

Inquiries concerning the subject matter or substance of the proposed action should be directed to:

Andrew Klein, Senior Environmental Scientist,
Specialist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940
Telephone: (831) 241-1830
Email: groundfish@wildlife.ca.gov

THE RULEMAKING FILE CONSISTS OF

- Notice of Proposed Regulatory Action.
- Initial Statement of Reasons.
- Proposed Text of the Regulation: Amendments to Sections 150.06, and 150.16, Title 14, CCR.
- Economic and Fiscal Impact Statement (Form STD 399) and addendum.
- Documents or Reports supporting the proposed regulation change.

AVAILABILITY OF THE INITIAL
STATEMENT OF REASONS, TEXT
OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS, AND
RULEMAKING FILE

The rulemaking file will be available online at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/Regulations/commercial-groundfish-2025>.

AVAILABILITY OF CHANGED
OR MODIFIED TEXT

After considering all the timely and relevant comments received, the Department may adopt the proposed regulation substantially as described in this notice. If the Department makes modifications which are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, it will make the modified text (with the changes clearly indicated) available to the public for at least 15 days before the Department adopts the regulation as revised. Please send requests for copies of any modified regulation to the Regulations Unit at the address above. The Department will accept written comments on the modified regulations for 15 days after the date on which they are made available.

AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL
STATEMENT OF REASONS

Upon its completion, copies of the Final Statement of Reasons may be obtained by checking the website at the link provided above, or contacting the Regulations Unit at the address above.

**TITLE 22. DEPARTMENT OF
TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL**

SAFER CONSUMER PRODUCTS
REGULATIONS — LISTING MANUAL
DISH DETERGENTS AND SHAMPOO
CONTAINING 1,4-DIOXANE AT
CONCENTRATIONS GREATER THAN
1 PART PER MILLION (PPM) AS
PRIORITY PRODUCTS

REFERENCE NUMBER: R-2025-08R

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) proposes to amend California Code of Regulations, title 22, division 4.5, chapter 55, article 11, section 69511, and adopt sections 69511.11 and 69511.12. This proposed amendment pertains to identification of two Priority Products under the Safer Consumer Products (SCP)

Regulations, approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and filed with the Secretary of State on August 28, 2013 (effective date: 10/01/2013; OAL Regulatory Action Number: Z-2012-07170-04).

COMMENT PERIOD

A public comment period for the rulemaking has been established commencing on January 16, 2026, and closing on March 2, 2026.

Statements, arguments, or contentions regarding the rulemaking and/or supporting documents must be submitted in writing (electronically or in hard copy) or presented orally or in writing at a public hearing, if a hearing is requested, to be considered by DTSC before it adopts these regulations. Only comments received at the DTSC office or postmarked on or before March 2, 2026, will be considered.

Written comments may be submitted electronically through the SCP Information Management System, CalSAFER at: <https://calsafertdsc.ca.gov/>. While DTSC prefers comments to be submitted through the CalSAFER system, interested persons may also submit their comments in an email to: SaferConsumerProducts@dtsc.ca.gov or through the DTSC regulations email address at regs@dtsc.ca.gov. Please include the DTSC reference number for this rulemaking package in the subject of your message. Direct hard-copy written comments to the Office of Legislation and Regulatory Review, as specified below.

A public hearing has not been scheduled for this rulemaking. However, DTSC will conduct a hearing if a written request for a public hearing is received from any interested person, or their duly authorized representative, no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period, pursuant to Government Code Section 11346.8. Submit a written request for a public hearing in an email to SaferConsumerProducts@dtsc.ca.gov or to the Office of Legislation and Regulatory Review (OLRR), as specified below.

Notice Pertaining to Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodation

To ensure the public has equal access to all available services and information, DTSC will provide disability-related reasonable accommodations and/or translator/interpreter needs, upon request. For assistance, please contact OLRR, as specified below. Note: the range of assistive series available may be limited if requests are made less than 10 business days prior to the end of the comment period.

Office of Legislation and Regulatory Review
Department of Toxic Substances Control
P.O. Box 806

Sacramento, California 95812-0806
Fax Number: (916) 324-1808
Phone Number: (279) 895-5179

TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Authority: Health and Safety Code (HSC) sections 25252, 25253, and 58012 (added by Gov. Reorg. Plan Number 1, § 146, eff. July 17, 1991).

Reference: HSC sections 25252 and 25253.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Policy Statement Overview: DTSC proposes to add manual dish detergents and shampoo containing 1,4-dioxane at concentrations greater than 1 part per million (ppm) as Priority Products to the Priority Products List.

Following an extensive review of the scientific literature and analysis of the known hazard traits of 1,4-dioxane, DTSC concluded that there is a potential for humans to be exposed to 1,4-dioxane during the normal use and end-of-life of manual dish detergents and shampoo. 1,4-Dioxane is a persistent, mobile carcinogen. It is resistant to degradation, can spread quickly in water and soil, and cannot be removed by standard wastewater or drinking water treatments. Consequently, there is potential for widespread exposure to 1,4-dioxane through drinking water, and the presence of 1,4-dioxane in wastewater also contributes to adverse impacts to water agencies that produce recycled water. DTSC based this determination on an evaluation of available, reliable scientific information pertinent to the regulatory criteria.

Benefits of the Proposed Regulatory Action: A primary goal of the SCP Regulations is to prevent or reduce potential adverse health and environmental impacts to the State of California. By listing manual dish detergents and shampoo containing 1,4-dioxane at concentrations greater than 1 ppm as Priority Products, DTSC requires manufacturers selling these products into California to evaluate whether 1,4-dioxane at concentrations greater than 1 ppm is necessary in these products or whether there are functionally safer alternatives that would reduce exposure to 1,4-dioxane during manufacturing, use, or disposal of these products containing 1,4-dioxane. Reduction of 1,4-dioxane in consumer products and the environment would result in safer homes, workplaces, and a more sustainable environment, with cleaner drinking water. Reducing exposure to 1,4-dioxane could reduce health effects such as kidney toxicity to Californians, reduce wastewater treatment costs, and increase the use of recycled water.

DTSC cannot pre-determine the alternatives that each manufacturer will propose; therefore, it is impossible to accurately predict or quantify the full range of potential benefits associated with their development. DTSC's process encourages the use of alternatives of least concern and prefers those that provide the greatest level of inherent protection. In general, economic benefits to California workers and business owners may include expanded employment opportunities in the fields of consulting, worker and consumer education, and marketing. Additional benefits may accrue because of increased research and product development collaboration between manufacturers and California-based research entities. Institutional and corporate financial support of chemical and material science programs focused on developing safer alternatives to 1,4-dioxane could advance the field. These research initiatives could provide manufacturers with employees that are highly skilled in the research and design of products for newly emerging global markets.

Existing Laws and Regulations: The SCP Regulations established a unique approach to regulating Chemicals of Concern in consumer products that grants DTSC authority to take actions to protect people and the environment when such actions are outside the scope of other regulatory programs. There are no equivalent federal or state regulations that require product manufacturers to determine if the chemical in their product is necessary and whether there is a safer alternative, with the goal of protecting consumers and the environment from adverse effects associated with a product throughout its lifecycle.

Therefore, the proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing or federal regulations.

Related State and Federal Laws and Regulations: DTSC has assessed all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, as well as international treaties or agreements with the force of domestic law, related to the proposed Priority Product and the Candidate Chemical in the product. DTSC has determined that the proposed regulation does not duplicate or conflict with any of these regulations, which are discussed below.

California's Cleaning Products Right to Know Act

California's Cleaning Products Right to Know Act applies to all cleaning products (household, institutional, commercial) and defines 1,4-dioxane as a non-functional constituent that is required to be included on the label if it is present in the finished designated product at a concentration at or above 0.001% (10 ppm). This legislation became effective for online disclosures on January 1, 2020, and went into effect for on-label disclosures on January 1, 2021.

California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Proposition 65 List

1,4–Dioxane is also included on the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment’s (OEHHA) Proposition 65 list as a chemical known to the state to cause cancer. As a result, manufacturers must determine whether their product contains 1,4–dioxane at levels that would result in exposure above the established No Significant Risk Level (NSRL) of 30 µg/day to determine whether a warning label is required.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Personal care and household cleansing products sold in New York may not contain 1,4–dioxane at concentrations above 1 ppm after December 31, 2023.

Oregon Toxic Free Kids Act

The state of Oregon lists 1,4–dioxane as a high priority chemical of concern under its Toxic Free Kids Act. Manufacturers of children’s products sold in Oregon must report products that contain 1,4–dioxane above a de minimis level of 100 ppm and, in these instances, ultimately remove 1,4–dioxane from the product or seek a waiver.

Comparable Federal Regulation or Statute: These regulations are not based on, identical to, or in conflict with any federal regulations.

OTHER APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS
PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The proposed regulation will not result in a change in significance of any of the physical conditions within the environmental factors that are analyzed under CEQA. DTSC has determined that this rulemaking would be exempt from CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.) under the “feasibility or planning study” and “data collection” exemptions outlined in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15262 and 15306, respectively. The project would also be exempt under the common sense exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., title 14, § 15061, subdivision (b)(3).) A draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) is available for review during the public comment period upon request and will be filed with the State Clearinghouse if the regulation is finalized.

California Environmental Policy Council Review: Under the provisions of Health and Safety Code section 25252.5, the California Environmental Policy Council (CEPC) reviewed the framework SCP Regulations prior to their adoption in October 2013 (the CEPC Resolution may be viewed at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/cepc/>). Under HSC section 25252.5(f), the CEPC determined that the proposed regulations would not have any significant adverse im-

pact on public health or the environment and could be adopted by DTSC without undergoing a multimedia life cycle evaluation. DTSC determined that further review by the CEPC is not warranted for this rulemaking because the requirements of HSC section 25252.5 apply only to the creation of the SCP program and not regulations that may be required to implement this program.

Scientific Peer Review: DTSC requested and obtained an external scientific peer review of the scientific basis of the proposed regulation pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 57004. The result of the external scientific peer review is posted to DTSC’s rulemaking website at: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/regis/>.

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE
PROPOSED ACTION

DTSC has determined that the proposed regulations will impose costs or savings on a state agency but will not impose a cost to a local agency or school district that is required to be reimbursed pursuant to part 7 of division 4, commencing with section 17500, of the Government Code, or other nondiscretionary cost or savings imposed on local agencies, and the cost or savings in federal funding to the state. DTSC has determined that the proposed regulations will not result in any changes to federal funds that the state of California receives.

Costs or Savings to Any State Agency: DTSC will absorb additional costs associated with reviewing Notifications submitted by manufacturers of manual dish detergents or shampoo containing 1,4–dioxane at concentrations greater than 1 ppm because DTSC has been budgeted to review documents associated with Priority Products. DTSC estimates that the total fiscal costs to state government for reviewing all Notifications submitted by manufacturers will range from \$204,400 to \$459,900.

Local Agencies: None.

School Districts: None.

Federal Funding to the State: None.

Local Mandate: None.

Types of Businesses Affected: Manufacturers of manual dish detergents or shampoo containing 1,4–dioxane at concentrations greater than 1 ppm have the principal duty to comply with the notification and reporting requirements.

Projected Reporting, Recordkeeping, or other Compliance Requirements: In accordance with Government Code sections 11346.3(c) and 11346.5(a)(11), DTSC found that the reporting requirements of the proposed regulatory action, which apply to businesses, are necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the State of California. The specific re-

porting requirements and forms are delineated in California Code of Regulations, title 22:

- Priority Product Notification [section 69503.7].
- Removal/Replacement Notifications:
 - Chemical of Concern Removal Intent Notification [section 69505.2].
 - Chemical of Concern Removal Confirmation Notification [section 69505.2].
 - Product Removal Intent Notification [section 69505.2].
 - Product Removal Confirmation Notification [section 69505.2].
 - Product–Chemical Replacement Intent Notification [section 69505.2].
 - Product–Chemical Replacement Confirmation Notification [section 69505.2].
 - Product Cease Ordering Notification [section 69501.2(b)(2)(B)].
- Alternatives Analysis Notifications and Reports:
 - AA Extension [section 69505.1(c)].
 - Preliminary AA Report [section 69505.4(a)(2), section 69505.5, section 69505.1(b)(2)(A), section 69505.7].
 - Final AA Report [section 69505.4(a)(3), section 69505.6, section 69505.1(b)(2)(B), section 69505.7].
 - Abridged AA Report [section 69505.4(b)].
 - Alternate AA Work Plan [section 69505.4(c)].
 - Previously completed AA [section 69505.4(d)].

The reports and forms that a manufacturer must submit depend on several factors including the Priority Products produced, the availability of viable alternatives, and business decisions made by the manufacturer. The reporting requirements applicable to responsible entities may be fulfilled by a consortium, trade association, public–private partnership, or other entity acting on behalf of, or in lieu of, one or more manufacturer. This does not apply to the Priority Product Notification requirement as they must be submitted by a manufacturer.

Cost Impacts on Representative Private Persons or Businesses: DTSC relied on a variety of sources to estimate the number of California–based manufacturers of manual dish detergents or shampoo containing 1,4–dioxane at concentrations greater than 1 ppm potentially impacted by this proposed regulation. DTSC searched lists of manufacturers provided in Data Axle Reference Solutions for manufacturers of manual dish detergents or shampoo containing 1,4–dioxane at concentrations greater than 1 ppm. DTSC then searched manufacturers’ websites to refine the list of companies manufacturing these products.

Based on the data collected from these sources, DTSC estimates there are up to 3 manufacturers of manual dish detergents containing 1,4–dioxane at concentrations greater than 1 ppm, and 4 manufacturers of shampoo containing 1,4–dioxane at concentrations greater than 1 ppm that would be potentially affected by these regulations. DTSC estimates that total costs could range from \$35,700 to \$71,400 for all California–based manufacturers to fulfill the requirements of the regulation. These are one–time notification and reporting requirements that manufacturers are expected to complete within one year of adoption of the proposed regulation; therefore, there are no ongoing costs.

Effect on Housing Costs: None.

Effect on Small Businesses: The proposed regulations will affect small businesses. DTSC estimates that up to 85% of the potentially impacted manufacturers are small businesses; however, all impacted businesses, regardless of size, will incur the same costs of regulatory compliance.

Significant, Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Business, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States: None.

RESULTS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS/ASSESSMENT

Creation of New Businesses or Elimination of Existing Businesses: DTSC determined that it is unlikely that this proposal will eliminate or create businesses in manufacturing of manual dish detergents and/or shampoo. It is possible that this proposal could create an unknown number of businesses to assist manufacturers of manual dish detergents or shampoo containing 1,4–dioxane at concentrations greater than 1 ppm in meeting regulatory obligations including consulting services, chemical and material science research services, and product development support.

Expansion of Businesses Currently doing Business: DTSC determined that it is possible that this proposal could result in the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state, particularly those engaged in regulatory consulting services, chemical and material science research and support, product research and design and marketing.

Creation of New Jobs or Elimination of Existing Jobs: The proposed regulations may result in expanded employment opportunities with an unknown number of public or private sector jobs in consulting services, product research and design, chemical and material science research and support and marketing.

Benefits of the Regulation on the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State’s Environment: DTSC made an initial de-

termination that the adoption of these regulations may positively affect the health and welfare of California residents and worker safety. A reduction in exposure to 1,4-dioxane could benefit the health of California's residents. The development of safer alternatives benefits California workers, consumers, and employers. DTSC cannot predetermine the alternatives that each manufacturer will propose; therefore, it is impossible to accurately predict or quantify the full range of potential benefits associated with their development. DTSC's process encourages the use of alternatives of least concern and prefers those that provide the greatest level of inherent protection. Additional benefits may accrue because of increased research and product development collaboration between manufacturers and California-based research facilities. Institutional and corporate financial support of chemical and material science programs focused on developing safer manual dish detergents and/or shampoo could advance the field. These research initiatives could provide manufacturers with employees that are highly skilled in the research and design of products for newly emerging global markets.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

DTSC must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of DTSC would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law. DTSC's consideration of alternatives is available in the Initial Statement of Reasons included as part of these proposed regulations.

AVAILABILITY OF TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS, INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS, AND OTHER RULEMAKING DOCUMENTS

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, Initial Statement of Reasons, all the information upon which this proposal is based, and the express terms of the proposed regulations (also known as the proposed regulatory text) are posted to DTSC's Internet website at <https://dtsc.ca.gov/regs/>.

After the close of the comment period, DTSC may adopt the proposed regulations. If substantial, sufficiently related changes are made to the regulatory text, the modified full text (with the changes clearly indicated) will be made available for comment for at least 15 days prior to adoption to those who 1) submitted

written comments during the comment period; 2) submitted written or oral comments at the public hearing, if a hearing is held; and 3) specifically requested notification of the availability of such changes.

Once DTSC finalizes the regulatory text, DTSC will prepare a Final Statement of Reasons that updates the Initial Statement of Reasons, summarizes how DTSC addressed comments, and includes other materials. A copy of the Final Statement of Reasons will also be posted on DTSC's Internet site at <https://dtsc.ca.gov/regs/>, along with the date the rulemaking is filed with the Secretary of State and the effective date of the regulation.

CONTACT PERSONS

Inquiries regarding technical aspects of the proposed regulation, CEQA documents, or CalSAFER may be directed to Robert Rossi of DTSC at robert.rossi@dtsc.ca.gov, or, if unavailable, David Rist of DTSC at david.rist@dtsc.ca.gov. However, such oral inquiries are not part of the rulemaking record.

ALL OTHER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/INQUIRIES/UPDATES

Please direct all written comments, procedural inquiries, and requests for documents by mail or email to the Office of Legislation and Regulatory Review, as specified above. To be included in this regulation package's mailing list and to receive updates for this rulemaking, please email your request to regs@dtsc.ca.gov.

TITLE 22. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

AMBULANCE PATIENT OFFLOAD TIME

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) is proposing to take the action described in the Informative Digest. Written comments, including those sent by mail, facsimile, or email to addresses listed under Craig Branson in this Notice, must be received by EMSA at its office by Wednesday, March 4, 2026. EMSA has not scheduled a public hearing on this proposed action at this time. However, EMSA will hold a hearing if it receives a written request for a public hearing from any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, no later than 15 days before the close of the written comment period. EMSA may thereafter adopt the proposal substantially as described below or may modify the proposal if such modifications are suffi-

ciently related to the original text. With the exception of technical or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposal will be available for 15 days prior to its adoption from the person designated in this Notice as the contact person and will be mailed to those persons who submit written or oral testimony related to this proposal or who have requested notification of any changes to the proposal.

Authority and Reference: The Health and Safety Code Section 1797.107 authorizes EMSA to adopt the proposed regulations, which would implement, interpret, clarify, or make specific Section 1797.112 of the Health and Safety Code.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

The Emergency Medical Services System and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act (Health and Safety Code Division 2.5) created EMSA and outlined its authorities, duties, and responsibilities. Included in the act are the authority and procedures for promulgating regulations (Health and Safety Code section 1797.107). Health and Safety Code section 1797.112 creates the EMS personnel fund (Fund) along with requirement of the fund, which is maintained by EMSA. EMSA is part of a two-tier system overseeing Emergency Medical Services. EMSA serves as the agency that sets statewide EMS system operation, data collection, communications, manpower, and training standards and a Local Emergency Medical Service Agency (LEMSA) provides EMS system oversight at the local level. Today, there are 34 LEMSAs in California. Most LEMSAs serve a single county, but other LEMSAs serve multiple counties. Over the course of 30 years, Title 22, Division 9 of the California Code of Regulations has been continuously amended to reflect new technologies, policy priorities and budgetary items. Emergency Medical Services Authority has been diligent in updating regulations that impact how patients, professionals and other participants in the emergency medical system interact with each other.

As previously required by AB 1223 (O’Connell, Chapter 379, Statutes of 2015), EMSA worked with an Ambulance Patient Offload Time stakeholder group to create the APOT–1 and APOT–2 specifications, which were approved by the statewide Commission on EMSA in December 2016. Ambulance patient offload time (APOT), known as “wall time”, is the time interval between (a) the arrival of an ambulance at an emergency department (ED) and (b) the transfer of the patient to a gurney/bed/chair, at which time the ED assumes responsibility for the care of the patient. Now, to meet the requirements of AB 40 (Rodriguez, Chapter 367, Statutes of 2023), EMSA is again addressing

necessary changes to streamline patient transfers, reduce delays, and enhance coordination between EMS agencies and hospitals. For many local EMS agencies (LEMSAs) across California, the problem of prolonged APOT has been a longstanding, gradually increasing problem, which has been exacerbated by the recent COVID–19 pandemic. While not all local EMS systems and hospitals experience delayed APOT, dire outcomes may result for those that do.

AB 40 requires LEMSAs to provide APOT data to EMSA on a consistent basis so that EMSA and stakeholders can work to implement policy solutions that achieve efficient APOTs across the state and standardize when transfer of care is executed for documentation of APOT. Improving APOT will improve patient care for patients in the entire medical response system and increase the public’s safety overall. In collaboration with experts from LEMSAs and other stakeholders, EMSA will develop and implement an electronic signature function in the California EMS Information System (CEMSIS), an audit tool to improve the data accuracy of transfer of care, establish monthly monitoring of APOT data for all reporting hospitals, report excessive APOT times to affected LEMSAs and the Commission on EMS, and provide technical assistance and compliance enforcement to Emergency Departments (EDs) that do not meet APOT standards. LEMSAs will adopt an APOT standard, not to exceed 30 minutes, 90% of the time. Subsequently, this requires a hospital to develop an APOT reduction protocol to facilitate a rapid reduction in APOT to the adopted standard when the standard has been exceeded.

In summary, the proposed regulations will define key terms and phrases used throughout the medical field, codify within regulations uniform APOT standards, require hospitals to submit reduction time protocols, integrate statewide data systems, implement EMSA–developed audit tools, include signature time requirements, and require bi–weekly coordination calls between various entities to correct non–compliance.

Consistency and Compatibility with existing State regulations: During the process of developing these regulations and amendments, EMSA has conducted a search of any similar regulations on this topic and has concluded that these regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

- Technical Specification to Calculate Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT) (Rev. 04/25).
- Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT) Reduction Protocol Checklist for General Acute Care Hospitals (GACHs) with an Emergency Department (Rev. 04/25).

- EMSA–TA–Request–1 (Rev. 04/2025).
- EMSA–APOT–Grant–1(Rev. 04/2025).
- EMSA–Grant–Report–1 (Rev. 04/2025).

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

Cost or savings to any state agency: Yes.

Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: None.

Local mandate: None.

Nondiscretionary costs or savings to local agencies: None.

Cost to any local agency or school district which must be reimbursed in accordance with Government Code Section 17500–17630: None.

Business Report Requirement:

- The regulation requires data reporting.
- The reporting requirement applies to businesses in the form of ambulance providers and hospitals throughout the state.
- EMSA finds that it is necessary for the health, safety, or welfare of the people of the state that the regulation apply to businesses.

Cost impact on a representative private person or business: Yes. There will be some impact to businesses in the form of hospitals and EMS providers to account for specific IT requirements with data reporting in addition to expected minimal initial training of new guidelines.

Significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states: None.

Significant effect on housing costs: None.

Effect on small businesses: The proposed regulations will affect small business.

RESULTS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS/ASSESSMENT

Economic Impact Assessment:

EMSA concludes that it is: (1) unlikely that the proposal will eliminate any jobs; (2) unlikely the proposal will create any new jobs; (3) unlikely the proposal will create new businesses; (4) unlikely the proposal will eliminate any existing businesses; and (5) unlikely the regulations will result in the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state. The health and welfare of California residents and anyone in California will benefit from these regulations as it specifically attempts to address and create solutions to APOT times exceeding 30 minutes, thereby significantly improving positive patient outcomes. There is no anticipated impact on the environment or worker safety.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

EMSA must determine that no reasonable alternative to the regulation or has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would either be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposal described in this Notice, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing statutory policy or other provision of law.

Any interested person may present statements or arguments with respect to alternatives to the proposed regulations during the written comment period or at the scheduled hearing.

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS, TEXT OF THE PROPOSAL, FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS, AND RULEMAKING FILE

Copies of the proposed text, any document incorporated by reference, and the initial statement of reasons are available by contacting the person named below.

All information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file which is available for public inspection by contacting the person named below.

A copy of the final statement of reasons can be obtained once it has been completed, by making a request to the contact person named below or by accessing the website listed below.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS ON THE INTERNET

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the proposed text are available on the EMSA website at https://emsa.ca.gov/public_comment/.

CONTACT PERSON

Inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be addressed to:

Name: Craig Branson
 Emergency Medical Services Authority
 Address: 11120 International Drive, Suite 200
 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
 Cellphone: (916) 537–6866
 Email: craig.branson@emsa.ca.gov

The backup contact person is:

Name: Ashley Williams
 Emergency Medical Services Authority
 Address: 11120 International Drive, Suite 200
 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Cell: (916) 591-3266

Email: ashley.williams@emsa.ca.gov

**RULEMAKING PETITION
DECISION**

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

RICARDO LARA
CALIFORNIA INSURANCE
COMMISSIONER

JANUARY 5, 2026

EDWARD CHAMBERLAIN

SUBJECT: Petition Pursuant to California Government Code § 11340.6 and Request for Market Conduct Examination.

Dear Mr. Chamberlain:

The California Department of Insurance (Department) is in receipt of your email containing a petition for rulemaking and request for market conduct examination regarding INTERINSURANCE EXCHANGE OF THE AUTOMOBILE CLUB (AAA), dated December 6, 2025. The petition filed pursuant to California Government Code § 11340.6 seeks to adopt new regulations governing the conduct of insurer internal SIU employees and initiate a market conduct examination investigating the conduct and policies of AAA's SIU unit. As the principal insurance regulator for the nation's largest insurance market, the Department is committed to safeguarding all of the state's consumers by fairly regulating the insurance industry and takes these petitions seriously.

Your letter outlines two specific requests: 1) Request for Market Conduct Action and 2) Petition for Rulemaking.

**REQUEST FOR MARKET
CONDUCT ACTION**

Regarding your request for a market conduct examination of AAA, the Department received your original complaint on October 9, 2024. That complaint file was closed on January 15, 2025, the Department finding no evidence that the insurer acted improperly.

Please rest assured that if the Department were to become aware or have reason to suspect that an insurer was consistently acting inappropriately, the Depart-

ment might then choose to conduct a targeted exam, but that is not the case here.

PETITION FOR RULEMAKING

Regarding your request for a rulemaking, that request is DENIED. The Department cannot promulgate the regulations requested because they would conflict with existing statute.

The first portion of the request (Post-Closure Ban) is inconsistent with Insurance Code § 791.13(b) and (c). Insurers are currently permitted to disclose to third-parties for purposes related to detection of criminal activity, fraud detection or prevention, or detection of material misrepresentation or nondisclosure; these disclosures are expressly permitted, without reference to a particular time or point during the insurance transaction. Therefore, the requested regulation would impermissibly narrow the scope of the existing statute, by limiting the duration of the investigation phase during which regulated entities could disclose for investigatory purposes. Practically speaking, the closure of a claim does not preclude subsequent referral for criminal prosecution, so implementing the change requested could negatively affect the ability of insurance entities to investigate fraud and material misrepresentation. Additionally, under this proposed restriction, if a claim is settled and fraud is later alleged, the carrier would be unable to conduct a meaningful investigation and, potentially, could prevent the carrier from referring fraud findings to law enforcement.

The second portion of the request (Strict Liability) would hold insurers strictly liable for disclosure of claim status or history during interviews. Again, this change is inconsistent with the existing the Insurance Information and Privacy Protection Act (the IIPPA). As discussed above, insurance entities are permitted to disclose for purposes related to detection/investigation of criminal activity, fraud, material misrepresentation/nondisclosure; this includes disclosure of both personal and privileged information, without limitation. Under the IIPPA, "Personal information" is broadly defined to include almost any information about an individual which is collected in connection with an insurance transaction (Ins. Code § 791.02(s)), while "Privileged information" includes any information collected in connection with a claim or criminal proceeding (Ins. Code § 791.02(v)). Both "Personal" and "Privileged" information are permitted to be disclosed in connection with investigations (Ins. Code § 791.13, subdivisions (b) and (c)). The requested change would impose liability for disclosure of claim status or history, both of which constitute "Personal" or "Privileged" information; again, because personal and privileged information are, without limita-

tion, permitted to be disclosed for purposes of investigation, as discussed above, the proposed regulation would impermissibly narrow the statute by imposing liability for acts permitted under the statute.

The petition does not specify any particular regulatory provisions of the California Code of Regulations requested to be affected. Nor does it refer to rulemaking authority in the Insurance Code to take the action requested.

I am the agency contact person for purposes of this denial of petition for rulemaking. Any interested person has the right to obtain a copy of the petition from the Department.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Teresa R. Campbell
General Counsel

**SUMMARY OF
REGULATORY ACTIONS**

**REGULATIONS FILED WITH THE
SECRETARY OF STATE**

This Summary of Regulatory Actions lists regulations filed with the Secretary of State on the dates indicated. Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the agency or from the Secretary of State, Archives, 1020 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 653–7715. Please have the agency name and the date filed (see below) when making a request.

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
File # 2025–1119–03
Forest Resilience and Oak Woodland Exemption,
2025

The Z’berg–Nejedly Forest Practices Act of 1973 (the Act) prohibits a person from conducting timber operations, as defined, unless a timber harvesting plan prepared by a registered professional forester has been submitted to, and approved by, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The Act authorizes the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (the Board) to exempt from some or all of those provisions of the Act a person engaging in specified forest management activities, as prescribed, including: (1) for a period of five years following the adoption of emergency regulations, the cutting or removal of trees on the person’s property that eliminates the vertical continuity of vegetative fuels and the horizontal continuity of tree crowns for the purpose of reducing flammable materials and maintaining a fuel break, known as the Small Timberland Owner Exemption; (2) un-

til January 1, 2026, the harvesting of those trees that eliminates the vertical continuity of vegetative fuels and the horizontal continuity of tree crowns for specified purposes, known as the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption; (3) until January 1, 2026, the cutting or removal of trees on the person’s property in compliance with specified defensible space requirements, as provided; and (4) the cutting or removal of trees to restore and conserve California black or Oregon white oak woodlands and associated grasslands. Assembly Bill 2276 (2023–2024 Reg. Sess.) (1) repealed the Small Timberland Owner Exemption; (2) renamed the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption the Forest Resilience Exemption, revised standards and criteria for qualifying for that exemption, and extended that exemption until January 1, 2031; and (3) extended until January 1, 2031 the other exemption described above. A.B. 2276 also revised requirements governing compliance with the cutting or removal of trees to restore and conserve California black or Oregon white oak woodlands and associated grasslands. In this certificate of compliance pursuant to Gov. Code § 11346.1(e), the Board is amending regulations necessary to implement and ensure compliance with these requirements and with the Forest Resilience Exemption requirements, as required by the statutory changes made by A.B. 2276.

Title 14
Amend: 895, 895.1, 1038, 1038.3, 1038.4, 1052.1, 1052.4
Filed 01/06/2026
Effective 01/06/2026
Agency Contact:
Jane Van Susteren (916) 619–9795

California Film Commission
File # 2025–1222–01
California Film and Television Tax Credit Program

This emergency action by the California Film Commission amends regulations governing the Motion Picture Tax Credit 4.0 Program and Soundstage Filming Tax Credit Program to further implement Assembly Bill 1138 (Stats. 2025 chapter 27), which, in part, revised the definition of qualified motion picture to include live action and animated series with episodes averaging 20 minutes or more, animated films, and large-scale competition shows, as specified.

Title 10
Amend: 5550, 5551, 5552, 5553, 5553.1, 5553.2, 5554, 5554.2, 5555
Filed 01/02/2026
Effective 01/02/2026
Agency Contact: Leah Medrano (323) 817–4110

Fish and Game Commission

File # 2025-1224-01

Commercial Coonstripe Shrimp Second Emergency Extension

This emergency readoption action pursuant to Government Code section 11346.1(h) by the Fish and Game Commission limits the number of traps used in the coonstripe shrimp fishery in an effort to prevent marine life entanglements. This is the second readoption of the emergency action that was previously adopted in Office of Administrative Law file numbers 2025-0327-02E and 2025-0918-01EE.

Title 14

Amend: 180.15

Filed 01/02/2026

Effective 01/02/2026

Agency Contact: Jenn Bacon (916) 902-9285

State Teachers Retirement System

File # 2025-1120-03

Updates to the Board Elections Regulations

This "File and Print" regulatory action from the California Teachers' Retirement System makes revisions to its regulations for the election of three positions on its governing board. This rulemaking is exempt from the Administrative Procedure Act pursuant to Education Code section 22200.5(c).

Title 05

Adopt: 24003.5

Amend: 24000, 24001, 24002, 24003, 24004, 24005, 24006, 24007, 24008, 24009

Filed 01/05/2026

Effective 01/01/2026

Agency Contact: Sal Sanchez (916) 414-1984

State Water Resources Control Board

File # 2025-1203-03

Water Right Civil Penalties — Adjustments for Inflation under AB 460

This file and print action pursuant to Water Code section 1055.5(a)(3) by the State Water Resources Control Board adjusts civil penalties for inflation as required by Assembly Bill 460 (Stats. 2024, chapter 342).

Title 23

Adopt: 1100

Filed 12/31/2025

Effective 01/01/2026

Agency Contact: Jason Grimm (916) 327-1669

Air Resources Board

File # 2025-1117-01

Transport Refrigeration Unit Regulation

This action by the Air Resources Board, pursuant to 1 California Code of Regulations section 100, updates the Authority and Reference citations for some sections of the Transport Refrigeration Unit Regulation, to add newly enacted Health and Safety Code section 39611 regarding fees.

Title 13

Amend: 2477, 2477.5, 2477.12, 2477.17, 2477.21, 2477.24

Filed 01/02/2026

Agency Contact: Lindsay Garcia (916) 546-2286

New Motor Vehicle Board

File # 2025-1120-01

Article 7 — Conflict-of-Interest Code

This section 100 action, submitted by the New Motor Vehicle Board (NMVB) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 1, section 100, amends the preceding note to NMVB's conflict-of-interest code to reflect the updated address for the Fair Political Practices Commission.

Title 13

Amend: 599

Filed 01/07/2026

Agency Contact: Robin Parker (916) 323-1536

California Prison Industry Authority

File # 2025-1124-02

CALPIA Name Change

This section 100 action pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 1, section 100 by the California Prison Industry Authority (CalPIA) amends regulations to update cross-references, use gender-neutral language, and account for the agency name change to the California Correctional Training and Rehabilitation Authority established by Senate Bill 857 (Chapter 241, Statutes of 2025).

Title 15

Amend: 8000, 8001, 8004, 8004.1, 8004.2, 8004.3, 8004.4, 8005, 8006, 8007, 8008, 8100, 8102, 8105, 8106, 8107, 8110, 8114, 8116.1, 8117, 8118, 8119, 8120, 8121, 8122, 8200, 8201, 8202, 8203, 8205, 8206, 8207, 8208, 8209, 8210, 8211, 8212, 8213, 8215, 8298, 8299, Appendix A, Appendix B, 8900, 8901

Filed 01/07/2026

Agency Contact: Kelly Mortenson (916) 413-1140

Acupuncture Board

File # 2025–1121–05

Application for Retired Status; Retired Status;
Restoration

In this rulemaking action, the regulations establish requirements for a retired license, set forth conditions to maintain a retired license status, and define the term “disciplinary reasons.”

Title 16
Adopt: 1399.419.3
Amend: 1399.460
Filed 01/06/2026
Effective 04/01/2026
Agency Contact:
Kristine Brothers (916) 471–0735

Board of Chiropractic Examiners

File # 2025–1120–04

Continuing Education: Distance Learning

In this rulemaking action, the Board of Chiropractic Examiners updates its continuing education requirements to allow courses delivered through synchronous online learning platforms to be eligible for the same credit as traditional, in-person classroom environments.

Title 16
Amend: 363.1
Filed 01/07/2026
Effective 01/07/2026
Agency Contact: Kristin Walker (916) 574–7784

Civil Rights Council

File # 2025–1121–01

Modifications to Contractor Nondiscrimination and Compliance Regulations

In this rulemaking action the Civil Rights Council seeks to amend regulations governing contractor nondiscrimination and compliance.

Title 02
Amend: 11004, 11105, 14000, 14003, 14020, 14025, 14051, 14343
Filed 01/07/2026
Effective 04/01/2026
Agency Contact: Suge Lee (916) 477–5795

Fish and Game Commission

File # 2025–1117–02

Take of Morro Manzanita

This action by the California Fish and Game Commission adds section 749.14 to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) to allow the incidental take of the Morro manzanita during its candidacy period in connection with the South Bay Boulevard Bridge Replacement project in San Luis Obispo County.

Title 14
Adopt: 749.14
Filed 12/31/2025
Effective 01/01/2026
Agency Contact: Jenn Bacon (916) 902–9285

California Architects Board

File # 2025–1121–04

Application Extension

This regular rulemaking action by the California Architects Board (“Board”) amends Section 109 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (“CCR”), which pertains to requirements for licensure. Specifically, this action adds provisions allowing for the extension of a candidate’s eligibility period to remain active in the examination process when the candidate has been displaced or suffered hardship affecting their ability to take an examination as a result of a proclaimed state of emergency.

Title 16
Amend: 109
Filed 01/02/2026
Effective 04/01/2026
Agency Contact: Timothy Rodda (279) 895–1246

**PRIOR REGULATORY
DECISIONS AND CCR
CHANGES FILED WITH THE
SECRETARY OF STATE**

A quarterly index of regulatory decisions by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) is provided in the California Regulatory Notice Register in the volume published by the second Friday in January, April, July, and October following the end of the preceding quarter. For additional information on actions taken by OAL, please visit oal.ca.gov.