

# SENATE FLOOR ALERT

## AB 1319 (Schultz) – **OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**



African American Farmers of California  
 Agricultural Council of California  
 American Pistachio Growers  
 Association of California Water Agencies  
 California Apple Commission  
 California Association of Pest Control Advisers  
 California Association of Winegrape Growers  
 California Blueberry Association  
 California Blueberry Commission  
 California Chamber of Commerce  
 California Citrus Mutual  
 California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association  
 California Farm Bureau  
 California Fresh Fruit Association  
 California Municipal Utilities Association

California Strawberry Commission  
 California Walnut Commission  
 California Wild Rice Advisory Board  
 Coachella Valley Water District  
 Eastern Municipal Water District  
 Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
 Imperial Irrigation District  
 Kings River Conservation District  
 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
 Milk Producers Council  
 Modesto Irrigation District  
 Nisei Farmers League  
 Northern California Water Association  
 Olive Growers Council of California  
 Olive Oil Commission of California

Rancho Water  
 San Juan Water District  
 San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
 Solano County Water Agency  
 South San Joaquin Irrigation District  
 Southern California Water Coalition  
 United Water Conservation District  
 Valley Ag Water Coalition  
 Valley Water  
 Valley Center Municipal Water District  
 Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley  
 Western Canal Water District  
 Western Growers  
 Western Plant Health Association  
 Western Tree Nut Association

# **\*\*\*SENATE FLOOR ALERT\*\*\***

## **AB 1319 (Schultz) – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

September 8, 2025

**AB 1319 WOULD CIRCUMVENT PUBLIC PROCESS** by allowing the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to deem any federally listed or candidate endangered species as a “provisional candidate” under California law to remain in effect until December 31, 2031 with **no public justification and no public appeal or comment process**. This black-box decision making would have significant negative impacts for water agencies, businesses, agriculture, and others.

### **NEW EMERGENCY AUTHORITY IS UNPRECEDENTED AND UNNECESSARY**

The Fish and Game Commission (Commission) and CDFW have existing tools that balance the need to act swiftly while still affording public engagement:

1. **Commission can ALREADY use the emergency regulatory process** if needed. (F&G §399)
2. CDFW staff can bring a petition, expediting review and adoption by the Commission.

### **REQUIRED REVIEW OF “DECREASES IN PROTECTION” INCREASES UNCERTAINTY**

AB 1319 creates a broad, open-ended mandate for CDFW to adopt protections for any federally listed or candidate species as a “provisional candidate” without public justification or public process.

This creates **significant uncertainty for permittees** with the potential to lead to **extensive delays** in the implementation of projects and maintenance activities. Water agencies could be forced to reduce water deliveries and would bear significant costs to mitigate against impacts to newly listed species. These costs would be passed on to customers, increasing costs for Californians.

### **SIGNIFICANT FISCAL IMPACT TO CDFW**

Senate Appropriations estimates an **ongoing annual cost of \$7-9 million**. CDFW is already understaffed with only 40% of the staffing levels needed to meet EXISTING permitting and environmental protection goals.

**Needed Amendments REJECTED**  
**We urge your “NO” vote on AB 1319**