

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 2, 2020

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 21, 2020

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1296**

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**Introduced by Senator Durazo**  
*(Coauthors: Senators Hueso and Stern)*

February 21, 2020

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An act to add Division 23.6 (commencing with Section 33850) to the Public Resources Code, relating to natural resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1296, as amended, Durazo. Natural resources: the Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency Act of 2020.

Existing law establishes various environmental and economic policies and programs.

This bill, upon appropriation by the Legislature, would establish the Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency Act of 2020, which would require state conservancies and the Wildlife Conservation Board to establish independent grant programs to fund climate mitigation, adaptation, or resilience, natural disaster, and other climate emergency projects, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Division 23.6 (commencing with Section 33850)
- 2 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

1 DIVISION 23.6. THE NATURE AND PARKS CAREER  
2 PATHWAY AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCY ACT OF 2020

3  
4 33850. This division shall be known, and may be cited, as the  
5 Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency Act  
6 of 2020.

7 33851. As used in this division, unless the context requires  
8 otherwise, the following definitions apply:

9 (a) “Act” means the Nature and Parks Career Pathway and  
10 Community Resiliency Act of 2020.

11 (b) “Entity” means a state conservancy or the Wildlife  
12 Conservation Board.

13 33852. The purpose of this act is to provide individuals who  
14 have barriers to employment with the services they need to enter,  
15 participate in, and complete broader workforce preparation,  
16 training, and education programs, and ultimately, to obtain  
17 employment in the natural, cultural, historical, and tribal resources  
18 fields. This act shall provide special emphasis in integrating  
19 individuals from target populations into career pathway programs  
20 aligned with regional labor market needs and the state’s climate  
21 mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency goals.

22 33853. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

23 (a) Unsustainable global greenhouse gas emissions levels  
24 continue to challenge the state’s residents, wildlife, and natural  
25 resources.

26 (b) Rising average temperatures, shrinking mountain snowpack,  
27 warmer storms, higher sea levels, and more extreme and prevalent  
28 natural disasters, including, but not limited to, floods, landslides,  
29 and wildfires increasingly threaten the safety, health, financial  
30 well-being, and housing stability of the people of the State of  
31 California.

32 (c) Continued investments to protect and enhance the state’s  
33 natural and built resources and infrastructure is necessary to  
34 mitigate the impacts of climate change.

35 (d) Meeting the state’s community and climate needs requires  
36 a commitment to integrating climate strategies in the state’s  
37 economy, infrastructure, public services, and workforce sectors.

38 (e) The state’s existing employment needs have been intensified  
39 because of the declared state of emergency and the certain and

1 upcoming recession due to the novel coronavirus, known as  
2 COVID-19.

3 (f) Achieving the state’s climate goals requires the development  
4 of an expanded and skilled workforce and clear and meaningful  
5 opportunities for the people of the State of California to receive  
6 the education, training, and certifications necessary to enter into  
7 growing natural resources and climate careers.

8 (g) Parallel and intentional investments in climate projects and  
9 workforce development are effective and efficient strategies to  
10 protect the state from the impacts of climate change and offer  
11 sustainable economic relief within the job market to the people of  
12 the State of California.

13 33854. (a) Each entity shall establish an independent grant  
14 program according to the entity’s respective governing statutes  
15 and strategic plans or work plans adopted by the entity. The grant  
16 programs shall fund climate mitigation, adaptation, or resilience,  
17 natural disaster, and other climate emergency projects that  
18 accomplish both of the following:

19 (1) Reduce the risks of, or mitigate, climate change impacts on  
20 vulnerable communities, fish and wildlife, or natural, cultural,  
21 historical, or tribal resources; or mitigate, prepare for, respond to,  
22 or support recovery from natural disasters or other climate  
23 emergencies.

24 (2) Provide comprehensive workforce development  
25 opportunities, including education, training, certifications, or  
26 placement services for jobs and careers in the natural, cultural,  
27 historical, or tribal resources fields.

28 (b) Before awarding a grant pursuant to this section, an entity  
29 shall develop and adopt guidelines for its independent grant  
30 program according to all of the following:

31 (1) At a minimum, the entity’s adopted guidelines shall include,  
32 as criteria to qualify for a grant, all of the following:

33 (A) Require climate mitigation, adaptation, or resilience projects  
34 that reduce the risks of or mitigate climate change impacts on  
35 vulnerable communities, fish and wildlife, or natural, cultural,  
36 historical, or tribal resources; or that mitigate, prepare for, respond  
37 to, or support recovery from natural disasters or other climate  
38 emergencies.

39 (B) Require projects that provide comprehensive workforce  
40 development opportunities that support education, training,

1 certifications, or career pathways that prepare individuals to enter  
2 into the natural, cultural, historical, or tribal resources fields.

3 (C) Require projects that support implementation of the goals  
4 and recommendations identified in the Natural Resources Agency's  
5 Safeguarding California Plan.

6 (D) Require projects to use crews composed of individuals from  
7 populations specified in Section 14034 of the Unemployment  
8 Insurance Code.

9 (E) Define eligible applicants to include, but not be limited to,  
10 all of the following:

11 (i) Nonprofit organizations and community-based organizations.

12 (ii) Certification programs or workforce training organizations,  
13 including, but not limited to, certification programs and workforce  
14 training organizations associated with trade schools, the California  
15 State University, the University of California, the California  
16 Community Colleges, and other educational institutions.

17 (iii) State vocational rehabilitation programs.

18 (iv) Tribal governments and local governments, including, but  
19 not limited to, a city, county, city and county, a department of a  
20 city or county, a special district, a local government agency, and  
21 a county welfare department.

22 (v) *Joint power authorities.*

23 (2) To the extent feasible, applicant projects shall use the  
24 services of the California Conservation Corps or a community  
25 conservation corps, as defined in Section 14507.5.

26 (3) Adopted guidelines shall prioritize projects for funding  
27 according to the following minimum selection criteria:

28 ~~(A) Projects that develop career pathway connections with  
29 regional employers.~~

30 ~~(B) Projects that develop specific skills through hands-on  
31 application.~~

32 ~~(C) Projects that generate work experience through hands-on  
33 project implementation.~~

34 *(A) Projects located in or that benefit low-income,  
35 disadvantaged, under-resourced, frontline, vulnerable, or  
36 marginalized communities.*

37 *(B) Projects in areas vulnerable to catastrophic wildfires, sea  
38 level rise, or extreme heat.*

39 *(C) Projects in areas recently burned by catastrophic wildfires.*

40 *(D) Projects that leverage match funding.*

- 1     (E) *Projects that implement local adopted plans.*  
2     (F) *Projects that support other state plans, priorities, and goals.*  
3     (c) Before adopting program guidelines, an entity shall satisfy  
4 both of the following:  
5     (1) To the extent feasible, the entity shall seek input from, and  
6 consider the recommendations of, the California Workforce  
7 Development Board, the Labor and Workforce Development  
8 Agency, and local workforce development boards on the proposed  
9 program guidelines to support or ensure consistency with federal  
10 and state workforce development policies, programs, and plans,  
11 including the State Plan required by the federal Workforce  
12 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. Sec. 3101 et seq.) and  
13 described in Division 7 (commencing with Section 14000) of the  
14 Unemployment Insurance Code.  
15     (2) The entity shall conduct at least one public meeting to  
16 consider public comments. The entity shall provide public notice  
17 of the public meeting and publish the draft guidelines on its internet  
18 website at least 30 days before the public meeting.  
19     (d) As funding permits, each entity shall solicit grant  
20 applications from potential applicants at least once per year.  
21     (e) The Wildlife Conservation Board shall seek to support  
22 regions of the state not covered by a state conservancy in order to  
23 promote equitable opportunity and distribution of grants throughout  
24 the state.  
25     (f) Grants awarded pursuant to this section may be funded, as  
26 appropriate and authorized, from Section 26230, subparagraph (F)  
27 of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 80008, or future  
28 natural resource or climate resiliency funding.  
29     33855. This division shall be implemented only upon  
30 appropriation by the Legislature for its purposes.