

Assembly Bill 2402~ Noxious Weed Management

Assemblymember Joan Buchanan (D – 16)

LEGISLATIVE INTENT

Assembly Bill 2402 would amend the Food and Agricultural Code relating to noxious weed management and appropriate \$2,500,000 from the General Fund to the Noxious Weed Management Account in the Department of Food and Agriculture to fund control and abatement, education, and research relating to noxious weeds.

PROBLEM

The Noxious Weed Management Account which has effectively treated and /or eradicated thousands of acres of high priority weed infestations has lacked funding since 2010. Not maintaining this investment allows top-priority weed populations to spread and cause increased damage in the future. Invasive weeds decrease water supply, and controlling them should be part of the state's long term drought relief strategy.

BACKGROUND

California has a serious weed problem with noxious and invasive weeds that spread aggressively and decrease agricultural production, crowd out native species, decrease our water supply, increase fire risk and add to the cost of maintaining roads, parks and waterways. The state's Weed Action Plan recognizes that early detection is critical and lack of funding is a significant constraint. Local Weed Management Areas (WMAs) in all 58 counties, under contracts administered by CDFA, have proven to have efficient and effective programs for controlling the spread and impact of invasive weeds throughout the state. Local WMAs, typically through county Agricultural Commissioner's offices or Resource Conservation Districts, submit cost-sharing integrated weed management plans to CDFA for approval. These plans outline control programs that address treatment of weed infestations as well as public education and mapping efforts. Local programs conducted since 2000 have successfully eradicated over 2,000 populations of high priority weed infestations, while engaging hundreds of collaborating organizations and leveraging \$3 of additional support for every state dollar spent.

BILL SUMMARY

- Specifies the allocations of funds from the Noxious Weed Management Account – 60% to be made available through a grant program to eligible Weed Management Areas or county Agricultural Commissioners for the control and abatement of noxious and invasive weeds according to an approved integrated management plan; 20% to research on

biology, management, mapping or prioritization; 20% to CDFA to administer the program, seek new biological control agents, and conduct education programs.

- Requires that in order to be eligible to receive funding weed management plans must reduce fire hazard and fire control costs, decrease the costs of roadside, park, and waterway maintenance, increase water supply and flow, increase the profitability and value of cropland and rangeland, protect the biodiversity of native ecosystems, and maintain the recreational and aesthetic value of open space, recreation and public areas.
- Appropriates \$2,500,000 from the General Fund for this program.

SUPPORT

Statewide organizations:

California Ass'n of Harbor Masters & Port Captains
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Forest Pest Council
California Invasive Plant Council (Sponsor)
California Native Grasslands Association
California Native Plant Society
California Yacht Brokers Association
Community Alliance with Family Farms
Conservation Biology Institute
Marina Recreation Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Sustainable Conservation

Local agencies and organizations:

Alameda County Farm Bureau
Botanical Dimensions
Broom Education and Eradication Program (Chico)
Butte County Department of Agriculture
Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District
Cache Creek Conservancy
California Association of Local Conservation Corps
Cal. Native Plant Society – Mount Lassen Chapter
Cal. Native Plant Society – Bristlecone Chapter
Cal. Native Plant Society – Channel Islands Chapter
Cal. Native Plant Society – Kern Chapter
Cal. Native Plant Society – Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter
Cal. Native Plant Society – Marin Chapter
Cal. Native Plant Society – San Diego Chapter
Cal. Native Plant Society – Yerba Buena Chapter
Caltrans District 1
Carson Water Subconservancy District
Center for Natural Lands Management

Central Sierra Partnership Against Weeds – Calaveras
Contra Costa County
Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
Council for Watershed Health (Los Angeles)
County of Santa Clara
Endangered Habitats Conservancy
Fall River Resource Conservation District
Friends of Bidwell Park
Friends of Edgewood Park (San Mateo)
Friends of Five Creeks
Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
Golden Hour Restoration Institute
Humboldt County Department of Agriculture
Kern County Department of Agriculture
Kern Weed Management Area
Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation
Lake County Fire Chiefs Association
Lake County Land Trust
Lower Sherman Island Duck Hunters Association
Madera County Department of Agriculture
Marin Agricultural Land Trust
Marin County Department of Agriculture
Marin Resource Conservation District
Mariposa County Department of Agriculture
Mariposa County Farm Bureau
Mattole Restoration Council
McKinleyville Land Trust
Mid Klamath Watershed Council
Mill Valley StreamKeepers
Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District
Mojave Weed Management Area
Mountains Restoration Trust
Napa Co. Flood Control & Water Conservation Dist.
Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Open Space Authority – Santa Clara Valley
Placer County
Redwood National Park
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
San Diego Habitat Conservancy
San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
San Mateo County Resource Conservation District
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
Save Mount Diablo
Sequoia Audubon Society
Sierra Watch
Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture
Small Wilderness Area Preservation
Solano Land Trust
Sonoma Ecology Center
Sonoma Land Trust
Tehachapi Resource Conservation District
The Garber Park Stewards (Oakland)
The Postdoctoral Scholars Association at UC Davis
Truckee River Watershed Council
Tulare County Resource Conservation District

Tuolumne County Land Trust
UC Santa Cruz Campus Natural Reserve
UC Santa Cruz Site Stewardship Program
Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation
Weed Research & Information Center at UC Davis
Western Boaters Safety Group
Yolo Co. Flood Control & Water Conservation Dist.
Yolo County Resource Conservation District

Business:

Creekside Science Center
Foresters Co-Op
Hedgerow Farms
Kelly-Thompson Ranch
Natures Image, Inc.
Pacific Coast Seed, Inc.
Resource Conservation Partners
Vieira Ranches

Individuals:

Vertin Alvarez
Carl Bell, UC Cooperative Extension Weed Scientist
Victoria Brandon
Adrienne Brown
Tara Collins, Biologist
Jessica Dowell
Sally Falkenhagen
Pat Ferguson
Glenn Fieldman
Edwin Grosholz, Professor, UC Davis
Charlie Repath
Joan Wactor

OPPOSITION

- None on File.

STATUS

- Introduced 2/21/14
- To be heard in Assembly Agriculture Committee – 4/9/2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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