

# PCL Insider 9/17/2015

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## Climate Change Wins and Losses in Just-Ended Legislative Session

Last Friday, in the final hours of this year's legislative session, the California Legislature sent to the Governor's desk **SB 350, an historic piece of climate legislation**, and one of which its authors and supporters can be extremely proud. When the Governor signs the bill, as expected, California will be on track to double the efficiency of its electricity and natural gas use, and to procure 50% of its power from renewable energy sources, both by the year 2030. **These actions keep California at the forefront of climate leadership in the nation, and as a beacon of progressive climate policy for the rest of the world.**

Earlier in the week, Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León had amended SB

350 to remove the section of the bill that called for a 50% reduction in petroleum use in cars and trucks in California by 2030. That provision had been the target of a multi-million-dollar advertising and lobbying attack by Big Oil, which had been demanding catastrophic amendments to the bill to weaken the California Air Resources Board's regulatory authority and eviscerate the state's Low Carbon Fuel Standard. After deciding to amend the bill, de León lamented, **"...we could not cut through the million-dollar smokescreen created by a single special-interest with a singular motive and a bottomless war chest."**

The final week of the legislative session was also a tough one for advocates and legislative leaders fighting to pass SB 32 (Pavley), another of this year's signature climate change bills. On September 8, the legislation, which would have established new, longer-term goals for California's climate policies, went down in defeat on the Assembly floor (30 to 35, with 15 members abstaining), **the victim of a second massive and deceptive lobbying campaign by oil companies, sprawl developers and other business interests.**

Both the defeat of SB 32 on the Assembly floor and the loss of SB 350's petroleum reduction provisions were driven by a group of so-called "moderate" Democrats, **a loose coalition of legislators who receive significant campaign contributions from oil interests, developers and business groups.** (See list below of Democratic Assemblymembers who voted no or refused to support SB 32.)

Senator Pavely has decided to make **SB 32 a two-year bill** (a possibility because the legislation was granted reconsideration on the Assembly floor), and has vowed to come back for the second year of the session with an even stronger campaign to win passage of the legislation. Meanwhile, Governor Jerry Brown has pledged to use all of his administrative authority to keep California on track to reach its climate goals, including regulatory powers to reduce petroleum consumption and move our transportation system and the rest of our economy away from carbon dependency.

While acknowledging the defeat of the petroleum reduction portion of SB 350, Brown had this to say about his Administration's future actions, **"California is not going to miss a beat. Be very clear about that. We don't have a declaration in statute, but we have absolutely the same authority. We're going forward. The only thing different is [that] my zeal has been intensified to a maximum degree "**

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It is up to all of us to ensure that both the Legislature and the Administration continue to acknowledge the state's commitment to a clean energy future, a vibrant economy, and a healthy and sustainable California for all. The legislators listed below were on the wrong side of history in the climate debate. Call or e-mail their offices and let them know that you expect them to be a part of a California **that will continue to lead the nation and world in the battle against climate change.**



Senators de León, Pavely and others thanking SB 350 and SB 32 supporters at the Capitol on the last night of the legislative session. PCL's Sandy Spelliscy is in the front row between Senators de León & Pavely

*Voting "no" on SB 32 on the Assembly floor:*

Achadjian (R-San Luis Obispo), Travis Allen (R-Huntington Beach), Baker (R-San Ramon), Bigelow (R-Placerville), Brough (R-San Juan Capistrano), Chang (R-Brea), Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova), Dahle (R-Grass Valley), Daly (D-Anaheim), Frazier (D-Brentwood), Beth Gaines (R-Granite Bay), Gallagher (R-Chico), Gray (D-Modesto), Grove (R-Bakersfield), Hadley (R-Torrance), Harper (R-Costa Mesa), Jones (R-Santee), Kim (R-Buena Park), Lackey (R-Palmdale), Linder (R-Corona), Low (D-Cupertino), Maienschein (R-San Diego), Mathis (R-

Visalia), Mayes (R-Rancho Mirage), Medina (D-Riverside), Melendez (R-Murrieta), Obernolte (R-Hesperia), Olsen (R-Modesto), Patterson (R-Fresno), Perea (D-Fresno), Salas (D-Hanford), Steinorth (R-Rancho Cucamonga), Wagner (R-Tustin), Waldron (R-Escondido), Wilk (R-Valencia).

*Abstaining on (refusing to vote for) SB 32 on the Assembly floor:*

Alejo (D-Salinas), Brown (D-San Bernardino), Burke (D-Inglewood), Calderon (D-City of Industry), Campos (D-San Jose), Chávez (R-Oceanside), Cooper (D-Elk Grove), Dodd (D-Woodland), Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella), Gipson (D-Rancho Dominguez), Gordon (D-Los Altos), Roger Hernández (D-West Covina), Irwin (D-Camarillo), O'Donnell (D-San Pedro), Rodriguez (D-Chino).

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