

Written Testimony in Support of Assembly Bill 1891
To the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and the Assembly Committee on Appropriations
By Chasen Rose, Student State Policy Analyst from Saving the Sea
May 10 2026

To whom it may concern,

My name is Chasen Rose, and I am a state policy analyst with Saving the Sea, a student-run group of policy analysts based out of California dedicated to protecting our environment. I am writing to provide testimony in support of Assembly Bill 1891, also known as the Beneficial Fire Capacity Program.

Assembly Bill 1891 aligns with existing law which authorizes a person that owns or controls brush-covered land, forest lands, woodland, grassland, and shrubland within a state responsibility area to apply to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for permission to use prescribed burning for certain public purposes... as well as authorizing the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection to enter into an agreement for prescribed burning with a person to conduct the prescribed burning operations for certain purposes” (CA AB1891). Additionally, it requires the department to develop a training program for prescribed fire users to certify professionals as burn bosses (CA AB1891). This bill would expand this program to include greater training, organizational capacity, and support for community-led beneficial fire program” (CA AB1891).

Beneficial fire helps shape landscapes to safeguard natural and cultural resources, manage invasive species, and improve forage quality, with studies showing that the nutritional content of forage can be two to three times higher in burned areas, benefiting wildlife significantly (Allred et al., 2011). While treatments have doubled from 2021 to 2024, the use of *beneficial fire* for both initial treatment and maintenance, as well as the required organizational capacity needed to carry out these operations, has expanded significantly (CA AB1891). The Beneficial Fire Capacity Program will relieve growing organizational stress, provide informational resources to potential grantees and partners, and help ensure standards for wildlife, forest, and community safety.

On behalf of Saving the Sea, thank you for considering my testimony in support of Assembly Bill 1891. We believe the reinstatement and expansion of this existing legislation align with the increased need for wildfire preparedness measures, given the rising frequency and severity of climate conditions, as well as overall environmental health and safety for both citizens and wildlife.

Sincerely,
Chasen Rose, State Policy Analyst