

AB 1757 NWL Expert Advisory Committee

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Assembly Bill 1757?

Assembly Bill (AB) 1757 was authored by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia and signed into law by Governor Newsom in September 2022. This law is focused on Natural and Working Lands (NWL) of California and how they can contribute to the State's climate change goals, including achieving carbon neutrality and building climate resilience. There are multiple parts to this law, one of which directs the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Air Resources Board to jointly establish an expert advisory committee.

What is the AB 1757 Natural and Working Lands (NWL) Expert Advisory Committee (Committee)? And what is the Committee's charge?

The California Air Resources Board and the California Natural Resources Agency were directed by AB 1757 to establish an expert advisory committee with diverse perspectives to:

- Inform the development of an ambitious range of targets for the NWL sector.
- Inform and review modeling and analysis for natural and working lands.
- Advise state agencies on implementation strategies and standardized accounting.
- Provide recommendations on addressing barriers to efficient implementation of NWL projects in California.

What land types and professions make up the expertise of this Committee?

Expertise across all of the land types outlined in California's Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy are included in this current committee. These land types are forests, shrublands and chaparral, grasslands, croplands, wetlands, developed lands, sparsely vegetated lands, and seagrasses and seaweeds. The professions that are or will be represented by this committee, as specified in AB 1757, are university researcher, technical assistance provider, practitioner, other experts in the field of climate change and natural and working lands science and management, indigenous representative, and environmental justice representative.

In what form will the recommendations come, and what will they include?

Beyond the general direction established in AB 1757, the state will not direct the form in which the recommendations will come or the level of detail that they will include. The form, detail, and focus of the recommendations, as long as they are related to the legislatively mandated topics in AB 1757, will be determined by the Committee.

What is the timeline for the committee and its recommendations?

The Committee will be in place for 2 years, in line with the timelines referenced in AB 1757. It is anticipated that the Committee will have 4-8 committee meeting each year. The first year of the committee will focus on recommendations related to the development of targets due January 1, 2024. The following year will be devoted to the other topics outlined in AB 1757 for Committee input, such as modeling, carbon accounting, barriers to implementation and the update to the NWL Climate Smart Strategy.