

Kip Lipper
Chief Policy Advisor
Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment
Office of California Senate Pro Tempore

Kip Lipper is chief policy advisor on energy, natural resources, and the environment to the California State Senate President pro Tempore, the Senate's Majority Leader.

Lipper has worked in the California Legislature for four decades. He began his career in the mid-1970s as a field representative and later administrative assistant for then-Assembly Member Dennis Mangers (D-Huntington Beach) where he worked on the preservation of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands.

From 1980-2004, he was administrative assistant and later chief of staff for Assembly Member and Senator Byron Sher (D-Stanford). During that same time period, Lipper also served as senior consultant to the Assembly Criminal Law Committee, chief consultant to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, and staff director to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality.

Lipper has drafted and analyzed legislation on a broad array of energy, climate, and environmental matters, including California Clean Air Act, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, the California Beverage Container Recycling Act, the California Integrated Waste Management Act, CEQA, and the Natural Communities Conservation Act.

He drafted and analyzed legislation on energy policy such as the state's landmark 20%, 33%, and now 100% Clean and Renewable Energy Standard, energy conservation, electric vehicles, public interest energy research, and energy-agency reorganization and reforms.

He has staffed Senators on budget issues affecting energy, environmental, and resources agencies of CA state government.

Lipper was the lead Senate staffer on the drafting of AB 32, the Global Warming

Solutions Act of 2006, as well as on companion landmark legislation establishing the nation's first greenhouse gas emission performance standard for energy generation (SB 1368--Perata). He has been deeply involved in the implementation of GHG laws passed and enacted by the CA Legislature.

Lipper helped draft and negotiate the 2009 historic Comprehensive Water Package, the nation's first "Green Career Technical Education Program", and CEQA reforms during the past decade.

In his first year as staffer for Senator De Leon, Lipper was lead staffer on SB 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015. He also staffed SB 185, the first of its kind bill in the country to require the state's two largest public pension funds to divest of their coal holdings. He staffed Senator De Leon on cap and trade issues, LA River issues, and on DTSC reforms.

Finally, Lipper was lead staffer in drafting SB 100, California's 100% clean energy mandate legislation that is now being replicated in other states.

Lipper has published papers on a range of environmental laws and policies, and has been a guest lecturer on environmental and energy legislation at the Stanford University Law School, Boalt Hall (UC Berkeley) Law School, King Hall (UC Davis) Law School, Loyola Law School (Los Angeles), UCSD, USC, UCLA, CA State Long Beach, and at CA State University Sacramento.

He was chosen as a Distinguished Lecturer at the the Cal State Long Beach School of Engineering (2010), and a Guest Lecturer at the University of Southern California Environmental Law Program (2010).

Lipper was keynote speaker at the 2015 UC Davis King Hall Law School Environmental Law Society.

Lipper has received the following awards and commendations for his work on the environmental law and policy:

- CA League of Conservation Voters 2001 “Environmental Hero Award”
- American Lung Association 2006 “Clean Air Award”
- Coalition for Clean Air 2006 “Clean Air Leadership Award,”
- Special Achievement Award-CA Council for Land Trusts
- Special Recognition Award--Natural Resources Defense Council
- TURN Consumer Champion Award 2013
- Clean Power Champion Award—Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Tech

E & E NEWS--CALIFORNIA

5 key players in climate showdown with Trump

[Anne C. Mulkern](#), E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, February 8, 2017

California Democratic leaders vow they're ready to take on President Trump in a battle to keep alive the fight against climate change as he rejects the science and embraces fossil fuels.

Gov. Jerry Brown (D) and legislative leaders come armed with some political clout, at least locally. Democrats hold every statewide office and a two-thirds "supermajority" in both sides of California's Legislature. In California's largest city, meanwhile, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti (D) is teaming with a coalition of cities he united to work on climate remedies.

Brown announced last month that he wants the Legislature to pass as law an extension of the state's cap-and-trade program for carbon emissions, and do it with a two-thirds margin. The system originally was approved by the state's Air Resources Board (ARB). The California Chamber of Commerce and others sued to end it, arguing that auctions of environmental permits under the program are a tax that needed a two-thirds vote under state law. That case is pending.

Supporters of cap and trade believe enshrining it as law would create confidence it will endure, which could push up prices for those permits sold at auctions. That revenue — \$3.4 billion so far — is funding development of a high-speed rail line between Los Angeles and San Francisco, affordable housing near transit, programs to get people into cleaner cars, and other efforts.

California also is pushing to make renewable energy the source of half its electricity by 2050. The state is talking about expanding its regional energy markets to link with other Western states.

"There's going to be needed a level of coordination on California's environmental issues related to climate and energy," O'Connor said. "Someone of Kip's stature and history is going to have a very important role in ensuring that the Legislature thinks through the multiple dimensions of these challenges."

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For example, green groups want to meet renewable energy goals without adding multiple natural gas plants to back up wind and solar facilities. Otherwise, the state could see a bump in carbon emissions, O'Connor said.

Other areas Lipper might work on include looking for ways to strengthen water and endangered species laws if Trump moves ahead with his stated plans to dump federal climate policies in favor of fossil fuel extraction. When previous presidential administrations have sought to shrink federal environmental regulations, California has adopted more stringent standards to ensure protection of public health and the environment.

"Kip's got a history of working with people in the Legislature and the environmental community to find solutions," O'Connor said.

latimes.com/news/local/la-me-lipper29-2009nov29,0,7669970.story

latimes.com

California statehouse staffer is a superstar of his own

Kip Lipper, who is as renowned inside the Capitol as he is anonymous outside, is responsible for some of the nation's most groundbreaking environmental laws over the last 30 years.

By Eric Bailey

November 29, 2009

If he were a basketball star instead of a statehouse staffer, he'd be Kobe Bryant or Magic Johnson -- a veteran playmaker, feared by foes, his best moves unleashed just before the buzzer.

But like so many Sacramento insiders, Kip Lipper plays out of the limelight, in the back corridors of the Capitol, unknown to the public whose air and water and ecological ethos he has made his specialty over the last three decades.

As the environmental expert for the state Senate's ruling Democrats, Lipper has helped craft many of California's groundbreaking laws in that realm -- and become a foil for Republicans irked by what they view as regulatory excess, and by the economic fallout.

His fingerprints are on the California Clean Air Act, the state Safe Drinking Water Act and the landmark 2006 curbs on greenhouse gas emissions. Legislation that boosted recycling, reduced landfill dumping, saved redwoods and cleaned up power plants are also part of his highlight reel.

Most recently, he aided negotiations that helped break a quarter-century deadlock and produce an

\$11-billion plan to fix the state's balky water system and revive the flagging Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

His boss, Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), calls him "a force of nature."

Lipper, 55, is as renowned inside the Capitol as he is anonymous outside. He may not hold an elected post, but friends and foes alike call him the "41st senator."

"He has more influence than some senators," said state Sen. Tony Strickland (R-Thousand Oaks), but that's not necessarily a compliment.

"You can't fault Kip for being good at what he does," Strickland said, "but I personally believe the voters would rather that the power lies with the people they elected."

Among GOP staffers -- few of whom would talk about him on the record for fear of his political power -- Lipper has a reputation for legislative sleight of hand bordering on grand larceny.

They talk about bills being "Lipperized" -- changed into something they hardly recognize or left to rot in committee. They fear being "Kipped," or outfoxed in the sly game of shaping new laws.

During last summer's heated budget negotiations, a leaked memo from Senate GOP Leader Dennis Hollingsworth (R-Murrieta) held a telling bullet point: a warning to "keep Kip from writing" a Republican-backed bid for a new offshore oil project.

Lipper calls himself "a legi-crat" and credits the state's environmental bent to lawmakers, "good guy" environmental groups and a nature-loving electorate.

"I'm pleased to be a part of that accomplishment," he said. "But I also know it has much less to do with a single staffer."

Lipper only reluctantly agreed to be interviewed.

"I'm not interesting, hate attention and like to hide in my office," he said.

His work space is a solemn, top-floor corner of the Capitol's old wing. A crush of cardboard boxes rises halfway up one wall -- the detritus of institutional knowledge in short supply in the term-limits era.

The opposite wall displays awards for environmental achievement, framed copies of significant bills and photos: Lipper with former Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, Lipper shaking hands with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

He had a ringside view of the recent water talks, at work and at home.

Lipper lives with his wife and three children in a home set amid oaks and vineyards near the

delta, traveling to work each day in an apple-red Toyota Prius.

Some of his farming neighbors are among the fiercest critics of the water deal, which they say could undercut the delta and their operations.

A balding, barrel-chested man with a closely cropped beard and blue eyes behind black-rimmed glasses, Lipper laments having gained 100 pounds since his days as a scrappy point guard in high school in Pasadena during the early 1970s.

He grew up in a politically mixed household. His mother remains a staunch Republican; his late father was a liberal Democrat and former journalist who always told Lipper that the Legislature was "the last bastion of the optimist."

Lipper's sister, Donna Lucas, said her brother held his own at family dinner-table debates.

"He's wickedly smart," said Lucas, who went the political route herself but worked for Republicans, including Govs. George Deukmejian and Schwarzenegger. "I don't like to argue with him."

Lipper hadn't foreseen a career in government. But after earning an English degree at USC, he became a legislative intern.

That led to a job in the Huntington Beach office of newly elected Assemblyman Dennis Mangers, a Democrat from Orange County, the site of a fight over the fate of the Bolsa Chica wetlands.

His future as environment guru was set later, when Mangers lost his seat in the 1980 Reagan sweep and Lipper went to work for Byron Sher, a Stanford Law School professor and unabashed protector of nature who had just been elected to the state Assembly.

Over the next 24 years, the Democratic lawmaker and Lipper forged laws to protect clean water, clean skies and forests, and to advance bottle recycling and renewable energy.

"There's no body of work like it in the United States," said V. John White, an environmental lobbyist and longtime friend of Lipper. "There's no legislative staffer like him anywhere in the United States."

Lipper's career has not been free of dark moments.

In 1996, GOP Assembly staffers cracked Sher's computers and discovered fundraising letters that Lipper had drafted on legislative time for his Democratic boss, who was then running for state Senate.

California law bars the use of government resources for political purposes, but state election watchdogs declined to take action.

Lipper was fired by Assembly leaders -- only to be rehired by Sher after he was elected to the Senate a few months later.

"It was wrong and a dumb mistake on my part," Lipper says today.

Sher was termed out in 2004, and Lipper has worked for the Senate's top Democrats in the five years since. With a \$165,000 annual salary, he is among the highest-paid legislative staff members.

What that buys, Republicans said, is a playbook designed to keep them -- and even some Democrats -- out of the loop.

Lipper springs bill language and analysis at the last possible moment, they said, robbing rival staffers and lawmakers of a chance for careful review.

One longtime Republican consultant said he was dismayed at being told by Lipper that a bill wasn't ready -- only to find an environmental lobbyist reading a finished copy in a Capitol hallway.

"Such allegations are inaccurate," Lipper said.

"It's just a bunch of sour . . . grapes," said John Burton, a Democrat, former Senate leader and one of Lipper's former bosses.

Lipper doesn't always score the winning bucket. He grudgingly went along with a recent deal to let a proposed new football stadium in the City of Industry skirt state environmental rules, a precedent that upset some activists.

But mostly, Lipper has won.

"I do feel that the California Legislature has been the world's most important deliberative body in terms of advancing environmental policy," he said.

"I'm proud to have worked for the people who accomplished that."

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CAPITOL WEEKLY

THE NEWSPAPER OF CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Kip Lipper: The Senate's go-to guy on environmental policy

By **Shane Goldmacher** | 03/16/06 12:00 AM PST

One of the most influential voices in California environmental policy is a name hardly anyone outside the Capitol has ever heard. But for anyone who wants to pass a significant piece of environmental legislation, there's one senior staffer who comes to mind--Kip Lipper.

His fourth-floor Senate office is so packed with boxes and overflowing with paperwork that some joke it is where he stores the Capitol's institutional memory on environmental issues. Others, including some legislators, have called Lipper the Senate's 41st senator--a designation that embarrasses him, his friends say.

Bill Magavern, senior representative for Sierra Club, says Lipper, whose real first name is Kernan, is simply "the most influential Capitol staffer

Lipper prefers to work out of the limelight. When asked for to speak about his role in crafting environmental policy, he declined, saying he was a policy person, not a press person.

"He is extremely talented and he probably knows as much as any three of us put together," said state Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, who chairs the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

But, adds Kuehl, "one of the things about Kip is that he very very assiduously understands the rule of staff. He doesn't have a vote."

For Lipper, that means shepherding environmental legislation, but always leaving the credit for elected officials.

Lipper's first legislative job was working in the district office of then-Assemblyman Dennis Mangers, D-Huntington Beach, in the late 1970s, trying to protect the Bolsa Chica Wetlands.

"Lipper cut his environmental teeth on that issue," said Mangers.

In 1980, Lipper moved to Sacramento to work for former Sen. Byron Sher, D-Palo Alto, where he stayed until Sher was termed out of office in 2004.

During much of Sher's two-decade tenure in the Legislature, Lipper served as both Sher's chief of staff and as chief consultant to the Natural Resources Committee. From those dual posts, Lipper helped Sher craft many of the Those included the California Clean Air Act, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, the California Beverage Recycling Act and the Integrated Waste Management Act.

In 2002, Lipper helped with legislation that requires energy companies to produce 20 percent of electricity from renewable resources. And in 2003, he helped Sen. Dean Florez, D-Shafter, author a package of central valley clean air legislation--while still on Sher's staff.

Though he is currently a staffer for Senate leader Don Perata, leadership in both legislative houses have sought Lipper's advice in the recent round of negotiations on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's infrastructure bond package.

One senior Nuñez aide called Lipper "Mr. CEQA," a reference to the California Environmental Quality Act that has been a central bone of contention in the negotiations.

"It's really Kip who shuttles from meeting to meeting and brings understanding and information to all the parties," added Kuehl, who credits Lipper's advice for Perata being "more green than I think people expected him to be" in the bond negotiations.

Dan Jacobsen, legislative director for Environment California, says Lipper has three distinctive qualities that make him an effective staffer.

"He understands policy incredibly well. He's incredibly accessible. And he has the ear of critical decision makers," said Jacobsen. "To me, those are the three best things you want to have in a staff person."

Magavern says that Lipper brings the views of environmentalists to Senate leadership, pointing to Schwarzenegger's nomination of Cindy Tuck to chair the California Air Resources Board as an example. The appointment of Tuck, who had long represented agriculture, oil and big business interests, was vehemently opposed by the environmental community.

The Senate eventually rejected her nomination and Magavern, among others, attributes her demise, in part, to Lipper's influence.

For all his efforts in California, Lipper was honored on the floor of the House of Representatives in 2001 "for his outstanding work on behalf of the environment," by Rep. Hilda Solis, D-El Monte.

Interestingly, Lipper is not the only member of his family to have worked in the Capitol. His sister, Donna Lucas, is the former deputy chief of staff to Gov. Schwarzenegger.

Lipper has had the occasional run-in with lawmakers.

At the end of last year's session, columnist Dan Walters reported that Lipper had an encounter with Assemblywoman Lois Wolk, D-Davis, whose bill to expand delta protections against urban development was amended in the Rules Committee, for which Lipper works. Wolk was not informed of the amendments and demanded they be removed--though the Senate adjourned before the bill was taken up.

But Wolk says it was all a misunderstanding--the bill has since passed--and that Lipper is an asset to the Legislature.

"I was hoping he would come over to the Assembly at some point," says a laughing Wolk, "but I haven't been able to convince him to."

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Sacramento News and Review

Meet the architect

Kip Lipper has helped craft some of California's most crucial green laws By [Jeff vonKaenel](#)

If you're like me, you're going to breathe the air today, drink some water and drive around a little bit. And when you do that, I'm hoping you'll think of Kip Lipper, because he's helped make the air and water a lot better for you. And drive around a little bit. And when you do that, I'm hoping you'll think of Kip Lipper, because he's helped make the air and water a lot better for you.

Thanks to President Barack Obama, that air and water may get a whole lot better. Last month, Obama told the Environmental Protection Agency to re-evaluate California's request to impose strict limits on vehicle carbon-dioxide emissions—a request previously denied by George W. Bush's Republican administration.

Obama's new directive will likely produce results within the next few months, possibly inspiring as many as 18 other states to adopt tailpipe-emissions standards that, like California's, are tougher than federal standards.

Once again, our state is taking the lead. This legislation didn't come about by accident. In fact, the architect of much of it is Lipper.

Lipper is an unsung hero. He's written more environmental bills than you could shake a hybrid car at. During Lipper's 24-year stint with Sen. Byron Sher, he helped craft environmental legislation that includes the California Clean Air Act, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act and the Integrated Waste Management Act.

Most recently, Lipper worked on Senate Bill 1760. This bill would create the Climate Action Team, which will be composed of representatives from the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency; the Department of Food and Agriculture; the Resources Agency, Air and Resources Board; the Energy Commission; and the Public Utilities Commission. It will be held responsible for coordinating the state's overall climate policy.

Lipper and I met a few weeks ago over sushi at Mikuni to discuss the key issues developing in this realm of sustainability. As you might expect, he was a tremendous sage, providing valuable information.

I am excited that Lipper will now be working with new President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg to help keep California in the lead on cutting-edge environmental policy.

This year, there will be hundreds of bills introduced in the state Legislature. Many will deal with topics that do not matter. Many will be sops to get campaign donations. There will be a few that justify all the expense and energy of moving them through the state Legislature.

There's a good chance Lipper's name will be associated with many of those. That's more than enough reason to thank him for making our air and water cleaner.



Capitol Weekly's Top 100 List

8/20/2013 8/19/2014 8/20/2015,

23. Kip Lipper

There are a number of staffers in the Capitol who wield enormous influence over their policy specialty, and Kip Lipper is one of them. He is the environmental policy guru for the Senate, and every — and we mean every — major piece of environmental legislation has his fingerprints, and many of the minor ones, too. Lipper was a long-time aide to former Sen. Byron Sher, a deal-cutting icon to environmentalists. For the past year, Lipper has cast a careful eye on attempts to ease CEQA, and he's in a perpetual struggle to fight the wholesale erosion of the powers of environmental regulatory bodies or attempts to streamline statutes in order to give polluters and developers a pass. He analyzes legislation, brokers agreements, serves as the Senate's environmental hardball player and does myriad chores. In the Capitol, when he's signed off on a bill, it's been "Lipperized," a term that evokes equal measures of delight or outrage, depending on who's using it

4/28/11

24. Kip Lipper

Kip Lipper is the environmental policy guru for the Senate, and every major piece of environmental legislation has his fingerprints - and many of the minor ones, too. Lipper, who was a long-time aide to former Sen. Byron Sher, casts a wary eye on attempts to ease CEQA, erode the powers of environmental regulatory bodies or streamline statutes in order to give polluters a pass. He analyzes legislation, brokers agreements, serves as the Senate's environmental conscience and does myriad chores.

04/22/10

15. Kip Lipper, environmental consultant, state Senate

For years, Lipper has been the legislative staff's top strategist on all things environmental. Lawmakers used to jokingly ask whether a bill had been "Lipperized" — and they still say that, only no longer in jest. Lipper has had his fingers in every major piece of environmental legislation of the past decade, whether it involves water, air quality, land use or energy. Regardless of the house of origin, he's drafted, written, rewritten, negotiated, shot down, pushed through, or hijacked virtually every significant bill that's crossed his radar.

04/16/09

17. Kip Lipper, Staff to Sen. Darrell Steinberg

By all measures, Lipper is the most influential Capitol staffer on environmental issues. His influence is so pronounced that colleagues refer to him as "Senator Lipper." Whether it's greenhouse gas emissions or renewable energy, if a major piece of environmental legislation moves through the Capitol, it will inevitably have Lipper's fingerprints on it.

Cal Watchdog.com

Kip Lipper: His job title is "environmental consultant" in the state Senate, but that doesn't do the guy justice. Think of an environmental bill — any bill — that's come out of the Legislature in the last decade, and I guarantee Lipper

made it happen. “Lawmakers used to jokingly ask whether a bill had been ‘Lipperized’ – and they still say that, only no longer in jest,” *Capitol Weekly* reported in April.

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