

Coastal Bill Takes Effect Jan 1.

By SUSAN SWARD

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Beginning next year, use of California's 1,070-mile shoreline will be restricted by a new law aimed at halting urban sprawl in largely undeveloped beach areas.

Gov. Edmund Brown Jr. signed this landmark legislation, which takes effect Jan. 1, and 20 other environmental bills at a ceremony in his office Wednesday.

"It is for not only the people who are in California today, but their children and their grandchildren and generations to come to enjoy," the Democratic governor said.

At the hour-long ceremony, Brown shuffled over 100 backers of the bills in and out of the room, including a group of chanting Indians in leather and feather costumes who performed ceremonial dances.

Despite developer opposition, the California Legislature approved the bill in the last days of the 1975-76 session. It creates a permanent coastal commission with veto power over development.

A temporary commission created by voter initiative in 1972 had similar powers, but its authority expires at the end of

this year.

Dotting the coast where most Californians live, glistening beaches and rugged cliffs separate crowded developments of hotels, condominiums and beach houses.

The commission's power will extend over a strip of land generally 1,000 yards wide, although in some ecologically sensitive areas the zone will extend up to four miles inland.

Prop. 20, the 1972 initiative approved by voters, prompted this bill.

The author of the bill, state Sen. Jerry Smith, D-Saratoga, said the bill would affect development along the coast in major ways.

"You'll see a lot of open space and a lot of access to the beach. You won't see the sprawl and the spotty development," he said.

Throughout the year, developer interests, including the California Association of Realtors and the Chamber of Commerce, vehemently fought the bill, arguing it pushed coastal conservation too far and failed to compensate landowners for restrictions on their property.

The state AFL-CIO also opposed the bill until the final days of the session when several amendments won its support.

This is a summary of other major environmental bills signed by Brown:

—INDIANS: One measure creates a Native American Heritage Commission empowered to file suit to block damage to ceremonial sites. Another appropriates \$477,000 for an Indian Cultural Center at Indian Grinding Rock State Park in Amador County in the Sierra foothills.

After Brown signed these bills, several Indians per-

formed ceremonial dances in his office and Marie Potts, a well-known Maidu tribe leader, thanked Brown, her voice cracking with emotion.

—TAHOE: Alters the makeup of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency in an effort to push conservation in the Lake Tahoe area. The measure by Assemblyman Eugene Gualco, D-Sacramento, would require approval by the Nevada Legislature and Congress before it could become law.

—SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS: Creates the Santa Monica Planning Commission with advisory planning powers over the 200,000-acre mountain range north of the Los Angeles Basin.

Initially the bill by Assemblyman Howard Berman, D-Beverly Hills, was opposed by developer interests because the commission had veto power over major amendments. But that veto power was removed from the bill to win its passage.

—LEVEES: Spends \$350,000

to improve levees in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Sen. John Nejedly, R-Walnut Creek, authored the bill.

—FORESTRY: Upgrades the Division of Forestry to a department. Nejedly authored that bill also.

—IMPACT STATEMENTS: Permits a public agency to approve a project which has adverse environmental effects if the agency finds mitigating measures unfeasible. It is by Assemblyman John Knox, D-Richmond.

JCPenney
Storewide Clearance
1101 PACIFIC