



Legislation Touching DWR Programs / Activities

AB 1578 (Logue) – Indian Valley Watermaster District – Would allow for the formation of a watermaster district to be administered by the local beneficiaries of the watermaster services. Currently, DWR acts as the watermaster for this area.

AB 1750 (Solorio) – Rainwater Capture Act of 2012 – Would allow for the design and installation of specific residential and commercial rainwater capture systems for non-potable uses.

AB 2075 (Fong) – State Water Policy – Would declare as a state policy that conservation, water use efficiency, and water recycling are the most cost-effective means of increasing water supply and protecting the environment.

SB 200 (Wolk) – Delta Levees – Would extend the sunset of the 75/25 (state/local) cost share for certain levee maintenance activities in the Delta.

AB 2595 (Hall) – Desalination – Would require the Ocean Protection Council to convene a task force to determine an appropriate streamlined pathway to facilitate desalination, and brine discharge.

SB 250 (Rubio) – Bay Delta Conservation Plan – Would require DWR to complete its development of the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) on or before February 15, 2013, and to complete construction of facilities provided therein by December 31, 2025

SB 1146 (Pavley) – Well Completion Reports, Public Availability – Would require that well completion reports in possession of DWR be made available to the public, upon request. Allows DWR to assess a fee to cover costs associated with the redaction of specific personal information that must be kept confidential pursuant to statutory and Constitutional provisions.

SB 1247 (Gaines) – Watermaster Fees – Would decrease the amount that may be charged to water rights holders for activities of DWR in its role as watermaster. Current law requires “all cost” to be borne by water rights holders, this bill would insert an as-yet undefined percentage. Prior to 2011, part of the watermaster program costs were supported by the General Fund, this bill would likely require a General Fund appropriation to cover any costs that would not be allowed to be assessed by this bill.

SB 1495 (Wolk) – Delta Reform Act, Covered Actions – Amends the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Act). SB 1495 would ensure that specific activities of the Port of Stockton are not considered “covered actions” under the Act, including channel dredging and lease approvals by the Port. This bill would not make changes with regard to the applicability of the California Environmental Quality Act and the Endangered Species Act, but would eliminate a review by the Delta Stewardship Council.

General Environmental Policy Legislation

SB 52 (Steinberg) – CEQA – Makes largely technical changes to the 2011 Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act, that provides for expedited, streamlined judicial review of environmental projects.

SB 984 (Simitian) – CEQA – Would require a lead agency, upon request of the project applicant, to prepare the record of proceedings at the same time it prepares other Environmental Impact Report (EIR) documents to expedite activities in the event of legal challenges to such a project.

SB 1201 (DeLeon) – Los Angeles River, Public Access – Would deem the portions of the Los Angeles River that are unpaved to be deemed “in a natural condition and unimproved,” thereby affording public access to the river under the California Constitution.

AB 2163 (Knight) – CEQA, Judicial Review – Amends the 2011 Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act, expanding the types and size of projects that could avail themselves of the expedited, streamlined judicial review of environmental projects.

AB 1570 (Perea) – CEQA – Would require a lead agency, upon request of the project applicant, to prepare the record of proceedings at the same time it prepares other Environmental Impact Report (EIR) documents to expedite activities in the event of legal challenges to such a project.

AB 1558 (Eng) – Liability, Flood and Conservation Facilities – Removes a sunset in existing law relating to the assessment of liability on owner/operators of certain flood and water conservation facilities in Los Angeles County, for injury of minors at such facilities. This bill would apply to certain Los Angeles River facilities.

Regulatory Reform Legislation

Similar to last year, there are several bills relating to changing the existing practices concerning the adoption of regulation, the work required to be included in such a process, and the effective lifespan of a regulation. Some of these bills include:

SB 1099 (Wright) – Regulations – Would set two days per year (January 1 and July 1) upon which new regulations could take effect, and would require the Office of Administrative law to post information concerning regulations scheduled to become effective on those days. The intent here is to ensure that members of a regulated class have better access to information about regulations with which they must comply, and when.

AB 1504 (Morrell) – Administrative Sunset Dates – Would change the definition of a “major regulation” (enacted in 2011) from one that would have a \$50 million or greater impact, to one that would have a \$25 million or greater impact, and would add an additional layer of economic review.

AB 1537 (Cook) – Administrative Regulations – Would require all regulations with a cost estimate of \$1 million or greater, that are adopted after December 2012, to include a clause ‘sunsetting’ the regulation after two years unless subsequent legislation is enacted to validate the regulation.

AB 2091 (Berryhill) – Regulations –New or Emerging Technology – Would require any regulation that mandates the use of a “new or emerging technology,” to make specific determinations as to the availability of such technology, and to report other information in the documentation of the proposed regulation.