



**Briefing on Area of Origin Issues**

**Background**

California's Area of Origin laws provide protection to water users in the geographic area where water originates. They include:

- The County of Origin Law (WC § 10500-10506) which ensured that "state filings," which reserved unappropriated water for major water export projects, would not deprive the county of origin of water that is necessary for county development.
- The Watershed Protection Statute (WC§ 11460-11465) which ensured that the Central Valley Project would not deprive areas where water originated of water required for beneficial needs.
- The Delta Protection Act (WC§ 12200-12205) which ensured an adequate water supply for present and future needs in the Delta and protects the Delta from the effects of tidal salinity.

Since 2006, four major court decisions have clarified the intent of these laws. There is also ongoing litigation with the State of California related to Area of Origin Laws. At the Commission meeting, DWR Assistant Chief Counsel, Spencer Kenner, will brief the Commission on issues related to the Area of Origin laws and litigation.

**Contact**

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