



Briefing on the Human Right to Water and Environmental Justice

Background

In September 2012, Governor Brown signed AB 685 and California became the first state in the nation to legally recognize the human right to water. The bill added the following section to the Water Code:

§106.3. (a) It is hereby declared to be the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.

(b) All relevant state agencies, including the department, the state board, and the State Department of Public Health, shall consider this state policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria when those policies, regulations, and criteria are pertinent to the uses of water described in this section.

(c) This section does not expand any obligation of the state to provide water or to require the expenditure of additional resources to develop water infrastructure beyond the obligations that may exist pursuant to subdivision (b).

(d) This section shall not apply to water supplies for new development.

(e) The implementation of this section shall not infringe on the rights or responsibilities of any public water system.

At this meeting, Debbie Davis-Franco, Community and Rural Affairs Advisor for the Governor's Office of Planning and Research will brief the Commission about the implementation of the Human Right to Water Act and Environmental Justice Issues.

Contact

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