

2016 Legislative Update:

California
WATER COMMISSION



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Legislative Calendar

- January 4th – Legislature reconvenes
- January 10th – Budget submitted by Governor
- January 31st – Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in odd-number year
- February 19th – Last day for bills to be introduced
- April 22nd – Last day for policy committees to hear and report **fiscal** bills introduced in their house
- May 6th – Last day for policy committees to hear and report **nonfiscal** bills introduced in their house
- May 27th – Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report to the floor bills introduced in their house
- June 3rd – Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house
- August 12th – Last day for fiscal committees to meet and hear bills
- August 31st – Last day for each house to pass bills
- September 30th – Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills

Pending Legislation:

Water Conservation, Storage and Desalination

AB 1649 – State water policy: surface water storage projects and joint powers authorities (Salas)

Summary: This bill would require the Department to establish a state wide policy to give priority to the formation and funding of joint powers authorities in order to address surface water storage.

AB 1713 – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: peripheral canal (Eggman)

Summary: This bill would prohibit the construction of a peripheral canal (defined as any conveyance through/around the Delta) until approved by the voters through a statewide initiative.

AB 1925 – Desalination: statewide goal (Chang)

Summary: This bill would require the Department to establish goals for annual acre feet of desalinated water to be produced by 2025, and 2030.

AB 2087 – Regional conservation frameworks (Levine)

Summary: This bill would authorize Department of Fish and Wildlife to approve a regional conservation framework to guide conservation efforts associated with infrastructure planning.

AB 2515 – Water Conservation: model water efficient landscape ordinance (Weber)

Summary: This bill would require the Department to either update the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance on a three-year cycle, or determine that an update is not useful or effective. It would then require the Department, (in a cooperative agreement with multiple state agencies), to coordinate the Model Ordinance update and review with the triennial CALGreen Building Standard Code revision cycle.

Pending Legislation:

Water Conservation, Storage and Desalination Cont.

AB 2525 – Water-efficient landscaping (Holden)

Summary: This bill would require the Department to create the California Water Efficient Landscaping Program that would use economic incentives to promote the efficient use of water, encourage job training, and increase community education.

AB 2551 – Contract procurement: surface storage projects (Gallagher)

Summary: This bill would allow surface storage projects identified in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Record of Decision, that receive Proposition 1 funding in support of the project, to use the design-build method of project delivery.

SB 814 – Drought: excessive water use: urban retail water suppliers (Hill)

Summary: This bill would require all California urban retail water suppliers to develop a definition of excessive water use, and to take enforcement actions against excessive water users during any Governor's declared state of emergency due to drought conditions

SB 1340 – Water Conservation in Landscaping Act (Wolk)

Summary: This bill would require the Department to update the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance by adding language requiring a written permit to be obtained for any automatic irrigation system needed for large landscaping projects.

Pending Legislation:

Groundwater

AB 453 – Extraction of groundwater: Semitropic Water Storage District (Salas)

Summary: This bill would create the Semitropic Water Storage District and grant the district the authority to require groundwater extraction reports and impose fees.

AB 938 – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: adjudicated basins (Rodriguez)

Summary: This bill would allow for multiple agencies overlying a basin to work together to comply with SGMA, if the basin is reclassified and subject to the SGMA.

AB 1587 – Groundwater (Mathis)

Summary: This bill would require special consideration be given to projects designated to create groundwater recharge basins, utilizing Proposition 1 funds in the amount of \$50 million.

SB 37 – Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act (Vidak)

Summary: This bill would create the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency and require the agency to be a groundwater sustainability agency under SGMA.

SB 995 – Well standards (Pavley)

Summary: This bill would require the Department to establish an advisory panel to identify critical issues with well construction, alteration, maintenance, and destruction. Additionally, the Department will also be required to update well standards for certain types of wells.

SB 1317 – Conditional use permit: groundwater extraction facility (Wolk)

Summary: This bill would require a city or county overlying a high- or medium-priority groundwater basin to establish a process by January 1, 2018, for the issuance of permits for drilling of wells.

Pending Legislation:

CEQA and Greenhouse Gas Reduction

AB 1550 – Greenhouse gas investment plan: disadvantaged communities (Gomez)

Summary: This bill would require an increase in the percentages of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund dollars that would be required to be expended upon projects that benefit low-income households, presumably greater than the 10 percent currently in law.

AB 1749 – CEQA: exemption: recycled water pipelines (Mathis)

Summary: This bill would establish a temporary exemption for recycled water projects during the current drought state of emergency that was declared by the Governor.

AB 1989 – Water, energy, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (Jones)

Summary: This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board to develop and implement a grant and low-interest loan program (with input from multiple state agencies) for water projects that reduce net greenhouse gas emissions.

AB 2438 – CEQA: exemption: recycled water pipelines (Waldron)

Summary: This bill establishes, until January 1, 2020, an exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the installation of new, and maintenance of existing, recycled water pipelines.

SB 1386 – Resource conservation: working and natural lands (Wolk)

Summary: This bill would declare a policy of the state that the protection and management of natural lands is a key strategy in meeting the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals. It would further require all relevant state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions to consider this policy when revising, adopting or establishing policies, regulations, expenditures, or grant criteria.

Pending Legislation:

Miscellaneous

AB 501 – Resources: Delta research (Levine)

Summary: This bill requires recipients of state grant funds to publish their scientific research on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta upon completion.

AB 1585 – Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio (Alejo)

Summary: This bill would allocate \$25 million to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency for the Interlake Tunnel Project and spillway modifications.

AB 1755 – The Open and Transparent Water Data Act (Dodd)

Summary: This bill would require the integration and coordination of water and ecological data currently housed at the Department, the Water Board, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and additionally requiring the Department to create and operate, a statewide integrated water data platform that would provide data on completed water transfers and exchanges.

AB 2304 – CA Water Market Clearinghouse (Levine)

Summary: This bill would establish an independent water exchange clearinghouse with CNRA, convene a task force, and establish “Office of Water Transfer Advocate” under various regulatory processes.

AB 2480 – Source watersheds: financing (Bloom)

Summary: This bill declare a state policy that watersheds be recognized and defined as integral components of California’s water system and thereby be eligible for financing, and would require the Water Board to develop an investment plan (project list) for watershed restoration in the Shasta and Oroville Reservoir watersheds.

Pending Legislation:

Miscellaneous Cont.

AB 2800 – Climate change: infrastructure planning (Quirk)

Summary: This bill would require CNRA to establish a working group composed of experienced professional engineers and scientists from various entities to examine and provide recommendations for integrating climate change impacts into state infrastructure.

SB 554 – Delta levee maintenance (Wolk)

Summary: This bill would permanently eliminate the sunset date on the current state cost-share rate for the Delta Levee Subventions Program, which provides reimbursements of up to 75 percent of the costs in excess of \$1,000 per levee mile.

SB 1416 – Voluntary contribution: Revive the Salton Sea Fund (Stone)

Summary: This bill would create the “Revive the Salton Sea Fund”, which would allow individual tax payers to contribute towards the restoration and maintenance of the Salton Sea.