

Regional Water Authority – Legislative Hot List - 2016

RWA’s Legislative Hot List provides the summary and status of significant legislation followed by RWA’s Advocacy Program. The Hot List includes bills determined to be of High or Medium priority using the decision matrix included in the Legislative Platform and/or input from the Lobbyist Subscription Program Committee. For more information on a specific bill, please contact Soyla Fernandez, Hector Fernandez or Dave Brent.

| RWA - Hot Bill Legislation (2-Year Bills) | Position | Status |
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| <p><i>AB 452 (Bigelow R) Water Rights Fund: groundwater regulation.</i> This bill would prohibit water rights fees from being redirected by the State Board for the purposes of board enforcement of the provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the groundwater reporting requirements.</p> | Watch | 2-yr bill, has until 1/31/16 to move out of Assembly 1/12/2016 Anticipated Hearing @ Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee - Not in daily file. |
| <p><i>AB 453 (Bigelow R) Groundwater management.</i> This bill authorizes a local agency, such as the Sacramento Groundwater Authority, that has adopted a groundwater management plan, to impose fees on the extraction of groundwater to fund costs of groundwater management and to collect groundwater extraction information, as long as a groundwater management plan was adopted before January 1, 2015. Upon adoption of a groundwater sustainability plan, this authority would not apply.</p> | Support | |
| <p><i>AB 585 (Melendez R) Outdoor Water Efficiency Act of 2015: personal income tax credits: outdoor water efficiency.</i> Would, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, and before January 1, 2021, allow a credit equal to 25% of the amount paid, up to \$2,500, for “water-efficiency improvements”. Water efficient improvements are defined as those voluntary improvements defined in local, regional, or state water efficient landscape ordinances/programs.</p> | Watch | |
| <p><i>AB 603 (Salas D) Income taxes: Every Drop Counts Tax Credit.</i> Would, under the Personal Income Tax Law and the Corporation Tax Law, for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2016, and before January 1, 2021, or an earlier date in the event of a specified occurrence, allow a credit to a taxpayer participating in a lawn replacement rebate program, as defined, in an amount equal to 25% of the costs paid or incurred by the taxpayer to replace conventional lawn on the qualified taxpayer's property during that taxable year, not to exceed \$1,500, as specified.</p> | Watch | |

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| <p><u>AB 647</u> (Eggman D) <i>Beneficial use: storing of water underground.</i> This bill would declare that the diversion of water to underground storage constitutes a beneficial use of water if the water so stored is thereafter applied to the beneficial purposes for which the appropriation for storage was made, or if the water is so stored consistent with a sustainable groundwater management plan, statutory authority to conduct groundwater recharge, or a judicial decree and is for specified purposes. Amendments made to this bill require those seeking to store water underground to apply to the State Board for a permit to appropriate water or petition the board for a change. This would allow the Board to include conditions in an approved permit or petition.</p> | Oppose Unless Amended | |
| <p><u>AB 935</u> (Salas D) <i>Water projects.</i> This bill would require, upon appropriation of bond funds by the Legislature, DWR to provide up to \$75 M for the Reverse Flow Pump-back Facilities on the Friant-Kern Canal Restoration Project, and the San Joaquin River Recapture Project.</p> | Watch | |
| <p><u>AB 937</u> (Salas D) <i>Groundwater planning: technical assistance: disadvantaged communities.</i> Would require the DWR to provide technical assistance to disadvantaged communities so that they may participate in groundwater planning, including, but not limited to, plans for regional groundwater banking, with any county or other local agency.</p> | Watch | |
| <p><u>AB 1139</u> (Campos D) <i>Personal income taxes: credit: turf removal.</i> This bill would, for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2015, allow a credit to a taxpayer participating in a locally approved lawn replacement program, in an amount equal to \$2 per square foot of conventional lawn removed from the taxpayer's property, up to \$50,000 per taxable year.</p> | Watch | |
| <p><u>AB 1201</u> (Salas D) <i>Fish and wildlife: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: predation by nonnative species.</i> Would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife, by June 30, 2016, to develop a science-based plan that addresses predation by nonnative species upon species of fish listed pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act that reside all or a portion of their lives in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and that considers predation reduction for all Chinook salmon and other native species not listed pursuant to the act.</p> | Watch | |

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| <p><u>AB 1242 (Gray D) Water quality and storage.</u> Would require DWR to increase statewide water storage capacity by 25% by January 1, 2025, and 50% by January 1, 2050. The bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2017, to identify the current statewide water storage capacity and prepare a strategy and implementation plan to achieve those expansions in statewide water storage capacity, and would require the department to update the strategy and implementation plan on January 1, 2018, and every 2 years thereafter, until January 1, 2050.</p> | Support | |
| <p><u>AB 1362 (Gordon D) Mosquito abatement and vector control districts: board of trustees: appointment of members.</u> This bill was originally set up to redefine “stormwater” as part of constitutional amendment to Proposition 218 so that public agencies could set rates in the same manner as water and sewer rates. It has now been amended into a bill that deals with the appointment of mosquito abatement districts trustees.</p> | Support | Amended on 1/4/16 1/19/16 – Assembly Floor – Third Reading File Recommended to remove from RWA Hot List. |
| <p><u>AB 1376 (Perea D) State Water Resources Control Board: appropriation: drought-related drinking water projects.</u> Would appropriate \$15,000,000 from the General Fund to the State Board, for expenditure until June 30, 2016, for grants of up to \$500,000 per project for public water systems to address drought-related drinking water emergencies or threatened emergencies in the state. The bill would require the state board to make every effort to use other funds available to address drinking water emergencies, including federal funds made available for the drought, prior to using the funds appropriated pursuant to these provisions.</p> | Watch | |
| <p><u>SB 7 (Wolk D) Housing: water meters: multiunit structures.</u> Would express the intent of the Legislature to encourage the conservation of water in multifamily residential rental buildings through means either within the landlord's or the tenant's control including the submetering of dwelling units.</p> | Watch | 1/19/16 – Assembly Floor – Motion to Reconsider |
| <p><u>SB 20 (Pavley D) California Water Resiliency Investment Act.</u> This bill sets the stage for a Public Goods Charge. The bill itself would create the California Water Resiliency Investment Fund in the State Treasury and provide that moneys in the fund are available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purpose of providing a more dependable water supply for California. This bill would create various accounts within the fund for prescribed purposes.</p> | Watch | |

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| <p><i>SB 163 (Hertzberg D) Wastewater treatment: recycled water.</i> Would declare that the discharge of treated wastewater from ocean outfalls, except in compliance with the bill's provisions, is a waste and unreasonable use of water in light of the cost-effective opportunities to recycle this water for further beneficial use. This bill, on or before January 1, 2026, would require a wastewater treatment facility discharging through an ocean outfall to achieve at least 50% reuse of the facility's actual annual flow for beneficial purposes.</p> | Watch | |
| <p><i>SB 552 (Wolk D) Public water systems: disadvantaged communities: consolidation or extension of service.</i> Current law, for purposes of the California Safe Drinking Water Act, defines "disadvantaged community" to mean a disadvantaged community that is in an unincorporated area or is served by a mutual water company. This bill would allow a community to be a "disadvantaged community" if the community is in a mobilehome park even if it is not in an unincorporated area or served by a mutual water company.</p> | Watch | |
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