

## **ZONE 7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

DATE: June 22, 2023  
TIME: 4:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: Boardroom  
Zone 7 Administration Building  
100 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore

Director Gambs  
Director Green  
Director Ramirez Holmes

### **AGENDA**

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda
3. Legislative Update: CSDA
4. Regulatory and Legislative Update: The Gualco Group, Inc.
5. Verbal Reports
6. Adjournment



100 North Canyons Parkway  
Livermore, CA 94551  
(925) 454-5000

**DATE:** June 22, 2023

**TO:** Legislative Committee

**FROM:** Carol Mahoney, Government Relations Manager

**SUBJECT:** Regulatory and Legislative Update: The Gualco Group, Inc.

**SUMMARY:**

Zone 7 staff, with the support of Agency consultants, monitors legislation that is being considered in Sacramento, as well as other political and regulatory activities of interest. This item supports Strategic Plan, Goal F – Stakeholder Engagement, engage our stakeholders to foster understanding of their needs, the Agency, and its function.

California’s Assembly, Senate, and Committees are progressing through the first year of the two-year legislative cycle with many similar bills still under consideration. In April 2023, the Legislative Committee recommended positions to the Board on six bills and the Board subsequently took those recommended positions as follows:

<b>Bill/Author</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Position Taken</b>	<b>Status (06/14/23)</b>
AB 735 (Berman)	<u>Workforce development: utility careers</u>	Favor	Dead (Possible 2-Year, may be acted on in January)
AB 1573 (Friedman)	<u>Water conservation: landscape design: model ordinance</u>	Not Favor	Sen committee process (Natural Resources and Water)
AB 1594 (Garcia)	<u>Medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles: public agency utilities</u>	Favor	Sen committee process (Environmental Quality)
SB 23 (Caballero)	<u>Water supply and flood risk reduction projects: expedited permitting</u>	Favor	Dead (Possible 2-Year, may be acted on in January)
SB 366 (Caballero)	<u>The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets</u>	Favor	Asm committee process (Water, Parks and Wildlife)
SB 493 (Min)	<u>Air pollution: alternative vehicles and electric and hydrogen infrastructure</u>	Favor	Asm committee process (Transportation)

Of the bills that remain active, AB 1573 continues to undergo discussions for amendments. A joint letter from the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) regarding recommended amendments is attached. As the letter indicates, ACWA/CMUA have taken an oppose unless amended position and continue to work with the author to seek amendments. Given these organizations' actions to seek amendments, staff recommend that Zone 7 continue to take a "not favor" position.

Along with the development of the budget, several trailer bills have been introduced by the Governor this year. Trailer bills fall within eight categories: 1.) Corrections and General Government, 2.) Education, 3.) Employee Compensation, Retirement Systems, and Information Technology, 4.) Energy, Transportation, Housing, Local Government, and Labor, 5.) Forecasting, 6.) Health and Human Services, 7.) Infrastructure Package, and 8.) Natural Resources and Capital Outlay. In May, the Governor released several budget trailer bills that may have impacts to water supply or flood protection services under the last two categories related to infrastructure and natural resources. These include bills regarding California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Judicial Streamlining, Delta Reform Act Streamlining, Fully Protected Species Reclassification, Progressive Design Build Authority for Caltrans, and the Department of Water Resources (DWR), and Drought and Flood Streamlining. The deadline for the budget bill to be passed is June 15; however, trailer bills that are approved by a majority vote can become effective immediately, if the governor signs them. Trailer bills can also be introduced at any time the Legislature is in session and may move independent of the main and subsequent budget bills. Organizations like ACWA and CMUA are engaging on these trailer bills to support the interest of water resources. However, given the timing of the release of the governor's package, the Legislature has shown little enthusiasm in addressing them. Debate over the infrastructure package will likely carry over through the Summer Recess up to the end of the legislative year in mid-September. Information on the draft language for these bills can be found here: <https://esd.dof.ca.gov/trailer-bill/trailerBill.html>

The attached legislative Executive Summary from The Gualco Group, Inc. (Gualco) provides an overview of other key legislation being evaluated in this session. Gualco will provide an update on regulatory actions and bills of potential interest, including the Brown Act, bonds, and budget trailer bills.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Discuss and provide direction.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Joint letter  
Gualco Legislative Executive Summary – As of June 2023

### **Zone 7 Legislative Positions**

- **Support (S)** — Agency actively supports the proposed legislation.
- **Support if Amended (S/A)** — Agency will actively support the proposed legislation, if it is amended to address specific shortcomings identified by the Agency.
- **Favor (F)** — Agency will join with other organizations in support but will not engage actively in advocacy for the measure.
- **Favor, if Amended (F/A)** — Agency will join with other organizations in support, if legislation is amended to address specific shortcomings identified by the Agency but will not engage actively in advocacy for the measure.
- **Watch (W)** — Measures or general issues have not been sufficiently defined for a formal position.
- **Not Favor (NF)** — Agency will join with other organizations in opposition but will not engage actively in advocacy against the measure.
- **Oppose Unless Amended (O/A)** — Agency will actively oppose the proposed legislation unless it is amended to address specific shortcomings.
- **Oppose (O)** — Agency actively opposes the proposed legislation.



June 2, 2023

The Honorable Dave Min  
Chair, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water  
1021 O Street, Ste. 3220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1573 (Friedman) – Oppose Unless Amended**

Dear Chair Min:

On behalf of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), we are writing to express our position of 'Oppose Unless Amended' on AB 1573, which would amend the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO).

MWELO serves as a model ordinance for local land use agencies (cities and counties) to enforce minimum standards in landscape design, construction, and management. Each local land use agency, no later than January 1, 2010, must have adopted MWELO or a water efficient landscape ordinance that is at least as effective as MWELO. Cities and counties can, by mutual agreement with another agency, such as a local water agency, collaborate on implementation of MWELO requirements; therefore, while land use agencies are responsible under state law, many local water agencies have a role in implementing these provisions. MWELO requires specific design construction documents, an irrigation audit, and post completion documents for each new or rehabilitated landscape project and applies to residential, commercial, industrial and institutional projects that require a permit, plan check, or design review. We have concerns with provisions in AB 1573 that will significantly limit landscape options; each of our specific concerns is addressed below. A mock-up of our requested amendments is included at the end of this letter.

#### Native Plant Requirements

AB 1573 would delete language stating that the model ordinance should not prohibit or require specific plant species, and instead requires the model ordinance to include provisions that require local native plants. The bill also implements a tiered threshold requirement for native plants for all landscapes, other than residential, subject to MWELO, beginning with a 25 percent threshold in 2026, and escalating to a 75 percent threshold by 2035. While local agencies strongly encourage and support the use of native plants, it is not appropriate to *require* their use or set specific thresholds. ACWA and CMUA support an approach of climate-appropriate landscaping, rather than dictating specific plant species. Requiring native plants comes with a host of complications. For example, it may be very difficult to find a sufficient selection of appropriate native plants in nearby nurseries. Further, in many regions across the state native plants are sold only at boutique nurseries and the plants are significantly more expensive than larger commercial purveyors, making their use cost prohibitive. Native plants and landscapes also require proper care, irrigation, and developed soils, and without a familiarity of native plant requirements, landscapes can begin to look sparse and woody. ACWA and CMUA support those that elect to utilize local native plants, but are more concerned that landscapes are climate appropriate to the region and generally water efficient. ***We request language that encourages the use of native plants in MWELO, but does not set a threshold. Further, existing law providing that the model ordinance should not prohibit specific species should be added back to the statute.***

Overhead Sprinkler Clarification

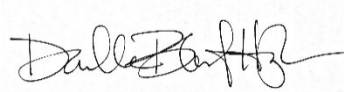
The recent amendments to the bill on May 18 included new language prohibiting the installation of traditional overhead sprinklers. This phrasing is vague, and we believe could use additional clarification. ***We request a clarifying definition be added to the bill.***

While ACWA and CMUA are supportive of climate appropriate landscaping, the provisions outlined in AB 1573 go much further than that goal, and several amendments are necessary to ensure the landscaping requirements under MWEL0 can be achievable and will result in beneficial water savings, while also avoiding unintended consequences. For these reasons, we must oppose AB 1573 unless it is amended as described in this letter and respectfully requests your “No” vote when it is heard in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water. If you have any questions about our position, please contact Julia Hall at [JuliaH@acwa.com](mailto:JuliaH@acwa.com) and Danielle Blacet-Hyden at [dblacet@cmua.org](mailto:dblacet@cmua.org).

Sincerely,



Julia Bishop Hall  
Legislative Relations Manager  
Association of California Water Agencies



Danielle Blacet-Hyden  
Deputy Executive Director  
California Municipal Utilities Association

cc: The Honorable Laura Friedman  
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee

---

**AB 1573 – As Amended May 18, 2023**  
**The current language of AB 1573 is all in plain black text**  
**Only Sections with Proposed Changes Are Included**  
**Proposed Amendments – ~~Strikeout~~ and Underline**

Section 65592 of the Government Code is Amended to read:

65592. Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions govern the construction of this article:

- (a) “Community space” means an area designated by a property owner or a government agency to accommodate human foot traffic for civic, ceremonial, or other community events or social gatherings.
- (b) “Department” means the Department of Water Resources.
- (c) “Director” means the Director of Water Resources.
- (d) “Functional turf” means a ground cover surface of turf located in a recreational use area or community space. Turf enclosed by fencing or other barriers to preclude human access for recreation or assembly is not functional turf.
- (e) “Local agency” means any city, county, or city and county, including a charter city or charter county.
- (f) “Local native plants” means California plants indigenous to an area that have evolved and occur naturally in the Jepson Region associated with a specific California location, as defined and updated by the University of California, Berkeley Jepson eFlora.
- (g) “Nonfunctional turf” means any turf that is solely ornamental and not regularly used for human recreational purposes or for civic or community events. Nonfunctional turf does not include sports fields

and turf that is regularly used for human recreational purposes or for civic or community events. not functional turf, and includes turf located within street rights-of-way and parking lots.

(h) "Recreational use area" means an area designated by a property owner or a government agency to accommodate human foot traffic for recreation, such as sports fields, golf courses, playgrounds, picnic grounds, or pet exercise areas. Such recreation may be either formal or informal.

(i) "Traditional overhead sprinklers" means an overhead sprinkler system that includes spray sprinkler nozzles with an application rate greater than 1.0 inch per hour.

(i) "Water efficient landscape ordinance" means an ordinance or resolution adopted by a local agency, or prepared by the department, to address the efficient use of water in landscaping.

(j) "WUCOLS" means the Water Use Classification of Landscape Species published by the University of California Cooperative Extension and the Department of Water Resources in 2014 and its subsequent updates.

Section 65596 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65596.

The updated model ordinance adopted pursuant to Sections 65595 and 65596.5 shall do all of the following in order to reduce water use:

(a) Include provisions for water conservation and the appropriate use and groupings of plants that are well-adapted to particular sites and to particular climatic, soil, or topographic conditions. The model ordinance shall not include conditions that have the effect of prohibiting or requiring specific plant species.

(b) Include provisions that require that plants included in a landscape design plan be selected based on their adaptability to climatic, geological, and topographical conditions of the project site including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) A scientific climate zone system that considers temperatures, humidity, elevation, terrain, and other factors affecting local climate.

(2) The horticultural attributes of plants, including mature plant size, invasive characteristics of plants, soil needs for healthy root growth, and other qualities.

~~(3) Local native plants that evolved in and can be found naturally within the Jepson region, where the landscape site or project is located, as defined and updated by the University of California, Berkeley Jepson eFlora.~~

(c) Include language that encourages, but does not require, the use of local native plants that evolved in and can be found naturally within the Jepson region, where the landscape site or project is located, as defined and updated by the University of California, Berkeley Jepson eFlora.

(c) Include a landscape water budget component that establishes the maximum amount of water to be applied through the irrigation system, based on climate, landscape size, irrigation efficiency, and plant needs.

(d) Promote the benefits of consistent local ordinances in neighboring areas.

(e) Encourage the capture and retention of stormwater onsite to improve water use efficiency or water quality.

(f) Include provisions for the use of automatic irrigation systems and irrigation schedules based on climatic conditions, specific terrains and soil types, and other environmental conditions. The model ordinance shall include references to local, state, and federal laws and regulations regarding standards for water-conserving irrigation equipment. The model ordinance may include climate information for irrigation scheduling based on the California Irrigation Management Information System (Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 10015) of Part 1.5 of Division 6 of the Water Code).

- (g) Include provisions for onsite soil assessment and soil management plans that include grading and drainage to promote healthy plant growth and to prevent excessive erosion and runoff, and the use of mulches in shrub areas, garden beds, and landscaped areas where appropriate.
- (h) Promote the use of recycled water consistent with Article 4 (commencing with Section 13520) of Chapter 7 of Division 7 of the Water Code.
- (i) Seek to educate water users on the efficient use of water and the benefits of doing so.
- (j) Address regional differences, including fire prevention needs.
- (k) Exempt all of the following:
  - (1) Landscaping that is part of a registered historic site.
  - (2) Ecological restoration projects that do not require a permanent irrigation system.
  - (3) Mined-land reclamation projects that do not require a permanent irrigation system.
  - (4) Existing plant collections, as part of botanical gardens and arboreturns open to the public.
- (l) Encourage the use of economic incentives to promote the efficient use of water.
- (m) Include provisions for landscape maintenance practices that foster long-term landscape water conservation. Landscape maintenance practices may include, but are not limited to, performing routine irrigation system repair and adjustments, conducting water audits, and prescribing the amount of water applied per landscaped acre.
- (n) Include provisions to minimize landscape irrigation overspray and runoff.
- (o) Include provisions that do each of the following:
  - (1) Require that each plant or a representative number of each type of plant, as determined by the director, installed in a new or rehabilitated landscape open to the public be identifiable at the time of inspection as to its correct name as specified in Section 53481 of the Food and Agricultural Code.
  - (2) Prohibit the use of traditional overhead sprinklers on all new and rehabilitated landscapes and require that new and rehabilitated landscapes use only water efficient irrigation devices.
  - ~~(3) Require that, beginning January 1, 2026, all new or renovated nonresidential areas install in the plant area not less than 25 percent local native plants, excluding edibles and areas using recycled water.~~
  - ~~(4) Require that, beginning January 1, 2030, all new and renovated nonresidential areas install in the plant area not less than 50 percent local native plants, excluding edibles and areas using recycled water.~~
  - ~~(5) Require that, beginning January 1, 2035, all new and renovated nonresidential areas install in the plant area not less than 75 percent local native plants, excluding edibles and areas using recycled water.~~
  - (6) Prohibit the inclusion of nonfunctional turf in nonresidential landscape projects after January 1, 2026.
  - (7) For purposes of this subdivision, "WUCOLS" refers to the fourth edition of "WUCOLS IV: Water Use Classification of Landscape Species."





**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**State Legislation**



**Prepared for the Zone 7 Water Agency  
by The Gualco Group, Inc.**

Bill	Topic	Synopsis	Staff Recommendation	Status of the Bill / Comments as of 06/08/2023
<b>BROWN ACT LEGISLATION</b>				
<a href="#"><u>AB 557 (Hart)</u></a>	<b>Open meetings: local agencies: teleconference</b>	Provisions proposed to be amended deal with circumstances under which the governor has proclaimed a state of emergency.	Watch	Set for hearing 06/27/2023 Senate Judiciary
<a href="#"><u>AB 817 (Pacheco)</u></a>	<b>Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body</b>	Authorizes a subsidiary body to use alternative teleconferencing provisions similar to the emergency provisions indefinitely and without regard to a state of emergency. In order to use teleconferencing pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, the bill would require the legislative body that established the subsidiary body by charter, ordinance, resolution, or other formal action to make specified findings by majority vote before the subsidiary body uses teleconferencing for the first time and every 12 months thereafter.	Watch	DEAD
<a href="#"><u>SB 411 (Portantino)</u></a>	<b>Open meetings: teleconferences: neighborhood councils</b>	Provisions to state meeting requirements of an advisory body with the purpose to promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs that is established pursuant to the charter of a city with a population of more than 3,000,000 people that is subject to the act.	Watch	Assembly Committee on Local Government

[SB 537](#)  
[\(Becker\)](#)

**Open meetings:  
multijurisdictional,  
cross-county  
agencies:  
teleconferences**

Provides if a member of a legislative body of a local agency shows "just cause," including for a childcare or caregiving need of a relative that requires the member to participate remotely. This bill would expand the circumstances of "just cause" to apply to the situation in which an immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, or other specified relative requires the member to participate remotely.

Watch

Assembly Desk

## NATURAL RESOURCES BOND

[AB 305](#)  
[\(Villapudua\)](#)

**California Flood  
Protection Bond Act  
of 2024**

General Obligation Bond - \$4,500,000,000

Watch

Senate  
Committee on  
Rules

[AB 408](#)  
[\(Wilson\)](#)

**Climate-resilient  
Farms, Sustainable  
Healthy Food Access,  
and Farmworker  
Protection Bond Act  
of 2024**

General Obligation Bond - \$3,365,000,000

Watch

Senate  
Committee on  
Rules

[AB 1567](#)  
[\(Garcia\)](#)

**Safe Drinking Water,  
Wildfire Prevention,  
Drought Preparation,  
Flood Protection,  
Extreme Heat  
Mitigation, and  
Workforce  
Development Bond  
Act of 2024**

General Obligation Bond - \$15,995,000,000

Watch

Senate  
Committee on  
Rules

[SB 638](#)  
[\(Eggman\)](#)

**Climate Resiliency  
and Flood Protection  
Bond Act of 2024**

General Obligation Bond - \$6,000,000,000

Watch

Assembly Desk

[SB 867 \(Allen\)](#)

**Drought, Flood, and  
Water Resilience,  
Wildfire and Forest  
Resilience, Coastal**

General Obligation Bond - \$15,500,000,000

Watch

Assembly Desk

**Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate Smart Agriculture, Park Creation and Outdoor Access, and Clean Energy Bond Act of 2024**

**UTILITY MANAGEMENT**

[AB 735](#)  
[\(Berman\)](#)

**Workforce development: utility careers**

Establishes the High Road Utility Careers (HRUC) program, to be administered by the California Workforce Development Board, to connect existing resources with individuals interested in careers in the utility sector and ensure a continued reliable workforce for California utilities. The bill would require the board to administer the HRUC program through partnerships with statewide water, wastewater, and energy utility associations and to coordinate the program with existing and future programs and initiatives administered by the board, including high road training partnerships, in order to align interested individuals with available resources. The bill would require the HRUC program to dedicate funding and resources toward accomplishing specified goals, including connecting workers to high-quality jobs or entry-level work with defined routes to advancement and increasing skills and opportunities while expanding pipelines for low-income populations.

Favor

DEAD

[AB 1594](#)  
[\(Garcia\)](#)

**Medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles: public agency utilities**

Requires any state regulation that seeks to require, or otherwise compel, the procurement of medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles by a public agency utility to ensure that those vehicles can support a public agency utility's ability to maintain reliable water and electric services, respond to disasters in an emergency capacity, and provide mutual aid assistance statewide

Favor

Senate Committee on Rules

and nationwide, among other requirements. The bill would define a public agency utility to include a local publicly owned electric utility, a community water system, and a wastewater treatment provider.

[SB 493 \(Min\)](#)

**Air pollution: alternative vehicles and electric and hydrogen infrastructure**

Requires the assessment of the fuel cell electric vehicle fueling infrastructure and fuel production to additionally include an assessment of storage and transport facilities, and the assessment of the electric vehicle charging infrastructure to additionally include electric system infrastructure and electric generation. The bill would expand the scope of the latter assessment to include the electric vehicle charging infrastructure, electric system infrastructure, and electric generation needed for the state to meet the goals of Executive Order No. N-79-20 and any state board regulatory action that requires or allows zero-emission vehicles in the heavy-duty vehicle and off-road sectors. The bill would require both assessments to identify any barriers to the deployment of hydrogen infrastructure and any barriers to the deployment of electric infrastructure, respectively, for medium- and heavy-duty fleets and recommendations for addressing those barriers.

Favor

Assembly Desk

## WATER RIGHTS

[AB 460 \(Bauer-Kahan\)](#)

**State Water Resources Control Board: interim relief: procedures**

Authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board in conducting specified investigations or proceedings to inspect the property or facilities of a person or entity, as specified. The bill would authorize the board, if consent is denied for an inspection, to obtain an inspection warrant, as specified, or in the event of an emergency affecting public health and safety, to conduct an inspection without consent or a warrant.

Watch

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water

[AB 676 \(Bennett\)](#)

**Water: general state policy**

Provides specific examples of the use of water for domestic purposes, including, but not limited to, sustenance of human beings and household conveniences.

Watch

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water

[AB 1272](#)  
[\(Wood\)](#)

**State Water  
Resources Control  
Board: drought  
planning**

Would require the State Water Resources Control Board to establish a program, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, to adopt principles and guidelines for diversion and use of water in coastal watersheds, as specified, during times of water shortage for drought preparedness and climate resiliency. The bill would require that the principles and guidelines provide for the development of watershed-level plans to support public trust uses, public health and safety, and the human right to water in times of water shortage, among other things.

Watch

Senate  
Committee on  
Rules

[AB 1337](#)  
[\(Wicks\)](#)

**State Water  
Resources Control  
Board: water  
diversion curtailment**

Under existing law, the diversion or use of water other than as authorized by specified provisions of law is a trespass, subject to specified civil liability. This bill would expand the instances when the diversion or use of water is considered a trespass.

Watch

Senate  
Committee on  
Natural  
Resources and  
Water

[SB 389 \(Allen\)](#)

**State Water  
Resources Control  
Board:  
determination of  
water right**

Authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to investigate the diversion and use of water from a stream system to determine whether the diversion and use are based upon appropriation, riparian right, or other basis of right, as specified.

Watch

Assembly Desk

## WATER SUPPLY

[AB 1573](#)  
[\(Friedman\)](#)

**Water conservation:  
landscape design:  
model ordinance**

Requires the updated model ordinance to include provisions that require that plants included in a landscape design plan be selected based on their adaptability to climatic, geological, and topographical conditions of the project site, as specified. The bill would also exempt landscaping that is part of ecological restoration projects that do not require a permanent irrigation system, mined-land reclamation projects that do not require a permanent irrigation system, and existing plant collections, as part of botanical gardens

Not Favor

Senate  
Committee on  
Rules

and arboretums open to the public, from the model ordinance.

[SB 23](#)  
[\(Caballero\)](#)

**Water supply and flood risk reduction projects: expedited permitting**

Requires a project proponent, if already required to submit a notification to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, to submit to the department the certified or adopted environmental review document, as applicable, for the activity in the notification. The bill would require the department, under prescribed circumstances, to take certain actions within specified timelines, or within a mutually agreed-to extension of time.

Favor

DEAD

[SB 366](#)  
[\(Caballero\)](#)

**The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets**

This bill would revise and recast certain provisions regarding The California Water Plan to, among other things, require the department to instead establish a stakeholder advisory committee and to expand the membership of the committee to include tribes, labor, and environmental justice interests.

Favor

Assembly Desk

[SB 687](#)  
[\(Eggman\)](#)

**Water Quality Control Plan: Delta Conveyance Project**

Requires the State Water Resources Control to adopt a final update of the 1995 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary, as provided, before the board may consider a change in point diversion or any other water rights permit or order for the Delta Conveyance Project.

Watch

DEAD

## SGMA

[AB 429](#)  
[\(Bennett\)](#)

**Groundwater wells: permits**

Current law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt a model water well, cathodic protection well, and monitoring well drilling and abandonment ordinance implementing certain standards for water well construction, maintenance, and abandonment and requires each county, city, or water agency, where appropriate, not later than January 15, 1990, to adopt a water well, cathodic protection well, and monitoring well drilling and abandonment ordinance that meets or exceeds certain standards.

Watch

DEAD

[AB 560](#)  
[\(Bennett\)](#)

**Sustainable  
Groundwater  
Management Act:  
groundwater  
adjudication**

Requires a court to refer a proposed settlement determining rights to water to the State Water Resources Control Board for a nonbinding advisory determination as to whether the proposed judgment will substantially impair the ability of a groundwater sustainability agency, the board, or the Department of Water Resources to achieve sustainable groundwater management, as provided. The bill would require the board to consult with the department before making its determination.

Watch

Senate  
Committee on  
Rules

[AB 779](#)  
[\(Wilson\)](#)

**Groundwater:  
adjudication**

would encourage the court to invite a representative from the department or the State Water Resources Control Board to a hearing where they may provide technical assistance or expert testimony on equitable and sustainable pumping allocations for the basin, sustainable groundwater management best practices and recommendations, and the water use of small farmers and disadvantaged communities and potential impacts on their needs. The bill would require the court to consider the water use of small farmers and disadvantaged communities, as those terms are defined, before entering a judgment.

Watch

Senate  
Committee on  
Rules

[AB 828](#)  
[\(Connolly\)](#)

**Sustainable  
groundwater  
management:  
managed wetlands**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources that are designated as basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2020, and requires all other groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2022, except as specified. This bill would add various defined terms for purposes of the act, including the term "managed wetland."

Watch

DEAD

[AB 900](#)  
[\(Bennett\)](#)

**Aquifer recharge**

Current law requires the Natural Resources Agency to update every 3 years the state's climate adaptation strategy, known as the Safeguarding California Plan, and to coordinate with other state agencies to identify vulnerabilities to climate change by sectors and priority actions needed to reduce the risks in those sectors. Current law requires, to address the vulnerabilities identified in the plan, state agencies to maximize specified objectives, including promoting the use of the plan to inform planning decisions and ensure that state investments consider climate change impacts, as well as promote the use of natural systems and natural infrastructure, when developing physical infrastructure to address adaptation. This bill would add aquifers as part of the meaning of natural infrastructure.

Watch

DEAD

[AB 1563](#)  
[\(Bennett\)](#)

**Groundwater sustainability agency: groundwater extraction permit: verification**

Existing law authorizes a groundwater sustainability agency to request of the county, and requires a county to consider, that the county forward permit requests for the construction of new groundwater wells, the enlarging of existing groundwater wells, and the reactivation of abandoned groundwater wells to the agency before permit approval. This bill would instead require a county to forward permit requests for the construction of new groundwater wells, the enlarging of existing groundwater wells, and the reactivation of abandoned groundwater wells to the groundwater sustainability agency before permit approval.

Watch

Senate  
Committee on  
Rules