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BILL TEXT

CHAPTER 366
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INTRODUCED BY Assembly Member Cortese

FEBRUARY 17, 1994

An act to amend Sections 10631 and 10632 of the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2853, Cortese. Urban water management planning.

The Urban Water Management Planning Act requires every urban water supplier providing water for municipal purposes to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually to prepare and adopt, in accordance with prescribed requirements, an urban water management plan containing prescribed elements, including requirements to describe the findings, actions, and planning related to incentives for conversion to water reuse and methods to increase the use of reclaimed water, to describe financial incentives used to encourage the use of reclaimed water and the results of those incentives, to describe water reclamation measures for specified uses, and to identify actions and incentives to facilitate the development of dual water systems to use reclaimed water for specified purposes. The act also requires an urban water supplier to include in a plan that projects a future use that indicates a need for expanded or additional water supplies an evaluation of specified alternatives, including waste water reclamation.

This bill would remove those requirements regarding the description and identification of incentives and methods for the use of reclaimed water, and would change the term "reclaimed water" to "recycled water" for purposes of the act. The bill would, instead, expand the requirement to evaluate waste water reclamation as a future water supply by requiring the plan to include information on recycled water and its potential for use as a water source in the service area of the urban water supplier, as prescribed. The bill would require the preparation of the plan to be coordinated with local water, waste water, and planning agencies.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 10631 of the Water Code is amended to read:

10631. A plan shall be adopted in accordance with this chapter and shall do all of the following:

(a) Include an estimate of past, current, and projected potable and recycled water use and, to the extent records are available, segregate those uses between residential, industrial, commercial, and governmental uses.

(b) (1) Identify conservation and reclamation measures currently adopted and being practiced.

(2) Urban water suppliers that are members of the California Urban Water Conservation Council and submit annual reports to that council in accordance with the "Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Urban Water Conservation in California," dated September 1991, may submit the annual reports for the purposes of identifying conservation measures as required by paragraph (1).

(c) Describe alternative conservation measures, including, but not limited to, consumer education, metering, water saving fixtures and appliances, pool covers, lawn and garden irrigation techniques, and low water use landscaping, that would improve the efficiency of water use with an evaluation of their costs and their environmental and other significant impacts.

(d) Provide a schedule of implementation for proposed actions as indicated by the plan.

(e) Provide an urban water shortage contingency plan that includes all of the following elements that are within the authority of the urban water supplier:

(1) Past, current, and projected water use and, to the extent records are available, a breakdown of those uses on the basis of single-family residential, multifamily residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, and agricultural use.

(2) An estimate of the minimum water supply available at the end of 12, 24, and 36 months, assuming the worst case water supply shortages.

(3) Stages of action to be undertaken by the urban water supplier in response to water supply shortages, including up to a 50 percent reduction in water supply, and an outline of specific water supply conditions that are applicable to each stage.

(4) Mandatory provisions to reduce water use that include prohibitions against specific wasteful practices, such as gutter flooding.

(5) Consumption limits in the most restrictive stages. Each urban water supplier may use any type of consumption limit in its water shortage contingency plan that would reduce water use and is appropriate for its area. Examples of consumption limits that may be used include, but are not limited to, percentage reductions in water allotments, per capita allocations, an increasing block rate schedule for high usage of water with incentives for conservation, or restrictions on specific uses.

(6) Penalties or charges for excessive use.

(7) An analysis of the impacts of the plan on the revenues and expenditures of the urban water supplier, and proposed measures to overcome those impacts, such as the development of reserves and rate adjustments.

(8) A draft water shortage contingency resolution or

ordinance to carry out the urban water shortage contingency plan.

(9) A mechanism for determining actual reductions in water use pursuant to the urban water shortage contingency plan.

(f) Describe the frequency and magnitude of supply deficiencies, based on available historic data and future projected conditions comparing water supply and demand, including a description of deficiencies in time of drought and emergency and the ability to meet deficiencies.

(g) To the extent feasible, describe the method which will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of each conservation measure implemented under the plan.

(h) Describe the steps which would be necessary to implement any proposed actions in the plan.

(i) Describe findings, actions, and planning relating to all of the following:

(1) The use of internal and external water audits for single-family residential, multifamily residential, institutional, commercial, industrial, and governmental customers, and the use of incentive programs to encourage customer audits and program participation.

(2) The use of distribution system water audits.

(3) Leak detection and repair.

(4) The use of large landscape water audits.

(j) Describe actions and planning to eliminate the use of once-through cooling systems, nonrecirculating water systems, and nonrecycling decorative water fountains, and to encourage the recirculation of water if proper public health and safety standards are maintained.

(k) Describe actions and plans to enforce conservation measures.

(l) To the extent feasible, describe the amount of water saved through water conservation measures employed by user groups.

(m) Describe actions and planning to ensure the involvement of community members within the service area with regard to water management planning.

SEC. 2. Section 10632 of the Water Code is amended to read:

10632. (a) In addition to the elements required pursuant to Section 10631, a plan projecting a future use which indicates a need for expanded or additional water supplies shall be adopted in accordance with this chapter and shall include an evaluation of the following alternatives:

(1) Recycled water. The plan's evaluation of this alternative shall provide information on recycled water and its potential for use as a water source in the service area of the urban water supplier and shall include all of the following information:

(A) A description of the waste water collection and treatment systems in the supplier's service area, including a quantification of the amount of waste water collected and treated and the methods of waste water disposal.

(B) A description of the recycled water currently being used in the supplier's service area, including, but not limited to, the type, place, and quantity of use.

(C) A description and quantification of the potential uses of recycled water, including, but not limited to, agricultural

irrigation, landscape irrigation, wildlife habitat enhancement, wetlands, industrial reuse, groundwater recharge, and other appropriate uses, and a determination with regard to the technical and economic feasibility of serving those uses.

(D) The projected use of recycled water within the supplier's service area at the end of 5, 10, 15, and 20 years.

(E) A description of actions, including financial incentives, which may be taken to encourage the use of recycled water where fresh water is not necessary, and the projected results of these actions in terms of acre-feet of recycled water used per year.

(F) A plan for optimizing the use of recycled water in the supplier's service area, including actions to facilitate the installation of dual distribution systems and to promote recirculating uses.

(2) Exchanges or transfer of water on a short-term or long-term basis.

(3) Management of water system pressures and peak demands.

(4) Issues relevant to meter retrofitting for all uses.

(5) Incentives to alter water use practices, including fixture and appliance retrofit programs.

(6) Public information and educational programs to promote wise use and eliminate waste.

(7) Changes in pricing, rate structures, and regulations.

(b) The preparation of the plan shall be coordinated with local water, waste water, and planning agencies.