

Ground Water Bills

SB 1168 by Senator Fran Pavley

AB 1739 by Asm. Roger Dickinson

SB 1319 by Senator Fran Pavley

SB 1168

- Establishes groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) and adopting groundwater sustainability plans
- Establishes that it is the policy of the state that all groundwater basins are managed sustainably for multiple economic, social and environmental benefits and that such management is best achieved locally based on best available science
- It also includes language regarding basin boundary adjustments, requirements and authorities for establishing groundwater sustainability agencies, and required plan components
- It would require adoption of groundwater sustainability plans by Jan. 31, 2020, for all high or medium priority basins in overdraft condition and by Jan. 31, 2022 for all other high and medium priority basins unless legally adjudicated or otherwise managed sustainably

AB 1739

- Includes complementary provisions related to implementation tools and enforcement authorities at the state and local levels.
- Includes provisions related to coordination among local land use and groundwater management agencies, as well as provisions related to technical assistance from the Department of Water Resources, financial and enforcement authorities for groundwater sustainability agencies, and provisions related to the state intervention role.

SB 1319

- Prohibits the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), until January 1, 2025, from using its enforcement authorities under the Act to designate a basin or subbasin as probationary due to significant depletions of interconnected surface waters or require an interim plan to remedy the condition
- Requires the State Water Board to exclude any portion of a basin or subbasin in compliance with sustainable groundwater management requirements from probationary status.
- Requires the State Water Board to include any element of a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP), or the entire plan, in its interim plan if SWRCB finds it would help meet the sustainability goal.

Conclusion

- These bills are triple joined and must all be signed as a package
- Funding is both part of the proposed water bond, Proposition 1 on the November 2014 ballot, and part of the budget for the next five years