

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2002

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 188**

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**Introduced by Assembly ~~Member Reyes~~ *Members Reyes and Canciamilla*  
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Hertzberg)**

April 8, 2002

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 188—Relative to water as a vital resource.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 188, as amended, Reyes. Water as a vital resource.

This measure would resolve that state leaders should learn more about water issues in order to address the issues calmly and deliberately; ~~rather than in the panic of a full-blown crisis.~~

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Water was the catalyst that allowed California, a  
2 semiarid state, to grow and prosper; and  
3 WHEREAS, California's prosperity has been built on a solid  
4 foundation of public and private investment in developing its  
5 water supply; and  
6 WHEREAS, An adequate and reliable supply of high quality  
7 water is vital to California's economy, environment, and way of  
8 life; and  
9 WHEREAS, Water is very affordable relative to the cost of  
10 other real and perceived necessities of life, with an average urban  
11 family in southern California living in a single-family home

1 paying about \$30 per month for water, while paying \$60 to \$90 for  
2 electricity; and

3 WHEREAS, Tap water costs less than  $\frac{7}{100}$ ths of a cent per liter,  
4 versus store-bought water that costs 50 cents to \$1 per liter, or 700  
5 percent to 1,400 percent more; and

6 WHEREAS, Census officials estimate that, by 2020,  
7 California's current population of 32 million will reach 49 million,  
8 and as the state grows, so will the demand for water; and

9 WHEREAS, The demand for water is growing, and the  
10 California Water Plan is forecasting that, by 2020, there will be  
11 shortfalls of 2.5 million acre-feet in a normal rainfall year and even  
12 greater shortages in drought years; and

13 WHEREAS, In the future, great uncertainty hovers over the  
14 state's water supply as a result of climate change, the reallocation  
15 of water supplies from urban and agricultural uses to  
16 environmental uses, population growth, and the lack of a clear  
17 federal and state commitment to water infrastructure investment,  
18 and California must take decisive action now to avoid repeating  
19 the mistakes of the energy crisis; and

20 WHEREAS, This year's rain and snowfall levels are expected  
21 to be below normal and, if we have another dry year, there will be  
22 severe water shortages in many parts of the state; and

23 WHEREAS, California is overdrafting its groundwater  
24 supplies by an annual average of approximately 1.3 million  
25 acre-feet; and

26 WHEREAS, California's farms use less water now than they did  
27 30 years ago, while total production of crops is up by 67 percent;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Under the 1992 Central Valley Project  
30 Improvement Act (Public Law 102-575), 800,000 acre-feet of  
31 Central Valley Project water were dedicated for fishery  
32 restoration, and 340,000 acre-feet were dedicated for in-stream  
33 use in the Trinity River; and

34 WHEREAS, Approximately 90 percent of the Central Valley  
35 Project's water is used to irrigate more than 3 million acres of  
36 farmland and to provide water to about 2 million customers; and

37 WHEREAS, California's State Water Project delivers more  
38 than 2 million acre-feet annually, and serves farmers in the San  
39 Joaquin Valley and urban users in southern California and the bay  
40 area; and



1 WHEREAS, A primary feature of California’s State Water  
2 Project is the 444-mile-long California Aqueduct that transports  
3 water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta south to the Los  
4 Angeles area; and

5 WHEREAS, Approximately 30 percent of California State  
6 Water Project water is used by agriculture, and approximately 20  
7 million Californians get part of their water from the project; and

8 WHEREAS, If California is not careful about where and when  
9 water supplies are taken from our lakes, rivers, and streams, there  
10 will be serious consequences for the environment; and

11 WHEREAS, Since water quality standards for both people and  
12 wildlife are important, the Legislature must find alternatives that  
13 produce cost-efficient methods for protecting both the water  
14 supply and the environment; and

15 WHEREAS, There is a need to continue the orderly  
16 development of California’s water resources in order to meet the  
17 growing needs for water in the future, as our population grows and  
18 our economy continues to expand; and

19 WHEREAS, Expanded conservation, recycling, groundwater  
20 storage, ocean desalination, watershed protection, and clean-up of  
21 contaminated groundwater basins will ensure that we will have  
22 enough water in the future; and

23 WHEREAS, If California fails to plan sound solutions to  
24 address water issues, California will fall victim to a crisis; and

25 WHEREAS, Strong leadership from federal, state, and local  
26 leaders will be needed if California is to avoid water shortages and  
27 the threat of droughts in the future; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
29 *thereof concurring*, That state leaders should learn more about  
30 water issues, in order that we can address these important issues  
31 calmly and deliberately, ~~rather than in the panic of a full-blown~~  
32 ~~crisis~~; and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
34 of this resolution to the Governor of California, to each member  
35 of Congress from California, and to the author for appropriate  
36 distribution.

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