

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 992**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Brownley**

February 22, 2007

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An act relating to transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 992, as introduced, Brownley. Roads: stormwater containment.

Existing law provides various funding sources for transportation and related purposes. Specifically, the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006 authorizes the issuance of \$19.925 billion of general obligation bonds for various transportation purposes.

This bill would make various findings regarding the increase in water pollution caused by runoff from urban areas and would declare the intent of the Legislature to establish a grant program to encourage the retrofit and building of new roads that allow stormwater to percolate into the ground instead of entering storm drains. The bill would also declare the intent of the Legislature to establish criteria for allocation of transportation bond funds that would involve giving priority to applicants with stormwater containment provisions as part of their road projects.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of
- 2 the following:

- 1 (a) Runoff from urban areas is the leading source of impairments  
2 to surveyed estuaries and the third largest source of water quality  
3 impairments to surveyed lakes.
- 4 (b) Urbanization increases the variety and amount of pollutants  
5 transported to receiving waters. Examples of pollutants generated  
6 in urban areas include all of the following: road salts and heavy  
7 metals; sediment from development and new construction; oil,  
8 grease, and toxic chemicals from automobiles; nutrients and  
9 pesticides from turf management and gardening; and viruses and  
10 bacteria from failing septic systems.
- 11 (c) Population and development trends indicate that by the year  
12 2010 more than half of the country will live in coastal towns and  
13 cities. Runoff from these rapidly growing urban areas will continue  
14 to degrade coastal waters. Currently 90 percent of Santa Monica  
15 Bay, for example, is polluted at levels that can harm wildlife.
- 16 (d) In order to protect surface water and groundwater quality,  
17 urban development and household activities must be guided by  
18 plans that limit runoff and reduce pollutant loadings.
- 19 (e) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to establish a  
20 grant program to encourage the retrofit and building of new roads  
21 that include components allowing stormwater to percolate into the  
22 ground instead of entering storm drains.
- 23 (f) It is further the intent of the Legislature to establish criteria  
24 for the allocation of transportation bond funds that would involve  
25 giving priority to applicants that have stormwater containment  
26 provisions as part of their road projects.