

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 11, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 30, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 685**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Eng**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Fong and V. Manuel Pérez)**  
(Coauthor: Senator Wolk)

February 17, 2011

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An act to amend Section 10540 of, and to add Section 106.3 to, the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 685, as amended, Eng. State water policy: regional water management planning.

(1) Existing law establishes various state water policies, including the policy that the use of water for domestic purposes is the highest use of water.

This bill would declare that it is the ~~established~~ policy of the state that every human being has the right to clean, affordable, and accessible water for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes, that is adequate for the health and well-being of the individual and family. The bill would require, *on and after January 1, 2012*, all relevant state agencies, including the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Resources Control Board, *the California regional water quality control boards*, and the State Department of Public Health, to ~~consider~~ *implement* this state policy ~~when~~ *upon* revising *existing*, and *upon* adopting; or establishing *new*, policies, regulations, and grant criteria.

(2) The Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act of 2002 authorizes a regional water management group, as defined, to prepare and adopt an integrated regional water management plan. The act authorizes a regional water management group to coordinate its planning activities to address or incorporate various actions of its members, relating to water resource planning, into the plan.

This bill would additionally authorize a regional water management group to coordinate its planning activities to address or incorporate into its plan a basin plan developed and adopted by a California regional water quality control board.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 106.3 is added to the Water Code, to  
 2 read:  
 3 106.3. ~~(a) It is hereby declared to be the established~~ *It is the*  
 4 *policy of the state that every human being has the right to clean,*  
 5 *affordable, and accessible water for human consumption, cooking,*  
 6 *and sanitary purposes, that is adequate for the health and well-being*  
 7 *of the individual and family.*  
 8 ~~(b) AH~~  
 9 *(a) On and after January 1, 2012, all relevant state agencies,*  
 10 *including the department, the ~~state board~~ board, the California*  
 11 *regional water quality control boards, and the State Department*  
 12 *of Public Health, shall ~~consider this state policy when revising,~~*  
 13 *adopting, or establishing implement this policy upon revising*  
 14 *existing, and upon adopting or establishing new, policies,*  
 15 *regulations, and grant criteria.*  
 16 *(b) This section does not expand any obligation of the state to*  
 17 *provide water or to require the expenditure of additional resources*  
 18 *to develop water infrastructure beyond the obligations that may*  
 19 *exist pursuant to subdivision ~~(b)~~ (a).*  
 20 ~~(d)~~  
 21 *(c) This section shall apply to water supplies for individuals*  
 22 *and not for new development.*  
 23 ~~(e) The implementation of this section shall not infringe on the~~  
 24 ~~rights or responsibilities of any public water system.~~

1 (d) *This section does not create or impose any additional duties*  
2 *or responsibilities on any public water system.*

3 SEC. 2. Section 10540 of the Water Code is amended to read:

4 10540. (a) A regional water management group may prepare  
5 and adopt an integrated regional water management plan in  
6 accordance with this part.

7 (b) A regional water management group may coordinate its  
8 planning activities to address or incorporate all or part of any of  
9 the following actions of its members into its plan:

10 (1) Groundwater management planning pursuant to Part 2.75  
11 (commencing with Section 10750) or other specific groundwater  
12 management authority.

13 (2) Urban water management planning pursuant to Part 2.6  
14 (commencing with Section 10610).

15 (3) The preparation of a water supply assessment required  
16 pursuant to Part 2.10 (commencing with Section 10910).

17 (4) Agricultural water management planning pursuant to Part  
18 2.8 (commencing with Section 10800).

19 (5) City and county general planning pursuant to Section 65350  
20 of the Government Code.

21 (6) Stormwater resource planning that is undertaken pursuant  
22 to Part 2.3 (commencing with Section 10560).

23 (7) A basin plan developed and adopted pursuant to Section  
24 13240.

25 (8) Other water resource management planning, including flood  
26 protection, watershed management planning, and multipurpose  
27 program planning.

28 (c) At a minimum, all plans shall address all of the following:

29 (1) Protection and improvement of water supply reliability,  
30 including identification of feasible agricultural and urban water  
31 use efficiency strategies.

32 (2) Identification and consideration of the drinking water quality  
33 of communities within the area of the plan.

34 (3) Protection and improvement of water quality within the area  
35 of the plan, consistent with the relevant basin plan.

36 (4) Identification of any significant threats to groundwater  
37 resources from overdrafting.

38 (5) Protection, restoration, and improvement of stewardship of  
39 aquatic, riparian, and watershed resources within the region.

40 (6) Protection of groundwater resources from contamination.

- 1 (7) Identification and consideration of the water-related needs
- 2 of disadvantaged communities in the area within the boundaries
- 3 of the plan.
- 4 (d) This section does not obligate a local agency to fund the
- 5 implementation of any project or program.