

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 21, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 4, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 13, 2011

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 834**

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**Introduced by Senator Wolk  
(Coauthor: Senator Hancock)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonilla, Buchanan, and Galgiani)

February 18, 2011

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 834, as amended, Wolk. Integrated regional water management plans: contents.

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 requires an integrated regional water management plan to address specified water quality and water supply matters.

This bill would additionally require an integrated regional water management plan to ~~demonstrate~~ *describe* the manner in which the plan complies with a specified state policy concerning reducing reliance on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for water supply and improving regional self-reliance for water, if the region ~~covered by the plan~~ *receives depends on* water from the Delta watershed. *The bill would require integrated regional water management plans to incorporate that requirement when they are developed, updated, or amended in accordance with guidelines established by the Department of Water Resources. For an application for funding for a plan that is made prior*

*to an update or amendment of the plan, the bill would require an applicant to specify how the existing plan advances the specified state policy concerning reducing reliance on the Delta for water supply and improving regional self-reliance for water.*

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 finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a critically important  
4 natural resource for California and the nation.

5 (b) ~~In 2009, the Legislature adopted Section 85021 of the Water~~  
6 ~~Code to reduce reliance on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in~~  
7 ~~meeting California’s future water supply needs through a statewide~~  
8 ~~strategy of investing in improved regional water supplies,~~  
9 ~~conservation, and water use efficiency. 85054 of the Water Code~~  
10 *to define “coequal goals” as the two goals of providing a more*  
11 *reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and*  
12 *enhancing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem. That*  
13 *section states that the coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner*  
14 *that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational,*  
15 *natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an*  
16 *evolving place.*

17 (c) *The Legislature also adopted Section 85020 of the Water*  
18 *Code, which sets forth the policy of the state regarding achieving*  
19 *specified objectives that are inherent in the coequal goals.*

20 (d) *Furthermore, Section 85021 of the Water Code provides*  
21 *that it is the policy of the state to reduce reliance on the*  
22 *Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in meeting California’s future*  
23 *water supply needs through a statewide strategy of investing in*  
24 *improved regional supplies, conservation, and water use efficiency.*

25 (e)  
26 (e) *Integrated regional water management plans provide a*  
27 *mechanism for ~~implementing Section~~ advancing the policies stated*  
28 *in Sections 85020 and 85021 of the Water Code.*

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

1 10540. (a) A regional water management group may prepare  
2 and adopt an integrated regional water management plan in  
3 accordance with this part.

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

7 (1) Groundwater management planning pursuant to Part 2.75  
8 (commencing with Section 10750) or other specific groundwater  
9 management authority.

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

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

14 (4) Agricultural water management planning pursuant to Part  
15 2.8 (commencing with Section 10800).

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

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

20 (7) Other water resource management planning, including flood  
21 protection, watershed management planning, and multipurpose  
22 program planning.

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

24 (1) Protection and improvement of water supply reliability,  
25 including identification of feasible agricultural and urban water  
26 use efficiency strategies.

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

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

31 (4) Identification of any significant threats to groundwater  
32 resources from overdrafting.

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

35 (6) Protection of groundwater resources from contamination.

36 (7) Identification and consideration of the water-related needs  
37 of disadvantaged communities in the area within the boundaries  
38 of the plan.

- 1 ~~(d) If the region covered by a plan receives water from the Delta~~  
2 ~~watershed, as defined in Section 85060, the plan shall demonstrate~~  
3 ~~the manner in which it complies with Section 85021.~~  
4 *(8) For a region that depends on water from the Delta*  
5 *watershed, as defined in Section 85060, a description of the manner*  
6 *in which the plan complies with Section 85021.*  
7 *(d) (1) When plans are developed, updated, or amended in*  
8 *accordance with department guidelines consistent with subdivision*  
9 *(i) of Section 10541, the plans shall incorporate the requirements*  
10 *of paragraph (8) of subdivision (c).*  
11 *(2) On and after January 1, 2012, an applicant for funding for*  
12 *a plan that applies prior to an update or amendment to the plan*  
13 *shall specify how the existing plan advances the policy stated in*  
14 *Section 85021.*  
15 (e) This section does not obligate a local agency to fund the  
16 implementation of any project or program.