

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 5, 2014
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 3, 2014

SENATE BILL

No. 1259

Introduced by Senator Pavley
(Principal coauthor: Senator Cannella)
(Coauthor: Senator Wolk)

February 21, 2014

An act to amend Sections 6120 and 10004.6 of the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1259, as amended, Pavley. Dams: ~~siltation~~ *sedimentation* studies.

Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources to make or cause to be made investigations and gather or cause to be gathered data as needed for a proper review and study of the various features of the design and construction of dams, reservoirs, and appurtenances.

This bill would require the department, in collaboration with specified entities, to make or cause to be made investigations and to gather or cause to be gathered data for a proper review and study of the loss of storage capacity behind dams resulting from ~~siltation~~ *sedimentation*. The bill would require results of the ~~siltation~~ *sedimentation* study to be reflected in the quinquennial update of the California Water Plan and be provided to the appropriate policy committees of the Senate and the Assembly. The bill would require that an initial study be completed by January 1, 2017, and that a ~~siltation~~ *sedimentation* study include an evaluation of cost-effective strategies for sediment removal, relative to the costs of alternative methods of flood protection and water supply.

Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources to update the California Water Plan, which is a plan for the conservation,

development, and use of the water resources of the state, every 5 years. Existing law requires the department, as part of the update, to conduct a study to determine the amount of water needed to meet the state's future needs. The department is required, one year prior to issuing each update to the California Water Plan, to release a draft of assumptions and estimates upon which the study will be based. Existing law prescribes a list of subjects for which the department is required to release those assumptions and estimates.

This bill would add estimated loss of storage capacity behind dams resulting from ~~siltation~~ *sedimentation* to that list.

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 6120 of the Water Code is amended to
2 read:
3 6120. (a) For the purpose of enabling it to make decisions as
4 compatible with economy and public safety as possible, the
5 department shall make or cause to be made investigations and shall
6 gather or cause to be gathered data as may be needed for a proper
7 review and study of the various features of the design and
8 construction of dams, reservoirs, and appurtenances.
9 (b) (1) The department shall further make or cause to be made
10 investigations and shall gather or cause to be gathered data as may
11 be needed for a proper review and study of the loss of storage
12 capacity behind dams resulting from ~~siltation~~ *sedimentation*. The
13 results of the ~~siltation~~ *sedimentation* study shall be reflected in the
14 quinquennial update of the California Water Plan developed
15 pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 10004) of Part
16 1.5 of Division 6 and shall be provided to the appropriate policy
17 committees of the Senate and Assembly.
18 (2) An initial ~~siltation~~ *sedimentation* study shall be completed
19 by January 1, 2017.
20 (3) A ~~siltation~~ *sedimentation* study may be based upon all of
21 the following:
22 (A) A compilation of published and unpublished sedimentation
23 data from dam operators and other sources.
24 (B) Original reservoir surveys at reservoirs lacking
25 sedimentation data.

1 (C) An evaluation and characterization of sediment for mercury
2 and sediment grain size.

3 (D) Modeling, including techniques such as geographic
4 information system-based reservoir sedimentation modeling.

5 (4) A ~~siltation~~ *sedimentation* study shall include an evaluation
6 of cost-effective strategies for sediment removal, relative to the
7 costs of alternative methods of flood protection and water supply,
8 including the costs of constructing new dams and reservoirs.

9 (5) In designing and conducting a ~~siltation~~ *sedimentation* study,
10 the department shall collaborate with the United States Bureau of
11 Reclamation, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the
12 United States Geological Survey, and the Delta Independent
13 Science Board.

14 SEC. 2. Section 10004.6 of the Water Code is amended to read:

15 10004.6. (a) As part of updating The California Water Plan
16 every five years pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 10004, the
17 department shall conduct a study to determine the amount of water
18 needed to meet the state's future needs and to recommend
19 programs, policies, and facilities to meet those needs.

20 (b) The department shall consult with the advisory committee
21 established pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 10004 in carrying
22 out this section.

23 (c) One year before issuing each update to The California Water
24 Plan, the department shall release a preliminary draft of the
25 assumptions and other estimates upon which the study will be
26 based, to interested persons and entities throughout the state for
27 their review and comments. The department shall provide these
28 persons and entities an opportunity to present written or oral
29 comments on the preliminary draft. The department shall consider
30 these documents when adopting the final assumptions and estimates
31 for the study. For the purpose of carrying out this subdivision, the
32 department shall release, at a minimum, assumptions and other
33 estimates relating to all of the following:

34 (1) Basin hydrology, including annual rainfall, estimated
35 unimpaired streamflow, depletions, and consumptive uses.

36 (2) Groundwater supplies, including estimates of sustainable
37 yield, supplies necessary to recover overdraft basins, and supplies
38 lost due to pollution and other groundwater contaminants.

- 1 (3) Current and projected land use patterns, including the mix
2 of residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and undeveloped
3 lands.
- 4 (4) Environmental water needs, including regulatory instream
5 flow requirements, nonregulated instream uses, and water needs
6 by wetlands, preserves, refuges, and other managed and unmanaged
7 natural resource lands.
- 8 (5) Current and projected population.
- 9 (6) Current and projected water use for all of the following:
- 10 (A) Interior uses in a single-family dwelling.
11 (B) Exterior uses in a single-family dwelling.
12 (C) All uses in a multifamily dwelling.
13 (D) Commercial uses.
14 (E) Industrial uses.
15 (F) Parks and open spaces.
16 (G) Agricultural water diversion and use.
- 17 (7) Evapotranspiration rates for major crop types, including
18 estimates of evaporative losses by irrigation practice and the extent
19 to which evaporation reduces transpiration.
- 20 (8) Current and projected adoption of urban and agricultural
21 conservation practices.
- 22 (9) Current and projected supplies of water provided by water
23 recycling and reuse.
- 24 (10) Estimated loss of storage capacity behind dams resulting
25 from ~~siltation~~ *sedimentation*, as found by the study conducted
26 pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 6120.
- 27 (d) The department shall include a discussion of the potential
28 for alternative water pricing policies to change current and
29 projected water uses identified pursuant to paragraph (6) of
30 subdivision (c).
- 31 (e) This section does not require the department to update, or
32 prohibit the department from updating, any data necessary to update
33 The California Water Plan pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section
34 10004.