

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 615**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Rendon**

February 24, 2015

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An act to add Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 12949.70) to Part 6 of Division 6 of the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 615, as introduced, Rendon. The Center for Community Water Projects.

Existing law provides various technical assistance opportunities to disadvantaged communities for projects relating to groundwater sustainability, clean drinking water, and water recycling and advanced treatment water technology projects.

This bill would establish The Center for Community Water Projects, to be administered by the Division of Financial Assistance within the State Water Resources Control Board. The bill would declare the purpose of the center is to provide a centralized, multidisciplinary technical assistance program for disadvantaged communities and to assist those communities in designing and building clean and sustainable water projects. The bill would require the Division of Financial Assistance to provide a broad range of technical assistance to disadvantaged communities, as specified, to coordinate with other entities, and to contract with third party technical assistance providers, as necessary. The bill would authorize the center to receive funding from both public and private sources.

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

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

SEC. 2. Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 12949.70) is added to Part 6 of Division 6 of the Water Code, to read:

CHAPTER 10. THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY WATER PROJECTS

12949.70. There is hereby established The Center for Community Water Projects, which shall be administered by the Division of Financial Assistance within the State Water Resources Control Board, and whose purpose is to provide a centralized, multidisciplinary technical assistance program for disadvantaged communities and to assist those communities in designing and building clean and sustainable water projects.

12949.71. For purposes of this chapter, “disadvantaged community” has the meaning set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 79505.5, as it may be amended.

12949.72. In administering the program, the division shall do all of the following:

(a) Provide a broad range of technical assistance to disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, engineering, operations, ecological, public finance, and economic assistance, that would help those communities achieve the goals described in Section 12949.70. The division shall also take into account cultural and sociological considerations when providing technical assistance to disadvantaged communities.

(b) Coordinate, to the extent possible and applicable, with other entities, including, but not limited to, the California State University and any of its institutions, the University of California and any of its campuses, the Department of Water Resources, and the State Department of Public Health.

(c) Contract with third party technical assistance providers as necessary.

12949.73. The Center for Community Water Projects may receive funding from public and private sources, including, but not limited to, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Division 26.7 (commencing with Section 79700)).

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