

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 937

Introduced by Assembly Member Salas

February 26, 2015

An act to ~~amend Section 1242 of~~ *add Section 239 to* the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 937, as amended, Salas. ~~Groundwater storage; beneficial use; planning; technical assistance; disadvantaged communities.~~

Under existing law, the right to water or to the use of water is limited to that amount of water that may be reasonably required for the beneficial use to be served. Existing law declares that the storing of water underground, and related diversions for that purpose, constitute a beneficial use of water if the stored water is thereafter applied to the beneficial purposes for which the appropriation for storage was made.

~~This bill would declare that the recharging of a groundwater basin by a local groundwater management agency or a local groundwater sustainability agency for the purposes of repelling saline intrusion or recovering basin groundwater levels and the flowing of waters on lands or other similar means necessary for the accomplishment of groundwater recharge for these purposes, constitutes a beneficial use of water if the recharge is consistent with the local agency's groundwater management plan or groundwater sustainability plan.~~

This bill would require the Department of Water Resources to provide technical assistance to disadvantaged communities so that they may

participate in groundwater planning, including, but not limited to, plans for regional groundwater banking, with any county or other local agency.

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 239 is added to the Water Code, to read:*

2 *239. The department shall provide technical assistance to*
3 *disadvantaged communities so that they may participate in*
4 *groundwater planning, including, but not limited to, plans for*
5 *regional groundwater banking, with any county or other local*
6 *agency.*

7 ~~SECTION 1. Section 1242 of the Water Code is amended to~~
8 ~~read:~~

9 ~~1242. (a) The storing of water underground, including the~~
10 ~~diversion of streams and the flowing of water on lands necessary~~
11 ~~to the accomplishment of such storage, constitutes a beneficial use~~
12 ~~of water if the water so stored is thereafter applied to the beneficial~~
13 ~~purposes for which the appropriation for storage was made.~~

14 ~~(b) The recharging of a groundwater basin by a local~~
15 ~~groundwater management agency or a local groundwater~~
16 ~~sustainability agency for the purposes of recovering basin~~
17 ~~groundwater levels or repelling saline intrusion and the flowing~~
18 ~~of waters on lands or other similar means necessary for the~~
19 ~~accomplishment of groundwater recharge for these purposes;~~
20 ~~constitutes a beneficial use of water if the local agency has~~
21 ~~determined that the recharge is consistent with the local agency's~~
22 ~~groundwater management plan or groundwater sustainability plan~~
23 ~~adopted pursuant to Part 2.75 (commencing with Section 10750)~~
24 ~~or Part 2.74 (commencing with Section 10720) of Division 6,~~
25 ~~respectively.~~