

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1201

Introduced by Assembly Member Salas

February 27, 2015

An act to ~~amend Section 13000 of~~ *add Section 85308.5 to the Water Code, relating to water quality: the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1201, as amended, Salas. ~~Water quality—Delta Stewardship Council.~~

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 establishes the Delta Stewardship Council as an independent agency of the state, and requires the council to develop, adopt, and commence implementation of a comprehensive management plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta Plan), meeting specified requirements. The act also establishes the Delta Independent Science Board to provide oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta through periodic reviews.

This bill would require the council, in the course of implementing the Delta Plan, to direct the board to conduct an assessment of stressors, in addition to the operations of the State Water Resources Development System and the federal Central Valley Project, on populations of native fish species in the Delta, the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, and the tributaries to those rivers below the rim dams of the central valley, containing specified information, and to recommend changes in statute and actions that may be taken by state agencies to remedy the situation at the earliest possible time.

~~The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act establishes a statewide program for the control of the quality of all the waters in the state and makes certain legislative findings and declarations.~~

~~This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to the legislative findings and declarations.~~

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

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

1 SECTION 1. *In order to protect and preserve the existing*
2 *populations of native fish species that live and migrate through*
3 *the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River*
4 *Delta, it is the intent of the Legislature that the Delta Stewardship*
5 *Council consider, in addition to measures addressing the impact*
6 *of the State Water Resources Development System (State Water*
7 *Project) and federal Central Valley Project operations, the*
8 *identification of effective and scientifically justified measures to*
9 *reduce or eliminate the impact of other significant stressors on*
10 *California’s native fish populations.*

11 SEC. 2. *Section 85308.5 is added to the Water Code, to read:*
12 85308.5. *The council, in the course of implementing the Delta*
13 *Plan, shall direct the Delta Independent Science Board to conduct*
14 *an assessment of stressors, in addition to the operation of the State*
15 *Water Resources Development System and the federal Central*
16 *Valley Project, on populations of native fish species in the Delta,*
17 *the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, and the tributaries to*
18 *those rivers below the rim dams of the central valley, and shall*
19 *recommend changes in statute and actions that may be taken by*
20 *state agencies to remedy the situation at the earliest possible time.*
21 *The assessment shall include, at a minimum, a description of those*
22 *stressors identified in the Delta Vision Strategic Plan, including*
23 *the impacts of invasive species and nonnative species, water quality*
24 *impairments, and predation on native species.*

25 SECTION 1. ~~Section 13000 of the Water Code is amended to~~
26 ~~read:~~

27 13000. ~~(a) The Legislature finds and declares that the people~~
28 ~~of the state have a primary interest in the conservation, control,~~
29 ~~and utilization of the water resources of the state, and that the~~

1 quality of all the waters of the state shall be protected for use and
2 enjoyment by the people of the state.

3 (b) ~~The Legislature further finds and declares that activities and~~
4 ~~factors which may affect the quality of the waters of the state shall~~
5 ~~be regulated to attain the highest water quality that is reasonable,~~
6 ~~considering all demands being made and to be made on those~~
7 ~~waters and the total values involved, beneficial and detrimental,~~
8 ~~economic and social, tangible and intangible.~~

9 (c) ~~The Legislature further finds and declares that the health,~~
10 ~~safety, and welfare of the people of the state requires that there be~~
11 ~~a statewide program for the control of the quality of all the waters~~
12 ~~of the state; that the state must be prepared to exercise its full power~~
13 ~~and jurisdiction to protect the quality of waters in the state from~~
14 ~~degradation originating inside or outside the boundaries of the~~
15 ~~state; that the waters of the state are increasingly influenced by~~
16 ~~interbasin water development projects and other statewide~~
17 ~~considerations; that factors of precipitation, topography, population,~~
18 ~~recreation, agriculture, industry, and economic development vary~~
19 ~~from region to region within the state; and that the statewide~~
20 ~~program for water quality control can be most effectively~~
21 ~~administered regionally, within a framework of statewide~~
22 ~~coordination and policy.~~

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