

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1925

Introduced by Assembly Member Chang

February 12, 2016

An act to add Section 12946.5 to the Water Code, relating to water resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1925, as introduced, Chang. Desalination: statewide goal.

Existing law, the Cobey-Porter Saline Water Conversion Law, states the policy of this state that desalination projects developed by or for public water entities be given the same opportunities for state assistance and funding as other water supply and reliability projects, and that desalination be consistent with all applicable environmental protection policies in the state. The law provides that it is the intention of the Legislature that the Department of Water Resources undertake to find economic and efficient methods of desalting saline water so that desalted water may be made available to help meet the growing water requirements of the state.

This bill would establish a goal to desalinate ____ acre-feet of drinking water per year by the year 2025 and ____ acre-feet of drinking water per year by the year 2030.

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:

1 (a) The State of California is subject to periodic drought
2 conditions and is currently in the fourth year of the most recent
3 drought.

4 (b) The competing demands for traditional water resources have
5 demonstrated that new drinking water supply options need to be
6 added to support the California economy and the public health and
7 safety of all Californians.

8 (c) There is an immediate need for safe, clean, and reliable new
9 drinking water to provide local and regional water suppliers all
10 available water supply options to meet their local or regional
11 drinking water supply needs.

12 (d) The Governor’s Water Action Plan encourages the state to
13 maximize local and regional water supply development and calls
14 for the streamlining of the permitting process for desalination and
15 recycling of water.

16 (e) The policy of the State of California is to reduce its
17 dependence on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

18 (f) Desalinated water is an important and reliable source for
19 meeting total water demand. Continued and expanded production
20 and distribution of desalinated water for beneficial and permitted
21 uses can improve regional self-reliance by meeting a portion of
22 future increased total drinking water demands.

23 SEC. 2. Section 12946.5 is added to the Water Code, to read:
24 12946.5. This section establishes a statewide goal to desalinate
25 _____ acre-feet of drinking water per year by the year 2025 and
26 _____ acre-feet of drinking water per year by the year 2030.