

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 18, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 16, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1925

Introduced by Assembly Member Chang
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Travis Allen, Jones, Mathis, and
Steinorth)

(Coauthor: Senator Bates)

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 amended, 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 *require the department to establish a goal to desalinate 300,000 of a specific number of acre-feet of drinking water to be desalinated per year by the year 2025 and 500,000 of a greater specific number of acre-feet of drinking water to be desalinated per year by the*

year ~~2030~~. 2030, as part of a comprehensive water plan that fully evaluates other, specified options.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 SEC. 2. Section 12946.5 is added to the Water Code, to read:
26 12946.5. ~~This section establishes~~ *By July 1, 2017, the*
27 *department shall establish a statewide goal to desalinate 300,000*
28 *of a specific number of acre-feet of drinking water to be desalinated*
29 *per year by the year 2025 and 500,000 of a greater specific number*
30 *of acre-feet of drinking water to be desalinated per year by the*
31 *year 2030. This goal shall be pursued as part of a comprehensive*
32 *water plan that fully evaluates other options, including recycled*

- 1 *water, conservation, stormwater capture, groundwater recharge,*
- 2 *and water efficiency.*

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