

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2016  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2016  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2480**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Bloom**

February 19, 2016

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An act to add Section 108.5 to, and to add Chapter 3.3 (commencing with Section 12835) to Part 6 of Division 6 of, the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2480, as amended, Bloom. Source watersheds: financing.

Existing law establishes various state water policies, including the policy that the Legislature consider other works as may be necessary to develop water to satisfy the requirements of the watershed in which water originates whenever the Legislature authorizes the construction or acquisition of a project that will develop water for use outside that watershed, as specified.

This bill would declare it to be state policy that source watersheds are recognized and defined as integral components of California's water system. The bill would also declare that their maintenance and repair are eligible for financing on an equivalent basis with other water collection and treatment ~~infrastructure~~. *infrastructure, and would specify that the maintenance and repair activities that are eligible are limited to certain forest ecosystem management activities.*

Under existing law, the United States Bureau of Reclamation operates the federal Central Valley Project and the Department of Water Resources operates the State Water Resources Development System,

known as the State Water Project, to supply water to persons and entities in the state.

This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board, in consultation with the department, to develop investment plans that prioritize actions for restoration and conservation to improve watershed function in the watersheds that flow into the Shasta Reservoir and the Oroville Reservoir.

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 108.5 is added to the Water Code, to  
 2 read:

3 108.5. (a) It is hereby declared to be the established policy of  
 4 the state that source watersheds are recognized and defined as  
 5 integral components of California’s water system. The maintenance  
 6 and repair of source watersheds are eligible for financing on an  
 7 equivalent basis with other water collection and treatment  
 8 infrastructure.

9 (b) *Eligible maintenance and repair activities pursuant to this*  
 10 *section are limited to the following forest ecosystem management*  
 11 *activities:*

12 (1) *Upland vegetation management to restore the watershed’s*  
 13 *productivity and resiliency.*

14 (2) *Wet and dry meadow restoration.*

15 (3) *Road removal and repair.*

16 (4) *Stream channel restoration.*

17 (5) *Conservation of private forests to preserve watershed*  
 18 *integrity through permanent prevention of conversion and*  
 19 *degradation, achieved through conservation easements.*

20 (6) *Other projects with a demonstrated likelihood of increasing*  
 21 *conditions for water and snow attraction, retention, and release*  
 22 *under changing climate conditions.*

23 SEC. 2. Chapter 3.3 (commencing with Section 12835) is added  
 24 to Part 6 of Division 6 of the Water Code, to read:

1           CHAPTER 3.3. WATERSHED INVESTMENT PLANS

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3       12835. On or before December 31, 2017, the board, in  
4 consultation with the department, shall develop investment plans  
5 that prioritize actions for restoration and conservation to improve  
6 watershed function in the watersheds that flow into the Shasta  
7 Reservoir and the Oroville Reservoir.

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