

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 1, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 13, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 31, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2480

Introduced by Assembly Member Bloom

February 19, 2016

An act to add Section 108.5 to 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 infrastructure. The bill would state the particular importance to maintaining the reliability of California's water supply *as climate change advances* of the source watersheds that supply the *Shasta and Oroville reservoirs of the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project and, to the extent feasible, Project. The bill* would require the

maintenance and repair of these watersheds to receive financing consideration on the same basis ~~with~~ *as* other *State Water Project* water collection and treatment ~~infrastructure~~; *infrastructure* and would specify that the maintenance and repair activities that are eligible are limited to ~~certain specified forest ecosystem management~~ *restoration and conservation* activities.

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 infrastructure.

6 (b) (1) ~~The source watersheds that supply the state and federally~~
 7 ~~operated systems, Shasta and Oroville reservoirs of the State Water~~
 8 ~~Project and the federal Central Valley Project, collectively provide~~
 9 ~~80 percent of state reservoir capacity and are of particular~~
 10 ~~importance to maintaining the reliability of California’s water~~
 11 ~~supply. To the extent feasible, the supply as climate change~~
 12 ~~advances. The maintenance and repair of these watersheds and~~
 13 ~~associated projects shall receive financing consideration on the~~
 14 ~~same basis with as other State Water Project water collection and~~
 15 ~~treatment infrastructure.~~

16 (2) *Nothing in this section is intended to modify existing grant*
 17 *programs or guidelines or constrain financing for source*
 18 *watersheds supplying local, state, or federal water systems.*

19 (c) Eligible maintenance and repair activities pursuant to this
 20 section are limited to the following forest ecosystem ~~management~~
 21 *restoration and conservation* activities:

22 (1) Upland vegetation management to restore the watershed’s
 23 productivity and resiliency.

24 (2) Wet and dry meadow restoration.

25 (3) Road removal and repair.

26 (4) Stream channel restoration.

27 (5) Conservation of private forests to preserve watershed
 28 integrity through permanent prevention of *land use* conversion

- 1 and ~~degradation~~, *improved land management*, achieved ~~through~~
2 *through, and secured with*, conservation easements.
3 (6) Other projects with a demonstrated likelihood of increasing
4 conditions for water and snow attraction, retention, and release
5 under changing climate conditions.

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