

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 15, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2874

Introduced by Assembly Member Beth Gaines

February 19, 2016

An act to ~~amend Section 785.2 of the Public Utilities Code~~ *add Section 10730.1 to the Water Code*, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2874, as amended, Beth Gaines. ~~Gas corporations: natural gas production and storage. Groundwater sustainability agencies: fees.~~

Existing law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources that are designated as basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2020, and requires all other groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2022, except as specified. The act authorizes any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to decide to become a groundwater sustainability agency for that basin, as prescribed.

Existing law authorizes a groundwater sustainability agency to impose fees, including, but not limited to, permit fees and fees on groundwater extraction or other regulated activity, to fund the costs of a groundwater sustainability program.

This bill would require a groundwater sustainability agency, before imposing or increasing, pursuant to this authority, a fee relating to a

groundwater basin that includes a water corporation regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, to notify the Public Utilities Commission.

~~Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission to investigate, as part of the rate proceeding for any gas corporation, impediments to the production and storage of natural gas within the state. Existing law authorizes the commission to adopt a tariff that encourages the production or storage of natural gas within the state, including, but not limited to, reducing local transmission rates applicable to in-state gas blends, unless the commission finds that adopting the tariff is likely to result in consequences adverse to the interests of gas customers.~~

~~This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to that provision.~~

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. Section 10730.1 is added to the Water Code, to
2 read:

3 10730.1. A groundwater sustainability agency, before imposing
4 or increasing, pursuant to this chapter, a fee relating to a
5 groundwater basin that includes a water corporation regulated
6 by the Public Utilities Commission, shall notify the Public Utilities
7 Commission.

8 ~~SECTION 1. Section 785.2 of the Public Utilities Code is~~
9 amended to read:

10 ~~785.2. The commission shall investigate, as part of the rate~~
11 ~~proceeding for any gas corporation, impediments to the production~~
12 ~~and storage of natural gas within the state. The commission may~~
13 ~~adopt a tariff that encourages the production or storage of natural~~
14 ~~gas within the state, including, but not limited to, reducing local~~
15 ~~transmission rates applicable to in-state gas blends, unless the~~
16 ~~commission finds that adopting the tariff is likely to result in~~
17 ~~consequences adverse to the interests of gas customers.~~