

**Introduced by Senator Cannella**

February 18, 2016

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An act to amend Section 10723 of the Water Code, relating to groundwater.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 1164, as introduced, Cannella. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater sustainability agencies.

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 a local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to decide to become a groundwater sustainability agency for that basin.

This bill would make a nonsubstantive change to those provisions.

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. Section 10723 of the Water Code is amended to  
2     read:

1 10723. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (c), any local  
2 agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater  
3 basin may decide to become a groundwater sustainability agency  
4 for that basin.

5 (b) Before deciding to become a groundwater sustainability  
6 agency, and after publication of notice pursuant to Section 6066  
7 of the Government Code, the local agency or agencies shall hold  
8 a public hearing in the county or counties overlying the basin.

9 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the following  
10 agencies created by statute to manage groundwater shall be deemed  
11 the exclusive local agencies within their respective statutory  
12 boundaries with powers to comply with this part:

13 (A) Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation  
14 District, Zone 7.

15 (B) Alameda County Water District.

16 (C) Desert Water Agency.

17 (D) Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency.

18 (E) Honey Lake Valley Groundwater Management District.

19 (F) Long Valley Groundwater Management District.

20 (G) Mendocino City Community Services District.

21 (H) Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Management  
22 District.

23 (I) Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.

24 (J) Ojai Groundwater Management Agency.

25 (K) Orange County Water District.

26 (L) Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency.

27 (M) Santa Clara Valley Water District.

28 (N) Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District.

29 (O) Willow Creek Groundwater Management Agency.

30 (2) An agency identified in this subdivision may opt out of being  
31 the exclusive groundwater management agency within its statutory  
32 boundaries by sending a notice to the department, which shall be  
33 posted on the department's Internet Web site within 15 days of  
34 receipt. If an agency identified in paragraph (1) opts out of being  
35 the exclusive groundwater management agency, any other local  
36 agency or combination of local agencies operating within the  
37 statutory boundaries of the agency that has opted out may notify  
38 the department pursuant to Section 10723.8 of its decision to be  
39 the groundwater sustainability agency.

1 (3) A local agency listed in paragraph (1) may comply with this  
2 part by meeting the requirements of Section 10733.6 or opting to  
3 become a groundwater sustainability agency pursuant to this  
4 section. A local agency with authority to implement a basin-specific  
5 management plan pursuant to its principal act shall not exercise  
6 any—~~authorities~~ *authority* granted in this part in a manner  
7 inconsistent with any prohibitions or limitations in its principal  
8 act unless the governing board of the local agency makes a finding  
9 that the agency is unable to sustainably manage the basin without  
10 the prohibited authority.

11 (d) The decision of a local agency or combination of agencies  
12 to become a groundwater sustainability agency shall take effect  
13 as provided in Section 10723.8.