

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 313**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member McDonald**

February 8, 1995

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An act to amend Sections 14875, 14876, 14877.1, 14877.2, and 14877.3 of, and to amend the heading of Chapter 22 (commencing with Section 14875) of Division 7 of, the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 313, as introduced, McDonald. Graywater.

Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources in consultation with the State Department of Health Services, to adopt standards for the installation of graywater systems for landscape irrigation for single-family residential buildings and to revise those standards as needed, authorizes the installation of a graywater system in those buildings if the city or county having jurisdiction over the building determines that the system complies with the department's standards, and authorizes a city or county to either adopt more stringent standards than the department's standards or to prohibit graywater systems. Existing law defines graywater.

This bill would, instead, require the department, by January 1, 1997, in consultation with the State Department of Health Services and the Center for Irrigation Technology at California State University, Fresno, to adopt standards for the installation of graywater systems, as specified, for subsurface irrigation and other safe uses. The bill would require the department to include among the approved methods for the

application of graywater the most efficient methods of irrigation, as specified, and would require the department to evaluate the safe use of graywater for other purposes and set appropriate standards for those purposes. The bill would authorize the installation of a graywater system if the administrative authority or the city or county having jurisdiction over the installation determines that the system complies with standards adopted by the department. The bill would authorize a city or county to adopt standards more restrictive than the standards adopted by the department as appropriate for the local area.

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. The heading of Chapter 22  
2 (commencing with Section 14875) of Division 7 of the  
3 Water Code is amended to read:

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5 CHAPTER 22. GRAYWATER SYSTEMS FOR ~~SINGLE FAMILY~~  
6 RESIDENCES

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8 SEC. 2. Section 14875 of the Water Code is amended  
9 to read:

10 14875. This chapter applies to the construction,  
11 installation, or alteration of graywater systems for  
12 ~~landscape subsurface irrigation for a single-family~~  
13 ~~residence and other safe uses.~~

14 SEC. 3. Section 14876 of the Water Code is amended  
15 to read:

16 14876. "Graywater" means untreated ~~household~~  
17 ~~waste—water wastewater~~ which has not been  
18 contaminated by any toilet discharge, has not been  
19 affected by infectious, contaminated, or unhealthy bodily  
20 wastes, and which does not present a threat from  
21 contamination by unhealthful processing,  
22 manufacturing, or operating wastes. Graywater includes  
23 ~~waste—water wastewater~~ from bathtubs, showers,  
24 bathroom washbasins, clothes washing machines, and



1 laundry tubs, ~~but does not include waste water from~~  
2 ~~kitchen sinks or dishwashers.~~

3 SEC. 4. Section 14877.1 of the Water Code is amended  
4 to read:

5 14877.1. (a) On or before ~~July 1, 1993~~ *January 1, 1997*,  
6 the department, in consultation with the State  
7 Department of Health Services *and the Center for*  
8 *Irrigation Technology at California State University,*  
9 *Fresno*, shall adopt standards for the installation of  
10 graywater systems ~~in residential buildings~~. In adopting  
11 these standards, the department shall consider, among  
12 other resources, “Appendix ~~W~~ *J*,” as adopted, on  
13 ~~February 5~~ *September 29, 1992*, by the ~~California Ad Hoc~~  
14 ~~Graywater Committee~~, ~~under the direction of the~~  
15 ~~department~~ *International Association of Plumbing and*  
16 *Mechanical Officials, the graywater standard proposed*  
17 *for the latest edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code of the*  
18 *International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical*  
19 *Officials, the City of Los Angeles Graywater Pilot Project*  
20 *Final Report issued in November 1992, and the advice of*  
21 *the Center for Irrigation Technology at California State*  
22 *University, Fresno, on the installation depth for*  
23 *subsurface drip irrigation systems.*

24 (b) (1) *The department shall include among the*  
25 *approved methods of irrigation, including, but not*  
26 *limited to, drip systems.*

27 (2) *The department shall evaluate the safe use of*  
28 *graywater for purposes other than irrigation, such as*  
29 *toilet flushing, and set appropriate standards for those*  
30 *purposes.*

31 ~~(b)~~

32 (c) The department shall revise its graywater systems  
33 standards as needed.

34 SEC. 5. Section 14877.2 of the Water Code is amended  
35 to read:

36 14877.2. A graywater system may be installed ~~in a~~  
37 ~~residential building~~ if the city or county having  
38 jurisdiction over the ~~building~~ *installation* determines that  
39 the system complies with standards adopted by the  
40 department.



1 SEC. 6. Section 14877.3 of the Water Code is amended  
2 to read:

3 14877.3. After a public hearing, a city or county may  
4 adopt, by ordinance, ~~more stringent criteria for approval~~  
5 ~~of graywater systems or may prohibit graywater systems~~  
6 *standards more restrictive than the standards adopted by*  
7 *the department as appropriate for the local area.*

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9 CORRECTIONS

10 Text — Page 2.

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