

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 1995

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1995–96 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 313**

**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 amended, 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 *drip systems* among the approved methods for the application of graywater the most efficient methods of *subsurface* 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 other than irrigation. 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 that are more restrictive than the standards adopted by the department, as appropriate for the local area. *The bill would revise the definition of graywater.*

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:

4  
 5 CHAPTER 22. GRAYWATER SYSTEMS

6  
 7 SEC. 2. Section 14875 of the Water Code is amended  
 8 to read:

9 14875. This chapter applies to the construction,  
 10 installation, or alteration of graywater systems for  
 11 subsurface irrigation and other safe uses.

12 SEC. 3. Section 14876 of the Water Code is amended  
 13 to read:

14 14876. "Graywater" means untreated wastewater  
 15 which has not been contaminated by any toilet discharge,  
 16 has not been affected by infectious, contaminated, or  
 17 unhealthy bodily wastes, and which does not present a  
 18 threat from contamination by unhealthful processing,  
 19 manufacturing, or operating wastes. Graywater includes  
 20 wastewater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom



1 washbasins, clothes washing machines, and laundry tubs  
2 *but does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks or*  
3 *dishwashers.*

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

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

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

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

30 (c) The department shall revise its graywater systems  
31 standards as needed.

32 SEC. 5. Section 14877.2 of the Water Code is amended  
33 to read:

34 14877.2. A graywater system may be installed if the  
35 city or county having jurisdiction over the installation  
36 determines that the system complies with standards  
37 adopted by the department.

38 SEC. 6. Section 14877.3 of the Water Code is amended  
39 to read:



1 14877.3. After a public hearing, a city or county may  
2 adopt, by ordinance, standards *that are* more restrictive  
3 than the standards adopted by the department, as  
4 appropriate for the local area.

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