

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1948

Introduced by Assembly Member Dickerson

February 15, 2000

An act relating to watersheds.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1948, as introduced, Dickerson. Watersheds.

Existing law provides various mechanisms for funding the restoration, maintenance, and management of watersheds.

This bill would require the Secretary of the Resources Agency to compile a report detailing all funding sources for watershed projects within the state since 1990, listing the name of the project and requesting entity, evaluating the success of the project, and providing information on the process for obtaining that funding.

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 Legislature finds and declares the
2 following:

3 (a) The protection of California's watersheds is of
4 critical importance in securing the economic and
5 environmental future of the state. Watersheds provide
6 water, California's most valuable commodity, which in
7 turn sustains the engine of the state's agricultural, urban,
8 and rural economies.

1 (b) California should facilitate and coordinate
2 voluntary local watershed management and
3 rehabilitation efforts to assure the most beneficial use of
4 existing funding programs available for the purposes of
5 watershed planning. Funding mechanisms that maintain
6 and protect these investments in the future should be
7 assessed, reviewed, considered, and continued.

8 (c) Substantial funding for watershed management
9 has been made available to entities within California
10 through various initiatives and legislative actions, yet
11 minimal oversight exists to ensure that priority projects
12 are funded, monitored for effectiveness, and that entities
13 are held accountable for the accomplishment of projects.

14 (d) Because there is no organized list of financial
15 resources available, many entities find it difficult to
16 identify and apply for grants or other funding sources for
17 watershed management within California. A need exists
18 for a centralized list and report of watershed
19 management funding sources and a record of all federal,
20 state, and private grants and of general obligation bond
21 expenditures since 1990 documenting the entities that
22 have received funds, the types of projects that have been
23 funded, and an assessment whether watershed
24 improvements were documented. This report will
25 provide a benchmark to assess whether there is a need to
26 pursue additional funding sources for maintenance of
27 past efforts and state watershed management and
28 restoration needs for the future.

29 SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of the Resources Agency
30 shall compile a report chronicling funding sources made
31 available for watershed projects in California since 1990.
32 The report shall list: the recipients of such funding; the
33 federal, state, or private entity or entities that
34 administered or received the funding; the project
35 resulting from the use of those funds; and an assessment
36 of the success of the project. The report shall also include
37 all watershed management fund sources that are
38 currently available to entities within California, along
39 with a description of the process for applying for and the
40 review of applications for grant or funding approval.



1 (b) The completed report shall be provided to the
2 Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, the
3 Senate Agriculture and Water Resources Committee, and
4 the Governor not later than November 1, 2002.

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