

# AB 49 (Feuer/Huffman) Water Conservation & Sustainable Water Fact Sheet

## SUMMARY

AB 49 promotes sustainable water management and water conservation by requiring a 20 percent reduction in per capita urban water use, implementation of efficient water management practices/plans by agricultural water suppliers, and revised targets and incentives for sustainable water management.

## BACKGROUND

After three consecutive dry years, California faces the imperative to use water more efficiently statewide. Long-term, the likely impacts of climate change on California's water supplies, the fragility of Delta ecosystems and levees, recent court decisions limiting Delta water exports, and reduced reliability of other traditional sources all point to the need for action.

The State Water Plan has identified water efficiency as the single largest pool of water available to meet California's future water needs, but the state is currently not on track to achieve those savings, reflecting the need to implement an effective, comprehensive statewide strategy.

The Governor has called for a 20% reduction in per capita water use by 2020. The Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force proposed that legislation be enacted to require urban water suppliers to implement measures to achieve the statewide 20% reduction in per capita target.

AB 49 would implement the Task Force and Governor's target, and would also establish policies to promote water efficiency in the agricultural sector, and promote regional water supplies.

## THIS BILL WOULD

1. Require a 20% reduction in statewide urban per capita water use by 2020 and 10% by 2015.
2. Require urban water suppliers to develop and reach water use targets by 2020 (and interim targets by 2015).

3. Provide three options for calculating an individual urban water agency's gallons per capita/day (GPCD) target. Maximize local flexibility by allowing urban water retail agencies to determine how to best meet their target. Give credit for use of recycled water towards meeting target.

4. Require agricultural water suppliers to prepare water management plans. Require agricultural water suppliers to implement best management practices that are already required for federal Central Valley Project contractors.

5. Make compliance with these provisions a precondition for receiving state water management grants and loans. Allow water agencies who have not reached their targets to still receive grants and loans if they submit a plan and budget for coming into compliance.

6. Require DWR to develop incentives, remove barriers and establish statewide targets for sustainable water management, including but not limited to stormwater capture and recharge, and brackish water desalination.

## RECENT AMENDMENTS

1. Exempt industrial process water from the requirements of the bill to avoid an economic burden on industry.

2. Modify the third option for calculating an urban water supplier conservation target to provide credit those water urban water suppliers that have already made a significant investment in conservation.

3. Require DWR to provide technical or financial assistance to the smaller agricultural water districts to assist in preparing their agricultural water management plans.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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