

California State Law, Policies and Plans Call for Reducing Reliance on the Delta & Improving Regional Self-Sufficiency

Water Code (added by SBX7-1, 2009):

Section 85021. The policy of the State of California is to reduce reliance on the Delta in meeting California's future water supply needs through a statewide strategy of investing in improved regional supplies, conservation, and water use efficiency. Each region that depends on water from the Delta watershed shall improve its regional self-reliance for water through investment in water use efficiency, water recycling, advanced water technologies, local and regional water supply projects, and improved regional coordination of local and regional water supply efforts.

California Water Action Plan (January 2014) – pg. 6:

Legislation for Local and Regional Self Reliance

The administration will work with the Legislature to encourage local governments to adopt or amend local ordinances that enhance local and regional water supply reliability and conservation, such as ordinances that establish minimum requirements for infiltration or injection of water into the groundwater table, detection and prevention of utility system leaks, landscaping measures, and indoor/outdoor water use efficiency standards.

California Water Action Plan Implementation Report 2014–2018 -- January 30, 2015 – pg. 7:

Proposition 1 provides over \$500 million in additional IRWM grant funding to DWR to continue to build capacity and self-reliance in the state's regions. DWR will begin awarding this funding in phases following delivery of the final round of Proposition 84 funding. DWR and the State Water Board also will conduct other activities to further the goal of increasing regional self reliance.

California Water Plan Update 2013 – pg. 8-7

Chapter 8. Roadmap For Action

Goal #3: Regional and interregional partnerships play a pivotal role in California water resources planning, water management for sustainable water use and resources, and increasing regional self-reliance.

Chapter 8. Roadmap For Action

Guiding Principles

2. **Use a broad, stakeholder-based, long-view perspective for water management.** Promote multi-objective planning with a regional focus, and coordinate local, regional, interregional, and statewide initiatives. Recognize distinct regional problems, resources, assets, and priorities. Emphasize long-term planning (30- to 50-year horizon) while identifying near-term actions needed to achieve the plan.

 5. **Increase regional self-reliance.** Implement resource management strategies that reduce dependence on long-term imports of water from other hydrologic regions for meeting additional future water demands and during times of limited supply, such as a drought or interrupted supply after a catastrophic event (e.g., an earthquake or fire). Reduce reliance on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) in meeting California’s future water demands. Increase regional self-reliance for water by investing in water use efficiency, water recycling, advanced water technologies, local and regional water-supply projects, improved regional coordination of local and regional water supplies, and other strategies. As part of a diverse water portfolio, short-term water transfers between regions that are environmentally, economically, and socially sound can also help increase regional self-reliance overall.
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The Delta Plan – prepared by the Delta Stewardship Council – Published 2013 - pg. 75

CHAPTER 3: A MORE RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY FOR CALIFORNIA

These measures help achieve the requirements of Water Code section 85021, which declares that the State’s policy is “to reduce reliance on the delta in meeting California’s future water supply needs through a statewide strategy of investing in improved regional supplies, conservation, and water use efficiency.” That section also mandates that “[e]ach region that depends on water from the delta watershed shall improve its regional self-reliance for water through investment in water use efficiency, water recycling, advanced water technologies, local and regional water supply projects, and improved regional coordination of local and regional water supply efforts.”

Consequently, to achieve the statewide water supply mandates and the coequal goal of statewide water supply reliability, regions located outside the Delta also must take actions outside the Delta to increase water efficiency and develop sustainable local and regional sources of water, which will contribute to improved water supply reliability.

Individual actions by water suppliers throughout the state will be vital to success in this regard. The implementation of programs and projects that result in a significant reduction in the amount of water used, or in the percentage of water used, from the Delta watershed (evaluated at the local, regional, and statewide levels) will be the foundational measures for assessing the State’s progress in achieving these policies. The baseline for this evaluation will be existing water use and supplies, as documented in the most recently adopted urban and agricultural water management plans. (See Appendix G, Achieving Reduced Reliance on the Delta and Improved Regional Self-Reliance.)

Policy Recommendations:

Water Reliability Policy 1. Reduce Reliance on the Delta through Improved Regional Water Self-Reliance

(a) Water shall not be exported from, transferred through, or used in the Delta if all of the following apply:

(1) One or more water suppliers that would receive water as a result of the export, transfer, or use have failed to adequately contribute to reduced reliance on the Delta and improved regional self-reliance consistent with all of the requirements listed in paragraph (1) of subsection (c);

(2) That failure has significantly caused the need for the export, transfer, or use; and

(3) The export, transfer, or use would have a significant adverse environmental impact in the Delta.

(b) For purposes of Water Code section 85057.5(a)(3) and section 5001(j)(1)(E) of this Chapter, this policy covers a proposed action to export water from, transfer water through, or use water in the Delta, but does not cover any such action unless one or more water suppliers would receive water as a result of the proposed action.

(c) (1) Water suppliers that have done all of the following are contributing to reduced reliance on the Delta and improved regional self-reliance and are therefore consistent with this policy:

(A) Completed a current Urban or Agricultural Water Management Plan (Plan) which has been reviewed by the California Department of Water Resources for compliance with the applicable requirements of Water Code Division 6, Parts 2.55, 2.6, and 2.8;

(B) Identified, evaluated, and commenced implementation, consistent with the implementation schedule set forth in the Plan, of all programs and projects included in the Plan that are locally cost effective and technically feasible which reduce reliance on the Delta; and

(C) Included in the Plan, commencing in 2015, the expected outcome for measurable reduction in Delta reliance and improvement in regional self-reliance. The expected outcome for measurable reduction in Delta reliance and improvement in regional self-reliance shall be reported in the Plan as the reduction in the amount of water used, or in the percentage of water used, from the Delta watershed. For the purposes of reporting, water efficiency is considered a new source of water supply, consistent with Water Code section 1011(a).

(2) Programs and projects that reduce reliance could include, but are not limited to, improvements in water use efficiency, water recycling, stormwater capture and use, advanced water technologies, conjunctive use projects, local and regional water supply and storage projects, and improved regional coordination of local and regional water supply efforts.

23 CCR Section 5003

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 85210(i), Water Code.

Reference: Sections 10608, 10610.2, 10610.4, 10801, 10802, 85001(c), 85004(b), 85020(a), 85020(d), 85020(h), 85021, 85022(d)(1), 85022(d)(5), 85023, 85054, 85300, 85302(d), 85303, and 85304, Water Code.

Proposition 84 – approved by voters in November 2006

CHAPTER 1. General Provisions [75001 - 75009]

(Chapter 1 added November 7, 2006, by initiative Proposition 84.)

75003.

The people of California further find and declare that it is necessary and in the public interest to do all of the following:

(a) Ensure that safe drinking water is available to all Californians by:

(1) Providing for emergency assistance to communities with contaminated sources of drinking water.

(2) Assisting small communities in making the improvements needed in their water systems to clean up and protect their drinking water from contamination.

(3) Providing grants and loans for safe drinking water and water pollution prevention projects.

(4) Protecting the water quality of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, a key source of drinking water for 23 million Californians.

(5) Assisting each region of the state in improving local water supply reliability and water quality.

(6) Resolving water-related conflicts, improving local and regional water self-sufficiency and reducing reliance on imported water.

(b) Protect the public from catastrophic floods by identifying and mapping the areas most at risk, inspecting and repairing levees and flood control facilities, and reducing the long-term costs of flood management, reducing future flood risk and maximizing public benefits by planning, designing and implementing multi-objective flood corridor projects.

(c) Protect the rivers, lakes and streams of the state from pollution, loss of water quality, and destruction of fish and wildlife habitat.

(d) Protect the beaches, bays and coastal waters of the state for future generations.

(e) Revitalizing our communities and making them more sustainable and livable by investing in sound land use planning, local parks and urban greening.

(Added November 7, 2006, by initiative Proposition 84.)

Proposition 1 – approved by voters in November 2014

Chapter 7: \$810 M for regional water security, climate, and drought preparedness:

79741. In order to improve regional water self-reliance security and adapt to the effects on water supply arising out of climate change, the purposes of this chapter are to:

(a) Help water infrastructure systems adapt to climate change, including, but not limited to, sea level rise.

(b) Provide incentives for water agencies throughout each watershed to collaborate in managing the region's water resources and setting regional priorities for water infrastructure.

(c) Improve regional water self-reliance consistent with Section 85021.

Chapter 9: \$725 M for water recycling and advanced treatment technology

79767. Projects funded pursuant to this chapter shall be selected on a competitive basis, considering all of the following criteria:

- (a) Water supply reliability improvement.
- (b) Water quality and ecosystem benefits related to decreased reliance on diversions from the Delta or instream flows.
- (c) Public health benefits from improved drinking water quality or supply.
- (d) Cost-effectiveness.
- (e) Energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission impacts.
- (f) Reasonable geographic allocation to eligible projects throughout the state, including both northern and southern California and coastal and inland regions.