

2008 Legislation Wrapup (October 2008)

AB 2501 (Wolk) Water resources

This bill would appropriate \$176 million from various bond funds to the Department of Water Resources to complete the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) feasibility studies of new surface water storage facilities (\$12 million), fund delta levee failure risk reduction projects (\$154 million) and provide funding to implement the Delta Vision (\$10 million). In addition, prior to commencing delta levee failure risk reduction projects, the approval of the California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA) would be required. **Failed – Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee**

AB 2913 (Salas) Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: strategic plan

This bill and ABX2 6 (Salas) would require the strategic plan adopted by the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force to include specified elements including: emphasize that the delta ecosystem and a reliable water supply are the primary, co-equal goals for sustainable management of the delta; consider maintaining a reliable water supply for State Water Project and Central Valley Project contractors; recommend retaining or modifying existing government institutions to accomplish the strategic plan, rather than establishing new government institutions, and recommend lessening or streamlining regulatory requirements; discuss the use of conservancies to manage ecosystem restoration and alternative governance structures; and provide for equitable distribution of water project capital costs and reliable funding sources in the strategic financing plan. **Held in Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee**

SB 1102 (Machado) California Bay-Delta Authority Act

This bill would repeal the California Bay-Delta Authority Act that establishes the CBDA. The Secretary for Resources, as successor to the Authority, would administer contracts, grants, leases and agreements made by CBDA, take possession of all physical property, and manage the CALFED science program. In addition, the Department of Fish and Game would administer contracts, grants, leases and agreements that only implement the ecosystem restoration program. **Vetoed**

SB 1108 (Machado) Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Program

This bill would establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Program to be administered by the State Coastal Conservancy. It would expand the Conservancy geographic scope of influence to include the Delta region and allow projects in the Delta for the following purposes:

- Promote innovative farming practices and technology to improve water quality and habitat enhancement.
- Protect farmland and grazing land and promote agricultural viability.
- Restore, enhance, and protect open space and natural areas, including flood plains.
- Improve compatibility of agricultural uses with other private land uses, recreational and educational uses, and wildlife protection.
- Collaborate with public and private entities and individuals that support the economy of the communities and rural areas of the Delta, including urban waterfronts.

- Provide public access and recreation opportunities.
- Protect, restore, and support the economy of culturally and historically important places.

This bill would also establish project selection criteria including conformity with local general plans, service to regional constituents, multiple objectives, matching fund requirements, and timely implementation. The Conservancy would be directed to conduct an assessment of Delta conservation, agricultural, public access and recreation needs with the Delta Protection Commission and include a Program progress report in its triennial report to the Governor and Legislature. **Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee**

SBX2 1 (Perata) Water Quality, Flood Control, Water Storage, and Wildlife Preservation

This bill would appropriate \$385.21 million to DWR for the following purposes:

- \$135 million (Proposition 1E funds) for the acquisition, design, and construction of essential emergency preparedness supplies and projects for delta levees. Prior to design or construction of any project, the California Bay-Delta Authority shall approve the project or program.
- \$39 million (Prop 84) for planning and groundwater grants and CALFED scientific research grants.
- \$90 million (Prop 84) for delta water quality improvement projects that protect drinking water supplies including the Franks Tract Project.
- \$100 million (Prop 84) for preservation and restoration of the delta to improve drinking water quality, the levee system, the delta ecosystem, and water supply reliability consistent with the Delta Vision Strategic Plan.
- \$2 million (Prop 84) for planning and feasibility studies to implement the Delta Vision Strategic Plan.
- \$3.45 million (Prop 13) for the Franks Tract Project under the CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program.
- \$15.76 million (Prop 84 and Prop 50) to complete the CALFED feasibility studies for new surface storage. The feasibility studies must include:
 - The identification of construction and operation conditions proposed for each surface storage facility, including consideration of climate change, an estimated schedule for construction and completion of each project and the total costs of constructing each project.
 - The estimated total costs to construct each project and an allocation of the costs to public and private beneficiaries.
 - The feasibility studies must be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature no later than December 31, 2008.

Approved by Governor – Chapter 1