

AB 2686 (Perea, Gray, Salas)

Clean, Safe, and Reliable Water Supply Act of 2014

(as introduced 2/21/14)

SUMMARY

The Clean, Safe, and Reliable Water Supply Act of 2014, AB 2686 (Perea, Gray, Salas) would reduce the amount of the Water Bond slated for the 2014 ballot from \$11.14 billion to \$9.25 billion.

BACKGROUND

More than 50 years ago, Californians approved construction of the State Water Project, which supplies water to two-thirds of the state. In the decades that followed, California's water leaders developed the most sophisticated system of state, federal, regional, and local water infrastructure anywhere in the world.

Since voters approved the State Water Project, California's population has grown from fewer than 16 million in 1960 to more than 38 million today. A growing population and a growing economy are putting greater stress on California's natural resources. Contamination of groundwater aquifers has threatened vital water supplies that California's agricultural and industrial economies depend on to provide food and goods throughout the state and the rest of the world. Our state's values demand we protect both the environment and natural resources that provide residents the right to safe drinking water.

Since 1960, California's water infrastructure and the water environment on which it depends have deteriorated while rainfall and snow levels have not increased. Climate change has impaired California's ability to ensure sufficient supply of clean, safe, and reliable drinking water as droughts have become more frequent and severe and ecosystems have become stressed. Higher temperatures mean less snow pack, which is the state's largest water reservoir. Scientists project a loss of at least 25 percent of the snow pack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains by 2050.

Safeguarding supplies of clean and safe drinking water for California's homes, businesses, and farms is an essential responsibility of government and critical to protecting our state's quality of life and economy.

Polls have shown voters may reject the current \$11.14 billion Water Bond on the 2014 ballot. California needs a revised bond that a majority of Californian's can support and that reflects all the water needs of the state.

THIS BILL

AB 2686 (Perea, Gray, Salas), The Clean, Safe, and Reliable Water Supply Act of 2014, proposes to ask voters to approve a \$9.25 billion water bond that provides funding over the next several years for five categories of urgent water infrastructure needs:

- Clean and Safe Drinking Water (\$1B)
- Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters, & Watersheds (\$1.5B)
- Regional Water Management for Climate Change (\$1.5B)
- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Sustainability (\$2.25B)
- Water Storage for Climate Change (\$3B continuously appropriated)

SUPPORT

None on file

OPPOSITION

None on file

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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