

WATER CODE - WAT
DIVISION 6. CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND UTILIZATION OF STATE WATER RESOURCES
[10000 - 12999]

(Heading of Division 6 amended by Stats. 1957, Ch. 1932.)

PART 6. WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS [12570 - 12949.6]

(Part 6 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 196.)

CHAPTER 7.5. Protection of Ground Water Basins [12920 - 12924]

(Chapter 7.5 added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 1620.)

ARTICLE 1. Short Title [12920- 12920.]

(Article 1 added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 1620.)

12920.

This chapter shall be known as, and may be cited as, the Porter-Dolwig Ground Water Basin Protection Law.

(Added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 1620.)

ARTICLE 2. Definitions [12921 - 12921.3]

(Article 2 added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 1620.)

12921.

The definitions in this article govern the construction of this chapter.

(Added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 1620.)

12921.1.

“Department” means the Department of Water Resources.

(Added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 1620.)

12921.2.

“Local agency” means any county, city, state agency or public district.

(Added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 1620.)

12921.3.

“Project” means any physical structure or facility proposed or constructed under this chapter for the conservation, storage, regulation, reclamation, treatment or transportation of water to replenish, recharge, or restore a ground water basin, or to prevent, stem, or repel the intrusion of sea water therein, or to improve the quality of the waters thereof, when such basin is relied upon as a source of public water supply.

(Added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 1620.)

ARTICLE 3. Declaration of Policy [12922 - 12922.1]

(Article 3 added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 1620.)

12922.

It is hereby declared that the people of the State have a primary interest in the correction and prevention of irreparable damage to, or impaired use of, the ground water basins of this State caused by critical conditions of overdraft, depletion, sea water intrusion or degraded water quality.

(Added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 1620.)

12922.1.

The Legislature finds and declares that the greater portion of the water used in this State is stored, regulated, distributed and furnished by its ground water basins, and that such basins are subject to critical conditions of overdraft, depletion, sea water intrusion and degraded water quality causing great detriment to the peace, health, safety and welfare of the people of the State.

(Added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 1620.)

ARTICLE 4. Declaration of Intent [12923 - 12924]

(Article 4 added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 1620.)

12923.

It is the intention of the Legislature that the department shall, whenever money has been appropriated for the purpose, initiate or participate in investigations, studies, plans and design criteria for construction of any project, or projects, deemed by the department to be practical, economically feasible and urgently needed to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

It is the further intention of the Legislature that upon the submission by any local agency, or agencies, to the department of plans and design criteria for any project, or projects, a review, evaluation and any necessary revision of such plans and design criteria shall be made by the department to insure that construction of such project, or projects, will accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

It is the further intention of the Legislature that where a local agency, or agencies, has duly instituted a project, the department may provide technical assistance to the local agency. Any participation by the department shall be pursuant to a cooperative agreement between the department and local agency which clearly outlines the area of participation, the reporting procedure, and the maximum limitation upon cost. Funds for the technical assistance provided under this section shall be as set forth in the cooperative agreement with substantial participation or cost sharing, or both, by the local agency.

(Amended by Stats. 1967, Ch. 1460.)

12923.1.

The results of the investigations and studies conducted and the plans and design criteria developed by the department pursuant to this article shall be transmitted to the State Water Resources Control Board and to the appropriate California regional water quality control boards for their consideration in the adoption of state policy for water quality control, water quality control plans and waste discharge requirements.

(Added by Stats. 1969, Ch. 482.)

12924.

(a) The department, in conjunction with other public agencies, shall conduct an investigation of the state's groundwater basins. The department shall identify the state's groundwater basins on the basis of geological and hydrological conditions and consideration of political boundary lines whenever practical. The department shall also investigate existing general patterns of groundwater extraction and groundwater recharge within those basins to the extent necessary to identify basins that are subject to critical conditions of overdraft.

(b) The department may revise the boundaries of groundwater basins identified in subdivision (a) based on its own investigations or information provided by others.

(c) The department shall report its findings to the Governor and the Legislature not later than January 1, 2012, and thereafter in years ending in 5 or 0.

(Amended by Stats. 2014, Ch. 346, Sec. 7. Effective January 1, 2015.)