



ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ZONE 7

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ORIGINATING SECTION: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
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AGENDA DATE: October 21, 2015

ITEM NO. 17b

SUBJECT: Legislative Update

SUMMARY:

- Zone 7 staff, with the support of Agency consultants, monitors legislation that is being considered in Sacramento, as well as other political activities of interest to the Agency.
- The Legislature adjourned for the year on September 11th. The deadline for Governor Brown to act on the bills was October 11th.
- SB 385 (Hueso) was signed by the governor. The ACWA-sponsored bill grants a public water agency that prepares and submits a compliance plan for levels of hexavalent chromium a period of time to meet the state-required level consistent with the compliance plan.
- AB 617 (Perea) passed the Senate and went to the governor's desk. It was one of 10 water-related bills awaiting action by the governor as of October 2nd. It makes numerous technical and clarifying changes to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. It also states that any action to regulate groundwater extractions as a means to implement a groundwater plan could not be used as evidence of, or to establish or defend against, any claim of a right to pump groundwater that has been continuously extracted for a reasonable period of time.
- 47 of the 80 members of the Assembly sent a letter to the governor on the final day of the session requesting he call a special session to focus on the drought. Through a spokesman, the governor indicated that the Legislature and his Administration already had taken action to deal with the drought. Special sessions concerning transportation and health care funding are in recess, but can resume any time.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's new rules defining "waters of the United States" formally took effect August 31st in 37 states, including California. Thirteen states have filed legal action against the new rules and a North Dakota judge granted them an injunction. The California Farm Bureau commissioned a mapping firm to create an interactive map of California that showed areas that would be subject to the new law. It could cover up to 95 percent of the state, depending on how the rules are interpreted.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Information only