

California State Senate

SENATOR
LOIS WOLK

THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



Senate Bill 848

The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality & Water Supply Act

(as proposed to be amended in the Senate Natural Resources & Water committee on February 11, 2014)

By Senator Lois Wolk

Summary

SB 848, The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality & Water Supply Act, will provide funding to immediately address the crisis in the Delta, provide water treatment for communities without safe water, increase flood safety, and secure water supply reliability throughout California.

Background

California faces critical water challenges in the next decade. Our state is facing its third year of drought conditions. Legal battles and controversial projects have slowed the response to the ecosystem crisis in the Delta. Small communities throughout the Central Valley lack access to safe drinking water. Climate change is stressing water supplies throughout California.

Last year, the U.S. EPA estimated that in order to ensure a safe and adequate supply of drinking water in California, the state requires \$44.5 billion in water infrastructure improvements over the next 20 years. Yet funding to meet these water challenges is dwindling and controversy and a lack of fiscal restraint have resulted in water bond proposals that are not viable and cannot be supported by California's voters.

This Bill

Provides \$6.825 billion in funding for projects that will address California's critical needs, including:

- Urgent drinking water treatment for communities that do not currently have access to safe water
- Wastewater treatment to protect California's rivers, streams and beaches
- Community supported habitat restoration in the Delta
- Delta levee stability funding to reduce the risk of levee failure due to flood, earthquake and sea-level rise
- Regional water supply development, including water recycling, groundwater cleanup, and agricultural and urban water conservation
- Water storage, including groundwater, recycled water, and surface storage projects.
- Stormwater reuse and recapture
- Watershed restoration throughout California

SB 848 provides funding for competitive projects while avoiding specific project earmarks.

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