



**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**8-14**

April 7, 1998

**To:** Board of Directors (Committee on Legislation--Action)  
(Water Planning and Resources Committee--Action)

**From:** *for* General Manager  
General Counsel

*Edward J. Meier III*  
*M. Gregory*

**Subject:** Senate Bill 1833 (Kelley-Idyllwild)

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

---

It is recommended that your Board oppose SB 1833.

**DETAILED REPORT**

---

Senator David Kelley has introduced SB 1833, which would make the following policy statements regarding the transfer of Colorado River water.

- (a) Support and encourage efficient use of Colorado River water;
- (b) Satisfy a portion of Southern California's needs by facilitating the San Diego County Water Authority-Imperial Irrigation District water transfer; and
- (c) Reduce potential environmental impacts on the Bay/Delta that may result from additional export of water to Southern California in the absence of efficient use and transfers of Colorado River water.

Metropolitan has long encouraged efficient use of all waters of the state, which includes water transfers and exchanges. In particular, Metropolitan supports an appropriate SDCWA-IID water transfer arrangement which is structured to benefit the entire region. That support has been manifested through the Board's endorsement of the Framework for Agreement proposed by Department of Water Resources (DWR) Director David Kennedy. Thus, at present staff believes that the best way to secure such an arrangement is through negotiation among the parties in the current process being mediated by DWR Director David Kennedy.

Legislation that would facilitate water transfers and other improvements in water use efficiency throughout the state would be welcome. However, there are several issues left unresolved in the proposed SB 1833. First, rather than focusing on special interest legislation involving a single proposed transaction, any legislation should encourage exploration of all transfer and other water use and management improvements that would satisfy Southern California's needs for Colorado River water. Moreover, with respect to the specific transaction identified in the legislation, the parties already are involved in Director Kennedy's mediated process. That process has been

approved by the Legislature in Water Code Section 1812.5, last year's SB 1082 (Kelley). Any Legislation focused on that particular transaction could impair or pre-judge that process.

Additionally, it is misleading to link specific Colorado River water transfers with a reduction in potential environmental impacts on the Bay/Delta. Maximum use of Colorado River water is already made in Southern California and Metropolitan's planning assumes this maximum usage will continue, regardless which Southern California entity arranges a water transfer. Even with assured maximum utilization of the Colorado River Aqueduct, there will be a continued need for water from the Bay/Delta in Southern California.

The Coachella Valley Water District has voted to oppose SB 1833, as well as the Association of California Water Agencies unless it is amended from its current narrow focus. Because the single focus of the bill does not promote a balanced resolution of Colorado River issues that will meet the needs of all areas of Southern California, staff also recommends that the Board oppose SB 1833.

JFR:mg  
#9791  
Attachment

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1833**

---

---

**Introduced by Senator Kelley**

February 19, 1998

---

---

An act to add Section 106.8 to the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1833, as introduced, Kelley. Colorado River: water transfers.

Existing law makes various declarations with regard to the general water policy of this state.

This bill would declare it to be state policy to support and encourage the efficient use of the state entitlement to water from the Colorado River, to satisfy a portion of projected increases in urban southern California water demands by facilitating the voluntary transfer of conserved water from the Imperial Irrigation District to the San Diego County Water Authority, and to reduce the potential adverse environmental impacts on the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary that may result from the export of additional water supplies from northern California to southern California in the absence of the more efficient use, and the voluntary transfer, of water from the Colorado River in southern California.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

SB 1833

— 2 —

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 106.8 is added to the Water  
2 Code, to read:

3 106.8. It is the policy of this state to do all of the  
4 following:

5 (a) Support and encourage the efficient use of the  
6 state entitlement to water from the Colorado River.

7 (b) Satisfy a portion of projected increases in urban  
8 southern California water demands by facilitating the  
9 voluntary transfer of conserved water from the Imperial  
10 Irrigation District to the San Diego County Water  
11 Authority.

12 (c) Reduce the potential adverse environmental  
13 impacts on the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San  
14 Joaquin Delta Estuary that may result from the export of  
15 additional water supplies from northern California to  
16 southern California in the absence of the more efficient  
17 use, and the voluntary transfer, of water from the  
18 Colorado River in southern California.

