

AB 359 – Groundwater Management Plans

Legislation Committee

May 10, 2011

Item 8-10

AB 359 Provisions

- Expands existing Water Code provisions for groundwater management plans
- Requires inclusion by 2013 of map and description of current recharge areas that contribute substantially to replenishment of the groundwater basin
- Adds procedures for notice and availability of proposed plans
- Clarifies eligibility requirements for state funding for groundwater projects to include IRWMP projects

Analysis

- Seeks to protect groundwater recharge capabilities
- DWR's Bulletin 118 noted the need to identify and protect recharge areas to **retain function** and prevent contamination

Bill Status

- Passed out of Assembly WP&W and Local Government committees
- Referred to Appropriations Committee
- Sponsored by the California Groundwater Coalition

Options and Recommendation

- Option 1
 - Adopt the CEQA determination and express support for AB 359
- Option 2
 - Take no position on AB 359
- Staff Recommendation
 - Option 1