



AB 803 (Gomez, D- Los Angeles) The Water Recycling Act of 2013

Communications and Legislation Committee

Item 8-3

June 11, 2013

Background

- Recycled water entails treating wastewater for non-potable or potable purposes
- State-of-the-art technology for water recycling is now more widely deployable
- Currently, environmental buffers (groundwater basins and storage reservoirs) are required for potable water use
- Department of Public Health and water quality control boards share regulatory oversight

Key Provisions of AB 803

- Authorizes regional water quality control boards to permit introduction of “advanced treated purified water” into a conveyance facility prior to comingling with any raw water or other water source
- Conforms reporting requirements for recycled water discharges/spill thresholds in Health and Safety Code with those in the Water Code

Impacts/Effects of AB 803

- AB 803 would facilitate increased use of recycled water
- Helps meet the 20 percent water use efficiency goal of the 2009 Water Conservation Act

Recommended Amendments

- In consultation with the bill's sponsor and other stakeholders, staff recommends:
 - Provide public agencies who own water conveyance facilities the right to consent to the introduction of advanced treated purified water into their facilities
 - Delete the term “other water source”

Policy Positions

● Support

- WaterReuse (sponsor)
- Association of California Water Agencies
- Eastern Municipal Water District
- San Diego County Water Authority
- West Basin Municipal Water District
- Irvine Ranch Water District

● Oppose

- Russian River Watershed Protection Committee

Options

- Option 1:
 - Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action is not subject to CEQA and authorize the General Manager to express Metropolitan's support and seek amendments to AB 803
- Option 2:
 - Take no position on AB 803

Staff Recommendation

- Option 1

