



Express support if amended position
on AB 658 (E. Garcia, D-Coachella):

Water Rights: Water Management
Communications and Legislation Committee

Item 8-8

April 8, 2019

Summary of AB 658

- Provides two options to encourage groundwater recharge:
 - Allows applications for a temporary, five-year permit to divert surface water to underground storage
 - Allows for a temporary, five-year change to an existing water right to divert surface water to underground storage
- Permit application would be simplified when flows exceed an established or calculated flood stage

Background

- Water Code section 1242 allows surface water to be stored underground if it will subsequently be removed for a beneficial use
- Storing water underground by itself is not a beneficial use
- For several years, Assembly Member Eggman (D-Stockton) has sought to make groundwater storage a beneficial use which could reduce State Water Project supplies
 - AB 647 – 2015-2016 – oppose unless amended
 - AB 1427 – 2016-2017 – oppose unless amended
 - AB 441 – 2019-2020 – oppose

Background cont'd

- AB 658 would facilitate groundwater storage during high flow times through an expedited permitting process

Recommend Amendments:

1. Provide clear protections for existing beneficial uses including instream beneficial uses and the ability to meet water quality objectives
2. Provide protection from expanding existing water rights through the temporary change petition process

Options

- Option #1
 - Authorize General Manager to express support if amended for AB 658 (E. Garcia)
- Option #2
 - Take no position on AB 658 (E. Garcia)

Recommended Action

- Option #1

