

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 24, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 21, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 23, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 24, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 13

Introduced by Senator Pavley

December 1, 2014

An act to amend Sections 5202, 10720.5, 10720.7, 10722.2, 10722.4, 10723, 10723.6, 10723.8, 10724, 10726.8, 10730.2, 10733.2, 10733.3, 10735.2, 10735.4, 10735.6, and 10933 of, and to add Section 10729.2 to, the Water Code, relating to groundwater.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 13, as amended, Pavley. Groundwater.

Existing law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources that are designated as basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2020, and requires all other groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2022, except as specified. The act authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to designate a basin as a probationary basin if the state board makes a certain determination and to develop an interim plan for the probationary basin. The act requires a local agency or groundwater sustainability

agency to have 90 or 180 days, as prescribed, to remedy the deficiency if the board designates the basin as a probationary basin.

This bill would specify that the board is authorized to designate a high- or medium-priority basin as a probationary basin. This bill would provide a local agency or groundwater sustainability agency 90 or 180 days, as prescribed, to remedy certain deficiencies that caused the board to designate the basin as a probationary basin. This bill would authorize the board to develop an interim plan for certain probationary basins one year after the designation of the basin as a probationary basin.

Existing law authorizes a combination of local agencies to form a groundwater sustainability agency by a joint powers agreement, memorandum of agreement, or other legal agreement, and authorizes a water corporation regulated by the Public Utilities Commission to participate in a groundwater sustainability agency if the local agencies approve.

This bill would authorize a mutual water company to participate in a groundwater sustainability agency and would provide that a water corporation or a mutual water company may participate through a memorandum of agreement or other legal agreement.

Existing law establishes a groundwater monitoring program pursuant to which specified entities, including a groundwater sustainability agency, may propose to be designated by the department as groundwater monitoring entities, as defined, for the purposes of monitoring and reporting with regard to groundwater elevations in all or part of a groundwater basin or subbasin. Existing law requires the department to identify the extent of monitoring of groundwater elevations that is being undertaken in groundwater basins and subbasins, and if the department determines that all or part of a basin or subbasin is not being monitored, to determine whether there is sufficient interest in establishing a groundwater management plan, an integrated regional water management plan, or a groundwater monitoring association.

This bill, if the department determines that all or part of a basin or subbasin is not being monitored, would require the department to determine whether there is sufficient interest in establishing a groundwater sustainability plan.

Existing law requires a local agency or combination of local agencies that elect to be a groundwater sustainability agency for a basin to submit a prescribed notice of intent to the ~~Department of Water Resources~~ *department that includes the proposed boundaries of the basin*. Existing

law requires the department to post the notice on its Internet Web site within 15 days of receipt.

This bill would eliminate these provisions.

Existing law requires a groundwater sustainability agency to inform the department of its election or formation and its intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management within 30 days of forming or electing to be a groundwater sustainability agency and requires the notice to include specified information such as the service area boundaries. Existing law provides that the groundwater sustainability agency is presumed the exclusive groundwater sustainability agency 90 days following the posting of notice, provided that no other notice was submitted.

This bill would require local agencies to seek to reach agreement to allow prompt designation of a groundwater sustainability agency. This bill would require a new notice, to be submitted and the department to post notice if agreement is reached by the local agencies involving a material change from the information in the posted notice.

Existing law requires the department to categorize each basin as ~~high-, medium-, low-,~~ high, medium, low, or very low priority and authorizes a local agency to request that the department revise the boundaries of a basin. Existing law provides that a local agency has 2 years from the date of a reprioritization that elevates a basin to a medium- or high-priority basin to either establish a groundwater sustainability agency or submit an alternative to the department and 5 years from the date of reprioritization to adopt a groundwater sustainability plan, as prescribed.

This bill would extend the deadline for a basin that is elevated to a medium- or high-priority basin before January 31, 2017, and is not subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan to January 31, 2022.

Existing law, the Administrative Procedure Act, governs the procedure for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of regulations by state agencies and for the review of those regulatory actions by the Office of Administrative Law.

This bill would state that a guideline, criterion, bulletin, or other technical or procedural analysis or guidance prepared by the department as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is not subject to the Administrative Procedure Act, except as prescribed.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 5202 of the Water Code is amended to
2 read:

3 5202. (a) This section applies to a person who does either of
4 the following:

5 (1) Extracts groundwater from a probationary basin 90 days or
6 more after the board designates the basin as a probationary basin
7 pursuant to Section 10735.2.

8 (2) Extracts groundwater on or after July 1, 2017, in an area
9 within a high- or medium-priority basin subject to the requirements
10 of subdivision (a) of Section 10720.7 that is not within the
11 management area of a groundwater sustainability agency and where
12 the county does not assume responsibility to be the groundwater
13 sustainability agency, as provided in subdivision (b) of Section
14 10724.

15 (b) Except as provided in subdivision (c), a person subject to
16 this section shall file a report of groundwater extraction by
17 December 15 of each year for extractions made in the preceding
18 water year.

19 (c) Unless reporting is required pursuant to paragraph (2) of
20 subdivision (c) of Section 10735.2, this section does not apply to
21 any of the following:

22 (1) An extraction by a de minimis extractor.

23 (2) An extraction excluded from reporting pursuant to paragraph
24 (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 10735.2.

25 (3) An extraction reported pursuant to Part 5 (commencing with
26 Section 4999).

27 (4) An extraction that is included in annual reports filed with a
28 court or the board by a watermaster appointed by a court or
29 pursuant to statute to administer a final judgment determining
30 rights to water. The reports shall identify the persons who have
31 extracted water and give the general place of use and the quantity
32 of water that has been extracted from each source.

33 (d) Except as provided in Section 5209, the report shall be filed
34 with the board.

35 (e) The report may be filed by the person extracting water or
36 on that person's behalf by an agency that person designates and
37 that maintains a record of the water extracted.

1 (f) Each report shall be accompanied by the fee imposed
2 pursuant to Section 1529.5.

3 SEC. 2. Section 10720.5 of the Water Code is amended to read:

4 10720.5. (a) Groundwater management pursuant to this part
5 shall be consistent with Section 2 of Article X of the California
6 Constitution. Nothing in this part modifies rights or priorities to
7 use or store groundwater consistent with Section 2 of Article X of
8 the California Constitution, except that in basins designated
9 medium- or high-priority basins by the department, no extraction
10 of groundwater between January 1, 2015, and the date of adoption
11 of a groundwater sustainability plan pursuant to this part or the
12 approval by the department of an alternative submitted pursuant
13 to Section 10733.6, whichever is sooner, may be used as evidence
14 of, or to establish or defend against, any claim of prescription.

15 (b) Nothing in this part, or in any groundwater management
16 plan adopted pursuant to this part, determines or alters surface
17 water rights or groundwater rights under common law or any
18 provision of law that determines or grants surface water rights.

19 SEC. 3. Section 10720.7 of the Water Code is amended to read:

20 10720.7. (a) (1) By January 31, 2020, all basins designated
21 as high- or medium-priority basins by the department that have
22 been designated in Bulletin 118, as it may be updated or revised
23 on or before January 1, 2017, as basins that are subject to critical
24 conditions of overdraft shall be managed under a groundwater
25 sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans
26 pursuant to this part.

27 (2) By January 31, 2022, all basins designated as high- or
28 medium-priority basins by the department that are not subject to
29 paragraph (1) shall be managed under a groundwater sustainability
30 plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans pursuant to
31 this part.

32 (b) The Legislature encourages and authorizes basins designated
33 as low- and very low priority basins by the department to be
34 managed under groundwater sustainability plans pursuant to this
35 part. Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 10735) does not apply
36 to a basin designated as a low- or very low priority basin.

37 SEC. 4. Section 10722.2 of the Water Code is amended to read:

38 10722.2. (a) A local agency may request that the department
39 revise the boundaries of a basin, including the establishment of

1 new subbasins. A local agency's request shall be supported by the
2 following information:

3 (1) Information demonstrating that the proposed adjusted basin
4 can be the subject of sustainable groundwater management.

5 (2) Technical information regarding the boundaries of, and
6 conditions in, the proposed adjusted basin.

7 (3) Information demonstrating that the entity proposing the
8 basin boundary adjustment consulted with interested local agencies
9 and public water systems in the affected basins before filing the
10 proposal with the department.

11 (4) Other information the department deems necessary to justify
12 revision of the basin's boundary.

13 (b) By January 1, 2016, the department shall adopt regulations
14 regarding the information required to comply with subdivision (a),
15 including the methodology and criteria to be used to evaluate the
16 proposed revision. The department shall adopt the regulations,
17 including any amendments thereto, authorized by this section as
18 emergency regulations in accordance with the Administrative
19 Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of
20 Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code). The
21 adoption of these regulations is an emergency and shall be
22 considered by the Office of Administrative Law as necessary for
23 the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety,
24 or general welfare. Notwithstanding the Administrative Procedure
25 Act, emergency regulations adopted by the department pursuant
26 to this section shall not be subject to review by the Office of
27 Administrative Law and shall remain in effect until revised by the
28 department.

29 (c) Methodology and criteria established pursuant to subdivision
30 (b) shall address all of the following:

31 (1) How to assess the likelihood that the proposed basin can be
32 sustainably managed.

33 (2) How to assess whether the proposed basin would limit the
34 sustainable management of adjacent basins.

35 (3) How to assess whether there is a history of sustainable
36 management of groundwater levels in the proposed basin.

37 (d) Prior to adopting the regulations pursuant to subdivision (b),
38 the department shall conduct three public meetings to consider
39 public comments. The department shall publish the draft
40 regulations on its Internet Web site at least 30 days before the

1 public meetings. One meeting shall be conducted at a location in
2 northern California, one meeting shall be conducted at a location
3 in the central valley of California, and one meeting shall be
4 conducted at a location in southern California.

5 (e) The department shall provide a copy of its draft revision of
6 a basin's boundaries to the California Water Commission. The
7 California Water Commission shall hear and comment on the draft
8 revision within 60 days after the department provides the draft
9 revision to the commission.

10 SEC. 5. Section 10722.4 of the Water Code is amended to read:

11 10722.4. (a) Pursuant to Section 10933, for the purposes of
12 this part the department shall categorize each basin as one of the
13 following priorities:

- 14 (1) High priority.
- 15 (2) Medium priority.
- 16 (3) Low priority.
- 17 (4) Very low priority.

18 (b) The initial priority for each basin shall be established by the
19 department pursuant to Section 10933 no later than January 31,
20 2015.

21 (c) Any time the department updates Bulletin 118 boundaries
22 pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 12924, the department shall
23 reassess the prioritization pursuant to Section 10933.

24 (d) If the department changes priorities pursuant to Section
25 10933 to elevate a basin from a low- or very low priority basin to
26 a medium- or high-priority basin after January 31, 2015, the agency
27 formation and planning deadlines of this part shall be extended as
28 follows:

29 (1) A local agency shall have two years from the date of
30 reprioritization to either establish a groundwater sustainability
31 agency pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 10723)
32 or two years to satisfy the requirements of Section 10733.6.

33 (2) A groundwater sustainability agency shall have five years
34 from the date of reprioritization to meet the requirements of
35 subdivision (a) of Section 10720.7, except that if the reprioritization
36 occurs before January 31, 2017, a groundwater sustainability
37 agency subject to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section
38 10720.7 shall have until January 31, 2022.

39 SEC. 6. Section 10723 of the Water Code is amended to read:

1 10723. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (c), any local
2 agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater
3 basin may ~~opt~~ *decide* to become a groundwater sustainability
4 agency for that basin.

5 (b) Before ~~opting~~ *deciding* to become a groundwater
6 sustainability agency, and after publication of notice pursuant to
7 Section 6066 of the Government Code, the local agency or agencies
8 shall hold a public hearing in the county or counties overlying the
9 basin.

10 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the following
11 agencies created by statute to manage groundwater shall be deemed
12 the exclusive local agencies within their respective statutory
13 boundaries with powers to comply with this part:

14 (A) Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation
15 District, Zone 7.

16 (B) Alameda County Water District.

17 (C) Desert Water Agency.

18 (D) Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency.

19 (E) Honey Lake Valley Groundwater Management District.

20 (F) Long Valley Groundwater Management District.

21 (G) Mendocino City Community Services District.

22 (H) Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Management
23 District.

24 (I) Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.

25 (J) Ojai Groundwater Management Agency.

26 (K) Orange County Water District.

27 (L) Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency.

28 (M) Santa Clara Valley Water District.

29 (N) Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District.

30 (O) Willow Creek Groundwater Management Agency.

31 (2) An agency identified in this subdivision may opt out of
32 ~~becoming~~ *being* the exclusive groundwater management agency
33 within its statutory boundaries by sending a notice to the
34 department, which shall be posted pursuant to Section 10733.3. If
35 an agency identified in paragraph (1) opts out of ~~becoming~~ *being*
36 the exclusive groundwater management agency, any other local
37 agency or combination of local agencies operating within the
38 statutory boundaries of the agency that has opted out may ~~opt to~~
39 ~~become~~ *notify the department pursuant to Section 10723.8 of its*
40 *decision to be* the groundwater sustainability agency.

1 (3) A local agency listed in paragraph (1) may comply with this
2 part by meeting the requirements of Section 10733.6 or opting to
3 become a groundwater sustainability agency pursuant to this
4 section. A local agency with authority to implement a basin-specific
5 management plan pursuant to its principal act shall not exercise
6 any authorities granted in this part in a manner inconsistent with
7 any prohibitions or limitations in its principal act unless the
8 governing board of the local agency makes a finding that the
9 agency is unable to sustainably manage the basin without the
10 prohibited authority.

11 (d) *The decision of a local agency or combination of agencies*
12 *to become a groundwater sustainability agency shall take effect*
13 *as provided in Section 10723.8.*

14 SEC. 7. Section 10723.6 of the Water Code is amended to read:
15 10723.6. (a) A combination of local agencies may form a
16 groundwater sustainability agency by using any of the following
17 methods:

18 (1) A joint powers agreement.

19 (2) A memorandum of agreement or other legal agreement.

20 (b) A water corporation regulated by the Public Utilities
21 Commission or a mutual water company may participate in a
22 groundwater sustainability agency through a memorandum of
23 agreement or other legal agreement. The authority provided by
24 this subdivision does not confer any additional powers to a
25 nongovernmental entity.

26 SEC. 8. Section 10723.8 of the Water Code is amended to read:

27 10723.8. (a) Within 30 days of deciding to become or form a
28 groundwater sustainability agency, the ~~groundwater sustainability~~
29 ~~agency~~ *local agency or combination of local agencies* shall inform
30 the department of its decision and its intent to undertake sustainable
31 groundwater management. The notification shall include the
32 following information, as applicable:

33 (1) The service area boundaries, the *boundaries of the basin or*
34 *portion of the basin* the agency ~~is managing,~~ *intends to manage*
35 *pursuant to this part,* and the other ~~groundwater sustainability~~
36 ~~agencies operating~~ *managing or proposing to manage groundwater*
37 *within the basin.*

38 (2) A copy of the resolution forming the new agency.

39 (3) A copy of any new bylaws, ordinances, or new authorities
40 adopted by the local agency.

1 (4) A list of interested parties developed pursuant to Section
2 10723.2 and an explanation of how their interests will be
3 considered in the development and operation of the groundwater
4 sustainability agency and the development and implementation of
5 the agency's sustainability plan.

6 ~~(b) Except as provided in subdivision (d), 90 days following~~
7 ~~the posting of the notice pursuant to this section, the groundwater~~
8 ~~sustainability agency shall be presumed the exclusive groundwater~~
9 ~~sustainability agency within the area of the basin within the service~~
10 ~~area of the local agency that the agency is managing as described~~
11 ~~in the notice, provided that no other notice was submitted.~~

12 ~~(e) A groundwater sustainability agency may withdraw from~~
13 ~~managing a basin by notifying the department in writing of its~~
14 ~~intent to withdraw.~~

15 ~~(d) This section does not preclude the board from taking an~~
16 ~~action pursuant to Section 10735.6.~~

17 (e)

18 (b) The department shall post all notices received under this
19 section in accordance with Section 10733.3.

20 (c) *The decision to become a groundwater sustainability agency*
21 *shall take effect 90 days after the department posts notice under*
22 *subdivision (b) if no other local agency submits a notification*
23 *under subdivision (a) of its intent to undertake groundwater*
24 *management in all or a portion of the same area. If another*
25 *notification is filed within the 90-day period, the decision shall*
26 *not take effect unless the other notification is withdrawn or*
27 *modified to eliminate any overlap in the areas proposed to be*
28 *managed. The local agencies shall seek to reach agreement to*
29 *allow prompt designation of a groundwater sustainability agency.*
30 *If agreement is reached involving a material change from the*
31 *information in the posted notice, a new notification shall be*
32 *submitted under subdivision (a) and the department shall post*
33 *notice under subdivision (b).*

34 (d) *Except as provided in subdivisions (e) and (f), after the*
35 *decision to be a groundwater sustainability agency takes effect,*
36 *the groundwater sustainability agency shall be presumed to be the*
37 *exclusive groundwater sustainability agency within the area of the*
38 *basin within the service area of the local agency that the local*
39 *agency is managing as described in the notice.*

1 (e) A groundwater sustainability agency may withdraw from
2 managing a basin by notifying the department in writing of its
3 intent to withdraw.

4 (f) This section does not preclude the board from taking an
5 action pursuant to Section 10735.6.

6 SEC. 9. Section 10724 of the Water Code is amended to read:

7 10724. (a) In the event that there is an area within a high- or
8 medium-priority basin that is not within the management area of
9 a groundwater sustainability agency, the county within which that
10 unmanaged area lies will be presumed to be the groundwater
11 sustainability agency for that area.

12 (b) A county described in subdivision (a) shall provide
13 notification to the department pursuant to Section 10723.8 unless
14 the county notifies the department that it will not be the
15 groundwater sustainability agency for the area. Extractions of
16 groundwater made on or after July 1, 2017, in that area shall be
17 subject to reporting in accordance with Part 5.2 (commencing with
18 Section 5200) of Division 2 if the county does either of the
19 following:

20 (1) Notifies the department that it will not be the groundwater
21 sustainability agency for an area.

22 (2) Fails to provide notification to the department pursuant to
23 Section 10723.8 for an area on or before June 30, 2017.

24 SEC. 10. Section 10726.8 of the Water Code is amended to
25 read:

26 10726.8. (a) This part is in addition to, and not a limitation
27 on, the authority granted to a local agency under any other law.
28 The local agency may use the local agency's authority under any
29 other law to apply and enforce any requirements of this part,
30 including, but not limited to, the collection of fees.

31 (b) Nothing in this part shall be construed as authorizing a local
32 agency to make a binding determination of the water rights of any
33 person or entity, or to impose fees or regulatory requirements on
34 activities outside the boundaries of the local agency.

35 (c) Nothing in this part is a limitation on the authority of the
36 board, the department, or the State Department of Public Health.

37 (d) Notwithstanding Section 6103 of the Government Code, a
38 state or local agency that extracts groundwater shall be subject to
39 a fee imposed under this part to the same extent as any
40 nongovernmental entity.

1 (e) Except as provided in subdivision (d), this part does not
2 authorize a local agency to impose any requirement on the state
3 or any agency, department, or officer of the state. State agencies
4 and departments shall work cooperatively with a local agency on
5 a voluntary basis.

6 (f) Nothing in this chapter or a groundwater sustainability plan
7 shall be interpreted as superseding the land use authority of cities
8 and counties, including the city or county general plan, within the
9 overlying basin.

10 SEC. 11. Section 10729.2 is added to the Water Code, to read:

11 10729.2. With the exception of regulations required by Sections
12 10722.2 and 10733.2, a guideline, criterion, bulletin, or other
13 technical or procedural analysis or guidance prepared by the
14 department as required by this part is not subject to the
15 Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with
16 Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government
17 Code).

18 SEC. 12. Section 10730.2 of the Water Code is amended to
19 read:

20 10730.2. (a) A groundwater sustainability agency that adopts
21 a groundwater sustainability plan pursuant to this part may impose
22 fees on the extraction of groundwater from the basin to fund costs
23 of groundwater management, including, but not limited to, the
24 costs of the following:

25 (1) Administration, operation, and maintenance, including a
26 prudent reserve.

27 (2) Acquisition of lands or other property, facilities, and services.

28 (3) Supply, production, treatment, or distribution of water.

29 (4) Other activities necessary or convenient to implement the
30 plan.

31 (b) Until a groundwater sustainability plan is adopted pursuant
32 to this part, a local agency may impose fees in accordance with
33 the procedures provided in this section for the purposes of Part
34 2.75 (commencing with Section 10750) as long as a groundwater
35 management plan adopted before January 1, 2015, is in effect.

36 (c) Fees imposed pursuant to this section shall be adopted in
37 accordance with subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 6 of Article
38 XIII D of the California Constitution.

39 (d) Fees imposed pursuant to this section may include fixed fees
40 and fees charged on a volumetric basis, including, but not limited

1 to, fees that increase based on the quantity of groundwater produced
2 annually, the year in which the production of groundwater
3 commenced from a groundwater extraction facility, and impacts
4 to the basin.

5 (e) The power granted by this section is in addition to any
6 powers a groundwater sustainability agency has under any other
7 law.

8 SEC. 13. Section 10733.2 of the Water Code is amended to
9 read:

10 10733.2. (a) (1) By June 1, 2016, the department shall adopt
11 regulations for evaluating groundwater sustainability plans, the
12 implementation of groundwater sustainability plans, and
13 coordination agreements pursuant to this chapter.

14 (2) The regulations shall identify the necessary plan components
15 specified in Sections 10727.2, 10727.4, and 10727.6 and other
16 information that will assist local agencies in developing and
17 implementing groundwater sustainability plans and coordination
18 agreements.

19 (b) (1) The department may update the regulations, including
20 to incorporate the best management practices identified pursuant
21 to Section 10729.

22 (2) The regulations adopted pursuant to paragraph (1) of
23 subdivision (a) shall identify appropriate methodologies and
24 assumptions for baseline conditions concerning hydrology, water
25 demand, regulatory restrictions that affect the availability of surface
26 water, and unreliability of, or reductions in, surface water deliveries
27 to the agency or water users in the basin, and the impact of those
28 conditions on achieving sustainability. The baseline for measuring
29 unreliability and reductions shall include the historic average
30 reliability and deliveries of surface water to the agency or water
31 users in the basin.

32 (c) By June 1, 2016, the department shall adopt regulations for
33 evaluating alternatives submitted pursuant to Section 10733.6.

34 (d) The department shall adopt the regulations, including any
35 amendments thereto, authorized by this section as emergency
36 regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act
37 (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of
38 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code). The adoption of
39 these regulations is an emergency and shall be considered by the
40 Office of Administrative Law as necessary for the immediate

1 preservation of the public peace, health and safety, or general
2 welfare. Notwithstanding the Administrative Procedure Act,
3 emergency regulations adopted by the department pursuant to this
4 section shall not be subject to review by the Office of
5 Administrative Law and shall remain in effect until revised by the
6 department.

7 (e) Before adopting the regulations pursuant to this section, the
8 department shall conduct three public meetings to consider public
9 comments. The department shall publish the draft regulations on
10 its Internet Web site at least 30 days before the public meetings.
11 One meeting shall be conducted at a location in northern California,
12 one meeting shall be conducted at a location in the central valley
13 of California, and one meeting shall be conducted at a location in
14 southern California.

15 SEC. 14. Section 10733.3 of the Water Code is amended to
16 read:

17 10733.3. The department shall post all notices it receives
18 pursuant to Section 10723.8 on its Internet Web site within 15
19 days of receipt.

20 SEC. 15. Section 10735.2 of the Water Code is amended to
21 read:

22 10735.2. (a) The board, after notice and a public hearing, may
23 designate a high- or medium-priority basin as a probationary basin,
24 if the board finds one or more of the following applies to the basin:

25 (1) After June 30, 2017, none of the following have occurred:

26 (A) A local agency has decided to become a groundwater
27 sustainability agency that intends to develop a groundwater
28 sustainability plan for the entire basin.

29 (B) A collection of local agencies has formed a groundwater
30 sustainability agency or prepared agreements to develop one or
31 more groundwater sustainability plans that will collectively serve
32 as a groundwater sustainability plan for the entire basin.

33 (C) A local agency has submitted an alternative that has been
34 approved or is pending approval pursuant to Section 10733.6. If
35 the department disapproves an alternative pursuant to Section
36 10733.6, the board shall not act under this paragraph until at least
37 180 days after the department disapproved the alternative.

38 (2) The basin is subject to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of
39 Section 10720.7, and after January 31, 2020, none of the following
40 have occurred:

1 (A) A groundwater sustainability agency has adopted a
2 groundwater sustainability plan for the entire basin.

3 (B) A collection of local agencies has adopted groundwater
4 sustainability plans that collectively serve as a groundwater
5 sustainability plan for the entire basin.

6 (C) The department has approved an alternative pursuant to
7 Section 10733.6.

8 (3) The basin is subject to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of
9 Section 10720.7 and after January 31, 2020, the department, in
10 consultation with the board, determines that a groundwater
11 sustainability plan is inadequate or that the groundwater
12 sustainability program is not being implemented in a manner that
13 will likely achieve the sustainability goal.

14 (4) The basin is subject to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of
15 Section 10720.7, and after January 31, 2022, none of the following
16 have occurred:

17 (A) A groundwater sustainability agency has adopted a
18 groundwater sustainability plan for the entire basin.

19 (B) A collection of local agencies has adopted groundwater
20 sustainability plans that collectively serve as a groundwater
21 sustainability plan for the entire basin.

22 (C) The department has approved an alternative pursuant to
23 Section 10733.6.

24 (5) The basin is subject to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of
25 Section 10720.7, and either of the following have occurred:

26 (A) After January 31, 2022, both of the following have occurred:

27 (i) The department, in consultation with the board, determines
28 that a groundwater sustainability plan is inadequate or that the
29 groundwater sustainability plan is not being implemented in a
30 manner that will likely achieve the sustainability goal.

31 (ii) The board determines that the basin is in a condition of
32 long-term overdraft.

33 (B) After January 31, 2025, both of the following have occurred:

34 (i) The department, in consultation with the board, determines
35 that a groundwater sustainability plan is inadequate or that the
36 groundwater sustainability plan is not being implemented in a
37 manner that will likely achieve the sustainability goal.

38 (ii) The board determines that the basin is in a condition where
39 groundwater extractions result in significant depletions of
40 interconnected surface waters.

1 (b) In making the findings associated with paragraph (3) or (5)
2 of subdivision (a), the department and board may rely on periodic
3 assessments the department has prepared pursuant to Chapter 10
4 (commencing with Section 10733). The board may request that
5 the department conduct additional assessments utilizing the
6 regulations developed pursuant to Chapter 10 (commencing with
7 Section 10733) and make determinations pursuant to this section.
8 The board shall post on its Internet Web site and provide at least
9 30 days for the public to comment on any determinations provided
10 by the department pursuant to this subdivision.

11 (c) (1) The determination may exclude a class or category of
12 extractions from the requirement for reporting pursuant to Part 5.2
13 (commencing with Section 5200) of Division 2 if those extractions
14 are subject to a local plan or program that adequately manages
15 groundwater within the portion of the basin to which that plan or
16 program applies, or if those extractions are likely to have a minimal
17 impact on basin withdrawals.

18 (2) The determination may require reporting of a class or
19 category of extractions that would otherwise be exempt from
20 reporting pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section
21 5202 if those extractions are likely to have a substantial impact on
22 basin withdrawals or requiring reporting of those extractions is
23 reasonably necessary to obtain information for purposes of this
24 chapter.

25 (3) The determination may establish requirements for
26 information required to be included in reports of groundwater
27 extraction, for installation of measuring devices, or for use of a
28 methodology, measuring device, or both, pursuant to Part 5.2
29 (commencing with Section 5200) of Division 2.

30 (4) The determination may modify the water year or reporting
31 date for a report of groundwater extraction pursuant to Section
32 5202.

33 (d) If the board finds that litigation challenging the formation
34 of a groundwater sustainability agency prevented its formation
35 before July 1, 2017, pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a)
36 or prevented a groundwater sustainability program from being
37 implemented in a manner likely to achieve the sustainability goal
38 pursuant to paragraph (2), (3), (4), or (5) of subdivision (a), the
39 board shall not designate a basin as a probationary basin for a
40 period of time equal to the delay caused by the litigation.

1 (e) The board shall exclude from probationary status any portion
2 of a basin for which a groundwater sustainability agency
3 demonstrates compliance with the sustainability goal.

4 SEC. 16. Section 10735.4 of the Water Code is amended to
5 read:

6 10735.4. (a) If the board designates a basin as a probationary
7 basin pursuant to paragraph (1), (2), or (4) of subdivision (a) of
8 Section 10735.2, a local agency or groundwater sustainability
9 agency shall have 180 days to remedy the deficiency. The board
10 may appoint a mediator or other facilitator, after consultation with
11 affected local agencies, to assist in resolving disputes, and
12 identifying and implementing actions that will remedy the
13 deficiency.

14 (b) After the 180-day period provided by subdivision (a), the
15 board may provide additional time to remedy the deficiency if it
16 finds that a local agency is making substantial progress toward
17 remedying the deficiency.

18 (c) The board may develop an interim plan pursuant to Section
19 10735.8 for the probationary basin at the end of the period provided
20 by subdivision (a) or any extension provided pursuant to
21 subdivision (b), if the board, in consultation with the department,
22 determines that a local agency has not remedied the deficiency
23 that resulted in designating the basin as a probationary basin.

24 SEC. 17. Section 10735.6 of the Water Code is amended to
25 read:

26 10735.6. (a) If the board designates a basin as a probationary
27 basin pursuant to paragraph (3) or (5) of subdivision (a) of Section
28 10735.2, the board shall identify the specific deficiencies and
29 identify potential actions to address the deficiencies. The board
30 may request the department to provide local agencies, within 90
31 days of the designation of a probationary basin, with technical
32 recommendations to remedy the deficiencies.

33 (b) The board may develop an interim plan pursuant to Section
34 10735.8 for the probationary basin one year after the designation
35 of the basin pursuant to paragraph (3) or (5) of subdivision (a) of
36 Section 10735.2, if the board, in consultation with the department,
37 determines that a local agency has not remedied the deficiency
38 that resulted in designating the basin a probationary basin.

39 SEC. 18. Section 10933 of the Water Code is amended to read:

1 10933. (a) The department shall commence to identify the
2 extent of monitoring of groundwater elevations that is being
3 undertaken within each basin and subbasin.

4 (b) The department shall prioritize groundwater basins and
5 subbasins for the purpose of implementing this section. In
6 prioritizing the basins and subbasins, the department shall, to the
7 extent data are available, consider all of the following:

8 (1) The population overlying the basin or subbasin.

9 (2) The rate of current and projected growth of the population
10 overlying the basin or subbasin.

11 (3) The number of public supply wells that draw from the basin
12 or subbasin.

13 (4) The total number of wells that draw from the basin or
14 subbasin.

15 (5) The irrigated acreage overlying the basin or subbasin.

16 (6) The degree to which persons overlying the basin or subbasin
17 rely on groundwater as their primary source of water.

18 (7) Any documented impacts on the groundwater within the
19 basin or subbasin, including overdraft, subsidence, saline intrusion,
20 and other water quality degradation.

21 (8) Any other information determined to be relevant by the
22 department, including adverse impacts on local habitat and local
23 streamflows.

24 (c) If the department determines that all or part of a basin or
25 subbasin is not being monitored pursuant to this part, the
26 department shall do all of the following:

27 (1) Attempt to contact all well owners within the area not being
28 monitored.

29 (2) Determine if there is an interest in establishing any of the
30 following:

31 (A) A groundwater sustainability plan pursuant to Part 2.74
32 (commencing with Section 10720).

33 (B) A groundwater management plan pursuant to Part 2.75
34 (commencing with Section 10750).

35 (C) An integrated regional water management plan pursuant to
36 Part 2.2 (commencing with Section 10530) that includes a
37 groundwater management component that complies with the
38 requirements of Section 10753.7.

39 (D) A voluntary groundwater monitoring association pursuant
40 to Section 10935.

1 (d) If the department determines that there is sufficient interest
2 in establishing a plan or association described in paragraph (2) of
3 subdivision (c), or if the county agrees to perform the groundwater
4 monitoring functions in accordance with this part, the department
5 shall work cooperatively with the interested parties to comply with
6 the requirements of this part within two years.

7 (e) If the department determines, with regard to a basin or
8 subbasin, that there is insufficient interest in establishing a plan
9 or association described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c), and
10 if the county decides not to perform the groundwater monitoring
11 and reporting functions of this part, the department shall do all of
12 the following:

13 (1) Identify any existing monitoring wells that overlie the basin
14 or subbasin that are owned or operated by the department or any
15 other state or federal agency.

16 (2) Determine whether the monitoring wells identified pursuant
17 to paragraph (1) provide sufficient information to demonstrate
18 seasonal and long-term trends in groundwater elevations.

19 (3) If the department determines that the monitoring wells
20 identified pursuant to paragraph (1) provide sufficient information
21 to demonstrate seasonal and long-term trends in groundwater
22 elevations, the department shall not perform groundwater
23 monitoring functions pursuant to Section 10933.5.

24 (4) If the department determines that the monitoring wells
25 identified pursuant to paragraph (1) provide insufficient
26 information to demonstrate seasonal and long-term trends in
27 groundwater elevations, the department shall perform groundwater
28 monitoring functions pursuant to Section 10933.5.