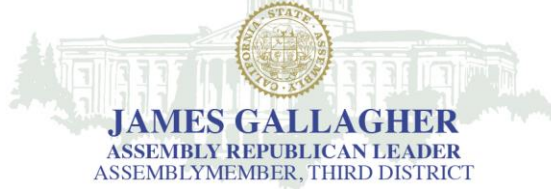


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# Assembly California Legislature



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September 13, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: RECOMMENDED VETO OF SB 1157 (HERTZBERG)**

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully request a veto of Senate Bill 1157, which passed the Assembly on 8/31/2022 by a vote of 45-21, without a single vote from the 19 members of the Assembly Republican Caucus.

SB 1157 reduces the residential indoor water use standards from 52.5 gallons per person/day (gpcd) to 47gpcd for years between 2025-2030, and from 50 gpcd to 42gpcd in 2030. It also requires the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to conduct studies on the economic benefits and impacts of the 2030 standard on water, wastewater, and recycled water systems.

**Impact on the Human Right to Water**

Since 2012, California has enshrined in its law that every person in the state has a right to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water. Californians we represent have continually contacted our offices to help alleviate the cost of the state's regulations on both people and businesses ranging from taxes, rising utility and gas rates, as well as inflation that our constituents struggle to pay every single day. The message our constituents have given us is clear- they are tired of paying more but receiving less. Signing this bill will raise costs and deliver less for the people of the state and, ultimately, undermine the right to affordable drinking water.

**Standards Not Grounded in Science**

As a Governor that prides himself on data and science, you should be concerned about the limitations of the report that the 2030 standard is based on. The final report that suggested 42gpcd as the 2030 standard is based on data gathered prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. As many companies are allowing full or partial remote work, many people are using more water at home instead of their offices or work sites.

Additionally, the final report put forward by DWR and the State Water Board failed to account for the costs of secondary impacts on recycled water and wastewater systems such as accelerated rate of corrosion of pipes, increased occurrences of sewer blockages and overflows, and worse wastewater influent quality. Both DWR and the State Water Board need to further evaluate the impact of additional new standards that takes into account a dynamic economy that embraces telework in addition to the secondary impacts low flows will have on existing infrastructure operations and maintenance.

**High Costs, Little Reward**

The cost to comply with the 2030 standard imposed by this bill is likely between \$2.8 and \$4.6 billion (California Water Efficiency Partnership) and will only save 354,000 acre feet of water in a given year. Comparatively, the proposed Sites Reservoir project would provide 1.5 million acre feet for a total cost of \$4 Billion—almost 4 times as much water. As Governor, we urge you to reject this measure to limit water use but rather encourage your administration to accelerate critical water storage projects that will improve California’s climate resilience and ability to provide water.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request that you veto Senate Bill 1157.

Sincerely,



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James Gallagher  
Assembly Republican Leader