

---

# SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER

Senator Henry Stern, Chair  
2021 - 2022 Regular

---

**Bill No:** SB 45 **Hearing Date:** March 16, 2021  
**Author:** Portantino  
**Version:** December 7, 2020  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** Yes  
**Consultant:** Dennis O'Connor

**Subject:** Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022

## BACKGROUND AND EXISTING LAW

Existing law:

- 1) Authorizes, pursuant to Section One of Article XVI of the California Constitution and the State General Obligation Bond Law, the issuance of general obligation bonds.
- 2) Authorizes the Legislature to place general obligation bonds on the ballot for specific purposes with a two-thirds vote of the Assembly and Senate.

## PROPOSED LAW

This bill would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022, which, subject to approval by the voters in the November 8, 2022 general election, would authorize the issuance of \$5.51 B in general obligation bonds to finance projects for wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection.

The bond act is organized as follows:

	Chapter 1. General Provisions
\$2,200 M	Chapter 2. Wildfire Prevention and Community Resilience from Climate Impacts
1,470	Chapter 3. Ensuring Safe Drinking Water and Protecting Water Supply and Water Quality from Climate Risks
620	Chapter 4. Protecting Fish and Wildlife from Climate Risks
190	Chapter 5. Protecting Agricultural Lands from Climate Risks
970	Chapter 6. Protecting Coastal Lands, Bays, and Oceans from Climate Risks
60	Chapter 7. Climate Resilience, Workforce Development, and Education
	Chapter 8. Fiscal Provisions
<hr/>	
\$5,510 M	

Chapter 1. General Provisions establishes overarching policies governing the bond act, including:

- Findings, such as the investment of public funds pursuant to this bond act will result in public benefits that will address the most critical statewide needs and priorities for public funding while saving local and state agencies billions of dollars.

- Priorities for funding, such as for projects that:
  - leverage private, federal, and local funding or produce the greatest public benefit;
  - reduce near-term risks of climate impacts while promoting long-term resilience;
  - incorporate natural and green infrastructure solutions;
  - avoid solutions that would likely worsen climate impacts; and
  - advance solutions to prevent displacement of low-income residents that could occur as an unintended consequence of a project that causes an increase in the cost of owning or renting property.
- Definitions, including defining “fire hardening,” “natural infrastructure,” “regional greenprint,” “resilience,” and “restoration.”
- Allowable expenditures, including:
  - No more than 5% for a grant program for administrative costs;
  - Up to 10% for each program for planning and monitoring;
  - At least 35% of the fund must be for projects that “provide meaningful and direct benefits to disadvantaged communities, vulnerable populations, or economically distressed areas;”
  - Up to 10% of each chapter for technical assistance and capacity building for disadvantaged communities and other vulnerable populations or groups, or more than 10% if the granting agency determines that there is a need for additional funding; and
  - Up to 5% of funding for each agency for community access projects.
  - Advanced payments of grants for projects serving disadvantaged and other vulnerable groups, as specified.
- Required findings for funding an expenditure; the funding agency must find that the expenditure will do one or more of the following:
  - Reduce the risk of wildfire, flood, sea level rise, drought, unhealthy exposure to heat or air pollution, or other danger that is associated with climate change;
  - Increase the resilience of a community of residents, workers, visitors, or a natural system to the risks of wildfire, flood, sea level rise, drought, unhealthy exposure to heat or pollution, or other danger that is associated climate change;
  - Help a community recover from the impacts of a wildfire, flood, drought, or other climate-related events, or help restore a natural system or public recreation area from the impacts of wildfire, flooding, drought, or other climate-related events;
  - Help a community develop a plan to support increasing the community’s resilience to the impacts of climate change, recovering from damage events associated with climate change, or helping train a workforce to improve resilience, response, or recovery from events associated with climate change; or
  - Improve the resilience of a community’s water supply or provide safe drinking water or clean water benefits in light of California’s changing climate.

Chapter 2. Wildfire Prevention and Community Resilience from Climate Impacts provides \$2.2 B to reduce the risk of wildfire threat to lives, properties, and natural habitats, as follows:

- \$175 M To the Office of Emergency Services (OES), in conjunction with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), for a pre-hazard mitigation grant program.
- 280 M To the Natural Resources Agency (NRA) and its constituent agencies for projects to reduce the risk of wildfire spreading into populated areas from wildlands and to improve forest health and fire resiliency.
- 75 M To CalFire to enhance California's fire prevention, fuel management, and fire response, as follows:
- \$7 M To improve water quality at CalFire facilities to enhance safe human use and consumption;
  - 20 M To upgrade existing infrastructure and for new CalFire facilities for suppression and fuel reduction crews;
  - 16 M To purchase Type 3 engines and related equipment to be used for fire suppression and fuel reduction;
  - 5 M To enhance CalFire's communications centers and mobile communications, including the capacity to provide culturally relevant and multilingual communication services;
  - 20 M For grants to assist local agencies for equipment for wildland firefighting, fire prevention, and fuel management; and
  - 7 M For a public or private conservancy to identify or describe the increasing scale of fires, fire risks, modernized vegetation management, efficacious building materials, and effective partnerships in preparing and responding to fires, and to develop methods to reduce exposure to and the impacts of hazardous and other materials that can impair the health and safety of first responders and community members from fires.
- 300 M To NRA to implement the Regional Fire and Forest Capacity Program to fund regional approaches to restoring watersheds, reducing the conditions that lead to catastrophic wildfire, and protecting natural resources throughout California.
- 225 M To NRA and its constituent agencies to protect, restore, and improve forests, to reduce risk of extreme wildfires, floods, and other climate impacts, and to improve water supply and water quality, carbon sequestration, community access, and other public benefits.

Of the \$225 M provided for these purposes:

- Not less than \$50 M must be allocated to the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program;
- Not less than \$50 M must be allocated to the Air Resources Board to incentivize new projects in California that convert forest and other vegetation waste removed for wildfire mitigation to beneficial uses that maximize reductions in the emissions of greenhouse gases and provide other specified benefits; and
- \$25 M must be allocated for the establishment of a Forest Carbon Monitoring Program.

- 50 M To the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to plan for and implement projects to reduce the risks of fire, flood, inundation, sea level rise, and other risks associated with climate change and protect and restore infrastructure and natural resources for units of the state park system.
- 460 M To the following conservancies for climate resilience, wildfire prevention, and natural resource protection, allocated as follows:
- \$10 M Baldwin Hills Conservancy
  - 40 M California Tahoe Conservancy
  - 20 M Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
  - 40 M Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
  - 85 M San Diego River Conservancy
  - 85 M San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
  - 10 M San Joaquin River Conservancy
  - 85 M Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
  - 85 M Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- 395 M To NRA and its constituent agencies to reduce climate impacts on disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations.

Of the \$395 M provided for these purposes, the following amounts would be made available for the following purposes:

- \$75 M Urban greening projects, including at least \$25 M to protect or augment California's urban forests;
  - 20 M Projects pursuant to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Act, including expansion of access corridors to encourage fewer greenhouse gas emissions, expansion of green spaces to reduce the urban heat island effect, and expansion of ecosystem-based water management projects; and
  - 20 M Projects pursuant to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Act, including expansion of access corridors to encourage fewer greenhouse gas emissions, expansion of green spaces to reduce the urban heat island effect, and expansion of ecosystem-based water management projects.
- 240 M To the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) to fund the development and implementation of regional and subregional climate metrics and strategies to improve the resilience of local communities and natural resources to the impacts of climate change and to help local communities and natural resources adapt to a changing climate. Strategies funded pursuant to this provision could also include components to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Of the \$240 M provided for these purposes, the following amounts would be made available for the following purposes:

- \$40 M For grants to develop or update general plans and zoning ordinances to facilitate timely investment in projects that address

flood and fire resilience, sea level rise, climate adaptation, and environmental justice objectives;

- 20 M To implement the regional climate collaborative program;
- 130 M To implement the Transformative Climate Communities Program for projects that address wildfire, flood, drought, heat, air pollution, and other climate risks and that improve the resilience of local communities; and
- 10 M For green alleyway projects that include, but are not limited to, impervious pavements, rain gardens, and other low-impact pavement materials.

Chapter 3. Ensuring Safe Drinking Water and Protecting Water Supply and Water Quality from Climate Risks provides \$1.47 B for the protection of California's water supply and water quality, as follows:

- \$190 M For grants to provide safe drinking water, protect drinking water sources, and promote public health.

Ten percent of the funds made available by this provision would be allocated for grants to provide outreach and technical assistance that directly benefits disadvantaged communities.

- 200 M To the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), or other entity designated by the Legislature for these purposes, for groundwater sustainability projects that provide wildlife habitat and support implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

- 130 M To the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for competitive grants for projects that develop and implement groundwater plans and projects in accordance with the groundwater planning requirements established under SGMA.

Preference would be given to plans that include projects that address water quality and quantity needs of disadvantaged communities.

At least 10 percent of the funds allocated under this provision would be allocated for grants that provide outreach and technical assistance that directly benefits disadvantaged communities.

- 250 M To NRA and its constituent agencies for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes, and streams to improve climate resilience, water supplies, water quality, and other benefits.

Of the \$250 M provided for these purposes, the following amounts would be made available for the following purposes:

- \$65 M For multibenefit river projects that protect and restore riparian habitats, improve climate resilience, enhance natural drainages, protect and restore watersheds, improve water supply resilience, improve instream flow, or provide public access;

- 165 M To NRA for outlay projects and operations that provide air quality and habitat benefits, including projects that implement the Natural Resources Agency's Salton Sea Management Program; and
- 20 M To the Salton Sea Authority for purposes consistent with the New River Water Quality, Public Health, and River Parkway Development Program.

240 M To NRA and its constituent agencies to protect and restore urban streams and river parkways to improve climate resilience, water supplies, water quality, and other benefits.

Of the \$240 M provided for these purposes, the following amounts would be made available for the following purposes:

- \$70 M For the Urban Streams Restoration Program and for river parkway projects that protect and restore riparian habitats, improve climate resilience, enhance natural drainages, protect and restore watersheds, and provide public access;
- 70 M For projects that improve the climate resiliency or protect the Los Angeles River watershed or are consistent with the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan; and
- 70 M For projects that improve the climate resiliency or protect the Los Angeles River watershed or are a part of the revitalization plan developed by the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group or the Los Angeles River Master Plan. Funds are to be split \$40 M for the upper LA River & tributaries and \$30 M for the lower LA River.

At least 40 percent of the funds provided by this provision would be required to benefit disadvantaged communities, vulnerable populations, or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

140 M To NRA and its constituent agencies for flood management projects that are components of multibenefit flood management system improvements that reduce risks to public safety and provide improvement to wildlife habitat.

Eligible project types include, but are not limited to, levee setbacks, connecting rivers with flood plains, enhancement of flood plains and bypasses, off-stream groundwater recharge, improved coordination and management of surface and groundwater supplies, and land acquisitions and easements necessary for these projects.

Of the \$140 M provided for these purposes, at least \$50 M would be required to be allocated for multibenefit flood management projects in urban coastal watersheds.

100 M To the water board for recycled water projects.

90 M To DWR for projects that improve water data collection, monitoring, and management through enhanced quality and availability of water data.

Of the \$90 M provide by this provision, up to \$80 M would be made available as matching grants to groundwater sustainability agencies for the purchase of monitoring equipment and construction of monitoring wells.

- 100 M To NRA for implementation of the settlement agreement to restore the San Joaquin River, allocated as follows:
  - \$50 M For restoration of capacity of the Friant-Kern Canal that was lost due to subsidence; and
  - 50 M To implement the restoration goal and funding to support the work of the Restoration Administrator and Technical Advisory Committee.
- 30 M To DWR for water infrastructure upgrades to increase climate resilience, improve wildlife and fish passage, and modernize water infrastructure.

Funds for feasibility studies of projects pursuant to this provision may exceed 10 percent of the funds allocated.

Chapter 4. Protecting Fish and Wildlife From Climate Risks provides \$620 M to protect and improve the resilience of California's fish and wildlife to climate change, as follows:

- \$600 M To WCB for the protection of California's fish and wildlife resources in response to changing climate conditions and the highly variable habitat needs of fish and wildlife, as well as for restoration and stewardship projects that restore or manage the land to improve its resilience to climate impacts and natural disasters.
- 20 M To DFW to improve the climate resilience of fish and wildlife habitat.

Chapter 5. Protecting Agricultural Lands from Climate Risks provides \$190 M for agricultural resiliency projects, as follows:

- \$100 M To the Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) to improve the climate resilience of agricultural lands and ecosystem health.

Of the \$11 M provided for these purposes, the following amounts would be made available for the following purposes:

- \$45M For grants to promote practices on farms and ranches that improve soil health, carbon sequestration, water quality, and enhanced groundwater recharge and surface water supplies, and provide fish and wildlife habitat;
- 45 M For grants for multibenefit projects that improve groundwater management, water quality, surface water use efficiency, drought and flood tolerance, on-farm water use efficiency, or water supply and water quality conditions for fish and wildlife.
- 10 M For deposit into the Invasive Species Account for the purposes of funding invasive species projects and activities recommended by the Invasive Species Council of California.

- 90 M To the DOC to protect and restore farmland and rangelands, including the acquisition of fee title or easements, that improve climate resilience and provide multiple benefits.

Chapter 6. Protecting Coastal Lands, Bays, and Oceans from Climate Risks provides \$970 M for the protection and restoration of coastal and ocean resources from the impacts of sea level rise, ocean acidification, and other impacts of climate change, as follows.

- \$100 M To the State Coastal Conservancy for projects that are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act, including, but not limited to, projects that address sea level rise, flood management, and wetland restoration.
- 700 M To the State Coastal Conservancy for projects it finds meets one or more of the funding requirements established in Chapter 1.

Of the \$700 M provided for these purposes, the following amounts would be made available for the following purposes:

- \$30 M To restore and protect coastal habitat, dunes, wetlands, uplands, estuary conditions, or forest habitat associated with estuarine and designated wildlife areas, including coastal conservation aquaculture for native California marine plants and wildlife in designated areas.
- 100 M For the restoration of coastal land for public uses on surplus land for formerly fossil-fueled powerplants.
- 50M For deposit into the California Ocean Protection Trust Fund for grants to increase resilience from the impacts of climate change.
- Priority would be given to projects that conserve, protect, and restore marine wildlife, healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems including, but not limited to, estuarine and kelp forest habitat, the state's system of marine protected areas, and sustainable fisheries.
- 10 M For projects identified by DFW to implement climate-ready fisheries management approaches that expand opportunities for experimentation and adaptive cooperative management, and to implement modernized electronic fisheries data management systems and increase the use of electronic technologies to improve fisheries management responses and resiliency under changing ocean conditions.
- 10 M For projects identified by DFW to support the management of kelp ecosystems.
- 100 M To the State Coastal Conservancy for grants to remove or upgrade outdated or obsolete dams and water infrastructure. Projects may also install infrastructure to increase climate resilience, enhance sediment supply, improve wildlife and fish passage, and modernize water infrastructure, including related planning, permitting, habitat restoration, and recreational improvements.



Funds for planning, monitoring, and implementation of projects pursuant to this provision may exceed 10 percent of the funds allocated if the State Coastal Conservancy determines there is a need for the additional funding.

Chapter 7. Climate Resilience, Workforce Development, and Education provides \$60 M “for climate resilience and natural disaster prevention and restoration projects and programs that promote workforce development, disaster volunteering and preparedness, education, and career pathway opportunities for careers in fire prevention and management, watershed and forest restoration, forestry, prescribed fire, forest and vegetation management, invasive plant management, park and open-space operations and management, fisheries management, nature-based recreation and tourism, sustainable forest products industries, sustainable agriculture, and disaster response and preparedness.”

Of the \$60 M provided in this chapter, the following amounts would be made available for the following purposes:

- \$30 M To the California Conservation Corps for purposes of this chapter, at least half of which would be made available as grants to certified local conservation corps;
- 5 M To the California Community Colleges for workforce development programs for prescribed fire treatments, forest and woodland restoration, fire hardening, defensible space management, and approved community defense techniques;
- 15 M To the University of California for a Fire Outreach and Extension Program that includes fire extension advisors located in selected counties; and
- 10 M To the California State Universities for fire education purposes.

Chapter 8. Fiscal Provisions establishes how the bonds are to be issued and the funds managed, including:

- All of the provisions of the State General Obligation Bond Law would apply to this Act and the associated bond, except:
  - The expenditure of bond funds would not limited to the costs of construction or acquisition of capital assets, as defined in the State General Obligation Bond Law.
  - The use of bond funds to make grants or loans would not limited to funding the costs of construction or acquisition of capital assets.
- Funds authorized by this act could be used for grants and loans to nonprofit organizations to repay financing related to projects that are consistent with the purpose of the relevant provisions of this Act.

### **ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT**

According to the author, “SB 45 will provide the necessary investment to help our state become more resilient to climate change. If passed by the voters, this bond will provide funding for concrete on-the-ground measures that will help reduce the severity, frequency, and impacts of climate-related disasters including fires, drought, flood and

mudslides. According to California's 4th Climate Assessment, the cost of climate change for California alone could be more than \$113 billion annually by 2050."

"The wildfire season is becoming longer and more intense each year due to hotter temperatures and wide scale tree death resulting from prolonged drought. In fact, between 2010-2017 an estimated 129 million trees died, leaving behind massive amounts of highly combustible fuel. This phenomenon has led to the worst fires on record. A record 4.2 million acres burned in 2020, and over the last four years, fires have killed 134 people, destroyed 44,000 structures, and polluted the air for millions. In California, frequent coastal flooding exacerbated by sea-level rise is expected to threaten nearly half a million people, \$100 billion in property, and 3500 miles of roads within the next 80 years. The number of hazardous sites, like wastewater plants, which are susceptible to 100-year flood events is expected to increase by nearly 2.5 times over a similar period, drastically increasing the risk of pollutant disasters if adaptation measures are not taken. Droughts are an expected feature of California's arid climate, but the four-year period between fall 2011 and fall 2015, which correlated with the hottest two years on record in 2014 and 2015, was the driest since record keeping began in 1895."

"SB 45 proposes a general obligation bond to inject much needed revenue to address these impacts. The measure proposes to fund projects to reduce fire risk and restore already damaged areas; restore and protect impacted wetlands, watersheds, waterways, coastal resources, and fish and wildlife populations; reduce impacts in local communities and on vulnerable populations; and improve the resiliency of the state's water supplies and agricultural lands."

**ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:** None received

## COMMENTS

Funding For Disadvantaged Communities. Numerous studies show that disadvantaged communities and other vulnerable populations will bear a disproportional impact of climate change. Part of that is because they lack the adaptive capacity to adequately keep up with the changes in the climate and part is because they are starting from significantly lower baseline conditions: It is hard to keep up with increasingly challenging water supply and quality conditions when you currently don't have access to ample safe and affordable water.

This bond measure addresses this challenge by providing:

- At least 35% of the fund must be for projects that "provide meaningful and direct benefits to disadvantaged communities, vulnerable populations, or economically distressed areas;"
- Up to 10% of each chapter may be for technical assistance and capacity building for disadvantaged communities and other vulnerable populations or groups, or more than 10% if the granting agency determine that there is a need for additional funding;

In addition, a number of programs are required to provide a preference for projects that address disadvantaged communities and other vulnerable populations.

Is The Bond The Right Size? (Part 1). The author noted above that this proposal is intended to help reduce the severity, frequency, and impacts of climate-related disasters, including fires, drought, flood, and mudslides.

There isn't a current and systematic evaluation of the likely cost to California's residents, agriculture, water supply, water quality, and the health of forests, watersheds, fish and wildlife, our biodiversity, and our economy associated with catastrophic wildfire, drought, floods, severe heat events, intense rain events, sea level rise, and other climate change related events. But, those costs are likely to be quite large.

As the author further noted, California's 4th Climate Assessment, released in August 2018, included a table suggesting that by 2050 the estimated costs of different climate impacts to the state will be in the neighborhood of \$113 B/yr. However, that table did not include cost estimates of a number of key impacts, such as costs associated with increased morbidity, loss of human life, property damage from wildfire, and ecological values.

Moreover, recent studies of those impacts that were estimated suggest that at least some of the costs likely were significantly underestimated. As we get a better understanding of climate change and its impacts, it seems likely that the costs estimates will increase.

This bill proposes a \$5.51 B bond to address these impacts. One might argue that amount is barely a down payment on just one year's expected costs per the 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment.

Is The Bond The Right Size? (Part 2). Numerous groups have written asking for an increase in the funding for programs already included in this measure or the inclusion of funding for additional programs.

Requests for additional funding include augmentations for the following:

- Workforce development opportunities,
- California conservation corps and certified local community conservation corps,
- DFW's program to improve the climate resilience of fish and wildlife habitat,
- Recycled water program,
- Wastewater infrastructure funding,
- Drinking water infrastructure funding,
- Transformative climate communities program,
- Community resilience centers, and
- Local parks and urban greening projects

Requests for funding for additional programs include:

- Conveyance improvements,
- Ecosystem restoration unrelated to adapting to climate change,
- Grants for groundwater storage projects & SGMA compliance,
- Improving dam safety,
- Conserving 30 percent of California's lands and waters by 2030 per Executive Order N-82-20,
- A desert conservation program,

- Projects that provide air quality, public health, and habitat benefits to the Salton Sea and surrounding communities,
- Taxonomy programs, seed banks and herbaria at the University of California and other accredited institutions,
- Repair of State Water Project and Central Valley Project infrastructure, and
- Weatherization and zero emission energy upgrades for all home types within disadvantaged communities.

Additionally, there are a number of bills that have been referred to this committee that might be funded from a bond focused on wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection.

Is The Bond The Right Size? (Part 3). Other considerations of a bond measure are the state's bonding capacity, the appropriateness of issuing bonds for specific programs, and the electorate's willingness to incur the debt. The Senate Governance & Finance Committee will likely address the question of the state's bonding capacity and the appropriateness of issuing bonds for specific programs. (See below).

Advanced Funding of Grants. In §80209, this bond measure would authorize, for grants for projects that serve disadvantaged communities and other vulnerable groups, the administering entity to provide advanced payments of 25% of the grant award to the recipient to initiate the project in a timely manner, and would be further authorized to maintain advance payments in increments of 25% of the award, as needed, throughout project implementation.

In recent years there have been a number of bills introduced that would have provided advanced payment of grants for various programs.

In 2018, this committee and the Senate Environmental Quality Committee heard AB 2060 (E. Garcia) and AB 2064 (Gloria). AB 2060 would have provided for advance payment of the SWRCB's Small Community Grant program; AB 2064 would have provided for advance payments of grants awarded through DWR's Integrated Regional Water Management Act.

Both committees recommended and the authors accepted extensive amendments to increase the financial and project management safeguards of both bills. (See e.g., this committee's analysis of AB 2064 for details on the need for the amendments.) With those amendments, both bills passed to the Governor's desk ... and Governor Brown vetoed both bills.

In his veto statement for AB 2060, the Governor wrote the bill was unnecessary, as "the State Water Board has established other means for grantees [to] address cash-flow problems." In his statement on AB 2064, the Governor wrote "Notwithstanding the merits of this bill, the additional financial risk and administrative costs associated with the advanced payment process, as proposed in this bill, are unwarranted."

In 2019, Asm. Rivas introduced AB 1252. That bill, among other things, would have authorized advance payments for environmental justice grants. In his veto statement on that bill, Governor Newsom wrote "state agencies have to ensure state monies are

appropriately spent by verifying the expense prior to disbursing the funds. The resources required to attempt to track down, verify or recover misspent grant dollars after they have been paid would divert staff time and resources away from administering the program and assisting other grant applicants.”

The provisions in §80209 may raise similar concerns.

Technical Amendments are necessary to correct some cross references and to clarify some of the provisions. Staff is working with the author’s office to draft these amendments, which will be taken in a later committee.

Virtually identical to last Session’s SB 45 (Allen) as it passed out of the Senate. That bill passed this committee 7-1, and the Senate floor 29-6. It was not referred to committee in the Assembly.

#### Other Related Bills:

AB 1500 (E Garcia) would, subject to approval by the voters in the November 8, 2022 general election, authorize a \$6.7 B general obligation bond to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs.

Double Referred to Governance & Finance Committee. Some of the issues the Governance & Finance Committee may opt to explore include the provisions in Chapter 8, the state’s bonding capacity, and other issues in their jurisdiction.

**SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS:** None at this time

#### **SUPPORT**

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments	Eastern Sierra Land Trust
Big Sur Land Trust	Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Bolsa Chica Land Trust	Friends of Desert Mountains
California Academy of Sciences	Guadalupe River Park Conservancy
California American Water	Helix Water District
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts	Irvine Ranch Water District
California Council of Land Trusts	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
California Invasive Plant Council	Mojave Desert Land Trust
California Municipal Utilities Association	Monterey County Board of Supervisors
California State Association of Counties	Monterey County Water Resources Agency
California Tahoe Alliance	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
California Trout	Napa Land Trust
California Urban Forests Council	North Coast Regional Land Trust
California Watershed Network	Northern California Water Association
California Young Democrats	Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
City of Escondido	Outdoor Alliance California
City of Sacramento	Peninsula Open Space Trust
City of San Diego	Placer County Water Agency
Conservation Fund, The	
County of Marin	

Planning and Conservation League  
Professional Engineers in California  
Government (PECG)  
Sacramento County  
Safe Agriculture Safe Schools  
San Diego County Water Authority  
San Dieguito Water District  
Santa Clara Valley Open Space  
Authority  
Santa Fe Irrigation District  
Sierra Business Council  
Smith River Alliance  
Sonoma Land Trust  
Sonoma Water  
Surfrider Foundation

Sweetwater Authority  
The Nature Conservancy  
Transition Habitat Conservancy  
Trout Unlimited  
Trout Unlimited  
Trust for Public Land  
Turlock Irrigation District  
Vallecitos Water District  
Valley Center Municipal Water District  
Valley Water Management Company  
Western Rivers Conservancy  
Wholly H2O  
Wildlands Conservancy  
Yuba Water Agency

Support if Amended:

Antelope Valley East Kern Water  
Agency  
Association of California Water  
Agencies (ACWA)  
California Association of Local  
Conservation Corps  
California Native Plant Society  
Central Coast Water Authority  
Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife  
(CLAW)  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Coastal Ranches Conservancy  
Community Nature Connection  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Escondido Creek Conservancy, the  
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks  
Hills for Everyone  
In Defense of Animals  
Kern County Water Agency  
Laguna Greenbelt INC.  
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County  
Madrone Audubon Society, Sonoma  
County  
Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public  
Access Foundation (MLTPA)

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space  
District  
Mojave Water Agency  
Napa County Flood Control and Water  
Conservation District  
Palmdale Water District  
Paula Lane Action Network, Sonoma  
County  
Placer Land Trust  
Resolute  
San Bernadino Valley Municipal Water  
District  
San Diego River Park Foundation  
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency  
Sc Wildlands  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
Solano County Water Agency  
Sonoma County Agricultural  
Preservation and Open Space  
District  
Southern California Water Coalition  
State Water Contractors, INC.  
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage  
District  
Watereuse Association  
Wildlands Network

**OPPOSITION**

None Received