

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: No fiscal impact****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:**

Ayes, 47; Nays, 10--Esquivel, Hayden, Huffman, McLane, Nearman, Parrish, Post, Weidner, Whisnant, Whitsett; Excused, 3

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 5/4, 5/11**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Deems any report submitted by task force required to review structure established for water development project loans and grants submitted prior to April 1, 2015 satisfied reporting requirement and retroactively extends repeal date and ratifies and affirms task force actions since original repeal date.

Deems any report submitted by task force acting as advisory body on functional needs of watersheds for seasonally varying flows submitted prior to January 31, 2015 satisfied reporting requirement and advances repeal date to January 1, 2016.

Extends to January 1, 2016, deadline for effective date of Water Resources Commission rule establishing methodology for determining seasonally varying flows in stream of interest. Makes seasonally varying flow requirements applicable for certain projects constructed under existing permit or limited license. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reasons why task force deadlines established by SB 839 (2013) were not met.
- Which projects are subject to seasonally varying flow requirements.
- Currently, cannot condition existing permits for seasonally varying flow requirements.
- Rules process for seasonally varying flow requirements.
- Importance of water shortage in a drier climate.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: In 2013, Senate Bill 839 established a task force to study the structure established for water development project loans and grants and set the repeal date as July 1, 2015. Additionally, the 2013 law established another task force to study functional needs of watersheds for seasonally varying flows and financial feasibility of new water storage projects with a set repeal date of February 2, 2016.

House Bill 2400A would deem certain reports submitted by task forces created by SB 839 (2013) as satisfying reporting requirements and retroactively extends repeal dates and ratifies and affirms task force actions since original repeal date. The bill would also extend the deadline for a Water Resources Commission rule establishing methodology for determining seasonally varying flows in streams and make seasonally varying flow requirements applicable for certain projects constructed under an existing permit or limited license.

5/11/2015 9:59:00 AM *

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

Committee Services Form – 2015 Regular Session