The Legislature & California Water

Alf W. Brandt, Senior Counsel
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
THE LIFE CYCLE OF LEGISLATION

From Idea into Law

THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

ASSEMBLY RULES COMMITTEE

Although the procedure can become complicated, this chart shows the essential steps for passage of a bill. Typical committee actions are used to simplify charting the course of legislation.

Some bills require hearings by more than one committee, in which case a bill may be referred to another committee. For example, bills with monetary implications must be re-referred to the proper fiscal committee in each house before they are sent to the second reading and final action.

A bill may be amended at various times as it moves through the houses. The bill must be reprinted each time an amendment is adopted by either house. All bill actions are printed in the DAILY FILES, JOURNALS and HISTORIES.

If a bill is amended in the opposite House, it is returned to the House of Origin for concurrence in amendments. If House of Origin does not concur, a conference committee report must then be adopted by each House before the bill can be sent to the Governor.

If the Governor receives a bill signed by the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly, he will sign the same day. If the Governor does not sign a bill, it becomes law without his signature.

If the Governor does not sign a bill within 10 days, the Governor has overridden the amendment. The bill is then returned with the Governor's veto message, and the bill becomes a law upon receipt of the Governor's veto.
2007 Flood Bill Package

- February 24, 2006: State of Emergency for Levees Declared by Gov. Schwarzenegger
The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
Heart of California’s Water System

- 1315 Square Miles
- 500,000+ Residents
- Estuary Ecosystem
- Islands & Sloughs
- Agriculture – Rich Soil
- Freshwater Stream – or – Tidal Wetland
- Drainage System
The Delta Fisheries Crisis

- Delta smelt
- Threadfin shad
- Longfin smelt
- Striped bass
Zooplankton Trends

*Pseudodiaptomus forbesi* - good zooplankton
Total Delta Exports
Drinking Water & Nitrates

- Nitrate Contamination
- Central Valley/Salinas
- Challenges – Stop, Cleanup, Alternative
- Sources
  - Agriculture
  - Wastewater
  - Septic Systems
Groundwater Aquifers: Rights & Management

- Shared Rights & Responsibilities
- Last State Without Management System
- Fallback Resource During Drought
- Recent Depletion Shocked Leaders
Stormwater Management

Water Quality Problem to Water Resource
Access to Safe Drinking Water

Emergency Response Solutions
Human Right to Water

- United Nations Treaty
- Rural, Small Communities
- State Legislation
  - 2009 – Vetoed
  - 2012 – The Law
- Domestic Use Preference
- Implementation?
Legislative Issues – 2017

- After the Drought:
  - Urban Water Use Standards
  - Water Storage – Groundwater & Surface Water
  - Central Valley Flood Management

- Stormwater – Governance and Finance

- Safe Drinking Water

- Colorado River/Salton Sea

- The Delta – CA Water Fix
Questions?

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