

Groundwater Management Legislation, AB3030, SB1938, SBx7-6, AB 359

Several new and existing laws create a framework for improving the outlook for groundwater. The Groundwater Management Act (AB 3030), which took effect in 1993, permitted certain local agencies to develop groundwater management plans. Acting as water replenishment districts, those agencies can exercise greater management control over groundwater resources. Amendments to the state's Water Code in 2002 created more incentive for agencies to complete those documents, commonly known as AB 3030 plans. SB 1938 requires agencies to prepare and implement groundwater management plans to remain eligible for funding administered by the Department of Water Resources for groundwater or groundwater quality projects.

In 2009, the passage of SB X7-6 established a program tracking seasonal and long-range groundwater elevation trends in hundreds of California basins. Local monitoring agencies and the Department of Water Resources collaborate to collect and disseminate this data, which is publicly available through the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) database. Finally, AB 359 requires local agencies to identify recharge areas in groundwater management plans in order to seek state funding for groundwater projects. The groundwater recharge maps also must be given to local land-use planning agencies as a tool in decision-making. However, the 2011 statute does not specify how the mapping should be completed or the type of information provided to planning agencies.

Links

[AB3030 http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/gwmanagement/ab_3030.cfm](http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/gwmanagement/ab_3030.cfm)

[SB1938 http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/gwmanagement/sb_1938.cfm](http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/gwmanagement/sb_1938.cfm)

[SBX7-6 http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem/](http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem/)

[AB359](#)