

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
LOIS WOLK

THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



## Senate Bill 848

### The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality & Water Supply Act

*By Senator Lois Wolk*

*Coauthored by Senators De Leon, DeSaulnier, Hancock, Hueso, Pavley, Steinberg  
and Assembly Members Bonilla and Frazier*

#### **Summary**

SB 848, The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality & Water Supply Act, provides funding for projects that provide drought relief, safe drinking water, and water use efficiency in order to increase the sustainability of California's water systems.

#### **Background**

California faces critical water challenges in the next decade. Our state is now facing its third year of drought conditions. Legal battles and controversial projects have slowed the response to the ecosystem crisis in the Delta. Small communities throughout the Central Valley lack access to safe drinking water. Climate change is stressing water supplies throughout California. And last year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimated that California's water infrastructure needs totaled \$44.5 billion to ensure a safe and adequate supply of drinking water.

Funding to meet these water challenges is dwindling. Yet, controversy over the water bond currently on the November 2014 ballot is likely to make the measure unpopular with California's voters.

#### **This Bill**

Provides \$10.5 billion in funding for projects that will address California's critical needs, including:

- Urgent drinking water treatment for communities that do not currently have access to safe water;
- Critically needed groundwater treatment projects;
- Wastewater treatment to protect California's rivers, streams and beaches;
- Community supported habitat restoration in the Delta;
- Delta levee stability funding to reduce the risk of levee failure due to flood, earthquake and sea-level rise;
- Regional water supply development, including water recycling, groundwater clean-up, and agricultural; and urban water conservation;
- Additional surface and groundwater storage;
- Stormwater reuse and capture; and
- Watershed restoration throughout California.

SB 848 provides funding for competitive projects while avoiding specific project earmarks.

#### **Staff Contact**

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