



California State Senator, Fifth District

Lois Wolk

News

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Delta protection bill sent to Governor's desk

Governor has 12 days to sign measure to reduce pressure on overburdened Delta

SACRAMENTO—Legislation to reduce pressure on the Delta's overburdened water system moves to the Governor's desk today, after being approved by both the State Assembly and Senate.

"My legislation works to avoid waste and make the best use of our state's limited water resources," Wolk said of her Senate Bill 1173, which aims to reduce the state's reliance on water shipped from the Delta by increasing use of recycled water throughout the state.

SB 1173 would require the use of existing recycled water supplies for industrial and landscape purposes in instances when it is an appropriate and cost effective alternative to raw water that could easily be treated for drinking.

"Water recycling reduces dependence on other limited water supplies. It's a necessity, not a luxury," said Thomas Love, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, which has prioritized maximizing use of recycled water to conserve its regional water supplies and reduce dependency on water imported from the Delta.

Other supporters of the measure include the Planning and Conservation League and California Water Association.

"By expanding the definition of the type of water that recycled water can replace, SB 1173 increases the opportunity to require the use of recycled water," Love said.

By 2030, according to the state's water plan, recycled water could provide nearly 1.5 million acre feet of new water for California on an annual basis--enough water for 3 million California families.

"The state water board has concluded that the state is using roughly twice the amount of water from the Delta than is sustainable," Wolk said. "If we're going to provide for the needs of the state's growing population while reducing pressure on fragile water systems like the Delta, we need to maximize our use of recycled water."

The Governor has 12 days to sign a bill once it reaches his desk.

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