

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 4, 2016
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 8, 2016
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1585

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo
(Principal coauthor: Senator Cannella)
(Coauthor: Senator Monning)

January 6, 2016

An act relating to water resources, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1585, as amended, Alejo. Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio.

Existing law establishes the Monterey County Water Resources Agency as a flood control and water agency within the County of Monterey. Existing law authorizes the agency to award a design-build contract for the combined design and construction of a project to connect Lake San Antonio, located in the County of Monterey, and Lake Nacimiento, located in the County of San Luis Obispo, with an underground tunnel or pipeline for the purpose of maximizing water storage, supply, and groundwater recharge.

This bill would appropriate \$25,000,000 from an unspecified source to the agency for the purpose of constructing a water conveyance tunnel between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio and spillway modifications at Lake San Antonio, as specified.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:
- 2 (a) Over the past four years, California has grappled with one
- 3 of the worst ongoing droughts in the state’s history.
- 4 (b) The state is riddled with water supply and water quality
- 5 challenges posed by the relentless drought and is now facing
- 6 weather forecasts of one of the most powerful El Niño storms ever
- 7 recorded.
- 8 (c) A major flood event in California has the potential to
- 9 devastate communities and regional agriculture-based economies
- 10 and seriously impact the state’s economy.
- 11 (d) In Monterey County alone, agriculture generates eight billion
- 12 one hundred twenty million dollars (\$8,120,000,000) into the local
- 13 economy and supports more than ~~76,000~~ 53,500 jobs. An additional
- 14 20,352 jobs are created as ~~a direct~~ *an indirect* result of the industry.
- 15 (e) The Monterey County Water Resources Agency manages
- 16 Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio, two reservoirs that supply
- 17 water for consumption and groundwater recharge and provide
- 18 ~~flood control, management, prevention of salt water~~ *saltwater*
- 19 intrusion, and recreation in the Salinas Valley.
- 20 (f) Lake Nacimiento’s watershed fills its reservoir nearly three
- 21 times faster than Lake San Antonio’s watershed fills its reservoir,
- 22 often causing water in Lake Nacimiento to exceed *safe* capacity
- 23 and overflow from the spillway ~~to the ocean, into the Salinas River,~~
- 24 even when Lake San Antonio still has available storage capacity.
- 25 (g) The Monterey County Water Resources Agency is planning
- 26 ~~to correct these wasteful and potentially harmful consequences by~~
- 27 ~~constructing both of the following:~~ *improve this situation and*
- 28 *maximize the water supply availability and flood control benefits*
- 29 *for Zone 2C by doing both of the following:*

1 (1) ~~A~~By constructing a tunnel or pipeline between Lake
2 Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio that has the potential to reduce
3 water overflow events by 60 percent.

4 (2) ~~Spillway~~By constructing *spillway* modifications at Lake
5 San Antonio to *manage flood control and* increase storage by
6 approximately 60,000 ~~acre-feet~~. *acre-feet*.

7 (h) These two projects will mitigate the impact of the drought
8 and improve the economic viability of the Salinas Valley, the
9 environmental sustainability of the region, and agricultural
10 production.

11 (i) The Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio region scores
12 40 percent to 50 percent as a disadvantaged community under
13 CalEnviroScreen.

14 (j) Given the Salinas Valley’s economic contribution to the
15 state’s agricultural economy and the stress the El Niño storms will
16 put on the region, the Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio
17 areas are considered distressed communities and therefore are a
18 priority for state funding.

19 SEC. 2. Twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) from ____
20 is hereby appropriated to the Monterey County Water Resources
21 Agency for the purpose of constructing, in accordance with the
22 design-build process authorized by Section 11.1 of the Monterey
23 County Water Resources Agency Act (Chapter 1159 of the Statutes
24 of 1990, as amended by Chapter 865 of the Statutes of 2014), both
25 of the following in order to maximize water storage, water supply,
26 *flood management*, and groundwater recharge at the lakes, within
27 the Salinas River groundwater basin, and the Salinas Valley:

28 (a) A water conveyance tunnel between Lake Nacimiento and
29 Lake San Antonio ~~within zone 2e~~. *Antonio*.

30 (b) ~~Spillway~~ modifications at Lake San Antonio to increase
31 storage by approximately 60,000 ~~acre-feet~~. *acre-feet*.

32 SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law
33 is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable
34 within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California
35 Constitution because of the emergency circumstances of the
36 ongoing drought and the benefits these projects involving Lake
37 Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio ~~Antonio~~, managed by the
38 Monterey County Water Resources ~~Agency~~ *Agency*, will provide
39 to the region.

1 SEC. 4. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
2 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within
3 the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into
4 immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

5 In order to responsibly store water during California's prolonged
6 drought, to protect the Salinas Valley from flooding, and to protect
7 water supply, water quality, distressed communities, and urban
8 and rural property and structures during a historic El Niño weather
9 pattern, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.