

## 2015-2016 AB-1585 Alejo (A)

99 - Introduced 1/6/16

### **AS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED**

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The Legislature finds and declares as follows:

(a) Over the past four years, California has grappled with one of the worst ongoing droughts in the state's history.

**(b) The state is riddled with water supply and water quality challenges posed by the relentless drought and is now facing weather forecasts of one of the most powerful El Niño storms ever recorded.**

**(c) A major flood event in California has the potential to devastate communities, regional agriculture-based economies, and seriously impact the state's economy.**

**(d) In Monterey County alone, agriculture generates eight billion one hundred twenty million dollars (\$8,120,000,000) into the local economy and supports more than 76,000 jobs. An additional 20,352 jobs are created as a direct result of the industry.**

**(be) The Monterey County Water Resources Agency manages Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio, two reservoirs that provide supply water supply for consumption and groundwater recharge, flood control, prevention of salt water intrusion and recreation in the Salinas Valley.**

**(ef) Lake Nacimiento's watershed fills its the Lake Nacimiento reservoir nearly three times faster than Lake San Antonio's watershed fills that its reservoir. The Monterey County Water Resources Agency often causing water in Lake Nacimiento to exceed capacity and overflow from the releases water from Lake Nacimiento spillway to the ocean because it reaches its capacity, even when Lake San Antonio still has excess storage available storage capacity.**

**(dg) The Monterey County Water Resources Agency is planning to correct these wasteful and potentially harmful consequences as follows: (1) build construct a tunnel or pipeline between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio that has the potential to reduce water overflow events by 60%, and (2) construct spillway modifications at Lake San Antonio to increase storage by approximately 60,000 acre feet. to redirect water from Lake Nacimiento that would otherwise be released out to sea and use it to fill excess capacity in Lake San Antonio.**

**(eh) These interlake tunnel two projects will mitigate the impact of the drought and improve the economic viability of the Salinas Valley, the environmental sustainability of the region, and agricultural production.**

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

~~(g) The state is riddled with water supply and water quality challenges posed by the relentless drought and is now facing weather forecasts of one of the most powerful El Niño storms ever recorded.~~

~~(h) A major flood event in California has the potential to devastate communities, regional agriculture-based economies, and seriously impact the state's economy.~~

~~(i) In Monterey County alone, agriculture generates eight billion one hundred twenty million dollars (\$8,120,000,000) into the local economy and supports more than 76,000 jobs. An additional 20,352 jobs are created as a direct result of the prosperous industry. Flooding of our agricultural lands could put all of that into jeopardy.~~

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

**SEC. 2. Upon appropriation by the Legislature,** no less than twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) from \_\_\_\_ shall be allocated to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency for the purpose of constructing, **in accordance with the design-build process authorized by Section 11.1 of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Act (Chapter 1159 of the Statutes of 1990, as amended by Chapter 865 of the Statutes of 2014), a project including both: (1) a water conveyance tunnel, in accordance with the design-build process authorized by Section 11.1 of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Act (Chapter 1159 of the Statutes of 1990, as amended by Chapter 865 of the Statutes of 2014), between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio within zone 2c, and (2) spillway modifications at Lake San Antonio to increase storage by approximately 60,000 acre feet in order** to maximize water storage, water supply, and groundwater recharge at the lakes, within the Salinas River groundwater basin, and the Salinas Valley.

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

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

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