

# **SB 193: MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY: LAKE NACIMIENTO AND LAKE SAN ANTONIO: WHITE BASS.**

*Senator Anthony Cannella*

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## **IN BRIEF**

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The Salinas Valley (Valley) in Monterey County is home to an agricultural industry that contributes approximately \$9 billion to the State's economy. The water supply for the Valley comes from the Salinas River and the associated groundwater basin. The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) has built two reservoirs, Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio, to facilitate water storage, flood management, and environmental water needs for the Valley. These reservoirs are in very close proximity to each other, and a new project, the Interlake Tunnel and Spillway Modification Project (Project) would build a two-mile underground tunnel connecting both reservoirs to increase water storage and reduce flood spill events from Lake Nacimiento.

SB 193 would modify the Agency Act to allow the incidental passage of white bass from Lake Nacimiento to Lake San Antonio through the (when-constructed) Interlake Tunnel.

This bill is sponsored by the County of Monterey Water Resources Agency.

## **THE ISSUE**

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White Bass were planted in Lake Nacimiento in the late 1960's by the then California Department of Fish and Game (now Fish and Wildlife). Current law does not allow the transfer of live white bass from Lake Nacimiento to any other water body but it is unclear if this law applies to the incidental transfer of white bass through a capital facility or project.

## **EXISTING LAW**

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Current State Legislation (Title 14, Division 1, Subdivision 1, Chp. 2, Article 4, Section 5.90) as well as Fish and Game Code (Division 6, Part 1, Chp 5, Article 1, Section 6400.5) prohibits the transfer of live white bass from Lake Nacimiento. These regulations seem to be directed at the transporting of fish by humans, not the transfer of white bass through a capital facility or project.

## **THE SOLUTION**

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Construction of the Project will reduce flood events at Lake Nacimiento, thus reducing the opportunities for white bass to escape (via the spillway or high-level gates) into the Nacimiento River.

SB 193 would allow for a modification of the current Agency Act to allow for the incidental passage of live white bass from Lake Nacimiento to Lake San Antonio.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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Bill text and status can be found at:  
[www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov)