

Overdrafted Basins (SB 252)

Senate Bill 252, authored by Senator Bill Dodd (D-Davis), would require a new level of review and public notice when a city or county issues well permits in critically over-drafted groundwater basins. This measure is a “scaled-back” version of last year’s SB 1317, authored by Senator Lois Wolk (D-Davis) which failed passage in the Assembly. SB 1317 would have required a city or county overlying a basin designated as a high or medium priority basin to establish a process for the issuance of conditional use permits for the development of a groundwater extraction facility in order to prevent that facility from contributing to or creating an undesirable result.

RCRC has joined other interested stakeholders to work with Senator Dodd to address concerns including that SB 252 could divert valuable resources, particularly in small and rural counties, away from the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

In 2014, landmark water legislation establishing the SGMA was signed into law, and provided a framework for local agencies to develop plans and implement strategies to sustainably manage groundwater resources within a defined period

SB 252 is currently awaiting action in the Senate Governance and Finance Committee.