



Senate Bill 615

Senator Tom Berryhill

What the bill does

- Makes findings regarding the importance of managed wetlands as a public trust resource
- Establishes a presumption that managed wetlands do not pose a significant threat to water quality
- Requires the waiver of reporting and monitoring requirements
 - Except that monitoring may be required once during each waiver period
- Limits monitoring to contaminants that are actually applied by wetlands managers or are naturally present

Intent of the bill

- SB 615 is intended to provide a legislative vehicle to resolve the issues being examined by the CV Regional Board workgroup
- The bill is not intended to be hostile to the Regional Board
- The bill is intended to allow appropriate regulatory avoidance of nonpoint pollution with the minimum practicable regulatory cost and burden to wetlands managers

Status of SB 615

- SB 615 is referred to the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
 - EQ hearing on April 29
 - NR&W hearing in January 2016
- Two year bill; work in progress

Suggested Amendment

- One amendment that has been suggested is to make the waiver optional
- Wetlands managers would have discretion to continue to participate in agricultural water quality coalitions
- Other amendments may also be taken

Alternative concept

- An alternative concept would be to adopt the model of the Reduced Monitoring/Management Practices Verification Option
- Sacramento River Watershed MRP Order No. R5-2014-0030

California Waterfowl

- Restores and manages wetlands habitat for migratory ducks and geese
- Members are hunters and private wetlands owners and managers
- Advocate for refuges and wildlife areas, as well as private duck clubs

Thank you

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