

The Water Supply Reliability and Drought Protection Act of 2016

Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities and Economically Distressed Areas

The Water Supply Reliability and Drought Protection Act of 2016 is a water bond which will provide significant new water supplies for urban, agricultural and environmental purposes.

The bond also provides extensive benefits to disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas. In general, the bond establishes program specifically for disadvantaged communities, and also waives matching fund requirements in other water supply and water quality programs for these communities. (The section numbers are the bond act section numbers.)

Definitions The bond adopts the definition of disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas from Proposition 1 (2014). *Sections 86002(d) and (e).*

Stormwater (Chapter 5)

This section provides grants to capture, treat, and make use of stormwater which would otherwise not be used, or which would pollute water sources.

Matching funds are required from grant applicants, but this requirement is waived for that portion of projects primarily benefiting disadvantaged communities or economically distressed areas (*86054a*).

In addition, each agency receiving funds shall allocate at least thirty-five percent (35%) of the funds they receive for projects that benefit disadvantaged communities. Of this thirty-five percent, at least half shall be for projects within disadvantaged communities (*86054e*)

Wastewater recycling (Chapter 6)

Matching funds requirements may be reduced or waived for disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas (*86064*).

Priority is given to Water supply or water quality improvements benefitting disadvantaged communities (*86066f*).

Desalting of brackish groundwater (Chapter 6)

Technical assistance and grant writing assistance related to specific projects for disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas are eligible for funding (*86062d*).

Matching funds requirements may be reduced or waived for disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas (*86064*).

Priority is given to Water supply or water quality improvements benefitting disadvantaged communities (86066f).

Water Conservation (Chapter 7)

In the turf replacement program, the Department of Water Resources is directed to give greater incentives to low-income homeowners who could not otherwise afford to participate in the landscape water conversion program (86070a1)

In the leak detection program, matching fund requirements may be waived for disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas. (86070b2).

River Parkway program (Chapter 8)

This program restores rivers primarily in urban areas, providing recreation and habitat improvement. At least 75% of this \$340 million program will be spent in disadvantaged communities (86080h).

Urban Streams (Chapter 8)

This program restores urban streams, providing recreation and habitat improvement. At least 75% of the \$50 million program shall be spent to benefit disadvantaged communities.

Watershed restoration and improvement program (Chapter 8)

Agencies receiving funds in this program shall give high priority to grants that benefit disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas. (86083)

Land and water management (Chapter 9)

This program improves water supply by removing invasive water using plants, and restoring land. The Wildlife Conservation Board shall give high priority to projects which benefit disadvantaged and economically distressed communities (86094).

Central Valley Flood Management (Chapter 10)

This program seeks to reduce flood risk in the Central Valley. The Central Valley Flood Protection Board shall give preference to those projects that primarily benefit disadvantaged communities or economically distressed areas (86100c).

Repair of flood control dams. (Chapter 10)

This program provides funding to repair flood control dams, so that they can store water during flood periods and then allow the water to be recharged to underground basins afterwards. Ten

percent of the funds must be used to create and improve recreational facilities and habitat associated with the flood control projects.

First priority shall be given to projects which benefit disadvantaged communities *(86101f)*.

Groundwater (Chapter 11)

This program provides funding to better manage groundwater and to reduce the impact of groundwater overdraft.

While matching funds are required for grants, this requirement can be waived for projects directly benefitting disadvantaged communities or economically distressed areas. *(86112d)*

Conservation Corps (Chapter 14)

This \$30 million program provides water oriented conservation opportunities for disadvantaged youth who work for the California Conservation Corps or local conservation corps.

Safe Drinking Water (Chapter 15)

This \$200 million program provides funding for disadvantaged communities who need improvements in their drinking water or sanitation systems.

General provisions (Chapter 16)

Any agency providing funds to disadvantaged or economically distressed areas may provide funding to assist these communities in applying for that funding, including technical and grant writing assistance for specific projects. These funds may be provided to nonprofit organizations assisting these communities. *(86151)*

In the appropriation and expenditure of funding authorized by this division, priority will be given to projects that leverage private, federal, or local funding or produce the greatest public benefit. All agencies receiving funds pursuant to this division shall seek to leverage the funds to the greatest extent possible, but agencies may take into account the limited ability to cost share by small public agencies, and by agencies seeking to benefit disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas. *(86163b)*.

Each state agency that receives an appropriation of funding made available by this division shall be responsible for establishing and reporting on the state's bond accountability website each of the following: metrics of success, metrics for benefitting disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas, progress in meeting those metrics, status of projects funded under this division, and all uses of the funding the state agency receives under this division. *(86168)*.

Section 6: Use of AB 32 funds by the state and Metropolitan Water District

This program requires the Department of Water Resources and the Metropolitan Water District to use funds they have to spend under the state's climate change program (AB 32) on energy and water

efficiency programs

Of the consumer water conservation programs authorized by subdivisions (b) and (c), highest priority shall be given to those benefitting disadvantaged communities (as defined subdivision (a) of Section 79505.5, as it may be amended) and economically distressed areas (as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 79702, as it may be amended). (*11680d*)

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