

The Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018

Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities and Economically Distressed Areas

The Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018 is a water bond initiative which will provide significant new water supplies for urban, agricultural and environmental purposes. It will appear on the November, 2018 statewide California ballot.

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.)

The bond act dedicates \$1.4 billion dollars to benefit these communities, and gives high priority and cost sharing waivers to an additional \$2.6 billion of programs.

This is not a complete list of benefits to disadvantaged communities in the water bond. For each reference, search “disadvantaged” in the bond text.

Definitions The bond adopts the definition of disadvantaged communities, economically distressed areas and severely disadvantaged communities from Proposition 1 (2014). *Sections 86002(f), (g) and (s).*

Safe Drinking Water (Chapter 5.1)

This \$750 million program provides funding for disadvantaged communities who need improvements in their drinking water or sanitation systems. \$500 million goes to Safe Drinking Water and \$250 million goes to improved wastewater treatment systems for these communities. Technical assistance is included.

Wastewater recycling (Chapter 5.2)

Matching funds requirements may be reduced or waived for disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas (86022).

Priority is given to Water supply or water quality improvements benefitting disadvantaged communities (86022f).

Desalting of brackish groundwater (Chapter 5.2)

Technical assistance and grant writing assistance related to specific projects for disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas are eligible for funding (86021d).

Matching funds requirements may be reduced or waived for disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas (86022).

Priority is given to Water supply or water quality improvements benefitting disadvantaged communities (86023f).

Water Conservation (Chapter 5.3)

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 (86030a1)

In the leak detection program, matching fund requirements may be waived for disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas. (86030b2).

In the toilet replacement, water meter and energy conservation programs, highest priority is given to grants benefitting disadvantaged communities (86030(c), (d), and (e))

Central Valley Flood Management (Chapter 5.4)

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 (86040).

Repair of flood control dams. (Section 86041)

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 (86041(f)).

Stormwater (Chapter 5.6)

This section provides grants to capture, treat, and make use of stormwater which would otherwise not be used, or which would pollute water sources. All the funds allocated to the State Water Resources Control Board must go to benefit disadvantaged communities (86050)

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 (86051a).

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 (860501e)

Watershed improvement program

Baldwin Hills Conservancy (Section 86080(d)(4). \$30,000,000. Much of the Baldwin Hills in Los Angeles County contains disadvantaged communities.

San Joaquin River Conservancy (Section 86080(g)(2). (\$20,000,000) The San Joaquin River near Fresno runs through disadvantaged communities.

River Parkway program (Section 86080(h)(1)). \$70,000,000.

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. Several of the rivers listed in this section flow through disadvantaged communities.

Los Angeles River. Section 86080(i). \$150 million. Most of the programs undertaken along this long river corridor are designed to benefit disadvantaged communities.

Salton Sea. Section 86080(o). \$200 million. Most of the communities bordering the Salton Sea and disadvantaged communities, and are greatly affected by declining sea levels through blowing dust and loss of fishing and other recreational opportunities. \$20,000,000 is allocated to improving the New River, which flows through disadvantaged communities. \$1,000,000 is allocated to outreach to disadvantaged communities in developing the Salton sea Integrated Watershed Plan.

Urban Streams (Section 86080(q)). \$50,000,000. 65% of the program funds must benefit disadvantaged communities, and high priority is given to poor communities for the rest of the funds.

Non-motorized river recreation. (Section 86080(t)). \$20,000,000. First priority given to projects serving disadvantaged communities, regardless of cost sharing.

Pacific Flyway Center. (Section 86080(u). \$20,000,000. High priority to bringing students from disadvantaged communities to this center to teach people about the value of wetlands.

Matilija Dam and Ventura River Parkway. (Section 86080(v)). Removal of Matilija Dam and improvement of Ventura River Parkway, with highest priority to parkway projects benefitting disadvantaged communities.

Wildfire hazard reduction to benefit watersheds. \$100,000,000. (Section 86080(x)). A great many rural, disadvantaged, and economically distressed communities are threatened by hazardous trees, wildfire, and loss of watershed values due to the drought, which killed hundreds of millions of trees. These funds will go to mitigating these dangers. Cost sharing may be reduced or eliminated in the case of disadvantaged communities.

General to Section 86080 (Watershed). 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 6.2)

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 (86094b). Ten percent of the funds must go to projects benefitting disadvantaged communities (86099c).

Conservation Corps. Chapter 6.3. \$40,000,000. These funds go to state and local conservation corps and similar groups who serve disadvantaged youth.

Groundwater (Chapter 7)

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

At least 10% of all grants must go to groundwater basins who underlie disadvantaged communities (86110(a)).

\$10,000,000 is allocated to the Office of Sustainable Water Solutions to assist disadvantaged communities.

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

Cost sharing can be reduced or eliminated for projects directly benefitting disadvantaged communities (861109(e)).

Borrego Springs. \$35,000,000. (Section 86113). Borrego Springs is a severely disadvantaged community. These funds will go to stabilize the groundwater under the town, as well as the surrounding state park. No cost sharing is required.

Friant Water and conveyance. \$750,000,000. (Chapter 10). This area contains several disadvantaged communities, which are impacted by the loss of Friant-Kern canal conveyance capacity. This loss also threatens of loss of hundreds of jobs for farmworkers, most of whom live in disadvantaged communities.

General provisions (Chapter 12)

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(c))

Payments for projects of \$1 million or less may be made in advance to disadvantaged communities. Usually grants are made for projects after they are completed (86151(i)).

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, the Metropolitan Water District and other water agencies 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 and economically distressed. (11680d)

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