



**REVISED
ACTION ITEM**
April 20, 2016

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: **Public Affairs & Legislation Committee**
(Directors Barbre, Hinman, Tamaribuchi)

Robert Hunter, General Manager

Staff Contact: Heather Baez

SUBJECT: AB 1925 (Chang) – Desalination, Statewide Goal

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors vote to support AB 1925 (Chang) and send a separate letter to the author and members of the Orange County delegation indicating our support.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The committee voted 3-0 to hold this item over until May when the amendments taken at the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee are in print and can be reviewed by the Board.

SUMMARY

AB 1925 would establish a goal to desalinate 300,000 acre-feet of drinking water per year by the year 2025 and 500,000 acre-feet of drinking water per year by the year 2030.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT

According to the author’s office, “AB 1925 will serve as a catalyst for pro-desalination policies and proposals throughout the state by placing annual goals for the production of water through desalination. By diversifying California’s water supply, promote self-reliance

Budgeted (Y/N): n/a	Budgeted amount:	Core x	Choice __
Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted):			

for our diverse regions and provide a drought proof source of water to better prepare us for the inevitable dry years to come.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION

The Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee analysis states, “Setting a statewide desalination goal inappropriately prioritizes development of desalination projects, which have significant environmental impacts, as well as high costs to the public. California should not waste funds on this type of investment at this time. Desalination is more expensive than conservation, efficiency, storm water capture, and wastewater recycling. The State of California should prioritize less environmentally harmful, less expensive water resources and only pursue ocean water or groundwater desalination when more cost-effective and less environmentally damaging water resource options have been exhausted.”

COMMENTS

This bill is co-authored by Assembly Members Travis Allen, Brian Jones, Devon Mathis, Marc Steinorth & Senator Pat Bates.

Support on file: Association of California Water Agencies, CalDesal, Eastern Municipal Water District, Mesa Water District, Poseidon Water, & South Coast Water District.

Opposition on file: California League of Conservation Voters, Natural Resources Defense Council, & Sierra Club California.

AB 1925 was heard in the Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee on April 12, 2016. Two amendments were suggested by the committee and were accepted by the author. As of press time for MWDOC’s Public Affairs & Legislation Committee packet, the amendments were not yet in print. An oral update will be provided at the committee hearing.

DETAILED REPORT

The full text of AB 1925 is attached.