

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 26, 2010
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: AB 2655
AUTHOR: M. Eng

BILL SUMMARY: Advance Infrastructure Mitigation Program Act

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency to prepare and certify the completion of an environmental impact report on a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. This bill would authorize the California Natural Resources Agency (Resources Agency) to administer and implement the Advance Infrastructure Mitigation Program to provide for permitting of infrastructure projects through the development of regional advance mitigation plans (RAMPs) and create the Advance Infrastructure Mitigation Fund.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would result in an additional and ongoing workload within the Department of Fish and game (DFG) that would require additional positions to be responsible for the administration and implementation of the Advance Infrastructure Mitigation Program. Additionally, this bill would require the Wildlife Conservation Board to provide staff or the fiscal resources necessary to provide the real estate support functions included in the Advance Infrastructure Mitigation Program. DFG and WCB anticipate that this bill would require 13 DFG and WCB positions at an estimated cost of approximately \$2.1 million for the first year and \$1.9 million annually thereafter. This estimate assumes maximum implementation across the full range of infrastructure agencies. The bill indicates that these costs would be reimbursed by entities that use the mitigation credits generated by the program.

COMMENTS

Finance is neutral on this bill as the creation and use of the revolving fund as described in the bill would be sufficient to fund the costs incurred by DFG and WCB to participate in the Advance Infrastructure Mitigation Program.

The RAMPs would be required to address and provide for effective mitigation and conservation of natural resources and processes on a landscape level. The Resources Agency would be authorized to acquire, restore, manage, monitor and preserve lands, waterways, aquatic resources or fisheries, or to fund these efforts through the Advance Infrastructure Mitigation Fund.

DFG staff would need to be involved in identifying high-priority conservation areas of the state that may be suitable for RAMPs and, either directly or indirectly through the use of consultants, would be tasked with participating in the development of RAMPs and would be responsible for providing biological expertise. DFG, as a trustee and responsible agency, would be responsible for reviewing and approving plans and permitting projects as appropriate. Over the long term, if effective plans do indeed result, DFG workload and costs would be spent on compliance monitoring and tracking for the mitigation lands' performance, according to specified long-term management plan conditions and conservation easement requirements.

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Analyst/Principal (0634) M. Almy	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)

AUTHOR

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Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)								Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)								
	CO	PROP	2009-2010		2010-2011		2011-2012			
	RV	98	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC		
3600/Dept FishGam	SO	No		-- C	\$2,100	C		\$1,900	0499	
3640/Wildlife	SO	No		----- See Fiscal Summary -----					0499	
1257/Othr Reg Lic	RV	No		-- U	\$2,100	U		\$1,900	0200	
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>									
0200	Fish and Game Preservation Fund									
0499	Pending New Special Funds									