

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: July 1, 2011
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: AB 938
AUTHOR: M. Perez

BILL SUMMARY: Public Water Systems

Beginning July 1, 2012, this bill would require a Tier 1 public notice, as defined, given by a public water system be in English, Spanish, and in the language spoken by prescribed numbers of residents of the community served, and that the notice contain prescribed public water system contact information. This bill would establish specified presumptions of compliance if the public water system takes prescribed actions relating to the public notice.

This bill would also authorize and encourage nonwritten notice be provided through foreign language media outlets.

This bill would add environmental documentation to the costs of a single project that the Department of Public Health (DPH) is required to determine by an assessment of affordability.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The DPH estimates workload and additional costs related to reviewing public notifications in languages other than English and ensuring these requirements are effectively implemented by public water systems would be absorbable within existing program resources.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral in regards to this bill, as it would result in minor, absorbable costs.

The California Safe Drinking Water Act, requires the DPH to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health, and current regulations require a public notice to contain information in Spanish regarding the importance of the notice, or contain a telephone number or address where Spanish-speaking residents may contact the water system to obtain a translated copy of the public notice or assistance in Spanish.

This bill would require written public notice given by a public water system to be provided in English, Spanish, and in the language spoken by any non-English-speaking group that exceeds ten percent of persons served by the public water system starting July 1, 2012. This bill would also require the notice to contain information regarding the importance of the notice and a telephone number or address where the public water system will provide either a translated copy of the notice or assistance in the appropriate language.

After July 1, 2012, this bill would presume the following:

- The public water system has determined the appropriate languages for notification; if the public water system has made a reasonable attempt to utilize the data available through the American Community Survey of the United States Census Bureau to identify the non-English speaking groups that reside in a city and or county that encompasses the service area of the public water system.

Analyst/Principal (0551) B. Nunes	Date	C.E.A. Lisa Ann L. Mangat	Date
--------------------------------------	------	------------------------------	------

Department Deputy Director	Date
----------------------------	------

Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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

M. Perez

July 1, 2011

AB 938

- The public notice has been correctly translated; if the public water system has made a reasonable attempt to obtain either in-house or contracted-for translation services for providing a translated copy of the notice or assistance in the appropriate languages and the translated copy of the public notice or assistance has been provided.
- The public notice translated into languages other than Spanish, has been adequately provided; if it contains translations in the appropriate languages to do the following: (1) identifies the contaminant, (2) informs public of the health effects associated with the presence of the contaminant in drinking water at a level in excess of the primary drinking water standard and, (3) instructs the public on actions to take to protect their health, such as, "Do not drink," "Boil water before using," or "Stop boiling your water."

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	
4265/PublicHealth	SO	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					7500
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
7500	Public Water System, Safe Drinking Water								