



Mitty Advocacy Project

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SB 332: Wastewater treatment: recycled water.

- Senators Scott Wiener and Robert Hertzberg
- Introduced February 19, 2019
- Referred to the Environmental Quality and Judiciary Committees
- Summary
 - Would mandate that every wastewater facility reduce their annual ocean discharge by 50% by 2030 and by 95% by 2040 from the average annual volume of treated wastewater discharged through a facility's ocean outfall as determined by the state board from monitoring data gathered from 2010 to 2020. This could be done in two ways: by treating the water to be beneficially reused or by reducing inflow through water conservation and efficiency measures
 - For any wastewater treatment facility that does not meet these volume reduction requirements by their respective deadlines, the operator and any affiliated water suppliers will incur a penalty of **\$2000** per acre-foot of excess water.
 - Would require the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPES) permit holder and all affiliated water suppliers to submit to the state board an initial plan to meet these new requirements and a report every five years starting from 2024 outlining the progress that has been made toward meeting the flow reduction deadlines.
 - If a report is not submitted by its deadline, a **\$10,000** penalty will be incurred by both the permit holders and the affiliated water suppliers, and they will be deemed ineligible for a state loan or grant until the report is submitted

MAP's Perspective

- **MAP supports this bill.**
 - This bill attempts to ameliorate a significant present-day problem with water discharge into the oceans. California's wastewater has been treated solely as waste: it is used only once, treated, then discarded despite growing California reallocation issues. A Los Angeles Time report showed that eighty percent of Southern California's rainfall ends back up into the Pacific. If we were able to recycle much of this water, this would ameliorate major California issues in water use such as the necessity for agricultural irrigation in the Central Valley. Every day, 1.1 billion gallons of treated water is discarded into oceans and estuaries. We need to utilize this water to solve some of the state's biggest water crises.
 - By requiring substantial reductions in ocean discharges from wastewater treatment plants, California could dramatically accelerate the adoption of water recycling and thus increase water supplies available for beneficial use.
 - Water recycling can reduce California's dependence on diversions from surface rivers





and streams that are subject to variable climate and regulatory conditions.

- In addition to water supply benefits, requiring water recycling for further beneficial use eliminates ocean wastewater discharges, decreasing pollutant loadings to ocean waters and reducing ocean acidification, thereby improving coastal water quality and benefiting the aquatic environment and local economies that depend on those coastal resources.
- The State Water Resources Control Board has established goals of recycling 1,500,000 acre-feet of wastewater by 2020 and 2,500,000 acre-feet of wastewater by 2030. However, California is not on track to meet the board's goals.

A Youth Perspective on this Issue

- As youths living in California, which just came out of one of the worst droughts it has ever witnessed, we understand the significance and importance of the problem of water scarcity. In fact, according to Science News, this recent drought was the worst that California witnessed in at least 1200 years. This drought not only affects large agricultural communities directly but also people in cities and towns who faced increase water prices.
- Clearly, water is no longer an easily attainable resource, but it is becoming a precious commodity. Even further, as youth who may have to live in a world where water is near priceless and is fought over, the ability to conserve safe drinking water is no longer a possibility but a necessity. We know that water reuse is one of the most efficient and cost-effective ways to improve drought resilience in California communities.

A Catholic Perspective on Oil Spills and Ocean Pollution

- The Catholic perspective follows the belief that care for the environment must be a priority: we should be stewards of the environment. We should care for the land that will be used by future generations, especially since we only have one earth.
- *Laudato Si*, an encyclical published by Pope Francis, describes how all beings on this earth must care for each other and the resources we partake of; the Pope warns us that if we continue recklessly wasting and misusing resources, we soon will have nothing left. He urges us to be more aware of the waste we generate and take concrete actions to reduce the amount of waste we are emitting in the future.

