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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
2019 - 2020 Regular Session

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### SB 668 (Rubio) - Fire hydrants: water suppliers: regulations

**Version:** April 29, 2019

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** May 13, 2019

**Policy Vote:** N.R. & W. 9 - 0

**Mandate:** Yes

**Consultant:** Paul Jacobs

**Bill Summary:** This bill would change the requirement for water agencies having to comply with disaster preparedness plan requirements from public water systems with 10,000 or more service connections to urban water suppliers. The bill would also require an urban water supplier to review and revise its disaster preparedness plan every 5 years.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

- Ongoing special fund costs for the Office of Emergency Services (OES) likely in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to expand their current requirements for disaster preparedness plans to urban water suppliers.
- By requiring local urban water suppliers to comply with disaster preparedness plan requirements, this bill creates a state-mandated local program. To the extent that the Commission on State Mandates determines that the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service on local agencies, local agencies could claim reimbursement of those costs (General Fund). The annual amount is unknown but likely significant due to the large number of urban water suppliers in the state.

**Background:** The California Emergency Services Act, among other things:

1. Requires all public water systems with 10,000 or more service connections to:
  - a. Review and revise their disaster preparedness plans in conjunction with related agencies, including, but not limited to, local fire departments and the Office of Emergency Services to ensure that the plans are sufficient to address possible disaster scenarios.

These plans should examine and review pumping station and distribution facility operations during an emergency, water pressure at both pumping stations and hydrants, and whether there is sufficient water reserve levels and alternative emergency power, including, but not limited to, onsite backup generators and portable generators.
  - b. Following a declared state of emergency, to furnish an assessment of their emergency response and recommendations to the Legislature within six months after each disaster, as well as implementing the recommendations in a timely manner.

2. Requires OES to establish appropriate and insofar as practical, emergency response and recovery plans, including mutual aid plans, in coordination with public water systems with 10,000 or more service connections.

The Urban Water Management Planning Act defines “urban water suppliers” as “a supplier, either publicly or privately owned, providing water for municipal purposes either directly or indirectly to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually. An urban water supplier includes a supplier or contractor for water, regardless of the basis of right, which distributes or sells for ultimate resale to customers. This part applies only to water supplied from public water systems ...”

**Proposed Law:** This bill would:

1. Change the requirement for water agencies having to comply with the disaster preparedness plans from public water systems with 10,000 or more service connections to urban water suppliers.
2. Require the OES to establish emergency response and recovery plans in coordination with urban water suppliers.
3. Require disaster preparedness plans to be reviewed and revised every five years.

**Staff Comments:** This bill would expand the number of water agencies needing to review and revise disaster preparedness plans from those with 10,000 or more service connections to those with 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet a year. This expansion is likely to increase workload at OES, and potentially trigger a reimbursable state mandate.

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