

Date of Hearing: August 14, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
Lorena Gonzalez, Chair  
SB 668 (Rubio) – As Amended April 29, 2019

Policy Committee: Governmental Organization Vote: 19 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: Yes

**SUMMARY:**

This bill modifies requirements around water agency disaster preparedness planning by applying these requirements to urban water suppliers, as defined, rather than public water systems with 10,000 or more service connections. This bill also requires urban water suppliers to review and revise their disaster preparedness plans every five years.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

- 1) Unknown, but possibly significant costs of up to \$500,000 GF ongoing for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to review disaster preparedness plans. This bill expands the universe of affected water suppliers subject to disaster planning requirements. As a result, Cal OES is likely to experience an increased workload related to outreach and questions from affected water suppliers.
- 2) Unknown costs for urban water suppliers to comply with new disaster preparedness planning requirements. 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.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Background.** Existing law requires all public water systems with 10,000 or more service connections to review and revise their disaster preparedness plans to ensure that the plans are sufficient to address possible disaster scenarios. These plans must 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.
- 2) **Urban water suppliers.** As defined by Water Code Section 10617, an urban water supplier is a privately or publicly owned water supplier that provides 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.
- 3) **Purpose.** According to supporters, SB 668 will help ensure all water providers are prepared for disasters. The California Water Association also notes this bill aligns the scope of disaster preparedness planning with other policies around urban water management that rely on the "urban water supplier" threshold. For instance, state policies around the adoption of urban

water management and water shortage contingency plans and the use of water meters all apply to urban water suppliers.

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