
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1413 (Papan) - Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater adjudication

Version: July 17, 2025
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: August 29, 2025

Policy Vote: N.R. & W. 4 - 3, JUD. 10 - 3
Mandate: No
Consultant: Ashley Ames

Bill Summary: This bill would prohibit a court, in an adjudication action for a basin required to have a groundwater sustainability plan pursuant to the act, from establishing a safe yield or sustainable yield for the basin that exceeds the sustainable yield of the basin as established in a valid groundwater sustainability plan for the basin. This prohibition would not apply to a comprehensive adjudication in which a court has issued a final determination on the basin's safe or sustainable yield prior to January 1, 2026.

***** **ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE** *****
The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 29, 2025

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown, potentially significant cost pressures to the state-funded trial courts due to additional workload (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).
- To the extent that courts seek additional input or assistance from the State Water Board or Department of Water Resources (DWR) as a result of this bill, there could be additional state costs associated with State Water Board or DWR workload (General Fund).
- The above costs may be at least partially offset by General Fund cost savings elsewhere for the courts, State Water Board, or DWR.

Committee Amendments: These amendments would prohibit a court from establishing a safe or sustainable yield that exceeds one established by a valid GSP unless the court makes certain determinations, provide additional opportunities for public review and comment, require that a GSP be readopted under certain conditions, and require a GSA to review and update its sustainable yield, as provided. Specifically, these amendments would:

1. Prohibit a court from establishing a safe yield or sustainable yield that exceeds the sustainable yield established by a valid GSP unless the court determines that the sustainable yield was not based on best available science and best information available at the time the GSP was adopted.
2. If a party claims that the technical information on which the sustainable yield was based was not available for public review and comment, the court shall require the GSA to readopt the GSP after making the information publicly available.

3. Require a GSA to review and update its sustainable yield periodically to ensure that it is based on the best available information and best available science, and that it will achieve sustainable groundwater management. Require the GSA to provide an opportunity for public review and comment before making a determination on whether to update its sustainable yield.
4. Make other changes.

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