
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Senator María Elena Durazo, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 2639
Author: Soria
Version: 6/25/26

Hearing Date: 7/1/26
Fiscal: No
Consultant: Vargas

MERCED COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT: ASSESSMENT

Require the Legislative Analyst's Office to conduct and submit to the Legislature and Governor an assessment evaluating the efficacy of the Merced County Flood Control District on or before July 1, 2027.

Background

Legislative Analyst's Office. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) provides fiscal and policy advice to the Legislature. It is known for its fiscal and programmatic expertise and nonpartisan analyses of the state budget. The office serves as the "eyes and ears" for the Legislature to ensure that the executive branch is implementing legislative policy in a cost efficient and effective manner. The LAO is a staff resource to all legislators. The LAO performs the following functions:

- Budget "Control," which allows the LAO to review requests by the administration to make changes to the budget after it is enacted. These reviews are used primarily by members of the JLBC and the fiscal committees;
- Special Reports, which allows the LAO to prepare special reports on the state budget and topics of interest to the Legislature;
- Initiatives and Ballot Measures, which allows the LAO to estimate the fiscal effect on state and local government of all proposed initiatives (prior to circulation) and prepare analyses of all measures that qualify for the statewide ballot; and
- Forecasting, which allows the LAO to forecast the state revenues and expenditures.

Merced County Flood Control District. In 1982, AB 2926 established the Merced County Flood Control District (the District) by the Legislature (Thurman). It was tasked with controlling flood and storm waters, and the protection of watercourses, watersheds, harbors, public highways, life and property from damage or destruction from such waters. The District is a dependent district where the Board of Supervisors serve as ex officio members of the governing board.

The author wants the LAO to evaluate the efficacy of the Merced County Flood Control District.

Proposed Law

Assembly Bill 2639 requires, on or before July 1, 2027, the LAO to conduct an assessment evaluating the efficacy of the Merced County Flood Control District. AB 2639 requires written reports to the Legislature and the Governor that include:

- A comparison of the Merced County Flood Control District to other flood control districts in other regions of the state; and
- Policy recommendations on how the Merced County Flood Control District could be modernized to meet the needs of the County of Merced.

The report is subject to existing legislative reporting requirements, including submission of an electronic copy to Secretary of the Senate, the Chief Clerk of the Assembly and the Legislative Counsel.

AB 2639 becomes inoperative on July 1, 2028 and is repealed on January 1, 2029.

Comments

1. Purpose of the bill. According to the author, “The Merced Flood Control District was established through legislation in 1982 to receive and manage funds for flood management in Merced County. This legislation made the County of Merced the acting Flood Control District to receive funding and conduct flood control projects in the county while coordinating with other entities. However, the structure of this flood control district has not been updated in over 40 years. AB 2639 Directs the LAO to evaluate the Merced County Flood Control District and provide policy recommendations for modernizing the District to serve the needs of the people of Merced County.”

2. Necessary? According to the LAO, the estimated cost of producing a bill in 2001-02 was \$17,890. The LAO regularly receives requests from the Legislature to conduct analyses and studies as part of its core responsibilities. Because the Legislature can request such work without legislation, the Committee may wish to consider if AB 2639 is necessary.

3. Gut and amend. As introduced and approved by the Assembly, AB 2639 contained provisions related to coordination of flood control planning in the County of Merced. Amendments taken in the Senate deleted the initial contents of AB 2639 and inserted the current language relating to an assessment of the Merced County Flood Control District by the LAO.

Assembly Actions

Prior votes not relevant to the current version of the bill.

Support and Opposition (6/26/26)

Support: None Submitted

Opposition: None Submitted

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