

[This bill] largely consists of technical revisions that clarify existing code and create efficiencies for DWR and CDFW, which are within the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee's jurisdiction. Additionally, [this bill] simplifies the rules for recreation on our interstate lakes by extending reciprocity to Nevada invasive species stickers on Lake Tahoe and Topaz Lake, as Nevada has done for Californians. All elements of [this bill] are believed to be non-controversial in nature.

- 2) **Background. *CDFW Contracts with Nonprofit Partners.*** CDFW contracts with nonprofit partner organizations for various habitat projects. Currently, statutory authority for these partnerships exists in three different locations in the FGC, leading to confusion, delays, and underuse of contracting exemptions. FGC § 1501.5 provides broad general authority for CDFW to enter into contracts “whenever the department finds that the contracts will assist in meeting the department’s duty to preserve, protect, and restore fish and wildlife.” However, two other provisions in the FGC authorize CDFW to enter into contracts to support fish and wildlife. FGC § 1745 authorizes CDFW to enter into contracts with nonprofit conservation groups and resource conservation districts for the management or operations of department-managed lands, and the Nesting Bird Habitat Incentive Program improves bird habitat by providing economic incentives to landowners to complete annual and long-term habitat enhancements. This bill makes clear that the contracting rules provided for in FGC § 1501.5 apply to these other two programs.

Reciprocity for Invasive Species Requirements on Interstate Lakes. Recreational boaters in California’s nonmarine waters, regardless of state of vessel registration, are required to pay an invasive mussel infestation prevention fee and display a sticker. California shares two interstate lakes with Nevada, Lake Tahoe and Topaz Lake, where recreational boaters can easily cross the state border on the shared water body. While Nevada extends reciprocity to California boaters (so California boaters do not need to purchase a Nevada aquatic invasive species decal), the same reciprocity is not currently extended to Nevada boaters in California. This bill provides that Nevada boaters may operate in California waters on Lake Tahoe and Topaz Lake without citation as long as Nevada has an aquatic invasive species program.

Groundwater Basin Boundary and Priority Adjustments. Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, DWR draws the boundaries of groundwater basins and sets a priority for each basin. Every ten years, DWR is required to report its findings regarding groundwater basin boundaries, which it does in a publication known as Bulletin 118. Current law also requires DWR to reprioritize groundwater basins whenever it adjusts groundwater basin boundaries. Existing law could be interpreted to require DWR to redraw all 515 groundwater basins every time any basin boundary is redrawn, while not explicitly requiring regular statewide reprioritization. This bill specifies that DWR is required to review and determine if reprioritization is necessary for all groundwater basins every ten years and in the interim is only required to reassess the prioritization of groundwater basins for which the department has changed boundaries.