
SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER

Senator Josh Becker, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 2787	Hearing Date:	July 1, 2026
Author:	Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife		
Version:	June 22, 2026 Amended		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Katharine Moore		

Subject: Water, parks, and wildlife: omnibus bill

SUMMARY

This bill would clarify requirements for the California Department of Water Resources to review and re-prioritize groundwater basins when their boundaries change and provide for reciprocity for recreational boaters on the two lakes that cross the California-Nevada border for certain state requirements for invasive mussel infestation prevention.

BACKGROUND AND EXISTING LAW

Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee omnibus bill

From time-to-time, standing committees author generally technical, clarifying, and minor bills within the Committee's jurisdiction. Committee omnibus bills are non-controversial and consensus legislation.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

CDFW manages approximately 1.1 million acres within the state. In managing and operating those lands, and implementing CDFW programs on those lands, CDFW may enter into contracts or other agreements with various entities, including California Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations, among others.

The highly invasive golden mussel (*Limnoperna fortunei*) was first observed in California in October 2024 near the Port of Stockton. In the intervening months, the golden mussels spread rapidly in the state and its water supply infrastructure south of the Delta with an observation as far south as San Diego earlier this year. In response to the infestation, the state's existing dreissenid mussel program was expanded to include all invasive mussels through public resources trailer bill language last year AB 149 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 106, Statutes of 2025). This included expanding the current vessel registration program where fees are paid to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to help fund invasive species prevention. The trailer bill language did not address the two lakes that cross the California-Nevada border, nor did it provide for reciprocity for recreational boaters registered in Nevada and in compliance with Nevada's invasive mussel requirements who crossed into California waters.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Water Code §§10720 *et seq.*), 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. Existing law also requires DWR to reprioritize groundwater basins whenever it adjusts groundwater basin

boundaries. This 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.

Existing law:

CDFW

- 1) Establishes an invasive mussel infestation prevention fee set by the Division of Boating and Waterways of the Department of Parks and Recreation.
 - a) Provides that the fee shall be deposited into the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund and shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for administration of the fee and for implementation of invasive mussel infestation prevention plans.
 - b) Limits the fee to not more than \$10 in even-numbered years and not more than \$20 in odd-numbered years before 2026.
 - c) Limits the fee to between \$15 and \$21 in even-numbered years and between \$30 and \$42 in odd-numbered years beginning in 2026, with adjustments for inflation in odd-numbered years.
 - d) Requires the DMV to issue an invasive mussel infestation prevention sticker upon payment of the fee.
 - e) Provides that failure to pay the fee shall not prohibit DMV from issuing registration of a vessel.
 - f) Provides that a vessel operator may be issued a citation for operating a recreational vessel in nonmarine waters without a valid state-issued invasive mussel infestation prevention sticker. (Harbors and Navigation Code §§675–676)
- 2) Requires that, in addition to the fee for the original registration or registration renewal of a vessel, DMV shall collect from resident and nonresident vessel owners an invasive mussel infestation prevention fee.
 - a) Requires DMV to issue an invasive mussel infestation prevention sticker upon payment of the fee.
 - b) Provides that failure to pay the fee shall not prohibit DMV from issuing registration of a vessel.
 - c) Provides that a vessel operator may be issued a citation for operating a recreational vessel in nonmarine waters without a valid state-issued invasive mussel infestation prevention sticker. (Vehicle Code §§9853, 9860)

DWR

- 1) Requires DWR to conduct an investigation of the state's groundwater basins and to identify the groundwater basins on the basis of geological and hydrological conditions and consideration of political boundary lines whenever practical.
 - a) Authorizes DWR to revise the boundaries of groundwater basins based on its own investigations or information provided by others; and
 - b) Requires DWR to report its findings to the Governor and the Legislature in years ending in five. (Water Code §12924)
- 2) Requires DWR to prioritize groundwater basins and subbasins according to specified criteria. (Water Code §10933)
- 3) Requires DWR to categorize each groundwater basin as high, medium, low, or very low priority and requires that any time DWR updates groundwater basin boundaries, DWR shall reassess the prioritization. (Water Code §10722.4)

PROPOSED LAW

This bill would:

- 1) Require DWR every time it updates Bulletin 118 boundaries to reassess the prioritization of groundwater basins for which changes to the boundaries have been made. Require DWR to review and determine whether a reprioritization of groundwater basins where changes to the boundaries have been made on or by January 31, 2035 and not less than every 10 years thereafter.
- 2) Prohibit citing a person who operates a vessel on the waters of Lake Tahoe or Topaz Lake who has not paid an invasive mussel infestation prevention fee to California if the vessel is registered in Nevada and Nevada has a program in effect for the management of aquatic invasive species, as provided.
- 3) Delete obsolete invasive mussel infestation prevention fee language.
- 4) Make minor and conforming changes.
- 5) Declare that a special statute is necessary due to the interstate location of Lake Tahoe and Lake Topaz, as specified.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT

According to the author, "AB 2787 is the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee's omnibus bill, which makes a number of helpful statutory updates. [...] Additionally, AB 2787 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."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION

None received

COMMENTS

Technical amendment. In the body of the bill, “Topaz Lake” is the term used to refer to the man-made reservoir that is located in both Nevada and California, but in the section justifying the need for a special statute, the lake is referred to as “Lake Topaz.” “Topaz Lake” appears to be the name of the reservoir in common usage.

The Committee may wish to revise the reference to the reservoir in Section 8 for consistency with the rest of the bill. [Amendment #1]

Related legislation

AB 149 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 106, Statutes of 2025), a public resources budget trailer bill, extended the state’s dreissenid mussel program to all invasive mussels, among other provisions.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT 1

In Section 8, replace “Lake Topaz” with “Topaz Lake” for consistency.

SUPPORT

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

OPPOSITION

None received

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