

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
AB 2787 (Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife)
As Amended August 18, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Clarifies requirements for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to review and re-prioritize groundwater basins when their boundaries change and provides for reciprocity for recreational boaters on the two lakes that cross the California-Nevada border for certain state requirements for invasive mussel infestation prevention.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Delete changes to contracting rules for certain lands managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the Nesting Bird Habitat Incentive Program.
- 2) Clarify that Nevada-registered vessels must display a current Nevada-issued aquatic invasive species sticker to be exempt from the requirement to display a California invasive mussel sticker.

COMMENTS

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. The existing law could be interpreted to require DWR to reprioritize 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 a 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 changes to the boundaries have been made.

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 that 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 and the vessel displays a current Nevada-issued aquatic invasive species decal.

According to the Author

According to the author, "[This bill] is the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee's omnibus bill, which makes a number of helpful statutory updates. [This bill] largely consists of technical revisions that clarify existing code and create efficiencies for DWR, 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."

Arguments in Support

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, writing in support, states, "In 2011, the Nevada Legislature created annual aquatic invasive species fees and decals for motorized and non-motorized watercraft . . . to help fund prevention and management efforts. Nevada's program exempts California-registered boats with a valid California [invasive mussel] sticker when on the waters of Lake Tahoe and Topaz Lake. The language included in [this bill] matches Nevada's existing language, supporting interstate [aquatic invasive species] management and boating access on Lake Tahoe and Topaz Lake."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, this bill has the following fiscal impact:

CDFW, DWR, and the Department of Parks and Recreation (which houses the Division of Boating and Waterways for purposes of invasive mussel infestation issues) anticipate any costs to be minor and absorbable.

VOTES:

ASM WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE: 13-0-0

YES: Papan, Jeff Gonzalez, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Boerner, Caloza, Gallagher, Hart, Muratsuchi, Rogers

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Muratsuchi

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-0-14

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Bonta, Chen, Flora, Gallagher, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Papan, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks

UPDATED

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CONSULTANT: Sean Clair / W., P., & W. / (916) 319-2096

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