
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 975
Author: Gallagher (R)
Amended: 9/2/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/16/25
AYES: Limón, Seyarto, Allen, Grove, Hurtado, Laird, Stern

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/23/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Lake and streambed alteration agreements: exemptions: culverts and bridges

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill exempts from Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement requirements until January 1, 2027, projects to repair or reconstruct a bridge up to 30 feet in length or a culvert up to 70 feet in length within Sutter County that has been damaged or destroyed as a result of fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide, between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2024, inclusive, with specified exception, as provided.

Senate Floor Amendments of 9/2/25 clarify that the state highway system is excluded and the time period the damage or destruction occurred.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides that the Legislature finds and declares that the protection and conservation of the fish and wildlife resources of this state are of utmost public interest, that their conservation is a proper responsibility of the state and that

Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements (LSAAs) are enacted to provide for conservation of these resources. (Fish and Game Code (FGC) §1600)

- 2) Prohibits any entity from substantially diverting or obstructing the natural flow of, or substantially changing or using any material from a streambed, unless the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) determines the activity will not adversely affect fish and wildlife resources or the entity enters into an agreement with CDFW to take reasonable measures to protect fish and wildlife resources (i.e. an LSAA). (FGC §1602)
- 3) Authorizes, if CDFW does not issue a draft agreement within 60 days of the notification of the application being complete and the applicable fees paid, the applicant to conduct the activity as described. (FGC §1602 (a)(4)(D))
- 4) Exempts from these LSAA requirements emergency work necessary to protect life or property:
 - a) Immediate emergency repairs to public service facilities necessary to maintain service as a result of a disaster in an area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor.
 - b) Emergency projects undertaken, carried out, or approved by a state or local government agency to maintain, repair, or restore an existing highway within the existing right-of-way of the highway, that has been damaged as a result of fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide.
 - c) Defines “emergency” to mean a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services. “Emergency” includes such occurrences as fire, flood, earthquake, or other soil or geologic movements, as well as such occurrences such as riot, accident, or sabotage. (FGC §1601, which references the definition in Public Resources Code §21060.3)
- 5) Exempts the diversion of certain floodflows for groundwater recharge from having to obtain an LSAA until January 1, 2029. (Water Code §1242.1)
- 6) Provides that any time line prescribed for LSAAs can be extended by mutual agreement. (FGC §1607)

This bill:

- 1) Exempts from LSAA requirements until January 1, 2027, projects to repair or reconstruct a bridge up to 30 feet in length or a culvert up to 70 feet in length within Sutter County that has been damaged or destroyed as a result of fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide, between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2024, inclusive.
 - a) Excludes a project listed in Environmental Permit Information Management Notification No. SUT-53568-R2 from this exemption.
 - b) Requires the entity undertaking a project pursuant to this act to conduct a biological survey to identify any species that are present, consult with CDFW on appropriate species protection measures, and implement those recommended measures.
 - c) Clarifies that this provision does not apply to the state highway system, as specified.
- 2) Justifies the need for a special statute for Sutter County, as provided.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/30/25)

Associated General Contractors of California
Sutter County Board of Supervisors

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/30/25)

California Department of Finance

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, “AB 975 speeds up the restoration of bridges and culverts which provide vital access to the residents of Sutter County. These repairs are overdue and this bill cuts through unnecessary red tape to repair these important roadways.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The California Department of Finance writes in opposition because the bill “creates General Fund cost pressures, and the reduced fee revenue projected from implementing the provisions of this bill will have significant impacts to the program's operations.”

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/23/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Bryan, Chen, Lee, Nguyen, Sanchez, Sharp-Collins, Wicks

Prepared by: Katharine Moore / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
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