

Introduced by Senator Hurtado
(Principal coauthor: Senator Borgeas)
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Arambula, Mathis, and Salas)

February 22, 2019

An act relating to water, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 559, as introduced, Hurtado. Department of Water Resources: grant: Friant-Kern Canal.

Under existing law, the United States Bureau of Reclamation operates the federal Central Valley Project and the Department of Water Resources operates the State Water Project to supply water to persons and entities in the state.

This bill would appropriate \$400,000,000 to the department for the purposes of restoring the Friant-Kern Canal to its full capacity. The bill would require the department to make a grant of \$400,000,000 to a specified joint powers authority to restore the capacity of the canal.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares as follows:
- 2 (1) The Friant-Kern Canal is the main water conveyance feature
- 3 on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley and also the primary
- 4 delivery mechanism for water that is used for groundwater
- 5 recharge.
- 6 (2) In recent years, an increase in groundwater pumping in lands
- 7 that do not have surface water supply and are not served by the

1 canal has caused massive land subsidence that has affected the
2 canal’s ability to convey water. In some areas, the canal has
3 dropped in elevation an average of one inch per month since 2014.

4 (3) The canal’s carrying capacity has lost about 1,200 cubic feet
5 per second of carrying capacity through a portion of the canal that
6 should be capable of carrying at least 3 times as much.

7 (4) In 2017, more than 300,000 acre-feet of water was not
8 delivered to recharge groundwater aquifers in some of California’s
9 most critically overdrafted basins as a result of the loss of capacity
10 in the canal.

11 (b) Four hundred million dollars (\$400,000,000) is hereby
12 appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Water
13 Resources for the purposes of restoring the Friant-Kern Canal to
14 its full capacity.

15 (c) The Department of Water Resources shall provide a grant
16 of four hundred million dollars (\$400,000,000) to the Friant Water
17 Authority to restore the capacity of the Friant-Kern Canal.