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AB-293 Groundwater sustainability agency: transparency. (2025-2026)

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Assembly Bill No. 293

CHAPTER 359

An act to add Section 10724.2 to the Water Code, relating to groundwater.

[Approved by Governor October 06, 2025. Filed with Secretary of State October 06, 2025.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 293, Bennett. Groundwater sustainability agency: transparency.

Existing law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans, except as specified. Existing law requires a groundwater sustainability plan to be developed and implemented for each medium- or high-priority basin by a groundwater sustainability agency. Existing law authorizes any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to decide to become a groundwater sustainability agency for that basin, as provided. Existing law requires members of the board of directors and the executive, as defined, of a groundwater sustainability agency to file statements of economic interests with the Fair Political Practices Commission using the commission's online system for filing statements of economic interests.

This bill would require each groundwater sustainability agency to publish the membership of its board of directors on its internet website, or on the local agency's internet website, as provided. The bill would also require each groundwater sustainability agency to publish a link on its internet website or its local agency's internet website to the location on the Fair Political Practices Commission's internet website where the statements of economic interests, filed by the members of the board and executives of the agency, can be viewed.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: no Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 10724.2 is added to the Water Code, to read:

10724.2. No later than January 1, 2026, each groundwater sustainability agency shall do both of the following:

(a) Publish on its internet website or its local agency's internet website the membership of its board of directors.

(b) Publish on its internet website or its local agency's internet website an electronic link to the location on the Fair Political Practices Commission's internet website where the statements of economic interests, filed pursuant to Section 87200.5 of the Government Code by the members of the groundwater sustainability agency's board of directors and executives, can be viewed.