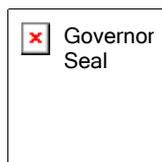




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Press Release



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

09/08/2002

GOVERNOR DAVIS SIGNS ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION TO PROTECT CALIFORNIA'S AIR AND WATER 9/8/2002

LOS ANGELES

Governor Gray Davis has signed legislation that strengthens California's air and water quality protection laws.

"Nothing is more fundamental than protecting the air we breathe and the water we drink," Governor Davis said. "These bills will protect our environment and our quality of life."



Governor Davis signed the following bills into law:



SB 812, by Senator Byron Sher (D-Palo Alto), makes California one of the national and world leaders in establishing a forest carbon market. The bill allows forest landowners to manage their lands as forest lands, allowing harvesting and the replanting of trees, while providing opportunities to store a net increase in CO₂.

For some time, California has been developing a comprehensive strategy to simultaneously reduce the state greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (including CO₂) while dealing with the negative impacts associated with global climate change. Governor Davis recently signed legislation (AB 1493 - Pavley) creating a Climate Registry which will require a reduction in passenger car CO₂ emissions. Enactment of SB 812 establishes a forest carbon market that would complement these efforts.

SB 1822, by Senator Byron Sher (D-Palo Alto), provides additional public health protection from the risks associated with rocket fuels, explosives and some fertilizers, which have all been identified in California as a contaminant of ground water.

Perchlorate is a chemical constituent of rocket fuels, explosives and some fertilizers that has been found to be a ground water contaminant. Perchlorate interferes with the uptake of iodine by the thyroid gland, which can result in adverse health problems.

SB 1808, by Senator Bruce McPherson (R-Santa Cruz), requires the Office of Planning and Research to report to the Governor and the Legislature annually on the implementation of the State Environmental Goals

and Policy Report.

AB 2971, Assemblymember Virginia Strom-Martin (D-Duncans Mills), revises the definition of wastewater treatment facilities that are regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The bill also requires the facilities to employ certified operators. AB 2971 includes all privately owned wastewater treatment plants treating sewage generated from structures designed for human habitation.

AB 1561, by Assemblymember David Kelley (R - Hemet), requires the California Energy Commission to adopt a water factor standard for residential clothes washers by January 1, 2004, that would be at least as efficient as the standard for commercial washing machines. The bill also directs the Energy Commission to petition the U.S. Department of Energy for a waiver from preemption of the federal standard.

AB 1393, by Assemblymember Helen Thomson (D - Davis), expands the use of hearing panels and pre-hearing conferences by Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) to make more efficient use of the members' time and facilitate resolution of issues at their meetings.

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