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An act to amend Sections 1602, 1609, 1610, 1613, and 1615 of the Fish
and Game Code, relating to fish and wildlife.



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

SECTION 1. Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:

1602. (a) An entity ~~may~~ shall not substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake, or deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake, unless all of the following occur:

(1) The department receives written notification regarding the activity in the manner prescribed by the department. The notification shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(A) A detailed description of the project's location and a map.

(B) The name, if any, of the river, stream, or lake affected.

(C) A detailed project description, including, but not limited to, construction plans and drawings, if applicable.

(D) A copy of any document prepared pursuant to Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code.

(E) A copy of any other applicable local, state, or federal permit or agreement already issued.

(F) Any other information required by the department.

(2) The department determines the notification is complete in accordance with Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 65920) of Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code, irrespective of whether the activity constitutes a development project for the purposes of that chapter.



(3) The entity pays the applicable fees, pursuant to Section 1609.

(4) One of the following occurs:

~~(A)~~

~~(i) The~~

(A) (i) The department informs the entity, in writing, that the activity will not substantially adversely affect an existing fish or wildlife resource, and that the entity may commence the activity without an agreement, if the entity conducts the activity as described in the notification, including any measures in the notification that are intended to protect fish and wildlife resources.

(ii) Each region of the department shall log the notifications of activities where no agreement is required. The log shall list the date the notification was received by the department, a brief description of the proposed activity, and the location of the activity. Each item shall remain on the log for one year. Upon written request by any person, a regional office shall send the log to that person monthly for one year. A request made pursuant to this clause may be renewed annually.

(B) The department determines that the activity may substantially adversely affect an existing fish or wildlife resource and issues a final agreement to the entity that includes reasonable measures necessary to protect the resource, and the entity conducts the activity in accordance with the agreement.

(C) A panel of arbitrators issues a final agreement to the entity in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 1603, and the entity conducts the activity in accordance with the agreement.



(D) The department does not issue a draft agreement to the entity within 60 days from the date notification is complete, and the entity conducts the activity as described in the notification, including any measures in the notification that are intended to protect fish and wildlife resources.

(b) (1) If an activity involves the routine maintenance and operation of water supply, drainage, flood control, or waste treatment and disposal facilities, notice to and agreement with the department shall not be required after the initial notification and agreement, unless the department determines either of the following:

(A) The work described in the agreement has substantially changed.

(B) Conditions affecting fish and wildlife resources have substantially changed, and those resources are adversely affected by the activity conducted under the agreement.

(2) This subdivision applies only if notice to, and agreement with, the department was attained prior to January 1, 1977, and the department has been provided a copy of the agreement or other proof of the existence of the agreement that satisfies the department, if requested.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the department is not required to determine whether the notification is complete or otherwise process the notification until the department has received the applicable fees.

(e)

(d) It is unlawful for any ~~person~~ entity to violate this chapter.

SEC. 2. Section 1609 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:



1609. (a) ~~The director~~ department may establish a graduated schedule of fees to be charged to any entity subject to this chapter. The fees charged shall be established in an amount necessary to pay the total costs incurred by the department in administering and enforcing this chapter, including, but not limited to, preparing and submitting agreements and conducting inspections. The department ~~may~~ shall annually adjust the fees pursuant to Section 713. Fees received pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the Fish and Game Preservation Fund.

(b) (1) The fee schedule established pursuant to subdivision (a) ~~may~~ shall not ~~impose~~ include a fee that exceeds five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any ~~agreement~~ single project.

(2) The fee limitation described in paragraph (1) does not apply to any project included in any agreement issued pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 1605.

SEC. 3. Section 1610 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:

1610. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), this chapter does not apply to any of the following:

(1) Immediate emergency work necessary to protect life or property.

(2) 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 pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 8550) of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(3) Emergency projects undertaken, carried out, or approved by a state or local governmental agency to maintain, repair, or restore an existing highway, as defined in Section 360 of the Vehicle Code, within the existing right-of-way of the highway, that



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has been damaged as a result of fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide, within one year of the damage. Work needed in the vicinity above and below a highway may be conducted outside of the existing right-of-way if it is needed to stop ongoing or recurring mudslides, landslides, or erosion that pose an immediate threat to the highway, or to restore those roadways damaged by mudslides, landslides, or erosion to their predamage condition and functionality. This paragraph does not exempt from this chapter any project undertaken, carried out, or approved by a state or local governmental agency to expand or widen a highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide. The exception provided in this paragraph does not apply to a highway designated as an official state scenic highway pursuant to Section 262 of the Streets and Highways Code.

(b) The entity performing the emergency work described in subdivision (a) shall notify the department of the work, in writing, within 14 days of beginning the work. Any work described in the emergency notification that does not meet the criteria for the emergency work described in subdivision (a) is a violation of this chapter if the entity did not first notify the department in accordance with Section ~~1602~~, 1602 or 1611.

SEC. 4. Section 1613 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:

1613. If, after receiving a notification, but before the department executes a final agreement, ~~the director~~ of the department informs the entity, in writing, that the activity described in the notification, or any activity or conduct by the entity directly related thereto, violates any provision of this code or the regulations that implement



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the code, the department may suspend processing the notification, and subparagraph (D) of paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 1602 and the timelines specified in Section 1603 do not apply. This section ceases to apply if any of the following occurs:

- (a) The department determines that the violation has been remedied.
- (b) Legal action to prosecute the violation is not filed within the applicable statute of limitations.
- (c) Legal action to prosecute the violation has been terminated.

SEC. 5. Section 1615 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:

1615. (a) ~~A person who~~ An entity that violates this chapter is subject to a civil penalty of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each violation.

(b) The civil penalty imposed pursuant to subdivision (a) is separate from, and in addition to, any other civil penalty imposed pursuant to this section or any other provision of the law.

(c) In determining the amount of any civil penalty imposed pursuant to this section, the court shall take into consideration all relevant circumstances, including, but not limited to, the nature, circumstance, extent, and gravity of the violation. In making this determination, the court may consider the degree of toxicity and volume of the discharge, the extent of harm caused by the violation, whether the effects of the violation may be reversed or mitigated, and, with respect to the defendant, the ability to pay, the effect of any civil penalty on the ability to continue in business, any voluntary cleanup efforts undertaken, any prior history of violations, the gravity of the behavior, the economic benefit, if any, resulting from the violation, and any other matters the court determines that justice may require.



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(d) Every civil action brought under this section shall be brought by the Attorney General upon complaint by the department, or by the district attorney or city attorney in the name of the people of the State of California, and any actions relating to the same violation may be joined or consolidated.

(e) (1) In any civil action brought pursuant to this chapter in which a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction is sought, it is not necessary to allege or prove at any stage of the proceeding any of the following:

(A) That irreparable damage will occur if the temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction is not issued.

(B) That the remedy at law is inadequate.

(2) The court shall issue a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction in a civil action brought pursuant to this chapter without the allegations and without the proof specified in paragraph (1).

(f) All civil penalties collected pursuant to this section shall not be considered fines or forfeitures as defined in Section 13003, and shall be apportioned in the following manner:

(1) Fifty percent shall be distributed to the county treasurer of the county in which the action is prosecuted. Amounts paid to the county treasurer shall be deposited in the county fish and wildlife propagation fund established pursuant to Section 13100.

(2) Fifty percent shall be distributed to the department for deposit in the Fish and Game Preservation Fund. These funds may be expended to cover the costs of any legal actions or for any other law enforcement purpose consistent with Section 9 of Article XVI of the California Constitution.



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SEC. 6. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.



LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

Bill No.

as introduced, _____.

General Subject: Department of Fish and Wildlife: lake and streambed alteration agreements.

(1) Existing law prohibits an entity from substantially diverting or obstructing the natural flow of, or substantially changing or using any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake, or from depositing certain material where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake designated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, without first notifying the department of that activity, and entering into a lake or streambed alteration agreement if required by the department to protect fish and wildlife resources. Under existing law, it is unlawful for any person to violate those notification and agreement provisions, and a person who violates them is also subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 for each violation. For purposes of these provisions, existing law defines entity to mean any person, state or local governmental agency, or public utility subject to the notification and agreement provisions.



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This bill would make it unlawful for any entity to violate those provisions, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program by changing the definition of a crime. The bill would subject to that civil penalty any entity that violates those provisions.

(2) Existing law authorizes the director of the department to establish a graduated schedule of fees to be charged to any entity subject to the notification and agreement provisions, and authorizes the adjustment of fees. Existing law imposes a \$5,000 fee limit for any agreement.

This bill would instead authorize the department to establish that schedule of fees, and would require that the department adjust fees annually. The bill would modify that fee limit to prohibit a fee from exceeding \$5,000 for any single project.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

