

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOA 1/30/2014

LRB Number	13-4060/1	Introduction Number	AB-0680	Estimate Type	Original
Description Adaptive management plans for reducing discharges of phosphorus and total suspended solids to the waters of the state and a statewide variance to the water quality standard for phosphorus for certain dischargers					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Assembly Bill 680 requires the Department of Administration (DOA), in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), to consider the costs of compliance with water quality based effluent limitations for phosphorus by sources that cannot achieve compliance without making major facility upgrades. After public notice and the consideration of public comments, DOA must make a determination about the feasibility of compliance based on statewide social and economic impacts.

If DOA initially determines that compliance with water quality based effluent limitations for phosphorus by sources that cannot achieve compliance without making major facility upgrades is infeasible, the bill requires DOA, in consultation with DNR, to review the determination every five years and to terminate the variance if the determination is no longer accurate. As part of the review, DOA must determine whether cost-effective technology is available that would allow sources to comply with more stringent interim limitations than those specified in the bill. AB680 does not provide DOA with staff for making determinations and evaluating technology under the bill, the cost for which is indeterminate at this time due to a variety of unknown variables.

Additionally, the use of adaptive management to comply with water quality standards for phosphorus and total suspended solids may increase demand for the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP), which provides financial assistance to municipalities for wastewater treatment facilities and urban storm water runoff projects. The CWFP is managed and administered jointly by the DNR and DOA.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Indeterminate.