



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 2/25/2019

Agenda Placement: 7A

## Napa County Legislative Subcommittee Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Napa County Legislative Subcommittee  
**FROM:** Mary Booher for Minh Tran - County Executive Officer  
County Executive Office  
**REPORT BY:** Molly Rattigan, Deputy County Executive Officer - 253-4112  
**SUBJECT:** SB 19 (Dodd) - Stream Gages

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Executive Officer requests discussion and possible action on SB 19 (Dodd), a bill that would require the Department of Water Resources, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to develop a plan to deploy a network of stream gages to monitor stream health that includes a determination of funding needs and opportunities for reenacting existing gages.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

SB 19 (Dodd) would require the Department of Water Resources, in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), to prioritize the deployment of stream gages based upon gaps in the existing system of gages and the ability to provide data to help protect fish and wildlife and benefit water management strategies. The bill would also require the SWRCB to assess the funding needs to implement a stream gage network.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      No

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

**BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

Stream gages provide essential information about one of California's most precious resources - water.

Gaps in the stream gage network make it difficult to ensure that both people and nature are getting water when and where they need it. The State is famous for its highly engineered water system, which moves millions of gallons of water from north to south and east to west.

California has surprisingly little data about how much water is moving through our streams at any given time. There are over 3,600 locations in California where stream gages have been active at some point, but only 54% have been active recently. And even fewer of those provide the kind of rich, real-time reporting needed to manage what is arguably our state's most precious and contentious resource.

Comprehensive data on gages does not exist in California. Despite the various efforts to assemble gage data, there is no single authoritative database on gage locations. Although there is a large quantity of data available about gages in California, that data is challenging to harmonize and analyze if one wants a complete survey of California's gage network. California must prepare for increases in both droughts and floods, and for more effective water management across all year types to maximize the benefits of its limited water supply. Understanding the state of our stream flows is critical to such preparedness, but our current gage network is inadequate to address this challenge.

A similar bill was introduced as SB 919 in 2018.

CSAC: Pending  
RCRC: Pending

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

- A . SB 19
- B . SB 19-Fact Sheet

Recommendation: Approve  
Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan