

**Subject** Watershed Management

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## Overview

This bill would modify metropolitan watershed planning requirements to incorporate groundwater protection, including groundwater recharge, drinking water source protection, slowing the movement of water, and planning for high rainfall events. It would also allow a watershed district to be established to slow the movement of water and recharge groundwater as well as require a watershed district to do so.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<b>Metropolitan water management program; purpose.</b> Expands the purpose of the metropolitan water management program to include addressing water quantity problems, preventing vegetation erosion, slowing the movement of water, and protecting and enhancing surface water and groundwater used for drinking water.
2	<b>Priority schedule.</b> Adds regional water quantity goals and priorities to the list of items the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) should consider when prioritizing revisions to metropolitan watershed management plans.
3	<b>General standards.</b> Requires a county to provide, upon request of a watershed management organization (WMO), recommendations to improve groundwater quality and quantity and storm water management from high rainfall events.
4	<b>Contents.</b> Requires metropolitan watershed management plans to include groundwater recharge goals and identify actions and improvements necessary to manage high rainfall events.

Section	Description
5	<b>Contents.</b> Requires metropolitan local watershed management plans to include groundwater recharge goals.
6	<b>Contents.</b> Requires metropolitan county groundwater plans to include goals for slowing the movement of water to improve water quality and increase groundwater recharge.
7	<b>Specific purposes.</b> Adds slowing the movement of water to protect surface waters and recharge groundwater resources to the list of reasons a watershed district may be established. Requires a watershed district to protect surface waters and recharge groundwater resources consistent with sound watershed management objectives.



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