



Legislation and Communications Committee

Express Support for AB 1894 (Rubio)

Item 8-3

July 13, 2026

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, II

Item 8-3 Summary

Subject

Express support for AB 1894 (Rubio) Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water.

Purpose

Presentation for Board action.

Golden Mussels

Background

- Golden mussels first detected October 2024
- In 2025, Los Angeles County suspended imported water deliveries over concerns that invasive mussels could infest County spreading facilities
- Halted groundwater replenishment activities for Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD and City of Burbank
- These agencies depend on imported water to supplement groundwater supplies and meet regional water demands and basin adjudication requirements

Golden Mussels

Status

- Metropolitan has been an engaged partner and continues working with Upper District, the City of Burbank and Los Angeles County.
- We have negotiated a phased approach to resume imported water deliveries that includes enhanced monitoring, operational safeguards and implementation of approved invasive mussel control plans.
- Progress has been made in developing a framework, but water deliveries have not resumed.

Golden Mussels

AB 1894 (Rubio)

- Introduced to provide greater certainty for imported water deliveries
- Would prohibit a local agency from blocking deliveries of imported water for groundwater replenishment due to the presence of invasive mussels
- Requires CDFW-approved invasive mussel control plan
- Provides exemption for documented health and safety risks

AB 1894

Status of Legislation

- Adopted Metropolitan requested amendments on May 28
- Passed out of Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on June 9
- Currently awaiting consideration on the Senate Floor in August

AB 1894

Arguments in Support

- Imported water is essential to Southern California's managed aquifer recharge, groundwater sustainability and regional water supply reliability.
- AB 1894 ensures that critical water decisions affecting the entire state are made consistently at the state level rather than a patchwork of local rules.
- The interruption of imported water threatens the 1973 Main San Gabriel Basin Groundwater Adjudication, which relies on imported water to offset overdraft and maintain sustainability.

AB 1894

Arguments in Support

- Agencies remain responsible for complying with all environmental regulations, water quality requirements and approved invasive mussel control measures.

AB 1894

Arguments in Opposition

- The bill usurps the authority of a groundwater recharge facility to protect its investment and requires it to accept the importation of water supplies from known infested bodies of water.
- The bill's broad preemption of local authority could ultimately increase risks to water supply reliability by importing invasive mussels into an area that is not infested.

AB 1894

Arguments in Opposition

- If invasive mussels are detected, the operator would be required to implement a plan to control invasive mussels, thus shifting the burden to the agency who receives the water.

Board Options

Option #1:

- Express Support for AB 1894 (Rubio) Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water.

Option #2:

- Take no action and maintain a watch position on the bill

Board Options

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

