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## CalMutuals Monthly Newsletter

### September 2015

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#### **AB 1077 (Holden): Hosting Board Meetings through Telephone or Computer – a “Mixed Bag” for Mutual Water Companies**

AB 1077, a bill introduced by Assemblyman Chris Holden, would have required a mutual water company to allow any eligible person, who was unable to provide at least 24-hour notice to attend a board meeting, the ability to participate in the meeting by technology, via a telephone or computer.



Members of CalMutuals board of directors and staff met with the author of the legislation, Assemblyman Chris Holden, in Sacramento in early April to express concerns regarding the bill; most notably – the limited technological capabilities by some mutual water companies and the inability to monitor or verify who would have remote access to information discussed during the meeting.

The bill was amended to allow a mutual water company’s board to choose the option to host its board meetings via a telephone or computer, if members are unable to meet in person, or to allow audience participation via such remote means.

The legislation **does not** require the use of such technology. However, once a board of directors chooses to host its board meetings through electronic means, the law requires that anyone listening to the meeting be allowed to make public comments and interact with the board. This requirement is exclusive to mutual water companies as cities, school boards and special districts are not required to allow public comments or interaction with the board when hosting their meetings via electronic means, a telephone or computer.

## **What does AB 1077 mean for your mutual water company?**

AB 1077 is an in part reiteration of 2013 legislation (AB 240) which, among its provisions, requires mutual water companies to opening board of directors' meetings to specified "eligible persons." For more information on AB 240, [click here](#).

For mutual water companies serving transient communities (i.e. vacation community), AB 1077 provides the ability to manage board affairs remotely. However, once a mutual water company opts to utilize the teleconferencing component made possible by AB 1077, additional components within the bill's language are triggered.

Those components include:

- Providing copies of all board meeting materials (minutes, budget, agenda, etc.) prior to the meeting, and;
- Allowing other eligible persons to participate in board matters.

Despite the permissive nature of AB 1077, CalMutuals recommends that mutual water companies closely review the ability to fulfill all requirements within the bill's language prior to utilizing remote communications to conduct board meetings.

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## **DWR Presents Grant Program Guidelines**

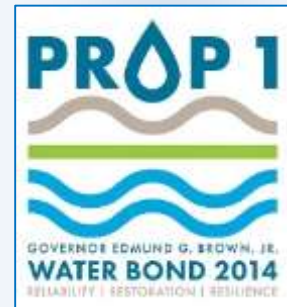
The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted three public meetings to present the contents of the draft Guidelines for the Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Grant Program and draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for the "Counties with Stressed Basins" solicitation, and solicit comments.

Over the past month, public comment meetings have taken place in Fresno, Riverside and Santa Rosa.

If you missed these meetings, you can still review the materials presented.

To access the PowerPoint presentation, [click here](#).

To access the handouts from the meetings, [click here](#).



## Upcoming SGMA Informational Meetings

**There will be a series of informational meetings held across California in October discussing implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Three hour technical sessions will focus on local agency requirements regarding Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) formation, the status of SGMA implementation within the region, technical and financial assistance programs and the implications of state intervention in the absence of local action.

Two hour public forums will serve to educate the public, answer questions and ask for feedback.

Below are the dates and locations for the meetings:

### **OCTOBER 21<sup>st</sup> LOS ANGELES**

Los Angeles Valley College

Campus Center Building, Monarch Hall

5800 Fulton Ave, Valley Glen, CA 91401

1:00 to 4:00 PM: Technical session for local public agencies and organizations

6:00 – 8:00 PM: Public forum for groundwater users and the general public

### **OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup> VISALIA**

210Life

Assembly Room

210 W. Center Ave, Visalia, CA 93291

1:00 to 4:00 PM: Technical session for local public agencies and organizations

6:00 – 8:00 PM: Public forum for groundwater users and the general public

*(A Spanish translator will be available at this meeting)*

### **OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup> SACRAMENTO**

CalEPA Building

Coastal Hearing Room

1001 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814

1:00 to 4:00 PM: Technical session for local public agencies and organizations

6:00 – 8:00 PM: Public forum for groundwater users and the general public

*(This meeting will also be available via Webcast)*

For more information on these meetings, [click here](#).

## Free AB 54 Classes in English and Spanish

The Rural Communities Assistance Corporation (RCAC) will be hosting two AB 54 classroom workshops (in English and Spanish) in Visalia this month.



Since AB 54 was signed into law in 2012, all mutual water board members have been required to complete two hours of ethics training every six years, and within six months of taking office. This training is designed to provide for system longevity and helps assure that board members meet their legal responsibilities.

Below are the details for the two workshops:

**DATE:** October 14th (English) October 15th (Spanish)

**TIME:** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Self-Help Enterprises (8445 W Elowin Ct, Visalia, CA 93290)

**COST:** Free

**RSVP:** For the October 14th English language workshop, [click here](#).  
For the October 15th Spanish language workshop, [click here](#).

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The advertisement is a horizontal banner with a dark blue background. On the left, the iFLOW ENERGY SOLUTIONS logo is displayed above the phone number 1-888-651-1130 and the text "California, Nevada & Arizona" and "www.iflowinc.com". In the center, the Kamstrup logo is in red, followed by "Ultrasonic Water Meters" in white. Below this, the features "Superb Accuracy", "Integrated Radio", and "20 Year Warranty" are listed in white. To the right, the features "5/8" through 2\"", "CTEP Approved", "Leak Alarm", "No Flow Alarm", and "Burst, Reverse" are listed in white. A large image of a white ultrasonic water meter is shown, with its digital display showing "00000000". On the far right, a white box contains the text "Wireless Reading via Smartphone Tablet Laptop or Handheld" above an image of a smartphone displaying a water meter reading app.