

S.F. No. 622 – Water appropriations, wells, and permitting provisions modifications

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Section 1 [Transfer of Water Use Permits] When a water use permit is transferred as part of the conveyance of real property, this section prohibits the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from imposing additional conditions on the permit, reducing the amount of the appropriation, reducing the term, or requiring testing.

Section 2 [Analysis of Economic Impact of Water Appropriations Plans] requires DNR to provide estimates of the economic impact of any new restriction or policy on existing and future groundwater users and local governments before a water management plan for appropriating water is prepared.

Section 3 [Groundwater Management Area Plan Development] limits the types of information that may be disseminated about the development of a groundwater management area plan to information about meetings related to plan development and factual responses to public and media inquiries. Requires that economic impacts be identified and strategies to address them included in any groundwater management area plan.

Section 4 [Definition of Sustainable] defines “sustainable” for purposes of groundwater management areas as a use that does not result in a change in hydrologic regime of more than 20 percent relative to the August median stream flow.

Section 5 [Well Interference and Testing] requires the commissioner to take into account the condition of a well when validating a well interference claim. Authorizes parties ordered to contribute to an affected well owner to file a contested case petition.