



## Senate Bill 664 Water Seismic Safety

### SUMMARY

California's water supply crisscrosses dozens of faults, leaving pipes and aqueducts vulnerable to the powerful shaking of earthquakes. It is incredibly important that water agencies, the public and the state of California understand the impact an earthquake might have on water supply. Senate Bill 664 requires water agencies to include an assessment of seismic vulnerability in the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) plans.

### ISSUE

According to the Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast, there is a 99.7% chance of another magnitude 6.7 or larger earthquake during the next 30 years. Californians unfortunately are familiar with consequences of earthquakes. The Northridge earthquake (magnitude 6.7) left 57 dead, more than 9,000 injured, and caused more than \$40 billion in property damage. The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake (magnitude 6.9) killed 63 people, injured more than 3,700, and caused more than \$6 billion in property damage. The mostly deadly California earthquake, the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire (estimated magnitude 7.8), left 3,000 people dead and caused more than \$13 billion (inflation-adjusted) in property damage. Each of these quakes resulted in substantial water system damage and challenges for delivering water for firefighting and drinking. For example, in Northridge, residents lined up to receive bottled water after local officials warned not to drink tap water following the rupture of several water mains in the San Fernando Valley.

With California entering the fourth year of the current and serious drought, scientists predict our changing climate will increase the frequency, length, and severity of droughts in California. The State must prioritize water security. Integrated Regional Water Management plans coordinate water resource management in designated regions across the state through the collaboration of cities, counties, water agencies and community groups. The IRWM plans help to mitigate conflict among local water authorities and clarify the needs of regional water infrastructure. These regional plans also identify projects for which regional water management groups may apply for grants from the Department of Water Resources.

Although California has addressed seismic safety many times, including mandatory retrofits for schools and hospitals, voluntary upgrades, mapping hazardous faults, and cataloguing unsafe buildings, much of California's infrastructure – including key water delivery systems – remains seismically unsafe and extremely vulnerable.

### SB 664 (HERTZBERG)

This bill will require all Integrated Regional Water Management Plans to include an evaluation of the seismic vulnerability of the water infrastructure within the jurisdiction of the plan.