

UNSOLICITED
EXECUTIVE AGENCY
FISCAL NOTE

AGENCY'S ESTIMATES

Date Prepared: March 15, 2023

Agency Submitting: State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources

Items of Revenue or Expense, or Both	Fiscal Year 2022-23	Fiscal Year 2023-24	Fiscal Year 2024-25	Effect on Future Biennia
Total	0	0	0	0

Explanation

(Use Additional Sheets of Attachments, if required)

The Division of Water Resources has reviewed the proposed legislation and has concerns that there may be a fiscal impact that the agency is unable to determine with specificity at this time. The bill, in contrast to existing law, mandates the creation of a groundwater board by the State Engineer upon request from a discretionary act by an outside entity. Under existing law, a groundwater board was only requested twice and granted once many years ago. Even in those circumstances, it required a substantial amount of Division time and resources. In more recent times, the Division experiences a substantial commitment of staff time and resources in coordinating with non-statutorily created groundwater boards and ad-hoc groups. Without having an understanding of the frequency of such requests and the nature and complexity of the issues involved, the Division is unable to determine the extent and significance of the fiscal impact given these uncertainties. However, the Division recognizes that there will be a fiscal impact to the Division and will result in an unfunded mandate, which the Division does not presently have fiscal or staff capacity to undertake.

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Title Deputy Administrator