

BILL NUMBER: AB 515 CHAPTERED 09/29/05

CHAPTER 368

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INTRODUCED BY Assembly Member Richman
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Levine)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Berg, Bogh, Canciamilla, Evans, Leno,
Nation, and Wolk)

FEBRUARY 16, 2005

An act to add Section 141 to the Water Code, relating to the State
Water Project.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 515, Richman State Water Project: **solar** photovoltaic panels
and systems.

Under existing law, the Department of Water Resources operates the
State Water Project.

This bill would authorize the department to establish a program to
authorize private entities to lease space above or adjacent to
appropriate conveyance facilities of the State Water Project for the
purposes of installing **solar** photovoltaic panels and related systems
for the generation and transfer of electricity. The bill would
require the department to evaluate proposals for installing **solar**
photovoltaic panels and related systems. The bill would require a
proposal submitted to the department for evaluation to include an
engineering study of the proposed **solar** photovoltaic panels and
related systems and an evaluation of the effect the **solar**
photovoltaic panels and related systems may have on water supply,
water quality, worker safety, and liability considerations. The bill
would require the costs of the engineering study and the department's
evaluation to be paid by the person or entity making the request.
The bill would authorize the department to negotiate compensation for
an agreement for the installation of **solar** photovoltaic panels and
related systems for the transfer of electricity, that is equal to or
exceeds the cost to the department of meeting its obligations under
the agreement.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares that it is in the
interest of the state to conserve resources and to promote projects
that further that interest.

SEC. 2. Section 141 is added to the Water Code, to read:

141. (a) The department may establish a program to authorize
private entities to lease space above or adjacent to appropriate
conveyance facilities of the State Water Project for the purpose of
installing **solar** photovoltaic panels and systems for generating
electricity from those panels and transferring electricity through
the related systems. Upon request, the department shall evaluate
proposals for installing **solar** photovoltaic panels and related
systems for the generation and transfer of electricity. A proposal
submitted to the department for evaluation shall include, but need

not be limited to, an engineering study of the proposed **solar** photovoltaic panels and related systems and an evaluation of the effect the **solar** photovoltaic panels and related systems may have on water supply, water quality, worker safety, and liability considerations. The costs of the engineering study and the department's evaluation shall be paid by the person or entity making the request.

(b) After approval of a proposal as described in subdivision (a), the department may negotiate any level of compensation for an agreement for the installation of **solar** photovoltaic panels and related systems that is equal to, or greater than, the cost to the department of meeting its obligations under the agreement. These costs shall include, but are not limited to, the costs of operating and maintaining State Water Project facilities and lease administration that are directly related to the lease and use of the conveyance facilities.