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## Governor approves protections for water rights holders

Press staff report Oct 2, 2018

Legislation originally proposed by the Byron Bethany Irrigation District establishing new protections for water rights holders has been signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Before reaching the governor's desk, the legislation, **Assembly Bill 747** by Assemblywoman Anna Caballero, D-Salinas, was passed by both the Assembly and the state Senate with bipartisan support, reported Rick Gilmore, BBID general manager.

Gilmore said AB 747 establishes a fairer process for water rights holders, who felt they were at a disadvantage in facing enforcement actions by the State Water Resources Control Board, which acted as both prosecutor and judge of the board's charges against individuals and water districts.

The new law creates an administrative hearing office with attorneys who have expertise in water matters to serve as hearing officers. This is the same process already used by other state agencies.



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