

Proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the legislature by law to establish and implement one or more programs to assist farmers who voluntarily forgo agricultural production for the purpose of protecting, conserving, or replenishing groundwater supply during periods of drought or to enhance and develop surface water resources for use by farmers for irrigation purposes, or both.

Proposed constitutional amendment establishes the Drought Protection Trust Fund as a special fund in the state treasury. The sources of monies deposited into the fund shall be public and private monies received by the state for the purposes of protection, development, and enhancement of groundwater and surface water resources of the state, and any other revenues as may be provided by law, and any other monies which may be appropriated to the fund. Appropriations from the fund are authorized for the provision of loans, grants, or other subsidies to certain farmers, and to provide revenue for the development and enhancement of surface water resources. The legislature may provide law with respect to the fund.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on November 5, 2002.

(Adds Const. Art. VII, §10.11)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill.

1. Adds provisions authorizing programs to enhance and develop surface water resources for irrigation.
2. Authorizes use of trust fund monies for development and enhancement of surface water resources.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the reengrossed bill.

1. Deletes statement of purpose.
2. Establishes the Drought Protection Trust Fund as a special treasury fund and provides for sources and use of monies in the fund.