In 2015 a State Audit on the Central Basin was completed, the list of concerns was long. They ranged from a lack of leadership and technical expertise that resulted in credit down-grades to 2.75 million dollars being spent without sufficient oversight from an inappropriately set-up legal trust fund to an FBI investigation. While the Central Basin has made great improvements in response to the audit and AB 1794, the history is they revert. AB 1794 (2016) created a new governance structure to ensure that the Central Basin Municipal Water District will effectively fulfill its responsibilities moving forward. AB 591 builds upon the work that was done in AB 1794. The strategies that will be implemented by this bill reflect input from the 41 purveyors led by an independent auditor. Together, these changes will protect consumers by making sure that Central Basin Municipal Water District not only gets back on track, but stays there. The changes in AB 1794 provided the mix of oversight, expertise, and accountability to protect the more than two million people served by Central Basin.

In 2017 Huntington Park (the city) brought a lawsuit in order to challenge a Central Basin ruling of who could run for one of the new spots on the board. The city argued that the election of the three new members wasn’t legitimate because Huntington Park’s candidate, Michael Gomez, a director for Walnut Park Mutual Water Co., wasn’t allowed to run as a representative of cities. However, the Central Basin has said Gomez didn’t work for a city nor was he a consultant for one. Thus, he couldn’t represent that slot.

This bill seeks to clarify the definition of a representative, in response to litigation over the meaning of representative. We hope that this change will make clear to all parties the original intent in AB 1794.

Chaptered, Chapter 124

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