



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 20-0113

Agenda Date: 5/26/2020

Item No.: 3.4.

BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:

Approve Recommended Positions on Federal Legislation: H.R. 6643 (Schneider) Supporting State and Local Leaders Act; and Other Legislation That May Require Urgent Consideration for a Position by the Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a position of "Support" on H.R. 6643 (Schneider) - Supporting State and Local Leaders Act.

SUMMARY:

H.R. 6643 (Schneider) - Supporting State and Local Leaders Act

Recommendation: Support

Priority Recommendation: 2

This bill would repeal language included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201), the second major federal coronavirus stimulus package, that expressly prohibits government agencies, including States and political subdivisions of a State, from accessing payroll tax credits for required paid sick and family leave that private employers can access.

Status:

The bill was introduced in the House on April 28, 2020, and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Cosponsors include Representatives Jimmy Panetta (CA-20), Anna Eshoo (CA-18), Ro Khanna (CA-17), and Jackie Speier (CA-14).

Importance to Valley Water:

Valley Water provides an essential service to the people of Santa Clara County, one of the earliest and hardest-hit counties in the nation during the coronavirus pandemic. Valley Water employees ensure that residents have reliable access to safe, clean water and are protected from flooding. As the State of California and local governments are stretched financially during this crisis, Valley Water's ability to access federal funding and support is critical. Repealing this prohibition on government agencies from accessing payroll tax credits for required paid sick and family leave could provide Valley Water with financial support during this challenging time.

Pros:

- The bill would provide Valley Water with financial support via payroll tax credits for granting required paid sick and family leave.

- The bill would reduce the financial burden on the State, which is already facing a projected budget deficit of more than \$50 billion due to the pandemic.

Cons:

- None identified at this time.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this item.

CEQA:

The recommended action does not constitute a project under CEQA because it does not have the potential for resulting in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Rachael Gibson, 408-630-2884