

FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Staff Advocates for FY27 Funding for Priority Projects

Staff is advocating for \$10M in FY27 Community Project Funding (also known as earmarks) for the Pure Water Silicon Valley demonstration facility, with the support of California Assembly Member Ash Kalra and Santa Clara Mayor Lisa Gillmor. Valley Water received \$1.092M in FY26 Community Project Funding through Rep. Ro Khanna (CA-17), funding that will support facility design. The FY27 funding would support facility construction, which is scheduled to begin in 2027. Staff also advocated for FY27 funding for priority programs that could fund Valley Water projects in the future, including the Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program, Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program, Large-Scale Water Recycling Program, and more.



Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

STATE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Legislative Update

The California State Legislature is entering a period of high legislative activity as lawmakers advance, amend, and negotiate policy proposals before final deadlines later in the year. As of the February bill introduction deadline, approximately 1,800 bills have been introduced, and staff is continuously monitoring and analyzing them for potential impacts on Valley Water.

This session highlights many of the state's ongoing challenges and priorities, including affordability (housing and energy), healthcare access, and emerging issues like artificial intelligence and social media regulation. For Valley Water, bills of interest will include topics such as State Water Project water rights, water infrastructure funding, data centers, permit streamlining, wildfire preparedness, golden mussel response, and environmental protection.

FY26-27 State Budget Update

The legislature has also begun deliberating the FY2026-27 state budget, a process shaped by ongoing fiscal constraints and economic uncertainty following several years of revenue fluctuations. Building on a projected multi-billion-dollar shortfall from previous cycles, lawmakers and the Administration are working to close a multi-billion-dollar budget gap through a combination of spending cuts, funding delays, and limited new revenues. The budget discussion centers on maintaining core commitments in education, healthcare, housing, and social services, while reassessing one-time and discretionary expenses. Key areas of focus include Medi-Cal costs, homelessness and housing initiatives, climate and infrastructure investments, wildfire resilience, and ongoing efforts to sustain adequate reserve levels.

Staff are advocating for a \$25M direct budget appropriation for the Pure Water Silicon Valley Demonstration Facility and Education Center. Assembly Member Patrick Ahrens (D-Cupertino) has agreed to champion the effort, and staff is working with his office to secure the support of the entire Santa Clara County delegation.

In addition to the direct appropriation request, staff is working to ensure the appropriation of remaining Proposition 4 funding for dam safety, wildfire preparedness, coastal resilience, and sea level rise.

LOCAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Tour with Los Gatos Town Council

On February 26, Valley Water staff hosted a tour of the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant for Los Gatos Mayor Rob Moore, Vice Mayor Maria Ristow, and Town Manager Chris Constantin. Staff provided an update on Phase 4 of the Reliability Improvement Project and shared construction progress and key milestones. The tour included a briefing on plant operations from the upper deck overlooking the plant's facilities, followed by a visit to the construction area to observe progress on the bioretention basin.



February 26: Mayor Rob Moore, Vice Mayor Maria Ristow, and Town Manager Chris Constantin with Valley Water ACEO Rita Chan and Staff on the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Tour.

Anderson Tour with Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building Trades Council and the North Coast States Carpenters Union

On March 13, Valley Water staff hosted a tour of the Anderson Dam project site for members of the Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building Trades Council and the North Coast States Carpenters Union. Director Jim Beall welcomed the group and highlighted how the project is creating local jobs and supporting skilled labor. The visit provided an opportunity for members of the building trades to see firsthand the scale of the work and understand the importance of the project for the region's water reliability and public safety.



March 13: Director Jim Beall with Members of the Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building Trades Council and the North Coast States Carpenters Union

Valley Water Hosts Countywide Legislative Coordinators at Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center

Valley Water hosted the Countywide Legislative Coordinators meeting at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (SVAWPC). This informal group meets monthly to share timely legislative updates and information and is composed of intergovernmental affairs professionals and executive staff from agencies across Santa Clara County. Following the meeting, attendees joined the Water Supply Outreach Team for a guided tour of the facility and were able to see firsthand the purification processes and learn more about our agency's efforts to expand water reuse in the region.



March 25: Members of the Countywide Legislative Coordinators group touring the SVAWPC.

RECENT EVENTS

- MARCH 28 Cupertino Educational Enhancement Foundation/ Cupertino Union School District Run for Great Schools 5k and Fun Run Booth
- MARCH 28 Community Emergency Response Team with City of San José District 10 5k Family Fun Run Booth

FUTURE EVENTS

- APRIL 18 City of Milpitas Earth Day Table
- APRIL 25 Morgan Hill Community Earth Day Festival Booth

2025-26 State Legislation with Board-Approved Positions

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
AB 11 (Lee)	The Social Housing Act	Support	Pending – Senate Housing Committee (2 Yr Bill)
AB 35 (Alvarez)	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: Exemption: Program guidelines and selection criteria	Support	Pending – Senate Rules Committee
AB 259 (Blanca Rubio)	Open Meetings Teleconferences	Support	Pending – Senate Judiciary Committee (2 Yr Bill)
AB 269 (Bennett)	Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program	Oppose	Failed – Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
AB 454 (Kalra)	Migratory Birds: California Migratory Bird Protection Act	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 514 (Petrie-Norris)	Emergency Water Supplies	Support	Failed – Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File
AB 532 (Ransom)	Water Rate Assistance Program	Support	Pending – Senate Appropriations Committee – Suspense File (2 Yr Bill)
AB 707 (Soria)	San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority: B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project	Support	Failed – Assembly Rules Committee
AB 810 (Irwin)	Local Government Internet Websites and Email Addresses	Oppose	Failed – Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File
AB 1319 (Schultz)	Protected Species: California Endangered Species Act	Oppose Unless Amended	Signed by the Governor
AB 1577 (Bauer-Kahan)	Data Centers: Reporting	Support	Pending – Assembly Utilities & Energy Committee
AB 2051 (Wicks)	Public Resources: Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group	Support	Pending – Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
AB 2180 (Ward)	Local Government: Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act: Proportional Cost of Service	Support	Pending – Assembly Third Reading
AB 2215 (Calderon)	Water Rights: Permits: State Water Project	Support	Pending – Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
AB 2619 (Papan)	Water Resources: Data Centers	Support	Pending – Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
SB 31 (McNerney)	Water Quality: Recycled Water	Support	Signed by the Governor
SB 72 (Caballero)	The California Water Plan: Long-Term Supply Targets	Support	Signed by the Governor
SB 454 (McNerney)	State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program	Support	Vetoed by the Governor
SB 466 (Caballero)	Drinking Water: Hexavalent Chromium: Civil Liability: Exemption	Support	Signed by the Governor
SB 496 (Hurtado)	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: Appeals Advisory Committee: Exemptions	Support	Failed – Senate Appropriations Committee – Suspense File
SB 598 (Durazo)	Construction Manager/General Contractor Project Delivery Method	Support	Signed by the Governor
SB 599 (Caballero)	Atmospheric Rivers: Research: Forecasting Methods: Experimental Tools	Support	Pending – Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File (2 Yr Bill)
SB 601 (Allen)	Water: Waste Discharge	Oppose Unless Amended	Pending – Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File (2 Yr Bill)

2025-26 State Legislation with Board-Approved Positions - *continued*

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
SB 650 (Cabaldon)	The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009.	Support	Signed by the Governor
SB 682 (Allen)	Environmental Health: Product Safety: Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	Support	Vetoed by the Governor
SB 695 (Cortese)	Transportation: climate resiliency: projects of statewide and regional significance	Support	Signed by the Governor
SB 753 (Cortese)	Special Business Regulations: Shopping Carts	Support	Signed by the Governor
SB 872 (McNerney)	Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund	Support and Amend	Pending - Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee
SB 899 (Grove)	Fire Prevention: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force: Wildfire Smoke	Support	Pending - Senate Environmental Quality Committee
SB 1085 (Durazo)	Water Supply Planning: California Environmental Quality Act Determination	Support	Pending - Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee
SB 1153 (Caballero)	Disaster Preparedness: Urban Retail Water Suppliers and Public Water Systems: Wildfire	Support	Pending - Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee

2025-26 Federal Legislation with Board-Approved Positions

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
H.R. 337 (Costa)	Groundwater Technical Assistance Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 338 (Costa)	Every Drop Counts Act	Support	Introduced
S. 322 (Padilla)	Improving Atmospheric River Forecasting Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 1267 (Gluesenkamp Perez)	Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 403 (Swalwell)	Preventing Our Next Natural Disaster Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 1382 (Huffman)	San Francisco Bay Restoration Program Technical Correction Act	Support	Reported Out of Committee
H.R. 605 (Costa)	Headwaters Protection Act of 2025	Support	Introduced
H.R. 1871 (Huffman) S. 857 (Curtis)	Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act of 2025	Support	Introduced
H.R. 1894 (Calvert)	Federally Integrated Species Health (FISH) Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 2594 (Crawford)	Water Risk and Resilience Organization Establishment Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 2344 (Schakowsky) S. 1118 (Markey)	Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC) Threat Protection Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 2766 (Fallon)	Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 2774 (Harder)	Safeguarding Our Levees Act	Support	Introduced
S. 1760 (Curtis)	Restoring WIFIA Eligibility Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 2907 (Stanton)	Save Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (Save BRIC) Act	Support	Introduced
S. 324 (Rosen)	Smarter Weather Forecasting for Water Management, Farming, and Ranching Act of 2025	Support	Introduced

2025-26 Federal Legislation with Board-Approved Positions - *continued*

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
S. 1481 (Wicker)	Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure (LOCAL Infrastructure) Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 1255 (Kustoff)	Investing in Our Communities Act	Support	Introduced
S. 1246 (Tillis)	FEMA Independence Act of 2025	Support	Introduced
H.R. 4733 (Sorensen)	Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 3572 (Valadao)	Farm to Market Road Improvement Act	Support and Amend	Introduced
S. 1413 (Padilla)	To authorize additional funding for the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act	Support	Introduced
S. 1477 (Padilla) H.R. 2945 (Lieu)	Housing for All Act of 2025	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 6422 (Stauber)	American Water Stewardship Act	Support	Introduced
S. 3693 (Cortez Masto)	Large-Scale Water Recycling Program Reauthorization Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 4593 (Fry)	Saving Homeowners from Overregulation With Exceptional Rinsing (SHOWER) Act	Oppose	Passed House
H.R. 6641 (Gray)	Central Valley Water Solution Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 6984 (Menendez)	Data Center Transparency Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 5566 (Carbajal) S. 3590 (Blunt Rochester)	Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act	Support	Introduced

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