

## FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

### Valley Water FY26 Federal Funding Requests

As part of the annual budget process, Valley Water has submitted Community Project Funding requests for two priority projects. These awards, also known as Congressionally Directed Spending, are projects selected directly by a Member of Congress and included in a fiscal year's appropriations bill. For FY26, Valley Water has requested \$10M for construction of the Anderson Dam Stage 2 Diversion System and \$4M for design of the San Jose Purified Water Facility. The projects must be selected by a Member of Congress and then accepted by the House or Senate Appropriations Committee before the funds are included in the final appropriations bill. Valley Water submitted similar requests for FY25 and one was selected, but ultimately excluded in the final stages of the appropriations process when Congress opted to enact a Continuing Resolution that did not include these funds.

## STATE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

### AB 269 (Bennett) - Bill Diluting Dam Safety Funding Program Stopped

Valley Water, alongside a coalition of major water agencies across California, was successful in stopping AB 269 (Bennett) in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. The bill would have expanded the state's Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program to include funding for dam removals, which is not currently included in the program. While the program was originally created to support critical dam safety projects such as seismic retrofits, spillway repairs, and sediment removal, AB 269 threatened to dilute its focus and divert limited funds away from essential public safety investments.

The coalition emphasized the existence of multiple dedicated funding sources for dam removal projects, while no other state or federal program exists specifically for dam safety. With urgent infrastructure upgrades like the \$2.3 billion Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project underway, Valley Water argued that AB 269 would undermine public safety and water supply reliability across the state, putting a stop to this problematic bill.

## LOCAL ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

### Environmentally Focused Stakeholder Meeting

On April 2, Chair Estremera kicked off the first environmentally focused stakeholders meeting of the year hosted by Valley Water. Chair Estremera greeted a diverse cross-section of environmental leaders at the virtual meeting and introduced Director Ballard, who was also in attendance. Valley Water staff conducted an informational presentation on the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project and shared an update on the Desalination Engineering Feasibility Study. Attendees participated in a lively discussion during the meeting, engaged Valley Water directors and staff with questions, and provided valuable feedback on Valley Water projects through an environmental stewardship lens.

### VIP Water Walk Tour Held on April 11

On April 11, Valley Water hosted a tour of Valley Water's critical water infrastructure in Santa Clara County. Tour guests included elected officials across ten cities, county and special district staff, as well as state and federal representatives and business leaders. The tour served as an opportunity to educate and engage regional stakeholders on the various projects' benefits and to advocate for legislative needs.



April 11: VIP Water Walk Tour Stop at Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project Site

### Gilroy Chamber of Commerce's 12th Annual Legislative Summit

On April 25, Director Varela spoke at the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce's Annual Legislative Summit, alongside Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, State Senator Dave Cortese, Gilroy Mayor Greg Bozzo, and Morgan Hill Mayor Mark Turner. Director Varela's speech covered the status of the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project, and purified water expansion, as well as Valley Water's water conservation efforts. This regional event is held each year to provide South County business and community leaders an opportunity to hear from elected officials representing Gilroy, San Martin, and Morgan Hill about the issues that affect them most.

## RECENT EVENTS

- APR 05 Cupertino Earth and Arbor Day Festival Booth
- APR 12 San Jose Clean Energy's EV Ride and Drive Expo Booth
- APR 22 San Jose State University's 2025 Earth Day Resource Fair Booth
- APR 26 Evergreen Valley College Community Day Booth
- APR 26 Morgan Hill Community Earth Day Festival Booth

## FUTURE EVENTS

- MAY 10 Berryessa Art Festival Booth
- MAY 25-26 Morgan Hill Mushroom Festival Booth
- MAY 29 Gilroy Chamber Garlic City Car Show & Business Expo Booth

## 2025 State Legislation with Board-Approved Positions

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
AB 259 (Blanca Rubio)	Open Meetings Teleconferences	Support	Pending - Assembly Floor
AB 269 (Bennett)	Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program	Oppose	Pending - Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
AB 514 (Petrie-Norris)	Emergency Water Supplies	Support	Pending - Assembly Appropriations Committee
AB 532 (Ransom)	Water Rate Assistance Program	Support	Pending- Assembly Appropriations Committee
AB 707 (Soria)	San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority: B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project	Support	Pending - Assembly Rules Committee
AB 810 (Irwin)	Local Government Internet Websites and Email Addresses	Oppose	Pending - Assembly Appropriations Committee
SB 31 (McNerney)	Water Quality: recycled water	Support	Pending - Senate Environmental Quality Committee
SB 72 (Caballero)	The California Water Plan: Long-Term Supply Targets	Support	Pending - Senate Appropriations Committee - Suspense File
SB 454 (McNerney)	State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program	Support	Pending - Senate Appropriations Committee - Suspense File
SB 496 (Hurtado)	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions	Support	Pending - Senate Appropriations Committee
SB 599 (Caballero)	Atmospheric rivers: research: forecasting methods: experimental tools	Support	Pending - Senate Appropriations Committee
SB 601 (Allen)	Water: waste discharge	Oppose Unless Amended	Pending - Senate Appropriations Committee
SB 682 (Allen)	Environmental health: product safety: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances	Support	Pending - Senate Appropriations Committee
SB 695 (Cortese)	Transportation: climate resiliency: projects of statewide and regional significance	Support	Pending - Senate Appropriations Committee
SB 753 (Cortese)	Special business regulations: shopping carts	Support	Pending - Senate Local Government Committee

## 2025 Federal Legislation with Board-Approved Positions

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
S. 337 (Costa)	Groundwater Technical Assistance Act	Support	Introduced
S. 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	Introduced
H.R. 605 (Costa)	Headwaters Protection Act of 2025	Support	Introduced
H.R. 1871 (Huffman)	Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act of 2025	Support	Introduced
S. 857 (Curtis)	Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act of 2025	Support	Introduced
H.R. 1871 (Huffman)	Federally Integrated Species Health (FISH) Act	Support	Introduced