

# SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 2025 Office of Government Relations



## FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

### Staff Seeks Opportunities to Advance Valley Water Priorities in 2026

As 2025 comes to a close, staff has begun advocacy planning for the new year. There are several pieces of relevant legislation that could advance in Congress in 2026, and staff has been in discussions with congressional staff and other interested parties to ensure that Valley Water priorities are represented. These include: the Water Resources Development Act, which staff is hoping will include improvements to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program and the Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program; a surface transportation bill that could include new funding for the Sisk Dam Raise Project; permitting reform legislation that may help provide more certainty for infrastructure projects; and fiscal year 2026 appropriations that includes congressionally-directed spending for the Pure Water Silicon Valley. Staff will continue to seek opportunities to advance Valley Water interests as each of these bills advance.

## STATE ADVOCACY EFFORTS



California State Capitol.

### Preparing for the 2026 State Legislative Session

As the 2026 legislative session approaches, staff is preparing to engage on state issues that advance Valley Water’s priorities. Efforts will focus on the implementation of Proposition 4 (2024), ensuring that upcoming budget appropriations support funding for dam safety, recycled water, and climate resilience projects. Staff will also pursue direct appropriations for key Valley Water projects and continue advocating for regulatory improvements to expedite local project delivery and enhance coordination with state agencies. Through these efforts, staff will continue to pursue every available opportunity in the 2026 legislative cycle to advance the region’s water supply reliability and climate resilience goals.

## LOCAL ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT EFFORT

### San Jose Councilmember Michael Mulcahy Visits the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (SVAWPC)

On Nov. 5, Valley Water staff hosted San Jose District 6 Councilmember Michael Mulcahy and his team at the SVAWPC. Vice Chair Santos welcomed the group and Valley Water staff provided a presentation on purified water before leading the Councilmember and his staff on a walking tour of the facility. Councilmember Mulcahy and the District 6 team were able to see firsthand the purification processes and learn more about water reuse and its benefits.



Nov. 5: Councilmember Mulcahy, Vice Chair Richard P. Santos, Water Utility Chief Aaron Baker, along with Council District 6 staff and Valley Water staff.

### Valley Water Hosts Assemblymember Alex Lee’s Inaugural Young Legislators Program

On Nov. 8, Valley Water staff hosted Assemblymember Alex Lee’s Young Legislators Program at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (SVAWPC). Assemblymember Lee’s Young Legislators Program provides high school students with opportunities to learn more about government and civic engagement and a visit to the SVAWPC was included as part of this year’s pilot program. Vice Chair Santos welcomed the group of ten students and the visit included a walking tour of the facility, as well as a classroom-style chat and Q&A with Valley Water State Government Relations staff on identifying challenges, developing policy and legislative solutions, and collaborating with state partners to advance water reliability and sustainability.



Nov. 8: Vice Chair Richard P. Santos with the Young Legislators Program, along with Assemblymember Lee’s district staff and Valley Water staff.

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## Environmentally Focused Partners Meeting

On Nov. 18, Chair Estremera kicked off the last environmentally focused partners meeting of the year hosted by Valley Water. Chair Estremera and Director Ballard greeted a diverse cross-section of environmental leaders at the virtual meeting and participated in the roundtable discussion with attendees and Valley Water staff. Valley Water staff provided an overview of the ongoing West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Planning, followed by an informational presentation and update on the Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative by the County of Santa Clara's Office of Sustainability and Resilience.



Nov. 18: A partner presentation from the County of Santa Clara's Office of Sustainability and Resilience.

## 2025 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 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	Pending - Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee (2 Yr Bill)
AB 454 (Kalra)	Migratory Birds: California Migratory Bird Protection Act	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 514 (Petrie-Norris)	Emergency Water Supplies	Support	Pending - Assembly Appropriations Committee - Suspense File (2 Yr Bill)
AB 532 (Ransom)	Water Rate Assistance Program	Support	Pending - Senate Appropriations Committee - Suspense File (2Yr Bill)
AB 707 (Soria)	San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority: B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project	Support	Pending - Assembly Rules Committee (2 Yr Bill)
AB 810 (Irwin)	Local Government Internet Websites and Email Addresses	Oppose	Pending - Assembly Appropriations Committee - Suspense File (2 Yr Bill)
AB 1319 (Schultz)	Protected species: California Endangered Species Act	Oppose Unless Amended	Signed by the Governor
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	Pending - Senate Appropriations Committee - Suspense File (2 Yr Bill)
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 - Suspense File (2 Yr Bill)
SB 601 (Allen)	Water: waste discharge	Oppose Unless Amended	Pending - Assembly Appropriations Committee - Suspense File (2 Yr Bill)
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

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

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
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
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	Support
S. 1477 (Padilla) H.R. 2945 (Lieu)	Housing for All Act of 2025	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 337 (Costa)	Groundwater Technical Assistance Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 338 (Costa)	Every Drop Counts Act	Support	Introduced

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