

SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 2023 Office of Government Relations Activities



FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS



Jefferson Memorial in Washington D.C.

Meetings with D.C. Officials to Advocate for Shoreline Project Funding

On February 2 and 16, Valley Water held virtual meetings with officials at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in Washington, D.C., to advocate for federal funding for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase I Project (Shoreline Project). Valley Water met with leaders at Corps Headquarters and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army to request that the Corps provide \$91.2 million to the Shoreline Project, which would fill the current federal funding shortfall. Under the Fiscal Year 2023 Supplemental Appropriations Act, which Congress passed in December 2022, the Corps was given \$350 million to spend on projects that were originally funded under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, such as the Shoreline Project. Valley Water had advocated for inclusion of these funds in the FY23 supplemental funding bill, along with passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 to make the Shoreline Project eligible to receive these additional federal funds. The Corps is developing its work plan for these FY23 supplemental funds, which is expected to be released at the end of February. Valley Water will continue to advocate with the administration for the Shoreline Project to receive these funds.

STATE ADVOCACY EFFORTS



California State Capitol in Sacramento.

Assemblymember Pellerin Introduces AB 939 Smart Financing for Valley Water Infrastructure

Assemblymember Gail Pellerin (D-Santa Cruz) has introduced a bill sponsored by Valley Water to amend the District Act to address several changes required to modernize financing mechanisms that will reduce the cost of infrastructure projects, clean up obsolete provisions, and address a sunset provision regarding per diem for the Board of Directors. The bill, AB 939 (Pellerin) was introduced on February 14, and will be referred to the appropriate policy committees in the next month. Staff will work closely with the author's office to advocate for the bill's passage.

Assemblymember Kalra Introduces AB 1469 to Assist Unsheltered People

On February 17, Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D-San Jose) introduced a Valley Water sponsored bill to expand the purposes of the District Act to better assist unsheltered people and to fulfill the agency's existing mission. The bill will enable Valley Water to provide resources for outreach, counseling, transitional housing, or other services for unsheltered people living on public lands and along waterways within Santa Clara County. The bill will be referred to the appropriate policy committees in the next month. Staff will work closely with the author's office to advocate for the bill's passage.

[continued on back »](#)



February 16: Director Beall met with Senator Aisha Wahab to discuss Valley Water projects and priorities.

Director Beall Advocates for Valley Water in Sacramento

Director Beall was in Sacramento on February 16 and advocated for Valley Water’s two sponsored bills and funding for priority projects. The Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, the Purified Water Project, and the South San Francisco Shoreline Project were all discussed. Staff is currently organizing a trip for the Board to Sacramento in May to advocate for Valley Water priorities during a crucial time when the State Budget and legislation are being considered.

LOCAL ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS



January 31: Chair Varela and Assistant Officer for Dam and Safety Ryan McCarter with Morgan Hill City Councilmembers Gino Borgioli and Yvonne Martínez Beltrán and Morgan Hill Executive Leadership Team on Tour of Anderson Dam.

Tour of Anderson Dam with Morgan Hill Councilmembers Gino Borgioli and Yvonne Martínez Beltrán

On January 31, Valley Water hosted a tour of Anderson Dam for Morgan Hill Councilmembers Gino Borgioli and Yvonne Martínez Beltrán and members of Morgan Hill’s executive leadership team. Chair Varela welcomed the group and turned it over to staff, who provided an overview of the project and answered questions from attendees.



February 6: Directors Nai Hsueh and Richard Santos, CEO Rick Callender, and Valley Water staff on Mayor/City Manager Meeting with Sunnyvale Mayor Larry Klein, City Manager Kent Steffens, and Director of Environmental Services Ramana Chinnakotla.

Mayor/City Manager Meeting with Sunnyvale Mayor Larry Klein and City Manager Kent Steffens

On February 6, Valley Water held a Mayor/City Manager meeting with the City of Sunnyvale to discuss recycled water, share updates on the East/West Flood Channels Protection Project, South San Francisco Shoreline Project, and provide a brief overview on Valley Water’s 2023 legislative policy priorities.

Water conservation is a way of life in Santa Clara County. 

 **“LET’S SAY YES TO SAVING WATER.”**

Make a difference in your community. Find out how at WaterSavings.org.

