

SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 2024

Office of Government Relations



FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Board Approves Federal Funding Priorities in Advance of DC Trip

On October 8, the Board approved the federal funding priorities for federal fiscal years 2025 and 2026. Staff will advocate for these priorities during the fall advocacy trip to Washington, DC, which will occur November 18-20. Key funding priorities include increased grant funding for Federal Emergency Management Agency programs that could support Valley Water flood protection or hazard mitigation projects in the future, increased funding for recycled water projects, and additional resources for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue the Shoreline Sunnyvale Study. Staff recommends new funding requests prior to each fall and spring advocacy trip to Washington, DC, which form the basis of our advocacy with legislators and officials during the annual budget process.

STATE ADVOCACY EFFORTS



California State Capitol in Sacramento

BCDC's Draft Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan

On October 17, Valley Water submitted comments to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) on the draft Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (RSAP), a comprehensive strategy aimed at guiding the Bay Area's response to sea level rise and other climate-related shoreline challenges. Developed to establish a unified, science-driven framework, the RSAP proposes strategies to address critical regional risks like flooding and groundwater impacts while fostering resilient ecosystems and safeguarding vulnerable communities. For Valley Water, the RSAP represents an important opportunity to collaborate on best practices and standardized approaches to shoreline adaptation, aligning regional efforts with local needs.

Valley Water's comments reinforce its support for RSAP's goals and emphasizes the importance of incorporating refined local data and clarifying model limitations to ensure the plan effectively supports Santa Clara County's resilience. Staff will be working closely with BCDC and other partners to implement a robust, adaptable response to the region's shoreline adaptation needs.

LOCAL ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS



October 11: Unhoused People & Environment Summit at Santa Clara Convention Center

Unhoused People & Environment Summit

On October 11, Valley Water held the Unhoused People & Environment Summit in person at the Santa Clara Convention Center and virtually via Zoom. The summit brought together local leaders from Santa Clara County, South Bay cities, businesses, nonprofit service providers, and advocacy organizations, as well as representatives from the state and federal governments to discuss how to address encampments of unhoused people along Valley Water's waterways and how we can work together to address the challenges around homelessness in our region.

Chair Nai Hsueh and Vice Chair Richard Santos provided welcome remarks, which were followed by remarks from California Interagency Council on Homelessness Executive Officer Meghan Marshall, County of Santa Clara Board Supervisor Cindy Chavez, San José Mayor Matt Mahan, and Santa Clara Mayor Lisa Gillmor. The summit featured panel discussions on the impacts of encampments along waterways and opportunities for interagency collaboration. The panelists included executive leadership from the California Interagency Council on Homelessness, County of Santa Clara, City of San José, Destination: Home, and DignityMoves.

The summit had over 300 people in attendance, including elected officials from the County of Santa Clara, cities of San José, Santa Clara, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Cupertino, Campbell, Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Town of Los Gatos, as well as staff from the offices of U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas, State Senator Dave Cortese, Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, County of Santa Clara Board Vice President Otto Lee, and County of Santa Clara Board Supervisor Sylvia Arenas.

LOOKING AHEAD



ASCE Annual Student Scholarship Competition Booth

Federal Legislation Active in October 2024 with Board-Approved Positions

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
S. 24 (Feinstein) / H.R. 516 (Lieu)	Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 186 (McClintock)	Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 872 (Calvert)	Federally Integrated Species Health (FISH) Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 2419 (Costa) / S. 2161 (Feinstein)	Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Act	Support	H.R. 2419 Introduced; S. 2161 Heard in Committee
S. 2162 (Feinstein)	Support To Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture, and Municipalities (STREAM) Act	Support and Amend	Heard in Committee
S. 2202 (Feinstein)	Restore Aging Infrastructure Now (RAIN) Act	Support and Amend	Heard in Committee
S. 1430 (Lummis)	Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 2671 (Costa)	Restoring WIFIA Eligibility Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 1367 (Schakowsky) / S. 660 (Markey)	Water System Threat Preparedness and Resilience Act of 2023	Support	Introduced
S. 919 (Duckworth)	A Donald McEachin Environmental Justice For All Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 873 (Donalds)	Water Quality and Environmental Innovation Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 1729 (Watson Coleman) / S. 938 (Sanders)	Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 1708 (Jayapal)	Housing Is a Human Right Act of 2023	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 3896 (Cohen)	Airport Infrastructure Resilience Act of 2023	Support	Introduced
S. 2203 (Padilla)	Atmospheric Rivers Reconnaissance, Observation, and Warning (ARROW) Act	Support	Introduced
S. 2166 (Padilla)	Voluntary Agricultural Land Repurposing Act	Support	Heard in Committee
S. 2148 (Markey)	Local Infrastructure Funding and Technical Assistance (LIFT) Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 4052 (Davis)	National Infrastructure Bank Act of 2023	Support	Introduced
S. 2654 (Padilla) / H.R. 5016 (Levin)	Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 5254 (Lieu)	Housing for All Act of 2023	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 5104 (Edwards)	National Dam Safety Program Reauthorization Act of 2023	Support	Introduced

Federal Legislation Active in October 2024 with Board-Approved Positions (cont'd)

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
S. 2250 (Bennet) / H.R. 4902 (Caraveo)	Voluntary Groundwater Conservation Act of 2023	Support	Introduced
H.R. 5304 (Harder)	Safeguarding Our Levees Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 3490 (Gallego)	Water Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2023	Support	Introduced
H.R. 6093 (Lucas)	Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Reauthorization (WEATHER) Act of 2023	Support and Amend	Reported by Committee
H.R. 3655 (Swalwell)	Preventing Our Next Natural Disaster Act	Support	Introduced
S. 3830 (Padilla)	Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act	Support and Amend	Introduced
S. 3292 (Whitehouse)	Innovative Materials for America's Growth and Infrastructure Newly Expanded (IMAGINE) Act of 2023	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 5793 (Dingell)	Water Access Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 8682 (Huffman)	Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act	Support	Drafted
H.R. 7525 (Fallon)	Special District Grant Accessibility Act	Support	Reported by Committee
H.R. 7990 (Napolitano)	Large-Scale Water Recycling Reauthorization and Reinvestment Act of 2024	Support	Introduced
H.R. 8032 (Sorensen)	Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 4247 (Harder)	Flood Prevention and Snowpack Management Act	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 8030 (Peters)	Drought Relief Obtained Using Government Help Today (DROUGHT) Act of 2024	Support	Introduced
H.R. 7922 (Crawford)	To establish a Water Risk and Resilience Organization to develop risk and resilience requirements for the water sector	Support	Introduced
H.R. 4018 (Costa)	Headwaters Protection Act of 2023	Support	Introduced
S. 4367 (Carper) / H.R. 8812 (Graves)	Water Resources Development Act of 2024	Support and Amend	H.R. 8812 Passed House; S. 4367 Passed Committee
S. 4359 (Padilla)	A bill to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to reauthorize this Act, and for other purposes	Support	Reported by Committee
S. 5005 (Padilla)	A bill to authorize additional funding for the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act.	Support	Heard in Committee

2024 State Legislation with Board-Approved Positions

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
AB 305 (Villapudua)	California Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024	Support if Amended	Failed – Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
AB 437 (Jackson)	Equity in State Government	Support	Failed – Senate Floor
AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan)	Civil Penalties for Water Rights Violations	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 1567 (Garcia)	Safe Drinking Water Bond Act of 2024	Support if Amended	Failed – Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
AB 1581 (Kalra)	Restoration Management Permit Act	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 1785 (Pacheco)	California Public Records Act	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 1827 (Papan)	Low Water User Protection Act	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 2079 (Bennett)	Groundwater Well Permitting	Oppose Unless Amended	Failed – Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
AB 2236 (Bauer-Kahan)	Plastic Film Prohibition for Reusable Grocery Bags	Support	Failed – Senate Floor
AB 2257 (Wilson)	Property-Related Water and Sewer Fees and Assessments	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 2302 (Addis)	Teleconferenced Open Meetings for Local Agencies	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 2409 (Papan)	Permitting Accountability Transparency Dashboard	Support	Failed – Assembly Appropriations Committee
AB 2501 (Alvarez)	State and Regional Water Boards: Donations	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 2655 (Berman)	Defending Democracy from Deepfake Deception Act	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 2661 (Soria)	Westlands Water District Solar Generation	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 2682 (Kalra)	Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 2813 (Aguiar-Curry)	ACA 1 & ACA 10 Government Investment Act Amendments	Support	Signed by the Governor and now Proposition 5 on the November 5 statewide ballot
AB 2875 (Friedman)	State Wetlands Policy	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 2881 (Lee)	Social Housing	Support	Failed – Assembly Appropriations Committee
SB 366 (Caballero)	The California Water Plan: Long-Term Supply Targets	Support	Vetoed by the Governor
SB 638 (Eggman)	Climate Resiliency and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024	Support if Amended	Failed – Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

2024 State Legislation with Board-Approved Positions (cont'd)

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
SB 867 (Allen)	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024	Support	Signed by the Governor and now Proposition 4 on the November 5 statewide ballot
SB 903 (Skinner)	Environmental Health: Product Safety: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances	Support	Failed – Senate Appropriations Committee
SB 1148 (Blakespear)	Electrical Service Metering in Multifamily Dwellings and Local Government Buildings	Support	Failed – Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
SB 1218 (Newman)	Emergency Water Supplies	Support	Failed – Assembly Appropriations Committee
SB 1390 (Caballero)	Division of Floodflows for Groundwater Recharge	Support	Failed – Assembly Floor
SB 1395 (Becker)	Interim Housing Act	Support	Signed by the Governor

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