

SUMMARY FOR MAY 2024 Office of Government Relations



FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Directors and Senior Staff Engage with Partner Agencies, Regulators at ACWA Spring Conference

Several directors and senior staff attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Spring Conference in Sacramento on May 7-9 to meet with partner organizations and state and federal regulatory agencies, as well as to learn from subject matter experts on issues of concern to the California water community. Valley Water attendees met with partners and regulatory agencies to identify opportunities for collaboration and advocate for shared priorities, including advancing the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project and the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program. The Office of Government Relations coordinates these side meetings and supports all Valley Water attendees at the conference.

STATE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Valley Water Bill Proposal Held due to State Costs

AB 2409 (Papan) State Permitting Transparency was held by the Assembly Appropriations Committee due to state costs. This means the bill cannot advance further in the legislative process. The bill would have created a state permitting transparency website for water supply, flood protection, and energy reliability projects with an estimated cost of \$100 million or more. The bill was assigned a cost of \$387,000 in year one and \$230,000 in ongoing annual costs. The current state budget revenue shortfall resulted in hundreds of bills being held due to costs. Staff will continue to look for administrative, regulatory, and legislative solutions to the permitting delays that unnecessarily increase the costs of Valley Water projects.

State Budget Process Continues

On May 10, the Governor presented his May Revise Budget, which accounts for the latest state revenue estimates and updated Administration proposals for how to close a \$27.6 billion budget shortfall. The May Revise retained budget cuts to dam safety, sea level rise, and recycled water, and maintains the proposal to shift excess education revenue augmentation fund (ERAF) funding from counties and special districts to charter schools.

On May 29, the Senate and Assembly released their mutual budget proposal, which rejects the shift of ERAF funding as well as the cut to dam safety funding, and partially restores a modest amount of funding for recycled water and sea level rise. The Legislature has until the June 15 constitutional deadline to pass the FY 2024-25 State Budget. Staff continues to strongly advocate for protecting existing funding for Valley Water projects and programs. Staff efforts for increasing funding for water supply, flood risk reduction, and environmental protection are now focused on a climate resilience bond proposed for the November 2024 statewide General Election.

Proposition 1 Homekey Program Funding

Proposition 1 (March 2024) allocates up to \$4.4 billion to enhance state programs aimed at expanding access to mental health care facilities and substance abuse treatment centers. In addition to mental health and substance abuse services funding, Proposition 1 allocates \$2 billion for the Homekey Program for the conversion of hotels, motels, and other structures into various types of housing units, as well as the construction of new residential units. Of the \$2 billion, \$922 million is allocated for individuals who are either experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. On May 15, staff met with the Homekey Program manager who confirmed that Valley Water is eligible for Homekey funding, but also confirmed the money can only be spent on permanent supportive housing and that a funding source for operating the facility for 55 years must be identified.

LOCAL ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS



May 11: Director Santos and staff in front of Valley Water's informational booth at the Berryessa Art Festival.

Berryessa Art Festival

On May 11, Valley Water staff hosted an information booth at the Berryessa Art Festival. Staff provided the community with information on Valley Water's rebate programs, volunteer opportunities, drought resistant landscaping, and answered questions about Penitencia Creek. Director Santos attended the festival and stopped by the table to interact with staff and guests.

LOOKING AHEAD



JUN 15 African American Community Service Agency
43rd Annual Juneteenth Festival

Federal Legislation Active in May 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
S. 2250 (Bennet)/ H.R. 4902 (Caraveo)	Voluntary Groundwater Conservation Act of 2023	Support	Introduced

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

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
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
DRAFT Legislation (Huffman/Butler)	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

State Legislation Active in May 2024 with Board-Approved Positions

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
AB 305 (Villapudua)	California Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024	Support if Amended	Pending - Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee - 2 Year Bill
AB 437 (Jackson)	Equity in State Government	Support	Pending - Senate Floor
AB 518 (Wicks)	Paid Family Leave for Care of Designated Persons	Support	Pending - Senate Floor - Inactive File - 2 Year Bill
AB 1567 (Garcia)	Safe Drinking Water Bond Act of 2024	Support if Amended	Pending - Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee - 2 Year Bill
AB 1581 (Kalra)	Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements	Support	Pending - Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee - 2 Year Bill
AB 1827 (Papan)	Low Water User Protection Act	Support	Pending - Senate Local Government Committee
AB 2079 (Bennett)	Groundwater Well Permitting	Oppose Unless Amended	Pending - Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

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

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
AB 2257 (Wilson)	Property-Related Water and Sewer Fees and Assessments	Support	Pending – Senate Judiciary Committee
AB 2302 (Addis)	Teleconferenced Open Meetings for Local Agencies	Support	Pending – Senate Local Government Committee
AB 2409 (Papan)	Permitting Accountability Transparency Dashboard	Support	Failed – Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File
AB 2501 (Alvarez)	State and Regional Water Boards: Donations	Support	Pending – Senate Rules Committee
AB 2661 (Soria)	Westlands Water District Solar Generation	Support	Pending – Senate Rules Committee
AB 2682 (Kalra)	Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	Support	Pending – Senate Local Government Committee
AB 2875 (Friedman)	State Wetlands Policy	Support if Amended	Pending – Senate Rules Committee
AB 2881 (Lee)	Social Housing	Support	Failed – Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File
SB 366 (Caballero)	The California Water Plan: Long-Term Supply Targets	Support	Pending – Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee – 2 Year Bill
SB 638 (Eggman)	Climate Resiliency and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024	Support If Amended	Pending – Assembly Water, Parks, & Wildlife Committee – 2 Year Bill
SB 867 (Allen)	Resources Bond Act of 2024	Support if Amended	Pending – Assembly Natural Resources Committee – 2 Year Bill
SB 903 (Skinner)	Environmental Health: Product Safety: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances	Support	Failed – Senate Appropriations Committee – Suspense File
SB 1218 (Newman)	Emergency Water Supplies	Support	Pending – Assembly Desk
SB 1395 (Becker)	Interim Housing Act	Support	Pending – Assembly Desk