

SUMMARY FOR MAY 2026  
Office of Government Relations



## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ADVOCACY EFFORTS

### Valley Water Engages with State and Regional Partners at ACWA's 2026 Spring Conference

From May 5 - 7, Valley Water directors and staff attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) 2026 Spring Conference in Sacramento. Chair Tony Estremera, Vice Chair Richard Santos, Director Shiloh Ballard, and staff met with partner agencies and advocated for key water infrastructure projects, including funding for the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project and B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project. Valley Water staff also serve on several ACWA committees, including in a vice chair role on the Local Government Committee. During the conference, Valley Water's local government affairs representative also participated in a panel discussion focused on local government engagement and regional collaboration in the water sector.



May 7: Valley Water staff wrapping up at ACWA after listening to Governor Newsom's closing keynote address.



May 7: Image shared during Governor Newsom's closing keynote address

## FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

### Staff Advocates for Valley Water Priorities in Washington

Staff traveled to Washington, DC, with coalition partners to advocate for shared priorities, including WIFIA loan approval, Sisk Dam Raise Project funding, and FY27 appropriations. During DC's "Water Week," staff joined the American Water Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, Association of California Water Agencies, and other groups in meetings with Members of Congress, committee staff, and agency officials to urge action on priority issues.



Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

## STATE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

### 2026 State Legislative Days in Sacramento

On May 19, Director Jim Beall and Director Shiloh Ballard, along with Valley Water staff, conducted the 2026 Legislative Day in Sacramento. Director Jim Beall and Director Shiloh Ballard led staff in meetings with members of the Santa Clara County legislative delegation, legislative leadership staff, Governor Newsom's Administration, and key policy officials to advocate for Valley Water's funding, legislative, and policy priorities.

Discussions focused on Valley Water’s more than \$10 billion capital improvement program, including water supply, flood protection, watershed stewardship, and infrastructure reliability projects. Valley Water highlighted the need for continued state partnership to help reduce ratepayer costs amid ongoing federal funding uncertainty.

Key funding priorities discussed included funding requests for the Pure Water Silicon Valley Demonstration Facility and Education Center, Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, and the Coyote Creek and Guadalupe River flood protection projects. Additional topics included SB 872 (McNerney) regarding conveyance and subsidence repair funding, and AB 1772 (Papan) regarding golden mussel response efforts.



May 19: (left to right) Rachael Gibson, Director Jim Beall, Assemblymember Patrick Ahrens (D-San Jose), Antonio Alfaro, Director Shiloh Ballard.



May 19: (left to right) Chris Hakes, Rachael Gibson, Aaron Baker, Assemblymember Diane Papan (D-San Mateo), Director Jim Beall, Director Shiloh Ballard, Rita Chan, Joshua Golka, Antonio Alfaro.

## LOCAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

On May 9th, Valley Water hosted an information booth at the Berryessa Art Festival. Staff engaged with community members about National River Cleanup Day, the Landscape Rebate Program, and had booth attendees answer water trivia. Vice Chair Santos attended the festival and stopped by the table to interact with staff and guests.



May 9: Vice Chair Santos with Valley Water staff at the Berryessa Art Festival

### RECENT EVENTS

- MAY 9 Berryessa Art & Wine Festival, San José
- MAY 23-24 Morgan Hill Mushroom Festival

### FUTURE EVENTS

- JUNE 6-7 Sunnyvale Art & Wine Festival, San José
- JUNE 12 WEPA Fest 2026, San José
- JUNE 13 Dia De Portugal, San José
- JUNE 13 African American Community Service Agency's 45th Annual Juneteenth in the Streets Festival, San José

2025-26 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 35 (Alvarez)	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: Exemption: Program guidelines and selection criteria	Support	Pending – Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
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	Failed – Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
AB 454 (Kalra)	Migratory Birds: California Migratory Bird Protection Act	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 514 (Petrie-Norris)	Emergency Water Supplies	Support	Failed – Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File
AB 532 (Ransom)	Water Rate Assistance Program	Support	Pending – Senate Appropriations Committee – Suspense File (2 Yr Bill)
AB 707 (Soria)	San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority: B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project	Support	Failed – Assembly Rules Committee
AB 810 (Irwin)	Local Government Internet Websites and Email Addresses	Oppose	Failed – Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File
AB 1319 (Schultz)	Protected Species: California Endangered Species Act	Oppose Unless Amended	Signed by the Governor
AB 1577 (Bauer-Kahan)	Data Centers: Reporting	Support	Pending – Senate Rules Committee
AB 1603 (Schultz)	Pesticides: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)	Support	Pending – Senate Rules Committee
AB 1772 (Papan)	Fish and Wildlife: Invasive Mussels	Support	Pending – Senate Rules Committee
AB 2032 (Ransom)	Fish and Wildlife: Golden Mussels	Support	Pending – Senate Rules Committee
AB 2051 (Wicks)	Public Resources: Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group	Support	Pending - Assembly Floor
AB 2180 (Ward)	Local Government: Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act: Proportional Cost of Service	Support	Pending – Senate Local Government Committee
AB 2215 (Calderon)	Water Rights: Permits: State Water Project	Support	Pending – Senate Rules Committee
AB 2469 (Papan)	Water Resources: Data Centers	Support	Pending – Senate Rules Committee
AB 2619 (Papan)	Water Resources: Data Centers	Support	Pending – Senate Rules Committee
AB 2739 (Soria)	Water: Affordability and System Stabilization	Support	Pending – Senate Rules Committee
AB 2777 (Committee on Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials)	State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Program: Loans: Outdoor Eating Areas: Water Reuse	Support	Pending – Senate Rules Committee
SB 31 (McNerney)	Water Quality: Recycled Water	Support	Signed by the Governor

**2025-26 State Legislation with Board-Approved Positions - continued**

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
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	Failed - Senate Appropriations Committee - Suspense File
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 Committee - 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
SB 872 (McNerney)	Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund	Support and Amend	Pending - Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
SB 899 (Grove)	Fire Prevention: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force: Wildfire Smoke	Support	Pending - Assembly Natural Resources Committee
SB 949 (Becker)	Environmental protection: Natural Resources Agency: resource of statewide significance: Santa Cruz Mountains.	Support	Pending - Assembly Natural Resources Committee
SB 952 (Laird)	State Water Project: Renewable Energy Resources and Zero-Carbon Resources	Support	Pending - Assembly Rules Committee
SB 1085 (Durazo)	Water Supply Planning: California Environmental Quality Act Determination	Support	Pending - Assembly Rules Committee
SB 1125 (Menjivar)	Water Rate Assistance Program	Support	Pending - Assembly Rules Committee

**2025-26 Federal Legislation with Board-Approved Positions**

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
H.R. 337 (Costa)	Groundwater Technical Assistance Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 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	Reported Out of Committee

**2025-26 Federal Legislation with Board-Approved Positions - *continued***

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
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	Introduced
S. 1477 (Padilla) H.R. 2945 (Lieu)	Housing for All Act of 2025	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 6422 (Stauber)	American Water Stewardship Act	Support	Introduced
S. 3693 (Cortez Masto)	Large-Scale Water Recycling Program Reauthorization Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 4593 (Fry)	Saving Homeowners from Overregulation With Exceptional Rinsing (SHOWER) Act	Oppose	Passed House
H.R. 6641 (Gray)	Central Valley Water Solution Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 6984 (Menendez)	Data Center Transparency Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 5566 (Carbajal) S. 3590 (Blunt Rochester)	Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 7845 (Peters)	Drought Relief Obtained Using Government Help Today (DROUGHT) Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 4144 (Mullin)	Groundwater Rise and Infrastructure Preparedness Act of 2025	Support	Introduced

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