

SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 2024 Office of Government Relations



FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS



The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Federal Funding Requests

Staff began preparing recommendations for Valley Water’s federal funding requests for federal fiscal years 2025 and 2026, which staff will bring to the Valley Water Board in October. Staff prepares these funding requests in advance of the spring and fall advocacy trips to Washington, D.C. These requests will guide our advocacy over the coming fiscal years, helping congressional and administration staff understand Valley Water’s funding priorities. Staff advocates for not only specific projects, such as those on which we partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and can be funded in the annual USACE work plans, but also for specific programs that could potentially fund Valley Water projects through future grants or loans. Examples of these requests include increased funding for the Bureau of Reclamation’s Large-Scale Water Recycling Program and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. Staff will bring updated requests to the Valley Water Board in the spring prior to the spring D.C. trip.

STATE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

State Legislative Session Ends

On August 31, the Legislature adjourned the 2023-2024 Legislative Session after sending nearly 1,551 bills to the Governor. As of now, 1,001 of those bills are still pending action, with the Governor required to sign or veto them by September 30. Among these are several key pieces of legislation that Valley Water has supported, including:

AB 1581 (Kalra): This bill aims to streamline the process for obtaining a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement or a take permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. By consolidating necessary environmental permits into a single process or, in some cases, providing exemptions, AB 1581 seeks to simplify the permitting process for restoration projects. This change would facilitate a more efficient approach to environmental restoration, directly benefiting projects that Valley Water undertakes.

AB 2875 (Friedman): This bill codifies Executive Order W-59-93, establishing it as official California policy to ensure no net loss of wetlands while promoting a long-term gain in the quantity, quality, and permanence of these vital ecosystems. Valley Water successfully secured amendments to this bill, ensuring that the State and Regional Water Boards consider the benefits of

restoring wetlands from a lower ecological function to a higher one, particularly in projects like Valley Water’s Shoreline Project. Staff has actively communicated Valley Water’s positions on these bills to the Governor’s Office and is closely monitoring the Governor’s actions. We will keep operations staff updated on any newly enacted state laws that could impact Valley Water’s water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship efforts.

LOCAL ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

Valley Water at Silicon Valley PRIDE Parade and Festival



August 25: Director Beall marching alongside Valley Water staff at the PRIDE Parade

On August 24 - 25, Valley Water participated in the two-day, family friendly celebration of the LGBTQ+ community - the Silicon Valley PRIDE Parade and Festival. Director Jim Beall marched in the parade alongside Valley Water staff and their families, and Valley Water also hosted an information booth on both days. The parade and festival serve to honor the people who have fought for LGBTQ+ equality and progress and to celebrate diversity. Many attendees stopped by the information booth and answered water trivia for prizes. Staff passed along information for Coastal Cleanup Day and provided literature on Valley Water’s resources and projects.

LOOKING AHEAD

- SEP 07-08 Mountain View Art and Wine Festival
- SEP 14 Vovinam Viet Vo Dao 33rd Annual Moon Festival
- SEP 14 Silicon Valley Fall Festival
- SEP 15-17 WateReuse California Conference
- SEP 18 City of Campbell State of the City
- SEP 21 Santa Clara County Parks La Fuente

Federal Legislation Active in August 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

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Federal Legislation Active in August 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	Both bills passed their respective chambers; awaiting conference to resolve differences

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State Legislation Active in August 2024 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 - 2 Year Bill
AB 437 (Jackson)	Equity in State Government	Support	Failed - Senate Floor - Inactive File
AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan)	Civil Penalties for Water Rights Violations	Support	Pending - Governor's Action
AB 1567 (Garcia)	Safe Drinking Water Bond Act of 2024	Support if Amended	Failed - Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee - 2 Year Bill
AB 1581 (Kalra)	Restoration Management Permit Act	Support	Pending - Governor's Action
AB 1785 (Pacheco)	California Public Records Act	Support	Pending - Governor's Action
AB 1827 (Papan)	Low Water User Protection Act	Support	Pending - Governor's Action
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	Pending - Governor's Action
AB 2302 (Addis)	Teleconferenced Open Meetings for Local Agencies	Support	Pending - Governor's Action
AB 2501 (Alvarez)	State and Regional Water Boards: Donations	Support	Pending - Governor's Action
AB 2655 (Berman)	Defending Democracy from Deepfake Deception Act	Support	Pending - Governor's Action
AB 2661 (Soria)	Westlands Water District Solar Generation	Support	Pending - Governor's Action
AB 2682 (Kalra)	Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	Support	Pending - Governor's Action
AB 2875 (Friedman)	State Wetlands Policy	Support if Amended	Pending - Governor's Action
SB 366 (Caballero)	The California Water Plan: Long-Term Supply Targets	Support	Pending - Governor's Action
SB 638 (Eggman)	Climate Resiliency and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024	Support If Amended	Failed - Assembly Water, Parks, & Wildlife Committee - 2 Year Bill
SB 1218 (Newman)	Emergency Water Supplies	Support	Failed - Assembly Appropriations Committee
SB 1390 (Caballero)	Diversion of Floodflows for Groundwater Recharge	Support	Failed - Assembly Floor
SB 1395 (Becker)	Interim Housing Act	Support	Pending - Governor's Action