

## SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 2022 Office of Government Relations



### STATE ADVOCACY EFFORTS



California State Capitol

#### Legislature Reconvenes with Committee Changes

The Legislature reconvened for the remainder of the 2022-23 Legislative Session on January 3. Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) resigned on the Assembly Floor and announced she will be replacing Art Pulaski at the California Labor Federation.

With the fate of 2-year bills that remain in the first house to be determined by January 31, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) wasted no time in announcing new committee chairs to address the vacancies created by the departure of Lorena Gonzalez. Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena) will become Chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) was named Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee and Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella) was named Chair of the Assembly Utilities & Energy Committee.

With the new legislative year, thousands of new bills will be introduced on or before February 18. OGR staff, together with our new state lobbying team at Lighthouse Public Affairs, will review every bill introduced for possible impacts or benefits to Valley Water. Staff will identify bills, monitor amendments, and recommend positions for consideration by the Board.

#### Governor Presents FY 2022-23 Budget Proposal

On January 10, Governor Newsom presented his FY 2022-23 balanced budget proposal of \$286.4 billion and announced that the current estimated revenue surplus is \$45.7 billion. Of that surplus, \$20.6 billion is not controlled by ballot box budgeting for specific purposes and will be discretionary spending appropriated by the Legislature's budget process.

In the funding areas of interest to Valley Water, the Governor proposes \$750 million for drought, \$2.1 billion for nature-based solutions (to climate impacts), \$2 billion for homelessness, and \$6.1 billion in vehicle electrification.

The proposed budget includes significant funding for water conservation (\$180m), drought relief (\$145m), fish and wildlife protection (\$75m), and a drought contingency set aside (\$250m) to be determined in the Governor's May revise budget. Other significant proposals include funding for an Oroville Dam pumped hydro energy storage project (\$240m) and coastal and ocean protection (\$400m), including funds for coastal wetland restoration.

Also proposed were homeless encampment clean up grants (\$500m), focused mostly on short- and long-term rehousing. Finally, the Governor also proposed community resilience funding (\$325m) for disadvantaged communities although the details of this proposed spending are not yet clear. Missing from the Governor's budget proposal was any spending on flood protection, recycled water, or other longer term water infrastructure projects.

Over the next 6 months, OGR will advocate through the budget process for funding of Valley Water's priorities and projects, including dam safety, recycled water, and flood protection. Our efforts will seek to shape programs for Valley Water's benefit, build support for infrastructure funding omitted from the Governor's proposed budget, and seek, to the extent possible, earmark funds for Valley Water projects.

#### State Water Board Adopts Emergency Water Conservation Regulations

On January 4, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted regulations to prevent wasteful water uses and to promote urban water conservation during the current drought emergency. The regulations were relatively modest compared to what Valley Water has recommended and what Santa Clara County's water retailers and cities have already implemented.

The emergency regulations prohibit the use of potable water for outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff, the watering of turf in street medians, the washing of cars with a water hose without a shut-off nozzle, the use of water to wash hardscapes except in limited circumstances, the irrigation of ornamental landscapes within 48 hours of measurable precipitation, the use of non-recirculating fountains, and other

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prohibitions related to homeowner association landscape requirements. The prohibitions are to be enforced by any local agency with the authority to issue and adjudicate infractions.

Office of Government Relations, working with the Water Utility, provided a letter of public comment in December, urging clarifications related to the irrigation of turf in the public right-of-way, identification of local agencies for enforcement, and other changes intended to improve public understanding.

## LOCAL ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS



*Director Santos and staff present on purified water at the Santa Clara Business Council.*

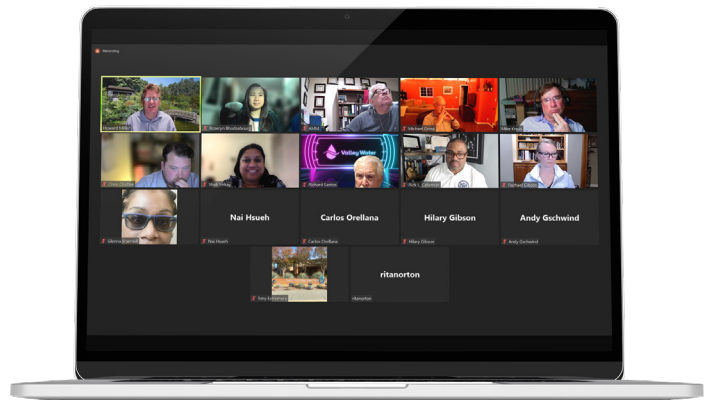
### Director Santos Meets with Santa Clara Business Community

On January 10, Director Santos was a guest speaker at Santa Clara Business Council (SCBC). Director Santos and staff provided a presentation on drought response and water supply, and also highlighted the importance of being cognizant of water supply in development decisions impacting the future of Silicon Valley. Following the presentation, a discussion was opened to the entire group to talk more about current and future water conservation plans, and generally how having a safe and secure water supply plays a role in our future. SCBC thanked Valley Water for putting together an informative and thorough presentation and appreciated the opportunity to have an open conversation with Director Santos.

SCBC is engaged with a range of issues that impact the current and future business climate in the City of Santa Clara. These opportunities to engage with groups like SCBC is part of OGR's ongoing work to broaden the base of support for public policy decisions by fostering relationships with key allies and associations.

### Redistricting Advisory Committee Completes Meetings

After a total of 13 meetings, including seven community outreach meetings for all Valley Water districts, the Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) concluded its final meeting on January 12, 2022. The Committee selected its final recommended maps, which will be presented to the Valley Water Board of Directors for consideration and adoption. The RAC is comprised of seven community leaders from throughout Santa Clara County and helped ensure the completion of the redistricting process in an inclusive, transparent, and comprehensive manner.



*The Redistricting Advisory Committee Meeting on January 12, 2022.*

### Upcoming Events:

Note: due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), staff is assessing and participating in events as they are planned in February to follow the Santa Clara County's orders.

- February 18, 2022, Joint Venture Silicon Valley State of the Valley

## Federal Legislation Active in January 2022 with Board-Approved Positions

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
S. 91 (Sinema) H.R. 535 (Garamendi)	Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act of 2021	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 610 (Speier)	San Francisco Bay Restoration Act	Support	Incorporated into Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684), which became Public Law 117-58

## Handout 9.3-B

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Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
H.R. 1015 (Napolitano)	Water Recycling Improvement and Investment Act	Support	Incorporated into Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684), which became Public Law 117-58
H.R. 737 (Valadao)	Responsible, No-Cost Extension of Western Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (RENEW WIIN) Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 1319 (Yarmuth)	American Rescue Plan Act	Support and Amend	Became Public Law 117-2
H.R. 3684 (DeFazio)	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	Support and Amend	Became Public Law 117-58
S. 1179 (Feinstein) H.R. 2552 (Costa)	Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Act	Support	Introduced
S. 914 (Duckworth)	Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021	Support and Amend	Incorporated into Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684), which became Public Law 117-58 Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684), which became Public Law 117-58
H.R. 1915 (DeFazio)	Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021	Support	Pieces incorporated into Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684), which became Public Law 117-58
H.R. 1848 (Pallone)	Leading Infrastructure for Tomorrow's America (LIFT America) Act	Support	Pieces incorporated into Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684), which became Public Law 117-58
H.R. 3404 (Huffman)	Furthering Underutilized Technologies and Unleashing Responsible Expenditures for Western Water Infrastructure and Drought Resiliency Act (FUTURE Western Water Infrastructure and Drought Resiliency Act)	Support and Amend	Pieces incorporated into Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684), which became Public Law 117-58
H.R. 3293 (Blunt Rochester)	Low-Income Water Customer Assistance Programs Act of 2021	Support and Amend	Introduced
S. 872 (Duckworth)	Environmental Justice for All Act	Support	Introduced
S. 2334 (Cortez Masto)	Large Scale Water Recycling Project and Drought Resiliency Investment Act	Support and Amend	Pieces incorporated into Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684), which became Public Law 117-58
S. 2377 (Manchin)	Energy Infrastructure Act	Support and Amend	Incorporated into Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684), which became Public Law 117-58
S. 2454 (Padilla)	Water Reuse and Resiliency Act of 2021	Support	Pieces incorporated into Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684), which became Public Law 117-58
H.R. 4375 (Kuster) S. 2356 (Feinstein)	Twenty-First Century Dams Act	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 4647 (Huffman)	Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act	Support	Introduced (incorporated into Build Back Better Act, which passed the House in late 2021)

## State Legislation Active in January 2022 with Board-Approved Positions:

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
AB 252 (R. Rivas)	Multibenefit Land Repurposing Incentive Program: Compatible Uses: Contracts	Support	Pending – Senate Governance and Finance Committee – 2 Year Bill
AB 897 (Mullin)	Regional Climate Adaptation Action Plans	Support	Pending – Senate Appropriations Committee – 2 Year Bill
AB 905 (Quirk)	Mobile Fueling On-Demand Tank Vehicles: Performance Standards	Support	Pending – Assembly Transportation Committee – 2 Year Bill
AB 979 (Frazier)	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Sea Level Rise Analysis Report	Oppose	Pending – Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File – 2 Year Bill
AB 1110 (R. Rivas)	Zero-Emission Vehicles: Climate Catalyst Revolving Loan Fund Program	Support	Pending – Senate Appropriations Committee – 2 Year Bill
AB 1500 (E. Garcia)	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022	Support and Amend	Pending – Assembly Rules Committee – 2 Year Bill
SB 351 (Caballero)	Water Innovation Act of 2021	Support	Pending – Senate Appropriations Committee – Suspense File – 2 Year Bill
SB 559 (Hurtado)	Water Conveyance Systems: Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Fund	Support	Pending – Assembly Floor – Inactive File – 2 Year Bill
SB 786 (Becker)	Smart Financing for Water Infrastructure	Sponsor	Pending – Assembly Local Government Committee – 2 Year Bill