

SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

Office of Government Relations Activities



FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Valley Water Returns to Washington, D.C. to Advocate for Funding Priorities

For the first time since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Valley Water executive staff returned to Washington, D.C., September 19–21 to advocate for the agency's projects and federal funding priorities. The group met in person with several congressional offices and agency staff, including Members of the Santa Clara County congressional delegation, the offices of Senators Feinstein and Padilla, key committees, and the Bureau of Reclamation. Staff advocated for drought funding and for passage of important legislation, such as the Water Resources Development Act. Staff will continue to advocate for these priorities through the end of the 117th Congress and into the 118th.

STATE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

State Legislative Session Ends

In the early morning hours of September 1, the Legislature adjourned the 2021–2022 Legislative Session and sent nearly 1,000 bills to the Governor for his action by September 30. Among those bills are key pieces of legislation implementing the State Budget Climate Resilience Package, accelerating the use of renewable energy by the State Water Project, reforming Brown Act teleconferencing rules, establishing a statewide water rate assistance program, creating "CARE Courts" to connect unhoused people experiencing severe mental illness to services, and exempting turf replacement incentives from the state income tax. Staff have communicated Valley Water positions to the Governor's Office, are monitoring the Governor's actions, and will update operations staff on any enacted state laws impacting Valley Water's water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship efforts.

Climate Resilience Budget Package

When the Legislature and Governor Newsom came to an agreement on the State Budget in June, they left undone the FY 2022–23 Climate Resilience Package, which ultimately was adopted through legislation signed by the Governor on September 6. The Package includes \$203 million for the State Coastal Conservancy to address sea level rise through various programs, \$100 million for recycled water projects and \$44 million for water rights modernization to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and approximately \$265 million for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for various drought response and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation programs. The State Budget

also included non-binding language outlining appropriations in FY 2023–24 State Budget, including \$100 million for a new dam safety program at DWR and \$210 million for recycled water direct potable reuse grant program at the SWRCB. Staff will closely monitor administration actions related to program development and grant solicitations and will work with Valley Water project teams to apply for funding for Valley Water program and capital project priorities.

LOCAL ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS



August 25: Director LeZotte and Valley Water staff at San Jose Chamber BBQ.

40th Annual San Jose Chamber of Commerce BBQ @ San Jose Giants Game

On August 25, Valley Water hosted a table at the San Jose Chamber of Commerce's annual mixer. This event celebrated San Jose's reopening and the resiliency of entrepreneurs and our local businesses. Directors Linda LeZotte, Tony Estremera, and Richard Santos attended the San Jose Chamber of Commerce mixer, which was also attended by other local officials and members of the business community. Participants who visited the booth spun the water wheel for water trivia, prizes, and were provided resources and information on Valley Water's programs while learning about water and water conservation.

2022 Water Summit

On August 26, Valley Water convened a diverse cross-section of elected officials, business leaders, agricultural leaders, and environmental advocates from throughout Silicon Valley at the 2022 Water Summit to discuss our current water supply challenges and how we can partner together to address the drought and worsening climate change impacts. At the Water Summit, Valley Water subject matter experts presented on drought challenges due to climate change, actions taken in response to the drought, and strategies for a sustainable water supply into the future, as well as shared information on water conservation rebates and resources with our stakeholders that can be used to lead our communities through the ongoing drought emergency.

[continued on back »](#)



August 28: Valley Water staff engaging with Pride festival participants.

Silicon Valley PRIDE Parade and Festival

On August 27–28, Valley Water staff hosted a booth at the Silicon Valley PRIDE Parade and Festival. Valley Water Pride ERG members also participated in the parade that marched through the streets of downtown San Jose. Staff members engaged the public with water trivia through use of the popular water wheel, and handed out resources and information on water conservation, drought resilient landscape, rebates, and Valley Water's Shopping Cart.



September 2: San Jose Councilmember Cohen and former State Senator Beall tours the SVAWPC in Alviso.

Tour of Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center for San Jose Councilmember David Cohen

On September 2, the Office of Civic Engagement and the Office of Government Relations jointly coordinated a private tour of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center for San Jose Councilmember David Cohen. Also in attendance were members of the Councilmember's District staff, as well as former State Senator Jim Beall and City of San Jose Environmental Services Department Director Kerrie Romanow. Valley Water subject matter experts fielded questions from Councilmember Cohen and his team, and provided in-depth, technical background on the facility and technologies utilized at the SVAWPC. The Councilmember's staff also expressed interest in assisting with outreach opportunities for the Purified Water Project and helping promote tours and other relevant information with their constituencies. The tour was well-received, and attendees thanked Valley Water staff for facilitating a very informative experience.

Santos Family 16th Annual Car Show

On September 3, Valley Water hosted a table at the 16th Annual Santos Family Car Show in Alviso. Staff interacted with community members and provided information about Valley Water programs and projects, as well as best practices for water conservation during the severe drought. Thank you, Director Santos, for hosting a successful community event that allows Valley Water to spread our messages face-to-face with the public.



September 8: Chair Pro Tem Varela speaking in the Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Meeting.

Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Meeting

On September 8, staff provided support to Chair Pro Tem Varela at the Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce Economic Development meeting. Chair Pro Tem Varela provided quick updates of the Upper Llagas Flood Protection Project, and discussed water supply in South County, the current drought, and how the federal government released emergency water supply for drinking. He ended by letting the members know that Valley Water is always happy to give presentations regarding water.

Office of Emergency Management Emergency Preparedness Resource Fair

On September 10, Valley Water hosted a table and participated in the Office of Emergency Management Emergency Preparedness Resource Fair. The fair was a whole community approach to emergency management. Valley Water staff handed out emergency kits, as well as pamphlets and literature on flood preparedness.

RECENT EVENTS

SEP 10-11 Mountain View Chamber Art and Wine (Booth)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP 17 Assembly member Karla's Veggie Fest (Booth)

SEP 25 Friends of Stevens Creek Trail Trailblazer Run (Booth)

OCT 01 Fall Festival at Martial Cottle Park (Booth)

OCT 08 Pumpkins in the Park 2022 (Booth)
Diwali Festival of Lights (Booth)

Federal Legislation Active in September 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
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. 848 (Thompson)	Growing Renewable Energy and Efficiency Now (GREEN) Act of 2021	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 866 (Calvert)	Federal Integrated Species Health (FISH) Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 644 (Calvert)	Reducing Environmental Barriers to Unified Infrastructure and Land Development Act	Support	Introduced
S. 101 (Markey)	Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021	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. 4231 (Feinstein)	Support To Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture, and Municipalities (STREAM) Act	Support and Amend	Introduced
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
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

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
H.R. 3293 (Blunt Rochester)	Low-Income Water Customer Assistance Programs Act of 2021	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 1512 (Pallone)	Climate Leadership and Environmental Action for our Nation's Future Act (CLEAN Future Act)	Support	Introduced
H.R. 2337 (Neal)	Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021	Support	Introduced
S. 2185 (Barrasso)	Western Water Infrastructure 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. 2197 (Cicilline) S. 939 (Whitehouse)	Innovative Materials for America's Growth and Infrastructure Newly Expanded (IMAGINE) Act	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 3701 (Delgado)	Protecting Infrastructure and Promoting the Economy (PIPE) Act	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 1563 (Garcia)	To Extend the Authorities Under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 Providing the Operational Flexibility, Drought Relief, and Other Benefits to the State of California	Support	Introduced
H.R. 2895 (Peters) S. 1499 (Warner)	Reinventing Economic Partnerships and Infrastructure Redevelopment (REPAIR) Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 3282 (McKinley)	Drinking Water Funding for the Future Act of 2021	Support	Introduced
H.R. 3228 (Velazquez)	National Coastal Resilience Data and Services Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 4647 (Huffman)	Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act	Support	Incorporated into the Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376), which passed the House in Nov. 2021
H.R. 4712 (Levin)	Desalination Development Act	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 4915 (McClintock)	Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 4235 (Pallone)	Living Shorelines Act	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 4413 (DeLauro)	National Infrastructure Development Bank Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 5716 (Harder)	Securing Access for the central Valley and Enhancing Water Resources (SAVE Water Resources) Act	Support and Amend	Introduced

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
H.R. 5781 (Lofgren)	National Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Program Act	Support	Introduced
S. 3282 (Kelly) H.R. 6088 (Gallego)	Water Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2021	Support and Amend	Introduced
S. 3624 (Carper)	Water Resources Development Act of 2022	Support	Introduced
S. 4136 (Carper) H.R. 7776 (DeFazio)	Environmental Justice for All Act	Support	Introduced
S. 4279 (Padilla) H.R. 7847 (McNerney)	Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act of 2022	Support	Introduced
H.R. 3112 (McNerney)	Western Water Recycling and Drought Relief Act of 2021	Support and Amend	Introduced
H.R. 1352 (Lawrence) S. 916 (Sanders)	Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Act of 2021	Support	Introduced
S. 4494 (Cortez Masto) H.R. 8434 (S. Lee)	Facilitating Large-Scale Water Recycling and Reuse Projects Act	Support	Introduced
H.R. 8300 (Blumenauer)	Empowering Resilient Local Communities Act	Support	Introduced

State Legislation Active in September 2022 with Board-Approved Positions

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
AB 1817 (Ting)	Prohibiting Textile Articles with PFAS	Support	Pending – Governor’s Action
AB 2106 (R. Rivas)	Water Quality Permits	Support	Pending – Governor’s Action
AB 2142 (Gabriel)	Income Tax Exemption for Turf Replacement Rebate	Support	Pending – Governor’s Action
AB 2208 (Kalra)	Prohibiting Sale of Fluorescent Lamps	Support	Pending – Governor’s Action
AB 2247 (Bloom)	PFAS Products Reporting	Support	Pending – Governor’s Action
AB 2362 (Mullin)	Water Quality Control Plans Streamlining	Support	Failed – Senate Floor – Inactive File
AB 2449 (Rubio)	Open Meetings Teleconferences	Support	Signed by the Governor

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
AB 2771 (Friedman)	Cosmetic Products Safety	Support	Pending – Governor’s Action
AB 2789 (Mullin)	Open Space Design-Build and Best Value Contracting	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 2895 (Arambula)	Water Rights Process for Temporary Water Transfers	Oppose Unless Amended	Pending – Governor’s Action
SB 852 (Dodd)	Climate Resilience Districts Funding Mechanisms	Neutral	Signed by the Governor
SB 991 (Newman)	Progressive Design-Build Contracts	Support	Signed by the Governor
SB 1205 (Allen)	State Water Board Water Rights Appropriation	Support	Pending – Governor’s Action
SB 1469 (Bradford)	Water Corporations Rates Decoupling	Support	Pending – Governor’s Action