

JUNE 25, 2019

Office of Government Relations  
Legislative Update

## FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS



U.S. Capitol

## House Hearing on Two Water Resources Bills

On June 13, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife held a legislative hearing on two water resources bills that the Board supported: H.R. 2473, Rep. Josh Harder's Securing Access for the central Valley and Enhancing (SAVE) Water Resources Act, and H.R. 1162, Rep. Grace Napolitano's Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act. Staff registered support for both bills and is working with congressional staff to improve the Harder bill, as well as a companion Senate bill, so that it moves the Pacheco Project forward.

## STATE ADVOCACY EFFORTS



State Capitol

## Valley Water Contracting Bill Passes Assembly

On May 30, AB 707 (Kalra) Valley Water Public Works Contracting, our sponsored bill to increase our competitive bidding threshold to \$50k, was passed on the Assembly floor in a 73-0 vote. After the bill was amended on the floor, the Construction Industry Force Account Council, the California State Council of Laborers, and California-Nevada Conference of Operating Engineers removed their opposition, noting that they would continue to work with the author's office on the amendments.

The current bill language increases Valley Water's competitive bidding threshold from \$25k to \$50k, increases our force account limit from \$5k to \$50k while maintaining existing exceptions, and adds new exceptions to the force account limit for environmental preservation and habitat management.

The Senate Governance and Finance Committee will hear AB 707 on June 26. Staff will join Assembly Member Kalra and NAACP's Salena Pryor to testify in support of the bill.

## Senator Wiener Introduces Bill to Enhance Transparency For Local Tax Measures

Senator Wiener (D-San Francisco) has amended SB 268 to become a bill that both expands transparency on tax measures and fixes a statute that prevents enactment of tiered, progressive tax structures like Valley Water's Safe, Clean Water parcel tax. Beginning in 2015, the California Elections Code was amended to require a detailed financial disclosures in the 75-word ballot label. The passage of SB 268 would allow agencies such as Valley Water to provide expanded financial information regarding tiered tax rate structures and bonds in the voter information guide. Valley Water staff is working with a coalition of cities, counties, special districts, schools, hospitals, and labor seeking to enact the bill.

## Legislature and Governor Agree on Safe Clean Water Package

Governor Newsom and the Legislature have agreed to a package of actions to address the lack of safe drinking water in low-income communities. In a victory for the Association of California Water Agencies, the package does not include a tax on retail water bills.

The package of actions includes the following:

- Enact SB 200 (Monning) Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, requiring the State Water Resources Control Board determine project eligibility.
- Enact SB 414 (Caballero) Small Water System Consolidation, allowing for the creation of regional authorities to manage failing systems.
- Provide a continuous appropriation of \$130 million annually to the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, with \$100 million of Cap and Trade proceeds and \$30 million from the General Fund.
- Appropriate funds from Propositions 1 and 68 for various capital projects to strengthen failing water delivery systems.

The Valley Water Board already supports SB 414 and will consider a support position on SB 200 at the June 25 Board meeting.

LOCAL ADVOCACY AND  
ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

## Sustainable Silicon Valley Rains to Bay

On May 29, Valley Water Director's Gary Kremen and Barbara Keegan, along with Valley Water staff, participated in five panels at the 2019 Sustainable Silicon Valley Rains to Bay event. The event focused on taking a deep watershed dive into technological advances, relevant policy, and potential solutions to watershed management issues.

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June 2: Valley Water staff at Sunnyvale Art & Wine Festival

### Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce Art and Wine Festival (booth)

The weekend of June 1 Valley Water hosted a booth at the two-day, 2019 Sunnyvale Art and Wine Festival. Valley Water staff engaged the community through the use of our water wheel trivia game and by engaging attendees with information about Valley Water's priority issues and projects.



June 8: Director Richard Santos during the D a de Portugal Festival

### D a de Portugal Festival

On June 8, Valley Water participated in D a de Portugal in San Jose. Director Richard Santos was recognized on stage on behalf of Valley Water and walked in the D a de Portugal parade alongside other local elected officials. Valley Water also hosted a booth at the event where staff engaged the community on Valley Water priority issues and projects.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS WITH BOOTH AND/OR WATER TRUCK

**MAY 29**

Sustainable Silicon Valley  
Rains to Bay (booth)

**JUNE 8**

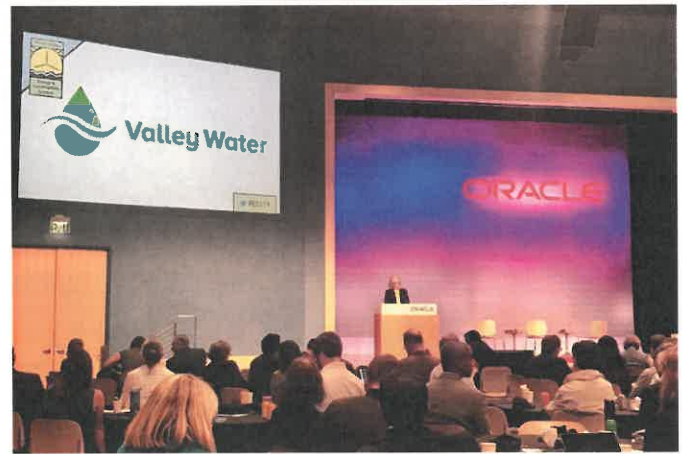
D a de Portugal Festival  
(booth)

**JUNE 1-2**

Sunnyvale Chamber of  
Commerce Art and Wine  
Festival (booth)

**JUNE 14**

Silicon Valley Leadership  
Group Energy and  
Sustainability Summit (booth)



June 14: Board Chair Linda LeZotte presenting at the SVLG's Energy and Sustainability Summit

### Silicon Valley Leadership Group's Energy and Sustainability Summit

On June 14, Chair Linda LeZotte attended the Silicon Valley Leadership Group's Energy and Sustainability Summit and provided closing remarks for the event's Lunchtime Fireside Chat about Valley Water's climate resilience efforts. Valley Water also had a booth at the event with information about Valley Water's priority issues and projects.



June 11: Valley Water staff, Karl Neuman and Michal Helman, presenting at the Milpitas Monthly Business Breakfast

### Milpitas Chamber of Commerce Monthly Business Breakfast

On June 11, Director Richard Santos and Valley Water staff presented at the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce Monthly Business Breakfast. Staff provided information on the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project, cleanup efforts, water supply, water conservation rebates, and the Upper and Lower Berryessa Creek Projects.

### LOOKING AHEAD

**JULY 4**

Rose, White & Blue Parade  
(booth/water truck)

**JULY 4**

Almaden Lake 4th of July  
Festival (booth)



## Federal Legislation Active in June 2019 with Board-Approved Positions:

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
H.R. 548 (Calvert)	Federally Integrated Species Health (FISH) Act	Support	Introduced and referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
H.R. 357 (Garamendi)	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Act	Support	Signed into law as part of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (P.L. 116-9)
S. 40 (Barrasso)	Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act	Support and Amend	Introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
H.R. 1137 (Garamendi)	To amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 to repeal the authority relating to reprogramming during national emergencies	Support	Introduced and referred to House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
S. 326 (Udall)	Restrictions Against Illegitimate Declarations for Emergency Re-appropriations (RAIDER) Act of 2019	Support	Introduced and referred to House Committee on Appropriations
H.R. 1162 (Napolitano)	Water Recycling Improvement and Investment Act	Support	Hearing held in the House Committee on Natural Resources
H.R. 1132 (Speier)	San Francisco Bay Restoration Act of 2019	Support	Introduced and referred to House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and House Committee on the Budget
H.R. 1497 (DeFazio)	Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act	Support	Introduced and referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
H.R. 658 (DeLauro)	National Infrastructure Development Bank Act of 2019	Support	Introduced and referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce; Transportation and Infrastructure; Financial Services; and Ways and Means
H.R. 1417 (Lawrence)/ S. 611 (Sanders)	Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability (WATER) Act of 2019	Support	H.R. 1417: Introduced and referred to the House Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure; Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; and Agriculture; S. 611: Introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
H.R. 1621 (McClintock)	Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act	Support	Introduced and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources
H.R. 2313 (Huffman)	Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act	Support	Introduced and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means
S. 923 (Feinstein)	Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act	Support	Introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
H.R. 2473 (Harder)	Securing Access for the central Valley and Enhancing (SAVE) Water Resources Act	Support and Amend	Hearing held in the House Committee on Natural Resources

## State Legislation Active in June 2019 with Board-Approved Positions:

Bill (Author)	Subject	Position	Status
AB 143 (Quirk-Silva)	Shelter crisis: homeless shelters: Counties of Alameda and Orange: City of San José	Support	Pending—Senate Environmental Quality Committee
AB 292 (Quirk)	Recycled water: raw water and groundwater augmentation	Support	Pending—Senate Environmental Quality Committee
AB 707 (Kalra)	Santa Clara Valley Water District: contracts	Sponsor	Pending—Senate Governance and Finance Committee
AB 782 (Berman)	California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: public agencies: land transfers	Support	Pending—Senate Appropriations Committee
AB 948 (Kalra)	Coyote Valley Conservation Program	Support	Pending—Senate Governance and Finance Committee
AB 1180 (Friedman)	Water: recycled water	Support	Pending—Senate Appropriations Committee

AB 1588 (Gloria)	Drinking water and wastewater operator certification programs	Support	Pending—Senate Environmental Quality Committee
AB 1745 (Kalra)	Shelter crisis: emergency bridge housing community; City of San José	Support	Pending—Senate Appropriations Committee
ACA 1 (Aguilar-Curry)	Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval	Support	Pending—Assembly Third Reading
SB 19 (Dodd)	Pending—Assembly Third Reading	Support	Pending—Assembly Third Reading
SB 414 (Caballero)	Small System Water Authority Act of 2019	Support	Pending—Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
SB 487 (Caballero)	Department of Water Resources: aerial snow survey	Support	Pending—Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee