

SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Office of Government Relations Activities



STATE ADVOCACY EFFORTS



California State Capitol

2021 State Legislative Session Ends

The 2021 Legislative Session ended on September 10 with nearly 700 bills passed and sent to the Governor in the last week. Gov. Newsom has until October 10 to act on these bills or else they will become law without his signature.

The Legislature also made numerous last-minute changes to the previously enacted State Budget approved in June, sending 16 budget-related bills to the Governor's desk. SB 170 (Skinner) changed numerous budget line items, increasing expenditures for drought-related water supply and climate resiliency programs. SB 155 (Committee on Budget), the natural resources trailer bill, includes a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption for environmental restoration-only projects, bans water service shutoffs through 12/31/21, and includes \$350 million for the State Coastal Conservancy with an undetermined amount going to the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority for habitat protection.

The State Budget is the largest in history ringing in at over \$250 billion. Staff is reviewing the enacted budget for grant funding opportunities for Valley Water projects and will be following grant solicitations closely. In addition, staff also will be reviewing enacted legislation for compliance impacts to Valley Water operations.

LOCAL ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS



Families stopped by the booth at the Cupertino Rotary's Silicon Valley Fall Festival to learn more about the drought, water conservation, and have an opportunity to win fun prizes.

Valley Water Returns to Community Festivals

The Office of Government Relations (OGR) has begun to coordinate Valley Water's participation at various community events. This month, Valley Water hosted three booths at the Santos Car Show, Cupertino Rotary's Silicon Valley Fall Festival, and Mountain View Chamber of Commerce's Art and Wine Festival. Valley Water staff educated families about the drought and engaged with community members on water conservation tips, rebates, and ongoing Valley Water projects. Although in-person events have been greatly reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, OGR staff is still working to participate in the limited opportunities to do so.

Directors Provide Drought Updates to Community

On August 30, Director Linda LeZotte provided a drought update presentation for Councilmember Pam Foley's Town Hall. Following her presentation, community members in attendance asked questions about current water supply conditions and water conservation actions residents can take to save water. In September, Vice Chair Gary Kremen provided drought updates at the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce's Business Issues & Public Policy (BIPP) and the Mountain View City Council Meeting. Director Kremen discussed the current water shortage emergency condition as well as Valley Water's call for water conservation actions. During the presentations, he discussed what businesses in Mountain View could do to save water and money as well as the various water conservation programs available through Valley Water's website.



Director LeZotte presenting on the drought during Councilmember Pam Foley's Town Hall.



Vice Chair Kremen provides a drought update at Mountain View Chamber of Commerce's Business Issues & Public Policy

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Redistricting Advisory Committee to Begin Outreach Meetings

The Board-appointed Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) recently concluded all of its training sessions and has received preliminary information on the Census Bureau data release on existing districts and new populations. Beginning September 22, the RAC will hold weekly outreach meetings specific to each district as part of the ongoing redistricting process to garner community input on potentially modifying the boundaries of the seven electoral districts, as well as providing community members the opportunity to create their own map.

Upcoming Events:

- October 2, 2021, Explore Martial Cottle Park (Booth)
- October 2-3, 2021, Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce's Art & Wine Festival (Booth)
- October 16, 2021, Cupertino Chamber of Commerce Diwali Festival (Booth)

Federal Legislation Active in September 2021 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	Passed House on June 15, 2021
H.R. 1015 (Napolitano)	Water Recycling Improvement and Investment Act	Support	Introduced
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 (Yarmurth)	American Jobs Plan Act	Support and Amend	Became Public Law 117-2
S. XXXX (Feinstein)	Draft "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	Passed Senate on April 29, 2021
H.R. 1915 (DeFazio)	Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021	Support	Reported favorably from the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on June 22, 2021
H.R. 1848 (Pallone)	Leading Infrastructure for Tomorrow's America (LIFT America) Act	Support	Introduced

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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	Introduced
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 the bipartisan infrastructure bill (H.R. 3684), which the Senate passed on August 9, 2021
S. 2377 (Manchin)	Energy Infrastructure Act	Support and Amend	Incorporated into the bipartisan infrastructure bill (H.R. 3684), which the Senate passed on August 9, 2021
S. 2454 (Padilla)	Water Reuse and Resiliency Act of 2021	Support	Pieces incorporated into the bipartisan infrastructure bill (H.R. 3684), which the Senate passed on August 9, 2021
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

State Legislation Active in July 2021 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 271 (R. Rivas)	Timely, Safe, & Expert Construction for the Anderson Dam Project	Sponsor	Signed by the Governor
AB 315 (Stone)	Voluntary Stream Restoration Property Owner Liability: Indemnification	Support	Pending – Governor's Desk
AB 361 (R. Rivas)	Open Meetings: Local Agencies: Teleconferences	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 652 (Friedman)	Juvenile Products: Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	Support	Pending – Governor' Desk
AB 819 (Levine)	California Environmental Quality Act: Notices and Documents: Electronic Filing and Posting	Support	Signed by the Governor
AB 897 (Mullin)	Regional Climate Adaptation Action Plans	Support	Pending – Senate Appropriations Committee – 2 Year Bill
AB 959 (Mullin)	Park Districts: Nuisances Abatement	Support	Pending – Governor's Desk
AB 1110 (R. Rivas)	Zero-Emission Vehicles: Climate Catalyst Revolving Loan Fund Program	Support	Pending – Senate Appropriations Committee – 2 Year Bill
SB 274 (Wieckowski)	Local Government Meetings: Agenda and Documents	Support	Pending – Governor's Desk
SB 323 (Caballero)	Local Government: Water or Sewer Service Validation Actions	Support	Pending – Governor's Desk
SB 372 (Leyva)	Zero-Emission Vehicles: Medium- and Heavy-Duty Fleet Purchasing Assistance Program	Support	Pending – Governor's Desk
SB 496 (Laird)	Pajaro River Flood Control	Support	Pending – Governor's Desk
SB 559 (Hurtado)	Water Conveyance Systems: Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Fund	Support	Pending – Governor's Desk
SB 626 (Dodd)	Department of Water Resources: Procurement Methods	Support	Pending – Governor's Desk
SB 786 (Becker)	Smart Financing for Water Infrastructure	Sponsor	Pending – Assembly Local Government Committee – 2 Year Bill