



**WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
855 W. BASE LINE ROAD, RIALTO, CA 92376
PH: (909) 875-1804
WWW.WVWD.ORG**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA**

Monday, March 24, 2025, 6:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that West Valley Water District has called a meeting of the External Affairs Committee to meet in the Administrative Conference Room, 855 W. Base Line Road, Rialto, CA 92376.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Director Angela Garcia, Chair
Director Kelvin Moore**

Members of the public may attend the meeting in person at 855 W. Base Line Road, Rialto, CA 92376, or you may join the meeting using Zoom by clicking this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8402937790>. Public comment may be submitted via Zoom, by telephone by calling the following number and access code: Dial: (888) 475-4499, Access Code: 840-293-7790, or via email to administration@wvwd.org.

If you require additional assistance, please contact administration@wvwd.org.

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Any person wishing to speak to the Board of Directors on matters listed or not listed on the agenda, within its jurisdiction, is asked to complete a Speaker Card and submit it to the Board Secretary, if you are attending in person. For anyone joining on Zoom, please wait for the Board President's instruction to indicate that you would like to speak. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. Under the State of California Brown Act, the Board of Directors is prohibited from discussing or taking action on any item not listed on the posted agenda. Comments related to noticed Public Hearing(s) and Business Matters will be heard during the occurrence of the item.

Public communication is the time for anyone to address the Board on any agenda item or anything under the jurisdiction of the District. Also, please remember that no disruptions from the crowd will be tolerated. If someone disrupts the meeting, they will be removed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1. State/Federal Verbal Updates**
- 2. 2025 March Federal/State Legislative Report**
- 3. Updates to the External Affairs Committee**
- 4. September 30, 2024, October 28, 2024, November 11, 2025, and December 16, 2024 Minutes**
- 5. February/March Social Media Report**
- 6. WVWD Customer Survey**
- 7. Education Update**
- 8. Outreach Events Update**

ADJOURN

Please Note:

Material related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the District's office located at 855 W. Baseline, Rialto, during normal business hours. Also, such documents are available on the District's website at www.wvwd.org subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a), any request for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in the above-agendized public meeting should be directed to the Board Secretary, Elvia Dominguez, at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation. Ms. Dominguez may be contacted by telephone at (909) 875-1804 ext. 703, or in writing at the West Valley Water District, P.O. Box 920, Rialto, CA 92377-0920.

DECLARATION OF POSTING:

I declare under penalty of perjury, that I am employed by the West Valley Water District and posted the foregoing Agenda at the District Offices on March 24, 2025.

Elvia Dominguez

Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary

Date Posted: March 20, 2025



STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 24, 2025
TO: External Affairs Committee
FROM: Isabelle Medina, Public Outreach & Government Affairs Rep I
SUBJECT: 2025 March Federal/State Legislative Report

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Develop and Grow Effective Communication and Advocacy Practices
f) Increase Efficacy of Advocacy Efforts at the Local, State, and National Level

MEETING HISTORY:

N/A

BACKGROUND:

Update on Federal and State Legislative information as identified in WVWD's Legislative Principles.

DISCUSSION:

Review Attached Report

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

REQUESTED ACTION:

Receive and File

Attachments

[Exhibit A - 2025 March Leg Report.pdf](#)



MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 2025

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2025 Legislative Deadlines

February 21, 2025	Last day for bills to be introduced
April 10, 2025	Spring Recess
April 21, 2025	Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess
May 2, 2025	Last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal committees fiscal bills introduced in their house
May 9, 2025	Last day for policy committees to hear and report to the floor nonfiscal bills introduced in their house
May 16, 2025	Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 9
May 23, 2025	Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report to the floor bills introduced in their house
June 6, 2025	Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in the house
June 9, 2025	Committee meetings may resume
June 15, 2025	Budget bill must be passed by midnight
July 18, 2025	Summer Recess begins (provided Budget Bill has been passed)
August 18, 2025	Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess
August 29, 2025	Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills
September 5, 2025	Last day to amend bills on the floor
September 12, 2025	Interim Recess begins, last day for each house to pass bills
October 12, 2025	Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 12 and in the Governor's possession on or after Sept. 12

Below is a high-level look at recent ACWA Priority issues, including key legislation that ACWA has advocated for on behalf of its members:

ACWA-sponsored SB 394 – Water Theft:

Authored by Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) and co-sponsored by Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, this bill would allow local agencies providing water services to adopt an ordinance with enhanced penalties for water theft from a fire hydrant. SB 394 would help address inefficiencies in current penalties and would establish fines for water theft from a fire hydrant. Additionally, the bill would remove the one-year reset on existing penalties for the third and additional violations for water theft committed via meter tampering and other methods. This bill would also help agencies recover damages by authorizing utilities to pursue civil remedies against any person who tampers with or diverts water from a fire hydrant without authorization. The bill is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Local Government Committee on March 19

SB 454 – PFAS Cleanup:

ACWA is co-sponsoring SB 454, introduced by Sen. Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), in partnership with the League of California Cities. The bill would create a statewide PFAS Mitigation Fund to help local agencies provide safe drinking water and treated wastewater for their communities. If approved, the bill would create a much-needed funding tool to help water and wastewater agencies pay for costs that would otherwise be covered by local ratepayers on their water and wastewater bills. There are currently multiple sources of funding aimed at addressing PFAS contamination (current and potentially future legal settlements, federal funding, state bond funding, etc.) that could be directed to this Fund. SB 454 has been referred to the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. ACWA distributed an Alert asking members to sign a coalition letter in support of the bill.

Water Rights Legislation:

ACWA is advocating on two water rights bills nearly identical to legislation from last year in which ACWA had significant concerns. AB 263 (Rogers, D-Healdsburg) would keep in place emergency regulations adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board for the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds until permanent rules implementing long-term instream flow requirements are adopted. ACWA has an oppose position on the bill because it would set precedent for extending emergency regulations in place of following established processes for emergency regulations in times of drought. AB 263 has been referred to the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildfire Committee. The second bill, AB 362 (Ramos, D-Highland) would define “tribal water uses,” designate them as a beneficial use of water and allow tribal water uses to be a primary factor in determining the highest water quality that is reasonable in all regulatory decisions. ACWA has adopted an oppose unless-amended position.

Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) Program:

SB 350, introduced by Senator María Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles), would require the State Water Board to create a Water Rate Assistance Program to provide financial assistance for both drinking water and wastewater services to low-income residential ratepayers. ACWA believes a water and wastewater low-income rate assistance program – if designed in a reasonable, efficient and effective manner – is an appropriate approach. While SB 350 is a good starting point, the bill can be improved to maximize the funding spent on direct assistance to ratepayers, enhance public process, and reduce unreasonable burdens on water providers. ACWA is urging member agencies to join an association-led coalition to oppose SB 350 unless the bill is appropriately amended to create a workable and efficient LIRA. The bill has been and has been double referred to the Senate Environmental Quality and Energy, Utilities and Communications Committees.

Forest Management and Wildfire:

Orders issued at the state and federal level during the past weekend have the goal of reducing permitting and regulatory barriers that may impede forest management projects aimed at reducing wildfire risk, a key component in enhancing California's headwater health, an ACWA priority issue. Gov. Gavin Newsom on March 1 proclaimed a state of emergency to fast-track eligible critical wildfire prevention projects statewide, ahead of peak fire season. Also on March 1, the Trump Administration released an Executive Order titled, "Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production." This order seeks to increase domestic timber production, calls for legislative approaches to streamline Endangered Species Act reviews to expedite forestry projects, and consider new categorical exclusions for timber production, forest management, wildfire risk reduction treatments, and timber thinning.

Water Measurement and Reporting Regulation:

Last month, the State Water Board initiated the formal rulemaking for the draft Water Measurement and Reporting Regulation (Regulation). The Regulation proposes updates for measuring and reporting requirements for water rights holders that divert over 10 acre-feet per year. ACWA plans to attend the public hearing on April 16 and submit comments by the April 23 deadline.

ACWA Launches Election Process for 2026-'27:

ACWA has launched the election process for the 2026-'27 term for President, Vice President, and region board members. This year, the election process for officers and region boards is now combined. Voting for both sets of candidates will be done electronically by each member agency's designated voter on a single ballot. Agencies can now designate their voting representative by visiting acwa.com/elections and submitting the Authorized Representative and Information Form by the June 20 deadline.

POGA's Legislative Efforts

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Since the Start of the new legislative session, POGA has been sat in on calls from:

Date	Meeting	Comments
2/13/25	CMUA Legislative Committee	Reviewed SB 72, AB 263, AB 269, AB 293, AB 362 and SB 367 for positions.
3/6/25	ACWA Region 9 State Legislative Committee	Reviewed AB 259, AB 339, AB 514, AB 580, AB 846, SB 31, SB 88, SB 223, and Sb 350 for positions.
3/13/25	CMUA March Legislative Committee	Discussed sponsored bills: SB 72, AB 532 as well as AB 430, AB 514, AB 580, AB 794, SB 350, SB 394, SB 601 and many more.
3/17/25	ACWA Region 9 State Legislative Committee	Reviewed bills AB 639, AB 601, and AB 682 for position.

WVWD LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

06

The next few pages provide high level summaries on both Federal and State legislation that is critical to our district, along with positions and coalitions taken/led by other agencies.

Acronym List:

- **ACWA - Associations of Clean Water Agencies**
- **CMUA - California Municipal Utilities Association**
- **CSDA - California Special Districts Association**
- **SBVMWD - San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District**
- **EVWD - East Valley Water District**
- **WMVWD - Western Municipal Water District**
- **EMWD - Eastern Municipal Water District**
- **IEUA - Inland Empire Utilities Agency**

Federal Legislation – High Priority

Bill	Summary	Positions taken by other agencies	WVWD Position	WVWD Impact

State Legislation – High Priority

Bill	Summary	Positions taken by other agencies	WVWD Position	WVWD Impact
Assembly Bills				
<p>AB 259 Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.</p> <p>Introduced by: Assemblymember Rubio</p>	<p>In 2022, Assemblymember Blanca Rubio (AD-48, Baldwin Park) authored AB 2449, which took effect on January 1, 2023. AB 2249 allows local agencies to use alternative Brown Act meeting procedures in the event a board member is absent due to “just cause” or “emergency circumstances.” The bill allows board members affected by illness, travel, or emergencies to participate remotely. Although AB 2449’s provisions have been amended since its enactment, its sunset date has remained unchanged, and these “just cause” and “emergency” provisions are set to expire at the end of 2025. AB 259, which is sponsored by the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), would eliminate the sunset.</p>	<p>CSDA – Sponsor ACWA – Support IEUA – Support TVMD – Support IRWD – Support SCWC – Support</p>	<p>Took a support position on 3/13/25.</p>	<p>This bill will preserve the meeting flexibility provided by AB 2449 and remove the sunset date.</p>

<p>AB 293 Groundwater sustainability agency: transparency.</p> <p>Introduced by: Assemblymember Bennett</p>	<p>Current law requires a groundwater sustainability plan to be developed and implemented for each medium- or high-priority basin by a groundwater sustainability agency. Current law authorizes any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to decide to become a groundwater sustainability agency for that basin, as provided. Current law requires members of the board of directors and the executive, as defined, of a groundwater sustainability agency to file statements of economic interests with the Fair Political Practices Commission using the commission’s online system for filing statements of economic interests. This bill would require each groundwater sustainability agency to publish the membership of its board of directors on its internet website, or on the local agency’s internet website, as provided. The bill would also require each groundwater sustainability agency to publish a link on its internet website or its local agency’s internet website to the location on the Fair Political Practices Commission’s internet website where the statements of economic interests, filed by the members of the board and executives of the agency, can be viewed.</p>	<p>ACWA – Watch IEUA – Watch CMUA – Watch</p>	<p>Still early in its tracks, but many water agencies are monitoring this bill due to the fact that last session assemblymember Bennett introduced a very problematic bill (AB 2079) which was opposed by many water agencies as it pushed for extra protection over adjudicated basins that are already heavily protected.</p>
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<p>AB 362 Water Policy: California tribal communities</p> <p>Introduced by: Ramos</p>	<p>This bill is a reintroduction of AB 2614 and is related to California tribal communities and water policy. In short, this bill ensures that tribal water uses are officially recognized as part of the state's "beneficial uses" for water quality protection. This means that tribal water uses must be considered when managing and protecting water quality in the state. Any project or program that affects water quality and requires approval by the State Water Quality Control Board or regional boards must assess its impact on tribal water uses, both with data (quantitative) and descriptions (qualitative). The state must then publish a report on this every two years starting December 2026.</p>	<p>ACWA – Oppose unless Amended CMUA- Oppose unless amended</p>		<p>Water agencies voiced their concerns on AB 2614 and this bill has similar issues. ACWA's main concerns with this bill are as follows: The definition of "Tribal Water Uses" is too broad, the exemption from CEQA is highly problematic, this bill would be duplicating existing laws, there's a short timeline for compliance, there is an unclear impact assessment, and this bill would expand the responsibilities of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council beyond its original purpose.</p>
<p>AB 532 Water rate assistance program</p>	<p>This bill allows urban retail water suppliers to offer water rate assistance to eligible ratepayers. "Water rate assistance" includes reducing water fees, offering discounts, providing credits, or helping with arrears through crisis assistance. The assistance would be available to low-income households, specifically those with an annual income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Suppliers can use their own funding or voluntary contributions from other ratepayers to support this program. Starting January 1,</p>	<p>ACWA – Favor CMUA – Sponsored CSDA – Favor IEUA – Watch</p>	<p>Support position taken on 3/11/2025</p>	<p>Last session, there was much controversy over a LIRA bill that would require an OPT out for voluntary contributions. Bill was not supported by us or water community since it did not have a strong funding mechanism. This bill seeks to establish a funding mechanism for this LIRA program.</p>

	<p>2028, suppliers must include information about their water rate assistance program in their technical report to the state board.</p>			
<p>AB 794 California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations.</p> <p>Introduced by: Assembly Member Gabriel</p>	<p>This bill would authorize the State Water Board to adopt as an emergency regulation, a regulation that is not more stringent than, and is not materially different in substance and effect than the requirements of a regulation promulgated pursuant to the Federal Act. The authority of the State Water Board to adopt an emergency regulation consistent with this authority would include the authority to adopt a federal regulation that is in effect on January 19, 2025, regardless of whether the requirements were repealed or amended to be less stringent. The bill would prohibit an emergency regulation adopted pursuant to these provisions from implementing less stringent drinking water standards, as provided, and would authorize the emergency regulation to include requirements that are more stringent than the requirements of the federal regulation to the extent that the more stringent requirements are not materially different in substance and effect from the requirements of this or the regulations implementing this chapter.</p>	<p>ACWA- Oppose unless Amended</p> <p>CMUA- Oppose</p>		<p>Main concerns: Bill removes important language from the Health and Safety Code that currently prevents the State Water Board from adopting emergency regulations for setting maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for drinking water. This could lead to MCLs being set without public input or environmental review, setting a bad precedent for future MCLs.</p> <p>The bill's push to adopt PFAS MCLs is seen as unnecessary at this stage. The State Water Board has already prioritized adopting federal PFAS MCLs as the state standard and plans to follow the regular rulemaking process starting in 2025.</p> <p>The bill also involves the legislature in ongoing legal challenges to the federal PFAS standard. The bill's sponsors argue it aims to protect PFAS treatment efforts amid potential changes to the federal standard, but this could complicate ongoing legal matters.</p> <p>** This can also apply to other containment levels!</p>

Senate Bills

<p>SB 72 The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.</p> <p>Introduced by: Senator Caballero</p>	<p>Senator Anna Caballero (SD-14, Merced) has introduced SB 72. SB 72 would establish long-term water supply targets and call for the Department of Water Resources to use those targets in future updates to the California Water Plan. The bill is a reintroduced version of SB 366 (2024) unanimously pass by both houses of the legislature, and then vetoed by the Governor. SB 366 was supported by the District along with a broad coalition of water agencies, special districts, and associations. According to SB 366’s veto message, the bill was vetoed by the Governor due to fiscal concerns at the end of the last legislative session. Since then, the coalition has refined the bill’s language to reduce costs associated with its implementation.</p>	<p>CMUA – Sponsor ACWA – Support IEUA – Support CVWD – Support EMWD – Support IRWD – Support JCSD – Support SCWC- Support MVWD – Support Valley – Support WMWD – Leading Regional Efforts</p>	<p>Took a support position on 3/11/2025</p>	<p>Previously known as SB 366, which garnered huge support from water agencies in Southern California. SB 72 speaks to any future weather extremes that threaten our current state of water management.</p>
<p>SB 350 Water Rate Assistance Program</p> <p>Introduced by: Senator Durazo</p>	<p>SB 350, proposes the establishment of the Water Rate Assistance Program to provide water affordability assistance to low-income residential ratepayers for both drinking water and wastewater services. The bill establishes this fund within the State Treasury to support the program and specifies how it will be administered by the State Water Resources Control Board.</p>	<p>ACWA – Oppose unless amended CMUA – Seeking amendments CSDA – Watch IEUA – Watch</p>		<p>This bill is a reintroduction of SB 222 (Dodd 2021). SB 222 was vetoed because there was no funding source for the program. SB 350 seeks to pick up the conversation to create a state-funded and state-implemented low-income water rate assistance program. Still no funding source.</p>
<p>SB 394 Enhanced Penalties for Water Theft from Fire Hydrants</p>	<p>Co-sponsored by ACWA, this legislative proposal would authorize local agencies that provide water service to adopt an ordinance with enhanced penalties for water theft committed via the unauthorized connection to a fire hydrant. The bill would also include amendments to the Civil Code to allow a utility to bring a civil action for damages against any</p>	<p>ACWA – Co Sponsor Las Virgenes Water District – Sponsor</p>	<p>Took position on 3/11/2025</p>	<p>West Valley Water District was able to provide data on this bill since we suffer an estimated loss of 45 to 60 million gallons of water annually, equating to a revenue loss of approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000 due to theft.</p>

<p>Introduced by: Senator Allen</p>	<p>person who tampers with or diverts water from a fire hydrant.</p>	<p>CMUA – Support and amend</p>		
<p>SB 496 Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions.</p> <p>Introduced by: Senator Hurtado</p>	<p>Co-sponsored by CSDA, this bill addresses concerns related to the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulations, which mandates the transition of local and state government fleets to zero-emission vehicles. This regulation has created operational and financial burdens for public agencies. SB 496 proposes to establish an Appeals Advisory Committee to review denied exemption requests, adding necessary flexibility. Additionally, the bill would expand the emergency vehicle exemption to vehicles reasonably anticipated to be used by disaster service workers.</p>	<p>CSDA – Co Sponsor</p> <p>CMUA – Watch</p> <p>IEUA – Support</p>		<p>Reached out to Cal Strats on taking a position: “I do think SB 496 will likely be a bill we will recommend WWWD taking a position on, but I think it may be wise to hold off for a few weeks. The issue is a moving target in the agency right now, especially given everything going on between the feds and the state on this issue. I anticipate the language in the bill may continue to evolve as well. My recommendation is to wait and see how the first policy committee hearing goes before registering formal Support as WWWD.”</p>
<p>SB 601 <u>Water: waste discharge.</u></p> <p>Introduced by: Senator Allen</p>	<p>This bill would require industries that are regulated under Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act that are applying to local governments for building or construction permits to prove their enrollment under applicable NPDES permits or Waste Discharge Requirements. This bill would also require the State Water Board Division of Drinking Water to adopt a primary drinking water standard that is at least as stringent as that adopted and in effect by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on January 19, 2025, while giving the State Water Board authority to adopt through emergency regulation. This bill amends the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act to apply more stringent federal Clean Water Act permitting regulations to former waters of the United States, including incorporating a new category of waters in Porter-Cologne. The bill</p>	<p>ACWA: Oppose</p> <p>CMUA: Oppose</p>		<p>There is expected to be a large coalition against this bill. Here are some concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased Costs for Local Governments: The bill expands local government business licensing procedures. - Confusion and Delays in Construction Permits: The inclusion of construction general permits may cause delays in granting building and development permits. - Expanded Authority for Emergency Regulations on PFAS: Similar concerns as AB 794 regarding the State Water Board’s increased authority to adopt emergency regulations on PFAS. - Impact of Nexus Waters on Clean Water Act Permits: The bill aims to undo the U.S. Supreme Court’s Sackett

	<p>defines “nexus waters” as essentially any water of the state unless specifically excepted in statute. For newly categorized nexus waters, the state and regional boards would be required to apply state and federal water quality standards and determine if they are impaired pursuant to section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. This bill also adds Citizen Suit Enforcement provisions for nexus waters.</p>			<p>v. EPA decision, broadening the Clean Water Act's reach to state waters, increasing federal permitting requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased Liability for Dischargers: The citizen suit provision and federal civil penalty provisions would raise dischargers’ liabilities. - Removal of Economic Considerations for Regional Boards: Removing Water Code section 13241 would eliminate the requirement for regional boards to consider factors like economics, water quality conditions, and housing needs when setting waste discharge requirements.
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Gregory Young
President, Division 5

Dan Jenkins
Vice President, Division 2

Angela Garcia
Director, Division 1

Kelvin Moore
Director, Division 3

Estevan Bennett
Director, Division 4



ESTABLISHED AS A PUBLIC AGENCY IN 1952
WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE
OUR CUSTOMERS WITH SAFE, HIGH QUALITY AND RELIABLE
WATER SERVICE AT A REASONABLE RATE AND IN A
SUSTAINABLE MANNER.

John Thiel
General Manager

Linda Jadeski
Assistant General Manager

Elvia Dominguez
Board Secretary

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 532 (Ransom) –**Water Rate Assistance Program - SUPPORT**

Dear Committee Member Bauer-Kahan,

West Valley Water District (WVWD) is pleased to support AB 532, which would secure statutory authority for low-income water rate assistance programs and establish the California Low Income Household Water Rate Assistance Program. Since 1952, West Valley Water District has been dedicated to serving the Southern California communities of Bloomington, Colton, Fontana, Rialto, Jurupa Valley and Unincorporated San Bernardino County. Providing water to over 100,000 customers, West Valley is committed to delivering a cost-effective, high-quality water supply. With over half of our customers considered disadvantaged, we fully support AB 532 as it will help our most vulnerable community members.

AB 532 would make significant progress toward Californians accessing low-income water rate assistance. The bill would clarify the statutory authority for urban retail water suppliers, defined as systems serving 3,000 or more connections, to run low-income water rate assistance programs within their communities. The bill additionally includes reporting to the State Water Board that would highlight successes and challenges for the State to offer assistance to the right communities. Lastly, the bill establishes the California Low Income Household Water Rate Assistance Program modeled after the federally funded Low Income Household Water Assistance Program of 2020.

This statutory clarification is necessary for many public water agencies that are ready to offer such programs or are looking for ways to provide support for their low-income customers. Local programs tend to be efficient and effective because they take the diverse needs of the community they serve into account. Within the existing confines of Proposition 218, the authority to offer low-income programs is the first step in providing water rate assistance. The proposed Low-Income Household Water Rate Assistance Program would target systems serving under 3,000 connections where financial hardships are more heavily realized. State assistance for those entities is an appropriate first step in addressing affordability concerns.

For these reasons, we support AB 532. If you have any questions regarding our position, please contact WVWD's Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Socorro Pantaleon at (909) 875-1804 or spantaleon@wvwd.org.

Sincerely,

John Thiel, General Manager

Gregory Young
President, Division 5

Dan Jenkins
Vice President, Division 2

Angela Garcia
Director, Division 1

Kelvin Moore
Director, Division 3

Estevan Bennett
Director, Division 4



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SUSTAINABLE MANNER.

John Thiel
General Manager

Linda Jadeski
Assistant General Manager

Elvia Dominguez
Board Secretary

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 7210
Sacramento, California 95814-4900

RE: Assembly Bill 259 (Rubio) – Support [As Introduced]

Dear State Senator Reyes:

The West Valley Water District (WVWD) is pleased to support your Assembly Bill 259, related to the Ralph M. Brown Act. WVWD is a Special District governed by a five member Board of Directors providing retail water to approximately 101,530 customers. WVWD serves quality drinking water to portions of Rialto, Colton, Fontana, Bloomington, portions of the unincorporated area of San Bernardino County, and a portion of the city of Jurupa Valley in Riverside County.

Recognizing the evolving landscape of public meetings and the demonstrated value of remote participation options when members of governing bodies are unable to attend a physical gathering, your office introduced, and the Legislature passed, Assembly Bill 2449 in 2022, which amended the Ralph M. Brown Act. Beginning in 2023, special districts and other local agencies began using the procedures established by AB 2449, successfully facilitating remote participation for officials that would otherwise been encumbered by illness, official travel, or medical emergency. The provisions of that bill, having been negotiated by civil society groups and local government stakeholders, contained numerous safeguards and requirements, including the presence of an in-person quorum at the official meeting location. In past events, AB 2499 gave our Board Members the opportunity to participate remotely in times of family emergencies, ensuring that their service area continues to be represented.

While the provisions added by AB 2449 were modified slightly by technical amendments made by subsequent legislation, the January 1, 2026 sunset included in the original bill remains. To preserve the flexibility provided by your AB 2449, Assembly Bill 259 would eliminate this sunset date, thereby preserving indefinitely the remote meeting procedures added by the earlier legislation. AB 259 would not otherwise change any other elements of the remote meeting provisions.

For these reasons, West Valley Water District is pleased to support your Assembly Bill 259. If you have any questions regarding our position, please feel free to contact our Public Outreach and Government Affairs Manager, Socorro Pantaleon, at 909-875-1804 or spantaleon@wvwd.org.

Sincerely,

John Thiel, General Manager

State Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, State Senator Eloise Gómez Reyes, State Senator Sabrina Cervantes
Marcus Detwiler, Legislative Representative, California Special Districts Association [advocacy@csda.net]
Kirk Howie, Three Valleys Municipal Water District [khowie@tvmwd.com]



California Strategies Report

West Valley Water District Legislative Report

3/7/2025

Priority: **High**

Measure	Topic	Current Text Version	Status	Location	Calendar	Position	Memo
AB 259 Rubio, Blanca, D	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.	01/16/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/10/2025 - Referred to Com. on L. GOV.	02/10/2025 - Assembly L. GOV.		Support	
AB 339 Ortega, D	Local public employee organizations: notice requirements.	01/28/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/18/2025 - Referred to Com. on P. E. & R.	02/18/2025 - Assembly P.E. & R.	03/19/25 A- PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND RETIREMENT 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 MCKINNOR, TINA, Chair		
AB 362 Ramos, D	Water policy: California tribal communities.	01/30/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	01/31/2025 - From printer. May be heard in committee March 2.	01/30/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 372 Bennett, D	Office of Emergency Services: state matching funds: water system infrastructure improvements.	02/03/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/04/2025 - From printer. May be heard in committee March 6.	02/03/2025 - Assembly PRINT		Support	
AB 428 Rubio, Blanca, D	Joint powers agreements: water corporations.	02/05/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/18/2025 - Referred to Coms. on INS. and L. GOV.	02/18/2025 - Assembly INS.			
AB 532 Ransom, D	Water rate assistance program.	02/11/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	03/03/2025 - Referred to Com. on E.S & T.M.	03/03/2025 - Assembly E.S. & T.M.		Support	
ACR 32 Carrillo, D	March4Water Month.	02/13/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/18/2025 - Referred to Com. on RLS.	02/18/2025 - Assembly RLS.		Support	

Measure	Topic	Current Text Version	Status	Location	Calendar	Position	Memo
SB 31 McNerney, D	Water quality: recycled water.	02/10/2025 - Amended HTML PDF	02/19/2025 - Re-referred to Coms. on N.R. & W. and E.Q.	02/19/2025 - Senate N.R. & W.			
SB 72 Caballero, D	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.	03/05/2025 - Amended HTML PDF	03/05/2025 - From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on N.R. & W.	01/29/2025 - Senate N.R. & W.		Support	
SB 224 Hurtado, D	Department of Water Resources: water supply forecasting.	01/27/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/05/2025 - Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.	02/05/2025 - Senate N.R. & W.			
SB 239 Arreguín, D	Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.	01/30/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/14/2025 - Referred to Coms. on L. GOV. and JUD.	02/14/2025 - Senate L. GOV.			
SB 350 Durazo, D	Water Rate Assistance Program.	02/12/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/19/2025 - Referred to Coms. on E.Q. and E., U & C.	02/19/2025 - Senate E.Q.	03/19/25 S-ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1200 BLAKESPEAR, CATHERINE, Chair		
SB 394 Allen, D	Water theft: fire hydrants.	02/14/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	03/04/2025 - Set for hearing March 19.	02/26/2025 - Senate L. GOV.	03/19/25 S-LOCAL GOVERNMENT 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200 DURAZO, MARÍA ELENA, Chair	Support	
SB 724 Richardson, D	Public water systems: public housing: lead testing.	02/21/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/24/2025 - From printer. May be acted upon on or after March 24. Read first time.	02/21/2025 - Senate RLS.			

Priority: **Monitor**

Measure	Topic	Current Text Version	Status	Location	Calendar	Position	Memo
AB 93 Papan, D	Water resources: demands: artificial intelligence.	01/07/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	01/08/2025 - From printer. May be heard in committee February 7.	01/07/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 267 Macedo, R	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: high-speed rail: water infrastructure and wildfire prevention.	01/17/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/18/2025 - Referred to Coms. on TRANS. and NAT. RES.	02/18/2025 - Assembly TRANS.			
AB 269 Bennett, D	Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program.	01/17/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/10/2025 - Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.	02/10/2025 - Assembly W.,P. & W.			
AB 293 Bennett, D	Groundwater sustainability agency: transparency.	01/22/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/18/2025 - Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.	02/18/2025 - Assembly W.,P. & W.			
AB 295 Macedo, R	California Environmental Quality Act: environmental leadership development projects: water storage, water conveyance, and groundwater recharge projects: streamlined review.	01/23/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/10/2025 - Referred to Coms. on NAT. RES. and W. P., & W.	02/10/2025 - Assembly NAT. RES.			
AB 323 Fong, D	Strong Workforce Program: work-based learning opportunities.	01/24/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/10/2025 - Referred to Com. on Higher ED.	02/10/2025 - Assembly HIGHER ED.	03/18/25 A-HIGHER EDUCATION 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 126 FONG, MIKE, Chair		
AB 370 Carrillo, D	California Public Records Act: cyberattacks.	02/03/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/18/2025 - Referred to Com. on JUD.	02/18/2025 - Assembly JUD.	03/11/25 A-JUDICIARY 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 437 KALRA, ASH, Chair		
AB 407 Jackson, D	California Pollution Control Financing Authority.	02/04/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/18/2025 - Referred to Coms. on B.&F. and L. GOV.	02/18/2025 - Assembly B. & F.			
AB 430 Alanis, R	State Water Resources Control Board: emergency regulations.	02/05/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/18/2025 - Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.	02/18/2025 - Assembly W.,P. & W.			

Measure	Topic	Current Text Version	Status	Location	Calendar	Position	Memo
AB 514 Petrie-Norris, D	Water: emergency water supplies.	02/10/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/24/2025 - Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.	02/24/2025 - Assembly W.,P. & W.			
AB 709 Gonzalez, Jeff, R	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater sustainability plans.	02/14/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	03/03/2025 - Referred to Com. on W. P., & W.	03/03/2025 - Assembly W.,P. & W.			
AB 717 Aquiari-Curry, D	Water rights: small irrigation use.	02/14/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/15/2025 - From printer. May be heard in committee March 17.	02/14/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 766 Sharp-Collins, D	State agencies and departments: strategic plans: diversity, equity, and inclusion.	02/18/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/19/2025 - From printer. May be heard in committee March 21.	02/18/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 794 Gabriel, D	California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations.	02/18/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	03/03/2025 - Referred to Com. on E.S & T.M.	03/03/2025 - Assembly E.S. & T.M.			
AB 990 Hadwick, R	Public water systems: emergency notification plan.	02/20/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/21/2025 - From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.	02/20/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 995 Caloza, D	California Safe Drinking Water Act: public water systems: random testing.	02/20/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/21/2025 - From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.	02/20/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 1000 Gallagher, R	Water quality: statewide program.	02/20/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/21/2025 - From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.	02/20/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 1001 Rubio, Blanca, D	Drought.	02/20/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/21/2025 - From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.	02/20/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 1018 Bauer-Kahan, D	Automated decision systems.	02/20/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/21/2025 - From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.	02/20/2025 - Assembly PRINT			

Measure	Topic	Current Text Version	Status	Location	Calendar	Position	Memo
AB 1075 Bryan, D	Fire protection: privately contracted firefighters: public water sources.	02/20/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/21/2025 - From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.	02/20/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 1146 Papan, D	Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs.	02/20/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/21/2025 - From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.	02/20/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 1203 Ahrens, D	Water conservation: water wise designation.	02/21/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/24/2025 - Read first time.	02/21/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 1313 Papan, D	Watermaster service: district.	02/21/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/24/2025 - Read first time.	02/21/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 1373 Soria, D	Water delivery systems.	02/21/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/24/2025 - Read first time.	02/21/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 1413 Papan, D	Groundwater adjudication.	02/21/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/24/2025 - Read first time.	02/21/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 1466 Hart, D	Groundwater adjudication: burden of proof.	02/21/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/24/2025 - Read first time.	02/21/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
AB 1469 Hart, D	Disaster preparedness: public water systems.	02/21/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/24/2025 - Read first time.	02/21/2025 - Assembly PRINT			
SB 90 Seyarto, R	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: grants: improvements to public evacuation routes: mobile rigid water storage: electrical generators.	02/26/2025 - Amended HTML PDF	02/26/2025 - From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on G.O.	01/29/2025 - Senate G.O.	03/11/25 S-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION 9:30 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1200 PADILLA, STEPHEN, Chair		

Measure	Topic	Current Text Version	Status	Location	Calendar	Position	Memo
SB 275 Smallwood-Cuevas, D	Eligible training provider list.	02/04/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/14/2025 - Referred to Com. on L., P.E. & R.	02/14/2025 - Senate L., P.E. & R.			
SB 431 Arreguin, D	Assault and battery: public utility employees.	02/18/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/26/2025 - Referred to Com. on PUB. S.	02/26/2025 - Senate PUB. S.			
SB 454 McNerney, D	State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program.	02/19/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/26/2025 - Referred to Com. on E.Q.	02/26/2025 - Senate E.Q.			
SB 496 Hurtado, D	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions.	02/19/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/26/2025 - Referred to Coms. on E.Q. and TRANS.	02/26/2025 - Senate E.Q.			
SB 557 Hurtado, D	Sustainable groundwater management: basin boundaries.	02/20/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	03/05/2025 - Referred to Com. on RLS.	02/20/2025 - Senate RLS.			
SB 599 Caballero, D	Groundwater recharge: floodflows: diversion.	02/20/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	03/05/2025 - Referred to Com. on RLS.	02/20/2025 - Senate RLS.			
SB 601 Allen, D	Water: waste discharge.	02/20/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	03/05/2025 - Referred to Coms. on E.Q. and JUD.	03/05/2025 - Senate E.Q.			
SB 650 Cabaldon, D	Water leases.	02/20/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	03/05/2025 - Referred to Com. on RLS.	02/20/2025 - Senate RLS.			
SB 654 Stern, D	California Environmental Protection Agency: contract: registry: greenhouse gas emissions that result from the water-energy nexus.	02/20/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	03/05/2025 - Referred to Com. on E.Q.	03/05/2025 - Senate E.Q.			
SB 693 Cortese, D	Employees: meal periods.	02/21/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	03/05/2025 - Referred to Com. on L., P.E. & R.	03/05/2025 - Senate L., P.E. & R.			

Measure	Topic	Current Text Version	Status	Location	Calendar	Position	Memo
SB 697 Laird, D	Determination of water rights: stream system.	02/21/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	03/05/2025 - Referred to Coms. on N.R. & W. and JUD.	03/05/2025 - Senate N.R. & W.			
SB 732 Ochoa Bogh, R	Emergency backup generators: critical facilities: exemptions.	02/21/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/24/2025 - From printer. May be acted upon on or after March 24. Read first time.	02/21/2025 - Senate RLS.			
SB 742 Pérez, D	Water systems and water districts.	02/21/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/24/2025 - From printer. May be acted upon on or after March 24. Read first time.	02/21/2025 - Senate RLS.			
SB 746 Alvarado-Gil, R	Water: Urban Water Community Drought Relief program: Small Community Drought Relief program: high fire hazard and very high fire hazard severity zones.	02/21/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/24/2025 - From printer. May be acted upon on or after March 24. Read first time.	02/21/2025 - Senate RLS.			
SB 833 McNerney, D	Artificial intelligence: critical infrastructure.	02/21/2025 - Introduced HTML PDF	02/24/2025 - From printer. May be acted upon on or after March 24. Read first time.	02/21/2025 - Senate RLS.			

Total Measures: 57

Total Tracking Forms: 57

MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
of the
WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
September 30, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Arrived
Angela Garcia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Daniel Jenkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Socorro Pantaleon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
John Thiel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mary Jo Hartley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kimberly Ceron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Isabelle Medina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chair Garcia inquired if anyone from the public would like to speak. No requests were received, therefore Chair Garcia closed the public comment period.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Updates to the External Affairs Committee.

California Strategies representative Kristin Olsen provided an update on the deadline for Governor Newsom to sign or veto Bills; indicated SB 366 was vetoed; SB 937 was signed and California Strategies will work with staff to assess how it will affect the District; provided an overview of Prop 4; and indicated they will provide a summary of this year’s legislation and preview of next year’s legislation.

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon provided an update on the Annual Poster Contest, the 2024 Essay/Video Contest, and funding opportunities for students and teachers through the Water Education Water Awareness Committee; and informed the committee that the Public Outreach and Government Affairs team will be filming a video project to highlight the District's story and community partners.

2. September 2024 Social Media Report

Senior Public Outreach and Government Affairs Representative Hartley provided the social media report including top posts and follower counts.

3. Branding Consulting Services

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon presented the report, indicating proposals were received from RMG, RSG, and CV Strategies. After reviewing the proposals staff selected RMG to provide the services as they offered the most value for the cost. The consulting services include letterhead development, email signatures, and branding guidelines for the District.

4. Sponsorships

Senior Public Affairs and Public Outreach Representative Hartley reported that the District will be sponsoring Colton's Relay for Life and Bloomington's ROTC upcoming events.

5. September Legislative Report

Public Outreach and Government Affairs Representative Medina presented the September Legislative Report.

6. Legislative Principles

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon presented the report, two versions of the draft 2024-2025 Legislative Principles document, and a survey that was conducted on how 20 other regional water agencies implement their legislative principles as an indicator of best practice. The committee discussed the two versions, how the policy can be implemented, and the process for releasing positions letters on pending litigation. Staff shared their concerns with the committee of scrutiny and distrust in their work and assured the committee their goal is to provide the best advocacy on behalf of the District and the communities they serve.

The committee provided comments and a recommended implementation process, and approved moving the Legislative Principles documents version that follows industry best practices to the Policy Review and Oversight Committee for review.

IV. ADJOURN

Chair Garcia adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary

WVWD

Minutes: 9/30/24

MINUTES
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
of the
WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
October 28, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Arrived
Angela Garcia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Daniel Jenkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Socorro Pantaleon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
John Thiel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mary Jo Hartley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kimberly Ceron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Isabelle Medina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chair Garcia inquired if anyone from the public would like to speak. No requests were received, therefore Chair Garcia closed the public comment period.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Updates to the External Affairs Committee.

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon provided an update on congratulatory letters that will be sent out to elected officials after the upcoming election; the filming of a video on the Districts history was completed and staff will receive the first version soon; and the RFP for consulting services for the Water Rates and Prop 218 Process is currently open and closes on November 13th. Director Garcia provided recommendations for Prop 218 Outreach.

Senior Public Outreach and Government Affairs Representative Hartley provided a report on the Succulent Pumpkin Workshop. Director Garcia recommended hosting a Wreath Succulent Workshop or an additional succulent workshop.

Public Outreach and Government Affairs Representative II Ceron provided an update on the 2024 Poster Contest indicating the winners will be recognized at the November 14th Board meeting.

Senior Public Outreach and Government Affairs Representative Hartley provided an update on Making Conservation a California Way of Life and outreach materials produced. The Committee discussed the State definition of a disadvantaged community and whether the District provides services to those communities. Additionally, an update was provided on the work being done by our branding consultant, RMG.

In response to Director Garcia's question, Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon indicated there could be upcoming sponsorship requests for the holiday season, but the events would have to fit into the water nexus.

2. Federal Update.

David Turch & Associates representative Jones provided an update on Congressional elections; indicated he will be meeting with staff to prepare for the legislative session and appropriations requests; the Fiscal Year 2025 budget needs to be completed; and they are working with Congresswoman Torres staff regarding the funding for the Bloomington Alleyway Waterline Replacement program.

Additionally, a Legislative update was provided on H.R. 7525/S. 4673, the Special Districts Grant Accessibility Act, and the item will be presented to the Board of Directors for discussion and action.

3. State Legislative Update - October 2024.

California Strategies representative Olsen provided updates on the upcoming elections; indicated they will be analyzing and providing insight to the draft LIRA Legislation; and they are working with Assemblymember James Ramos' office to get a tour scheduled soon.

A report was provided that as the District continues to seek additional funding for the Nitrates study, California Strategies will schedule a call with the California Water Board – Division of Financial assistance to discuss funding opportunities through the State. Director Garica recommended contacting other Legislators and Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon indicated she is awaiting a response from Congresswoman Torres' Office.

4. September - October 2024 Social Media Report.

Public Outreach and Government Affairs Representative II Ceron provided the social media report including top posts and follower counts for September and October.

5. Earth Day 2025.

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon provided a report on Earth Day and after analyzing the logistics such as costs, attendance, and community feedback while also keeping Prop 218 in mind, she recommended working with our local school districts to shift the annual event to a field trip where students can learn about the water industry. The Committee discussed this option and Miss Pantaleon will provide more information as it is available.

IV. ADJOURN

Chair Garcia adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary

MINUTES
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
of the
WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
November 25, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Arrived
Angela Garcia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Daniel Jenkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Socorro Pantaleon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
John Thiel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mary Jo Hartley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kimberly Ceron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Isabelle Medina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chair Garcia inquired if anyone from the public would like to speak. No requests were received, therefore Chair Garcia closed the public comment period.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Updates to the External Affairs Committee.

Scott Goodell, IE Works Representative, provided an overview of the JVS and IE Works program. The Committee discussed the program and shared ideas for expanding the program to focus the people in our service area. Director Garcia inquired about the certifications the interns receive upon completion of the program, stated she would like other regional agencies to participate in the program, and suggested the new contract include that students selected for the program must reside in our service area. This item will be on the January 16, 2025 Board of Directors agenda for review and approval.

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon shared the draft version of the video capturing our commitment to the community and indicated the video will be shared with the Board after some edits; indicated the 2025 Poster Contest Calendars will be received in the next few weeks; and indicated Bloomington High School's ROTC will lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the swear in ceremony on December 5th.

2. Federal Update.

David Turch & Associates representative Jones provided an update on the current status of Fiscal Year 2024 projects selected by Congressman Aguilar; the need for the District to develop the priority list of projects for the Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations in preparation for the D.C. trip; and connecting with Congressman Aguilar’s office to provide a tour of the Bloomington Alleyway Project Phase 3. District staff thanked representative Jones for assisting with the letters of support of the AMI grant application.

3. State Legislative Update

California Strategies representative Lites provided updates on the California Legislature which is anticipated to have a Senate and Assembly democratic supermajority; Governor Newsom’s special session that will focus on “Protecting California Values”; State Water Board regulations on hex chromium MCL’s and it’s ramifications; Prop 4 Climate Bond; suggested the Committee create a list of projects that will require funding in preparation of the new legislative session; and discussed potential dates for the Sacramento advocacy day.

4. October/November Social Media Report

Senior Public Outreach and Government Affairs Representative Hartley provided the social media report, reported the top post for the month featured #WomeninWater, and provided an update regarding engagement on social media.

5. Prop 218 Communications Consultant

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon provided the report and recommendation to move forward with the consulting firm that scored the highest out of the four proposals received. The committee requested the consultant present at the next External Affairs meeting before presenting the contract for approval at the December 19th Board of Directors meeting.

IV. ADJOURN

Chair Garcia adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary

MINUTES
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
of the
WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
November 25, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Arrived
Angela Garcia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kelvin Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Socorro Pantaleon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
John Thiel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mary Jo Hartley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Kimberly Ceron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Isabelle Medina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Director Garcia inquired if anyone from the public would like to speak. No requests were received, therefore Director Garcia closed the public comment period.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Updates to the External Affairs Committee.

Director Garcia nominated Director Moore to serve as Chair for the upcoming year. No decision was made on who would serve as Chair.

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon showcased the new conservation boxes and indicated they can be picked up by customers during normal business hours or at community events, reported on upcoming community events staff will be attending and donating water to, including a monetary sponsorship to Fontana’s Unified School District’s 27th Fontana Santa’s event; reviewed the Public Outreach and Government Affairs projects and initiatives for the upcoming year; provided an Update on Supervisor Armendarez check presentation on January 16, 2025 for the Hydrant Retrofit Project; and the 2025 Poster Contest calendars were distributed.

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon presented a roadmap of the legislative process and provided the latest two versions of the Legislative Principles. David

Turch & Associates Representative Jones provided additional information on the federal legislative process and Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon, Public Outreach and Government Affairs Representative Medina, and Public Outreach and Government Affairs Representative II Ceron provided information on the state legislative process. This item is currently on the December 19, 2024 Board of Directors agenda, however the Committee recommended bringing the item to the Board of Directors in January instead.

2. Federal Update.

David Turch & Associates representative Jones provided an update on federal legislation and congressional appointments; President Elect Trump's administrative agenda; upcoming legislation and Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations requests; reported that Norma Torres will reintroduce the Arsenic and Nitrates Bill to Congress and suggested and it would be beneficial to contact local agencies to gather support for the bill; and indicated Congresswoman Norma Torres may introduce legislation for Septic to Sewer conversions.

Additionally, Mr. Jones indicated they will be working with staff to prepare for the ACWA D.C. trip and finalize the list of priority projects for the appropriations requests and other District items of interest.

3. State Legislative Update

California Strategies representative Mackay provided updates on the California Legislature and the upcoming Sacramento Advocacy trip; discussed SB 937, Development Projects and Fees and Charges, for which they will provided additional information and next steps; and indicated a working group has been created through CMUA for the Low-Income Assistance Workgroup.

4. Presentation by JPW on Prop 218 Outreach and Communications Services

JPW representatives Jenny Windle and Leslie Spring presented their proposal for the Prop 218 Outreach and Communication campaign which will include a pre-survey to measure how the community feels about the District and a post-survey to measure the outreach campaign. This item will be presented to the Board of Directors for review and approval at the December 19, 2024 meeting.

IV. ADJOURN

Director Garcia adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary

WVWD

Minutes: 12/16/24



STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 24, 2025
TO: External Affairs Committee
FROM: Socorro Pantaleon, Public Outreach & Government Affairs Manager
SUBJECT: February/March Social Media Report

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Strategic Goal 3 - Develop and Grow Effective Communication and Advocacy Practices

E. Promote Public Awareness of the Value of WVWD

MEETING HISTORY:

N/A

BACKGROUND:

The social media report (Exhibit A) provides updates on West Valley Water District's (WVWD) social media profile activity on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) including the reach, impressions and engagement of posts are condensed into one report to untangle audience insight, allowing staff to understand best practices for successful customer engagement.

DISCUSSION:

During the February to March reporting period, POGA staff saw the following trends and highlights:

Content

- This month, we saw the highest engagement and views for posts that had to do with employment opportunities. For example, the top post for both LinkedIn and Facebook were about the POGA position that recently opened.
- We also saw posts that included our Board of Directors out at events and advocating for the communities we serve.

Audience

- Audience grew across all social media platforms with the highest jump in followers from LinkedIn. There we saw an increase of 69.2%.

Recommendation

- Continue to prioritize posts that show our staff and board. Consider posting more to LinkedIn.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact for producing the Monthly Social Media Report

REQUESTED ACTION:

Receive and file report.

Attachments

[Exhibit A -Social Media Report_ Feb_March 2025.pdf.pdf](#)

FEB. - MARCH

2025

SOCIAL MEDIA

Report



MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers
1,161



Reach
5,372



Engagement
422



No. of Posts
17 posts

TOP POST



Post Impressions

430 Impressions

Post Engagement

18 interactions

Instagram

MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers
1,395



Reach
3,103



Engagement
515



No. of Posts
17 posts

TOP POST



Post Impressions

1,482 Impressions

Post Engagement

74 interactions

MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers
753



Reach/Impressions
7,697



Engagement
183



No. of Posts
10 posts

TOP POST



Post Impressions

1,168 Impressions

Post Engagement

163 interactions

MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers
441



No. of Posts
17 posts

TOP POST



Post Impressions

198 Impressions

Post Engagement

18 interactions

MONTHLY INSIGHTS

During the February to March reporting period, POGA staff saw the following trends and highlights“

Content

- This month, we saw the highest engagement and views for posts that had to do with employment opportunities. For example, the top post for both LinkedIn and Facebook were about the POGA position that recently opened.
- We also saw posts that included our Board of Directors out at events and advocating for the communities we serve.

Audience

- Audience grew across all social media platforms with the highest jump in followers from LinkedIn. There we saw an **increase of 69.2%**.

Recommendation

- Continue to prioritize posts that show our staff and board. Consider posting more to LinkedIn.



STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 24, 2025
TO: External Affairs Committee
FROM: Socorro Pantaleon, Public Outreach & Government Affairs Manager
SUBJECT: WVWD Customer Survey

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Strategic Goal 3 - Develop and Grow Effective Communication and Advocacy Practices

- A. Advance Effective Internal and External Communication Processes
- E. Promote Public Awareness of the Value of WVWD

Strategic Goal 8 - Deliver Superior Customer Service

- A. Define, Measure, and Improve Internal and External Customer Service

MEETING HISTORY:

None.

BACKGROUND:

West Valley Water District (WVWD), in collaboration with JPW Communications, has been working on the development of a straightforward yet effective survey aimed at gathering valuable insights from the community. The primary goals of this survey are:

1. Understand Customer Satisfaction
2. Perception of WVWD
3. Improving Communication
4. Build Trust and Engagement

By conducting this survey, WVWD aims to better understand the community's expectations, enhance the quality of services provided, and create a more transparent and responsive relationship with its customers.

Survey will be conducted by a survey partner, Cenitment - Goal is 500 surveys by using zip codes and geotarget. Cenitment will use a variety of mechanisms to drive survey responses (social media, calls, emails, etc). All responses are validated.

WVWD POGA team will be marketing the survey with a link that will be used at community events, bill inserts, newsletters, social medial, etc.)

DISCUSSION:

Discuss Survey Questions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Budgeted in FY 24-25

REQUESTED ACTION:

Receive and file the report.



STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 24, 2025
TO: External Affairs Committee
FROM: Socorro Pantaleon, Public Outreach & Government Affairs Manager
SUBJECT: Education Update

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Strategic Goal 3 - Develop and Grow Effective Communication and Advocacy Practices

- B. Present the District as a Proactive Community Partner
- D. Expand Educational Outreach Programs

MEETING HISTORY:

None.

BACKGROUND:

West Valley Water District (WVWD) is actively engaged in educational efforts within the community to raise awareness about water conservation, sustainability, and the importance of water resources. These efforts aim to inform our youngest water stewards about the value of water, ways to use it efficiently, and how to protect local water supplies.

DISCUSSION:

Education:

- TK Presentation at Kordyak Elementary School
- Fitzgerald Elementary School - CAASPP, College, & Career
- Bloomington High School ROTC
- Fontana Boy Scouts – Pack 625
- WVWD Earth Day Celebration – Colton Joint Unified School District (2nd Grade)
- So Cal Steam

Project WET:

California Project WET is a program of the **Water Education Foundation** that works with partners throughout the state to organize professional development workshops for formal and non-formal K-12 educators.

The California effort is part of **Project WET (Water Education Today)** is an international, award-winning nonprofit based in Montana that publishes activities and provides training workshops for K-12 educators.

The program focuses on advancing water education to help students of all ages understand the value of water, global water challenges and inspire local solutions for a more sustainable future.

Two (2) POGA Staff are registered for California Project WET Facilitators Training on 5/8. This training will help WWWD build an education program at WWWD that can educate young people and students all ages at our Oliver P. Roemer Facility.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

REQUESTED ACTION:

Receive and file the report.



STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 24, 2025
TO: External Affairs Committee
FROM: Socorro Pantaleon, Public Outreach & Government Affairs Manager
SUBJECT: Outreach Events Update

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Strategic Goal 3 - Develop and Grow Effective Communication and Advocacy Practices

- B. Present the District as a Proactive Community Partner
- E. Promote Public Awareness of the Value of WVWD

Strategic Goal 8 - Deliver Superior Customer Service

- D. Communicate Effectively with Customers

MEETING HISTORY:

None.

BACKGROUND:

West Valley Water District (WVWD) is dedicated to enhancing customer awareness and engagement through a variety of outreach programs.

These initiatives aim to inform the community about water conservation, the district's operations, and the vital role that water management plays in ensuring a reliable and sustainable water supply.

DISCUSSION:

Community Workshops:

Saturday, April 12, 2025: **Making Conservation a Way of Life:** Join us for an informative workshop where you'll dive into the fascinating journey of where your water comes from, explore upcoming state regulations that will impact you, and discover practical tips to conserve water at home.

Saturday, May 3, 2025: Mother's Day Succulent Workshop in Partnership with Bloomington Park District: Create the perfect Mother's Day Gift! Learn how to properly plant and care for a sweet gift to show the mother or mother-figure in your life how much you care!

Stakeholder Tour:

The West Valley Water District (WVWD) tour will provide an opportunity to educate local stakeholders about water supply and treatment processes.

These tours allow stakeholders to gain an in-depth understanding of how water is sourced, treated, and distributed, offering a unique "behind the scenes" experience.

Participants also have the chance to interact directly with WVWD water experts, fostering greater transparency and enhancing community engagement for further campaigns.

Tour is tentatively being planned for June 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Budgeted in FY 24-25

REQUESTED ACTION:

None.