

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, June 23, 2025, 12:00 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. Federal Update (Verbal)
- 2. State Update (Verbal)
- 3. Updates to the External Affairs Committee
- 4. April 28, 2025 and May 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- 5. Social Media Report April June
- 6. 2025 June Federal/State Legislative Update
- 7. Sponsorship Policy

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 June 18, 2025.

Elvia Dominguez

Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary

Date Posted: June 17, 2025

MINUTES

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

of the

WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

April 28, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Arrived
Angela Garcia	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$		
Kelvin Moore	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$		
Socorro Pantaleon	\square		
John Thiel	V		
Linda Jadeski	$\overline{\checkmark}$		
Mary Jo Hartley	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$		
Isabelle Medina	$\overline{\checkmark}$		

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. Federal Update (Verbal)

David Turch & Associates representative Jones provided an update on Congressman Aguilar's submittal of our Cybersecurity Project as one of his 15 project requests for the FY 26 earmarks, update on the Water and Energy Efficiency Grant application for our AMI Project for which we should get a response in the next month or two, and provided an overview of H.R. H.R. 2766, Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act, which the District is supporting.

2. State Legislative Update (Verbal)

California Strategies representative Olsen provided an overview of various legislative bills that the District is supporting or opposing, and indicated that the Governors May Revision will be released on May 10th. Additionally, California Strategies is working with staff to set up meetings in May during CSDA's Legislative Days as well as setting up additional advocacy meetings in June.

WVWD

Minutes: 4/28/25

3. 2025 April Federal/State Legislative Update

Public Affairs and Government Outreach Representative Medina presented the report. The committee reviewed the legislative packet.

4. Updates to the External Affairs Committee

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon provided an update on the Earth Day Event, for which there were 230 second graders in attendance and we received great feedback from the students and teachers. The Committee recommended also partnering with Rialto Unified School District for future Earth Day events.

Ms. Pantaleon also reported a list of past and upcoming events, and reported on recent monetary sponsorships and water donation requests. She indicated that staff is working on a sponsorships and donations policy that will be brought back to the committee for review and comment.

5. February 10, 2025 and March 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The committee approved the minutes.

6. March/April Social Media Report

Senior Public Affairs and Government Outreach Representative Hartley presented the Social Media Report. The Committee received and filed the report.

7. Branding Guidelines

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon presented a draft of the branding guidelines, which will standardize the District's brand across all platforms including the website, social media, printed materials, signage, and presentations, and ensure a consistent professional appearance to our customers and stakeholders.

The committee provided comments and requested that this item be brought back to the next committee meeting for additional review.

IV. ADJOURN

Director Garcia adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

ATTEST:	
Elvia Domi	nguez, Board Secretary

WVWD

Minutes: 4/28/25

MINUTES

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

of the

WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

May 22, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Arrived
Angela Garcia	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$		
Kelvin Moore	V		
Socorro Pantaleon	\square		
John Thiel	$\overline{\checkmark}$		
Linda Jadeski	V		
Joanne Chan	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$		
Mary Jo Hartley	$\overline{\checkmark}$		
Isabelle Medina			

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. Federal Update (Verbal)

David Turch & Associates representative Jones discussed the current political landscape in Washington, focusing on the appropriations process and its impact on the district's funding. Mr. Jones highlighted the WVWD Appropriations package and indicated that the district should be hearing from Congressman Aguilar on the selection of Projects for FY26.

2. State Legislative Update (Verbal)

California Strategies representative Olsen provided an update on the Governor's Budget and deadlines for the first half of the legislative year. Ms. Olson also provided a recap of the legislative advocacy trip with Director Moore and Director Bennett, and information on the future legislative trip being planned for June 17th and 18th.

WVWD

Minutes: 5/22/25

3. Updates to the External Affairs Committee

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon provided an update on upcoming summer community events, and provided an overview of a proposed community education and workforce program that staff has been working on.

4. Annual Water Quality Report

Director of Operations Chan presented the report. Staff was directed to present the item at the next Board Meeting for approval.

RESULT: REFERRED TO BOARD

Next: 6/5/2025 6:00 PM

5. Branding Guidelines

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon presented a second draft of the branding guidelines. The committee discussed the branding guidelines and requested to see additional examples of the log and provided updates to the letterhead. The updates will be presented at the next committee meeting.

IV. ADJOURN

Director Garcia adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary

Minutes: 5/22/25



STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 23, 2025

TO: External Affairs Committee

FROM: Mary Jo Hartley, Senior Public Outreach & Government Affairs Rep

SUBJECT: Social Media Report - April - June

STRATEGIC GOAL:

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:

This month's social media report encompasses analytics for both the reporting period of April 2025 - May 2025 and May 2025- June 2025. Highlights throughout the two reports feature a new section titled honorable mentions that features social media mentions from our social media followers. These highlight the collaboration between us and our community partners and expand our reach with new audiences. Additionally, the reports highlight the recently wrapped videos series (Our Commitment) that showcased the investment that our staff and District are making in the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

REQUESTED ACTION:

Receive and File

Attachments

<u>Social Media Report - April May2025.pdf</u> <u>Social Media Report - MayJune 2025 (1).pdf</u> APRIL - MAY

2025





Report











Facebook

MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers **1,163**



Reach **3,045**



Engagement **223**



No. of Posts

125 posts

TOP POST



Post Impressions

854 Impressions

Post Engagement

Instagram

MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers **1,428**



Reach **4.259**



Engagement **505**



No. of Posts **25 posts**

TOP POST



Post Impressions

763 Impressions

Post Engagement

19 interactions

This video spotlights San Bernardino County Supervisor Joe Baca Jr., who shares his thoughts on WVWD's ongoing commitment to the community — including our support for organizations like Bloomington Little League and other community sponsors. POGA Manager, Socorro also shares the resources our District provides our customers.

LinkedIn

MAIN KPI'S







Engagement **135**



No. of Posts

11 posts

TOP POST



Post Impressions

646 Impressions

Post Engagement

X / Twitter

MAIN KPI'S





No. of Posts **23 posts**

TOP POST



Post Impressions

83 Impressions

Post Engagement

Insights

MONTHLY INSIGHTS

During the April through May reporting period, POGA staff saw the following trends and highlights:

Survey Marketing

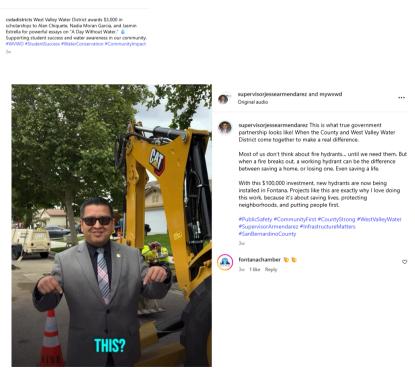
• To help facilitate engagement with the survey that was created in partnership with JPW to monitor customer sentiment, the POGA team posted and then boosted a targeted ad. The ad was distributed on both the Facebook and Instagram platforms. Below are the results of that ad.

Views: 1,042Reach: 849

■ Engagements: 102

Honorable Mentions









Facebook

MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers **1,163**



Reach **3,045**



Engagement **125**



No. of Posts **13 posts**

TOP POST



Post Impressions

295 Impressions

Post Engagement

Instagram

MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers

1,428



Reach **1,191**



Engagement **237**



No. of Posts **15 posts**

TOP POST



Post Impressions

7,283 Impressions

Post Engagement

LinkedIn

MAIN KPI'S







Engagement **129**



No. of Posts **7 posts**

TOP POST



Post Impressions

1,536 Impressions

Post Engagement

X / Twitter

MAIN KPI'S





No. of Posts **12 posts**

TOP POST



Post Impressions

89 Impressions

Post Engagement

Insights

MONTHLY INSIGHTS

During the May through June reporting period, POGA staff saw the following trends and highlights:

Water. Service. Community Series

Ouring this reporting period, we wrapped up our video series that showcased the investment that our staff and District are making in the community. Every Tuesday we posted a video on our Social Media channels to feature the value of what we do and why we do it. The video was seen by over 1,600 people on Instagram alone.

Post Collaboration

• We saw our biggest surge in interaction and reach on our social channels this month on Instagram. The post, submitted by Bloomington High School was shared as a collaboration with WVWD. Collaboration posts are an effective way to partner with other accounts and reach new audiences. It's a mutually beneficial feature that allows collaborators to share a single post and earn visibility and engagement from each other's audiences. The post gained over 7,200 impressions and allowed a wider audience to view the impact we have. We will continue find ways to leverage partnerships and gain a wider reach on our social platforms.

Honorable Mentions









STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 23, 2025

TO: External Affairs Committee

FROM: Socorro Pantaleon, Public Outreach & Government Affairs Manager

SUBJECT: 2025 June Federal/State Legislative Update

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Strategic Goal 3 - Develop and Grow Effective Communication and Advocacy Practices F. Increase Efficacy of Advocacy Efforts at the Local, State, and National Level Strategic

Goal 4 - Strengthen Partnerships with Outside Agencies

A. Engage in Regional Projects, Advocacy, and Grant Pursuits

MEETING HISTORY:

None.

BACKGROUND:

DISCUSSION:

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

REQUESTED ACTION:

Receive and File

Attachments

<u>2025 Leg Report - June .pdf</u> <u>Federal and State Bill Matrix 25-26 - PDF.pdf</u>



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2025 Legislative Deadlines					
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				

ACWA REPORT

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

SB 601 - Wastewater Discharge:

ACWA is leading a coalition in opposition of SB 601 (Allen, D-Santa Monica), which would needlessly complicate the state's wastewater discharge permitting system, potentially lead to frivolous litigation and likely result in higher water bills for Californians. As of June 4, the bill was awaiting a Senate floor vote. The bill was introduced with the intent of safeguarding California's water quality protection regime from federal rollbacks; however, its approach would go far beyond simply maintaining the status quo. It would expand upon federal permitting requirements and expose water agencies to significant liability, ultimately restricting progress toward overcoming the state's severe housing shortage while answering water supply reliability challenges.

AB 1146 - Water Infrastructure:

ACWA encourages members to join a coalition opposing AB 1146 (Papan, D-San Mateo), which would give the State Water Resources Control Board unprecedented regulatory enforcement authority for a single, vague cause of action. Specifically, the bill would prohibit the release of stored water from a reservoir if the release is made under false pretenses. It would also authorize the State Water Board—absent a hearing or due process—to determine whether an operator violated the law and require the operator to immediately comply with its order under a new "interim relief" authority. ACWA staff continues coordinating with coalition leader California Chamber of Commerce and other organizations in jointly opposing the bill.

AB 794 – Drinking Water Emergency Regulation:

ACWA requests that members join an oppose-unless-amended coalition against AB 794 (Gabriel, D-Encino), which would require the State Water Board on or before Dec. 31, 2026, to adopt an emergency regulation and initiate a primary drinking water standard for PFAS consistent with the current federal standard. As of June 4, the bill was awaiting a vote on the Assembly Floor. Of significant concern to ACWA, this bill would circumvent the state's existing process for setting drinking water standards that appropriately includes scientific review, cost evaluation and public input.

Low-Income Rate Assistance Program:

SB 350, introduced by Senator María Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles), failed to pass out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and is no longer moving this year. The bill would have required 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. ACWA led a coalition to oppose SB 350 unless the bill was appropriately amended and will continue to advocate for a workable and efficient LIRA program.



ACWA REPORT

ACWA-Sponsored SB 394 – Water Theft:

SB 394 (Allen, D-Santa Monica), co-sponsored by ACWA and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, passed the Senate unanimously May 27 and is now awaiting committee assignment in the Assembly. The bill would allow local agencies providing water services to adopt an ordinance with enhanced penalties for water theft from a fire hydrant. Additionally, SB 394 would remove the one\(\text{Myear 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.

ACWA-Sponsored SB 454 - PFAS Cleanup:

SB 454 (McNerney, D-Stockton), co-sponsored by ACWA and the League of California Cities, passed the Senate May 28 and is now awaiting committee assignment in the Assembly. The bill would create a statewide PFAS Mitigation Fund to help local agencies provide safe drinking water and treated wastewater for their communities.

Trump Administration Fiscal Year 2026 Budget:

Trump Administration Fiscal Year 2026 Budget The Trump Administration on May 2 released a summary of its Fiscal Year 2026 budget proposal that recommends a decrease in discretionary and non\(\text{Mercase}\) defense spending of an estimated \$163 billion. Notably for ACWA members, the proposed budget includes estimated cuts of \$4.9 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency, \$5.1 billion for the Department of Interior, \$5 billion for the Department of Agriculture, and \$1.7 billion for the Department of Commerce. ACWA is concerned about the proposed budget cuts and understands the significance this has for member agencies regarding water supply, quality, and affordability. While the President's budget serves as a funding blueprint, it is ultimately up to Congress to determine the funding. ACWA staff continues working closely with partner organizations and allies on Capitol Hill to restore some of this funding in the congressional appropriations process.

Federal PFAS Update:

On May 14, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its intent regarding agency actions on PFAS. Specifically, EPA stated it will keep MCLs for PFOA and PFOS. Additionally, EPA is seeking to extend the compliance deadline for PFOA and PFOS from 2029 to 2031 through a proposed rulemaking, hold polluters accountable (possibly through a federal exemption framework) and initiate enhanced outreach to water systems through EPA's new PFAS outreach Initiative.



05

POGA's Legislative Efforts

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

Date	Meeting	Comments
5/28/2025	SCWC Legislative Task Force Meeting	Reviewed the Delta Conveyance Project
5/29/2025	ACWA Region 9 State Legislative Committee	Reviewed AB 1466
6/12/25	CMUA Legislative Committee	Reviewed SB 72, AB 532, AB 269, AB 1146, AB 362 and AB 794
6/18/2025	ACWA Region 9 State Legislative Committee	

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 Utilites 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 Utilites Agency

Federal Legislation – High Priority

Bill	Summary	Positions taken by other agencies	WVWD Position	WVWD Impact
H.R 2656 Nitrate and Arsenic in Drinking Water Act Introduced by: Congresswoman Torres and Congressman Valado	Congresswoman Torres and Congressman Valadao are reintroducing the "Nitrate and Arsenic in Drinking Water Act", a historic bill focused on addressing excessive nitrate and arsenic contamination in drinking water, particularly in California's Inland Empire. The bill seeks to combat the public health crisis caused by these contaminants by amending the Safe Drinking Water Act. It would provide grants for the reduction of nitrate and arsenic levels, proposing \$15 million in funding for FY26 and each subsequent fiscal year. Additionally, the bill directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to prioritize the needs of economically disadvantaged populations most impacted by these contaminants.	TVMWD – Support Coachella Valley Water District – Support CVWD – Support Elsinore Valley- Support	Ratification of Support taken on 3/25/25	Nitrate and arsenic contamination in drinking water is a significant concern across California, especially in the Inland Empire. Counties such as Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Kern, and Monterey are heavily affected. The bill received support in the 118th Congress (23-24) from several organizations, including West Valley Water District. West Valley Water District hosted Norma Torres at the Association the San Bernardino County Special Districts membership meeting to discuss this bill. Bill Location: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

H.R. 2344/S. 1118 Water Intelligence, Security, and Cyber Threat Protection Act Introduced by: U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky	The bill aims to strengthen cybersecurity for drinking water and wastewater utilities by expanding access to the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC), a vital hub for threat intelligence, risk mitigation, and emergency response, by providing \$10 million for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. ACWA supported this legislation in the previous Congress.		Watch	Will be reaching out to Jamie to see his thoughts. Bill Location: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.
H.R 2766 Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act Introduced by: Pat Fallon (R-TX), Brittany Petterson (D-CO) Cosponsored by: David Valadao (R-CA), Young Kim (R-CA), Doug LaMalfa (R-CA), Dan Newhouse (R-WA), Jay Obernolte (R-CA), Josh Harder (D-CA)	This bill would establish a first-ever formal definition of "special district" in federal law. The bipartisan bill – which is National Special District Association (NSDA) number one federal legislative priority – also would direct the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue guidance to federal agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local governments for purposes of ensuring that districts have access to all appropriate forms of federal financial assistance.	NSDA – Sponsor CSDA – Support Cucamonga WD – Support EMWD-Support MVWD-Support Mesa WD – Support SBVMWD- Support SBVWCD – Support TVMWD- Support WMWD-Support	Support position taken on 4/21.	H.R. 2766 is identical to legislation that was overwhelmingly approved by the full House of Representatives last year, with the exception of the title. This year's bill is known as the Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act (WVWD Supported). Location: 4/09/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

State Legislation – High Priority

Bill	Summary	Positions taken by other agencies	WVWD Position	WVWD Impact
Assembly Bills		by other agencies	rosition	
SB 90 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. Introduced by: Senator Seyarto	This bill would include in the list of eligible projects grants under The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (which also allows for the Office of Emergency Services for a wildfire mitigation grant program) to include improvements to public evacuation routes in very high and high fire hazard severity zones, mobile rigid dip tanks, as defined, to support firefighting efforts, prepositioned mobile rigid water storage, as defined, and improvements to the response and effectiveness of fire engines and helicopters. The bill would also include grants, in coordination with the Public Utilities Commission, to local agencies, state agencies, special districts, joint powers authorities, tribes, and nonprofit organizations for backup electrical generators for water reservoirs.	JCSD – Support TVMWD – Support CVWD – Support	Support taken on 6/11/25.	Next step is to try and resurrect it either in a bill or budget trailer bill with the inclusive language that allocates funds for broader types of dip tanks/heli-hydrants. Fire resiliency has been a huge priority for WVWD.

AB 259 Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences. Introduced by: Assemblymember Rubio	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.	CSDA – Sponsor ACWA – Support CMUA - Support IEUA – Support TVMD – Support IRWD – Support CVWD – Support DWA- Support EVWD-Support EMWD – Support IRWD – Support MWD – Support IRWD – Support	Took a support position on 3/13/25.	This bill will preserve the meeting flexibility provided by AB 2449 and remove the sunset date. Bill Location: Referred to Coms. on L. GOV. and JUD.

AB 362 Water Policy: California tribal communities Introduced by: Ramos	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.	ACWA – Oppose unless Amended CMUA- Oppose unless amended CVWD- Oppose	Watch	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. Bill Location: This bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee and is now a two-year bill.
AB 532 Water rate assistance program	This bill allows urban retail water suppliers to offer water rate assistance to eligible ratepayers, including 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, 2028, suppliers must include information	ACWA – Support CMUA – Sponsored CSDA – Support DWA- Support EVWD- Support IEUA – Support IRWD-Support MWD- Support MSWD – Support WMWD – Support	Support position taken on 3/11/2025	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. Bill Location: In Senate. Read First Time. To Com. On RLS. For assignment.

AB 794 California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations. Introduced by: Assembly Member Gabriel	about their water rate assistance program in their technical report to the state board. 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	ACWA- Oppose unless Amended CMUA- Oppose SCWC – Oppose	Oppose position taken on 4/15	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. 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. ** This can also apply to other containment levels!
	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.			unsure yet if bill will be moved to the Inactive File.

AB 810: Local government: in internet websites and email addresses

Introduced by:

Assemblymember Irwin

The bill would require that a local agency that maintains an internet website for use by the public to ensure that the internet website uses a ".gov" top-level domain or a ".ca.gov" second-level domain no later than January 1, 2029. The bill would require a local agency that maintains a website that is noncompliant with that requirement to redirect that website to a domain name that does utilize a ".gov" or ".ca.gov" domain. The bill would also require that a local agency that maintains public email addresses ensures that each email address provided to its employees uses a ".gov" domain name or a ".ca.gov" domain name no later than January 1, 2029.

ACWA - Oppose CSDA – Oppose EVMWD - Oppose IEUA – Oppose

Oppose taken on 5/13

While applying for and obtaining a ".gov" and ".ca.gov" domain has no fees, there are significant costs that would fall on an agency and staff time needed for this transition. Water agencies may need to hire information technology professionals; rebrand, including updating social media platforms, business cards, signage, and other materials; redirect emails from the old email addresses to the new ones; conduct public outreach to notify customers where to go for information or to pay their bills; and more.

Bill Location: Held on committee, two-year bill

AB 1146: Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs: water release: false pretenses

Introduced by:

Assemblymember Papan This bill would prohibit the release of stored water from a reservoir if the release is done under "false pretenses." This bill would define "false pretenses" as a release of water from a reservoir in a manner that is knowingly and designedly under a false or fraudulent representation or assumption as to the purpose and intended use of the water. The bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to issue an interim relief order to a reservoir operator to prohibit the release of stored water that violates "false pretenses." This bill would authorize the State Water Board to commence an interim relief proceeding on its own motion or upon the petition of an interested party.

ACWA – Neutral CMUA- Neutral

Coalition advocacy successfully eliminated the "interim relief" authority, as well as other amendments, that resulted in most coalition members removing opposition to the bill.

Oppose -> Neutral CMUA, along with other associations in the opposition coalition to AB 1146 (Papan), negotiated amendments to the bill yesterday that would significantly narrow its scope. The author has committed to taking these amendments if the opposition moves to neutral. The author plans to bring the bill up during today's Floor Session and will hopefully make the same promise on the floor.

Anticipating that, CMUA will recommend a change from "Oppose" to "Neutral" for the Legislative Committee to consider on June 12.

The proposed amendments in concept would:

- Limit the application of the bill to reservoirs owned and operated by the United States;
- Remove interim relief enforcement authority, and, instead, allow enforcement of section 6033 to be done through injunctive relief;
- Remove penalty provisions, including the provision that would have required federal contractors to pay fines if United States declined to pay.

Bill Location: In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

AB 1413	The Sustainable Groundwater Management	ACWA – Not favor	Watch	Reached out to Staff to see if this impacts the
Sustainable	Act (SGMA) currently requires all high- and	unless amended		District's basins.
Groundwater	medium-priority groundwater basins, as	MSWD – oppose		
Management Act:	designated by the Department of Water			
groundwater	Resources (DWR), to be managed under a			Bill Location: In Senate. Read first time. To
adjudication.	groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) or			Com. on RLS. for assignment.
	coordinated GSPs. SGMA authorizes local			
Introduced by:	agencies to form a groundwater sustainability			
Assemblymember	agency (GSA) and imposes specific duties on			
Papan	those agencies. Currently, GSAs may file a			
	court action to determine the validity of a GSP			
	no sooner than 180 days after adoption. AB			
	1413 would allow GSAs to file such actions			
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	Additionally, the bill would prevent courts, in			
	these validation actions, from adjudicating			
	certain matters delegated to the DWR. A key			
	provision of AB 1413 is the requirement for any			
	action against a GSA located in an adjudicated			
	basin to be consolidated with a comprehensive			
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	adoption, substance, or implementation of a			
	GSP, or the GSA's compliance with SGMA			
	timelines. The court hearing the consolidated			
	action would first address the determination of			
	a basin's sustainable yield before addressing			
	any other issue.			

Senate Bills				
Senate Bits SB 72 The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets. Introduced by: Senator Caballero	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.	CMUA – Sponsor ACWA – Support IEUA – Support CVWD – Support EMWD – Support IRWD – Support JCSD – Support SCWC- Support MVWD – Support Valley – Support WMWD – Leading Regional Efforts	Took a support position on 3/11/2025	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. Bill Location: Referred to Com. On W. P., & W.
SB 350 Water Rate Assistance Program Introduced by: Senator Durazo	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.	ACWA – Oppose unless amended CMUA – Seeking amendments CVWD – Oppose DWA – oppose EVWD – Oppose EMWD – Oppose MVWD – Oppose WMWD – Oppose CSDA – Watch IEUA – Watch	Support taken on 5/13	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. Bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee
SB 394 Enhanced Penalties for	Co-sponsored by ACWA, this legislative proposal would authorize local agencies that provide water service to adopt an ordinance	ACWA – Co Sponsor	Took position on 3/11/2025	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

Water Theft from Fire Hydrants I ntroduced by: Senator Allen	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 person who tampers with or diverts water from a fire hydrant.	Las Virgenes Water District – Sponsor CMUA – Support CoachellaVWD – support CVWD – support EMWD – Support MWD – Support MVWD – Support TVMWD – Support		annually, equating to a revenue loss of approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000 due to theft. Bill Location: Re-referred to Com. on L. GOV.
SB 454 State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program Introduced by: Senator McNerney	Sponsored by ACWA, this bill which would create a statewide PFAS Mitigation Fund intended to help local agencies pay for manmade PFAS contamination cleanup in drinking water and wastewater. 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 fund.	ACWA – Sponsor CMUA – Support CSDA – Support CVWD – Support MWD – Support WMWD – Support EMWD – Support MVWD – Support JCSD – Support Desert Water – Support CVWD – Support EVWD – Support	Support position taken on 4/15	Although PFAS is not a huge issue for the District, it's good to stand in support with other water agencies and support this concept. Drinking water standards can have significant financial impacts on public water agencies, so supporting a mitigation fund is a positive. Bill location: Referred to Com. on E.S & T.M.

SB 496 Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions.

Introduced by:Senator Hurtado

Co-sponsored by CSDA, this bill addresses concerns related to the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulations, which mandates the transition of local and sate 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.

CSDA - Co Sponsor CMUA - Watch CVWD - Support EVWD - Support EMWD - Support IEUA - Support IRWD - Support JCSP - Support MSWD - Support MVWD - Support TVMWD - Support

Took position on 3/24

Reached out to Cal Strats on taking a position: "I do think SB 496 will likely be a bill we will recommend WVWD 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 WVWD."

Bill Location: Held in committee

SB 601 Water:

waste discharge.

Introduced by:

Senator Allen

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 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.

ACWA: Oppose CMUA: Oppose CVWD – Oppose EVWD – Oppose EVMWD – Oppose WMWD – Oppose Oppose position taken on 4/10

There is expected to be a large coalition against this bill. Here are some concerns:

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 v. EPA decision, broadening the Clean Water Act's reach to state waters, increasing federal permitting requirements.

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.

**SB 601 will be amended to remove the private right of action, though there is still a lot of work to be done on that bill

	Location: Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee.
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Federal Legislation – High Priority

Bill	Summary	Positions taken by other agencies	WVWD Position	WVWD Impact
H.R 2656 Nitrate and Arsenic in Drinking Water Act Introduced by: Congresswoman Torres and Congressman Valado	Congresswoman Torres and Congressman Valadao are reintroducing the "Nitrate and Arsenic in Drinking Water Act", a historic bill focused on addressing excessive nitrate and arsenic contamination in drinking water, particularly in California's Inland Empire. The bill seeks to combat the public health crisis caused by these contaminants by amending the Safe Drinking Water Act. It would provide grants for the reduction of nitrate and arsenic levels, proposing \$15 million in funding for FY26 and each subsequent fiscal year. Additionally, the bill directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to prioritize the needs of economically disadvantaged populations most impacted by these contaminants.	TVMWD – Support Coachella Valley Water District – Support CVWD – Support Elsinore Valley- Support	Ratification of Support taken on 3/25/25	Nitrate and arsenic contamination in drinking water is a significant concern across California, especially in the Inland Empire. Counties such as Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Kern, and Monterey are heavily affected. The bill received support in the 118th Congress (23-24) from several organizations, including West Valley Water District. West Valley Water District hosted Norma Torres at the Association the San Bernardino County Special Districts membership meeting to discuss this bill. Bill Location: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

H.R. 2344/S. 1118 Water Intelligence, Security, and Cyber Threat Protection Act Introduced by: U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky	The bill aims to strengthen cybersecurity for drinking water and wastewater utilities by expanding access to the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC), a vital hub for threat intelligence, risk mitigation, and emergency response, by providing \$10 million for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. ACWA supported this legislation in the previous Congress.		Watch	Will be reaching out to Jamie to see his thoughts. Bill Location: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.
H.R 2766 Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act Introduced by: Pat Fallon (R-TX), Brittany Petterson (D-CO) Cosponsored by: David Valadao (R-CA), Young Kim (R-CA), Doug LaMalfa (R-CA), Dan Newhouse (R-WA), Jay Obernolte (R-CA), Josh Harder (D-CA)	This bill would establish a first-ever formal definition of "special district" in federal law. The bipartisan bill – which is National Special District Association (NSDA) number one federal legislative priority – also would direct the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue guidance to federal agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local governments for purposes of ensuring that districts have access to all appropriate forms of federal financial assistance.	NSDA – Sponsor CSDA – Support Cucamonga WD – Support EMWD-Support MVWD-Support Mesa WD – Support SBVMWD- Support SBVWCD – Support TVMWD- Support WMWD-Support	Support position taken on 4/21.	H.R. 2766 is identical to legislation that was overwhelmingly approved by the full House of Representatives last year, with the exception of the title. This year's bill is known as the Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act (WVWD Supported). Location: 4/09/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

State Legislation – High Priority

Bill	Summary	Positions taken by other agencies	WVWD Position	WVWD Impact
Assembly Bills		by other agencies	rosition	
SB 90 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. Introduced by: Senator Seyarto	This bill would include in the list of eligible projects grants under The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (which also allows for the Office of Emergency Services for a wildfire mitigation grant program) to include improvements to public evacuation routes in very high and high fire hazard severity zones, mobile rigid dip tanks, as defined, to support firefighting efforts, prepositioned mobile rigid water storage, as defined, and improvements to the response and effectiveness of fire engines and helicopters. The bill would also include grants, in coordination with the Public Utilities Commission, to local agencies, state agencies, special districts, joint powers authorities, tribes, and nonprofit organizations for backup electrical generators for water reservoirs.	JCSD – Support TVMWD – Support CVWD – Support	Support taken on 6/11/25.	Next step is to try and resurrect it either in a bill or budget trailer bill with the inclusive language that allocates funds for broader types of dip tanks/heli-hydrants. Fire resiliency has been a huge priority for WVWD.

AB 259 Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences. Introduced by: Assemblymember Rubio	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.	CSDA – Sponsor ACWA – Support CMUA - Support IEUA – Support TVMD – Support IRWD – Support CVWD – Support DWA- Support EVWD-Support EMWD – Support IRWD – Support MWD – Support IRWD – Support	Took a support position on 3/13/25.	This bill will preserve the meeting flexibility provided by AB 2449 and remove the sunset date. Bill Location: Referred to Coms. on L. GOV. and JUD.

AB 362 Water Policy: California tribal communities Introduced by: Ramos	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.	ACWA – Oppose unless Amended CMUA- Oppose unless amended CVWD- Oppose	Watch	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. Bill Location: This bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee and is now a two-year bill.
AB 532 Water rate assistance program	This bill allows urban retail water suppliers to offer water rate assistance to eligible ratepayers, including 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, 2028, suppliers must include information	ACWA – Support CMUA – Sponsored CSDA – Support DWA- Support EVWD- Support IEUA – Support IRWD-Support MWD- Support MSWD – Support WMWD – Support	Support position taken on 3/11/2025	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. Bill Location: In Senate. Read First Time. To Com. On RLS. For assignment.

AB 794 California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations. Introduced by: Assembly Member Gabriel	about their water rate assistance program in their technical report to the state board. 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	ACWA- Oppose unless Amended CMUA- Oppose SCWC – Oppose	Oppose position taken on 4/15	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. 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. ** This can also apply to other containment levels!
	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.			unsure yet if bill will be moved to the Inactive File.

AB 810: Local government: in internet websites and email addresses

Introduced by:

Assemblymember Irwin

The bill would require that a local agency that maintains an internet website for use by the public to ensure that the internet website uses a ".gov" top-level domain or a ".ca.gov" second-level domain no later than January 1, 2029. The bill would require a local agency that maintains a website that is noncompliant with that requirement to redirect that website to a domain name that does utilize a ".gov" or ".ca.gov" domain. The bill would also require that a local agency that maintains public email addresses ensures that each email address provided to its employees uses a ".gov" domain name or a ".ca.gov" domain name no later than January 1, 2029.

ACWA - Oppose CSDA – Oppose EVMWD - Oppose IEUA – Oppose

Oppose taken on 5/13

While applying for and obtaining a ".gov" and ".ca.gov" domain has no fees, there are significant costs that would fall on an agency and staff time needed for this transition. Water agencies may need to hire information technology professionals; rebrand, including updating social media platforms, business cards, signage, and other materials; redirect emails from the old email addresses to the new ones; conduct public outreach to notify customers where to go for information or to pay their bills; and more.

Bill Location: Held on committee, two-year bill

AB 1146: Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs: water release: false pretenses

Introduced by:

Assemblymember Papan This bill would prohibit the release of stored water from a reservoir if the release is done under "false pretenses." This bill would define "false pretenses" as a release of water from a reservoir in a manner that is knowingly and designedly under a false or fraudulent representation or assumption as to the purpose and intended use of the water. The bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to issue an interim relief order to a reservoir operator to prohibit the release of stored water that violates "false pretenses." This bill would authorize the State Water Board to commence an interim relief proceeding on its own motion or upon the petition of an interested party.

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Bill Location: Held in committee

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waste discharge.

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**SB 601 will be amended to remove the private right of action, though there is still a lot of work to be done on that bill

	Location: Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee.
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STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 23, 2025

TO: External Affairs Committee

FROM: Socorro Pantaleon, Public Outreach & Government Affairs Manager

SUBJECT: Sponsorship Policy

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Strategic Goal 3

B. Present the District as a Proactive Community Partner

E. Promote Public Awareness of the Value of WVWD

MEETING HISTORY:

None.

BACKGROUND:

West Valley Water District (WVWD) is committed to supporting the communities it serves through education, outreach, and public engagement. Over the years, the District has received numerous requests from local organizations seeking sponsorship's for events, community programs, and public initiatives. While the District has participated in these opportunities on an informal basis, there is currently no formal policy to guide the evaluation and approval of sponsorship requests.

Public agencies, including special districts, have increasingly adopted sponsorship policies to guide how and when public funds may be used to support external programs. These policies typically outline eligibility criteria, application processes, funding limits, and evaluation standards that help ensure the sponsorship's serve a public purpose and are in the best interest of ratepayers.

A formal Sponsorship Policy would provide a framework for evaluating requests fairly, ensure compliance with legal and financial oversight responsibilities, and support initiatives that align with the District's values—such as water conservation, community education, and public engagement.

Staff has researched best practices from comparable public agencies and developed a draft policy for Board consideration. The proposed policy outlines clear guidelines for sponsorship eligibility, allowable uses of funds, and staff authority for approval levels, as well as annual reporting requirements.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed Sponsorship Policy will establish clear guidelines for evaluating and approving sponsorship requests to ensure consistency, transparency, and alignment with the District's mission. The policy outlines eligibility criteria, spending thresholds, and an approval process to support community events and programs that promote water conservation, education, and public engagement.

By establishing defined guidelines and approval procedures, the policy promotes transparency, accountability, and equitable decision-making while enhancing the District's presence and partnerships in the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

REQUESTED ACTION:

Forward a recommendation to the External Affairs Committee.

Attachments

<u>Sponsorship Policy 2025.pdf</u> <u>2024 Sponsorship Form Request.pdf</u>



WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

APPROVAL DATE	POLICY TITLE	POLICY NO.
, 2025	SPONSORSHIP POLICY	
VERSION #	APPROVED BY	EFFECTIVE DATE
	Board of Directors Resolution No. ####	
SUPERSEDES:		PAGE 1 of 3

VERSION HISTORY

Version #	Committee Reviews	Board Approval	Approved Revisions

I. Policy Objective:

The West Valley Water District (WVWD or the District) recognizes the value of community and industry-related sponsorships that advance the District's name, brand, water efficiency initiatives, water education efforts, and its mission to provide high-quality and reliable water services in a sustainable manner.

This Sponsorship Policy is adopted in accordance with Article XVI, Section 6 of the California Constitution, which prohibits the gift of public funds. Accordingly, expenditures of public funds for sponsorships are permissible only where they serve a legitimate public purpose of the District. All sponsorships approved by the District must demonstrate a direct and substantial public purpose of the District and must not primarily serve private interests. This Policy is intended to ensure that sponsorship funds are expended in a prudent, transparent, and fiscally responsible manner consistent with the District's mission. These sponsorship principles serve as the guidelines for the Board of Directors, Staff and sponsorship applicants.

II. Scope:

As part of the annual budget process, the Board of Directors shall make a specified appropriation for sponsorships that align with the District's mission. This Policy establishes the criteria and procedures for the evaluation and approval of sponsorship requests to ensure that limited public funds are expended judiciously and transparently.

III. Definitions:

Sponsorship

For purposes of this Policy, "sponsorship" shall mean the provision of financial support or in-kind contributions toward an event, activity, or entity in exchange for public recognition. Requests for in-kind donations shall be subject to the terms and conditions of this Policy that apply to monetary sponsorships. Sponsorships under this Policy are distinct from District-hosted events funded through separate outreach and education programs.

IV. Policy/Procedure:

a. Eligibility Criteria

Sponsorship requests shall be considered for organizations and events that demonstrably support the District's mission and serve a valid public purpose of the District. Approval of sponsorships shall be contingent upon meeting the following criteria, as applicable to the event under consideration:

- 1. The requesting organization shall be located within the District's service area or provide a benefit primarily within the District's service boundaries.
- 2. The sponsorship shall promote positive stakeholder and community relations.
- 3. The sponsorship shall provide meaningful opportunities for the District to engage with and increase visibility among its customers.

- 4. The sponsorship shall generate favorable media attention for the District.
- 5. The sponsorship shall increase public awareness of issues related to the District's mission.
- 6. The sponsorship shall encourage collaboration with regional partners aligned with the District's goals.
- 7. The sponsorship shall demonstrate a clear nexus to water, water resource management, or conservation.
- 8. The event or activity shall occur within the District's service area or contiguous regions.
- 9. Regional events must demonstrate a direct benefit to the District's customers.

b. **Industry-Based Sponsorships**

The District may approve sponsorships for industry-related events or organizations that meet the following criteria, as applicable to the event under consideration:

- 1. Promote public awareness of issues aligned with the District's mission.
- 2. Foster regional collaboration with partner agencies.
- 3. Enhance the District's public image through positive media exposure.

c. Sponsorship Recognition

Approved sponsorship recipients shall provide the District with appropriate recognition, which may include but is not limited to:

- A booth or table at the event for distribution of District materials
- Opportunity for a District representative to speak at the event
- Recognition of the District at the event and/or on social media platforms
- Display of the District's logo on event marketing materials or websites
- Written acknowledgment of the sponsorship
- Banner placement at the event

d. Sponsorship Limitations and Approval Process

- The External Affairs Committee shall review and recommend an annual sponsorship budget as part of the District's operating budget process.
- Sponsorship requests received by the District shall be documented by applicable District staff by using the **WVWD Sponsorship Request Form.** Said Form shall then be reviewed by the Public Outreach and Government Affairs Department for compliance with this Policy. Such a

sponsorship application must explain the nexus between the requested sponsorship and one or more of the Eligibility Criteria set forth above.

- The General Manager or his/her designee has the authority to approve sponsorship requests up to \$2,500, provided the funds have been budgeted and the request satisfies Policy criteria.
- The maximum sponsorship allocation per entity, under the General Manager's authority, shall not exceed \$2,500 per fiscal year.
- For sponsorships—whether single or multi-year—with a total value exceeding \$5,000, the request shall be reviewed by the Government and Public Affairs Committee. Upon the Committee's recommendation for approval, the request will be forwarded to the full Board of Directors for final review and authorization.
- Long-term sponsorships will be evaluated annually in accordance with objectives and milestones set at the beginning of the sponsorship arrangement and in accordance with this Policy.
- All documentation, including the Sponsorship Request Verification Form and acknowledgments, shall be retained for audit and record-keeping purposes. Sponsorship requests that are not approved will be documented in the applicable District records. The findings and evaluation of disapproved requests may be taken into account if the same or similar request is made in the future.
- The District reserves the authority to terminate sponsorships that the District determines to no longer meet objectives stated in this Policy.

e. Examples of Eligible Sponsorships

Eligible sponsorships may include, but are not limited to:

- Water industry conferences, seminars, and publications.
- Special district-related conferences and seminars.
- Community events that provide a public benefit consistent with the District's mission and enhance quality of life within the service area.
- Watershed restoration and clean-up initiatives.
- Chamber of Commerce events and membership fees.
- Water-related educational programs and exhibits.
- Water efficiency and conservation initiatives.
- Environmental efforts related to water resources.

f. <u>Ineligible Sponsorships</u>

Sponsorship requests from the following shall not be considered:

- For-profit entities, individuals, political organizations or campaigns, and partisan causes.
- Religious or church organizations unless the sponsored event is open to the general public and serves a non-sectarian purpose.

Sponsorship requests will be rejected if the criteria as outlined in this Policy are not followed or if there is the existence/appearance of a conflict of interest.

g. Tracking and Reporting

On an annual basis, the past year's sponsorships shall be reported out to the Board and include entity, location, amount, and an indication of how compliance with policy requirements was met.

h. Policy Adoption and Review

This Policy shall be adopted by resolution of the Board of Directors and shall be reviewed biennially. Any amendments or modifications to this Policy require Board approval. Quarterly updates shall be provided by the Public Outreach and Government Affairs Manager to the External Affairs Committee, and an annual report shall be submitted to the Board of Directors.

DEPARTMENT REVIEW						
Human Resources	Finance	Administration	Engineering	Operations	Govt & Leg Affairs	I.T.



SPONSORSHIP FORM

SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION

Organization			
Type of Organization	Community Organization	School Sports/Booster	other (non profit, youth group ,etc.)
Applicant Name & Title	:		
Full Address	:		
E-Mail	:		
Phone Number	:		
Type of Request	: Contribution	Bottled Water	
Contribution Amount Re	equested?:	Cases of Water Requested? :	
Location of the event?	:		
Event Date	:		
Estimated Attendance	:		
Purpose of Sponsorship	:		
Method of Publicity	:		

Attach any support materials, flyers, brochures to support this event

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Completed applications must be submitted to social@wvwd.org with the subject line "Community Sponsorship Program Request" or sent via mail to:

West Valley Water District Attn: Public Affairs - Sponsorship P.O. Box 920 Rialto, CA 92377

To request West Valley Water District (Water District) in-kind support, organizations must complete and submit this Community Sponsorship Program Application. Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis and must be received no less than four (4) weeks prior to the special event date(s) or community project or program start date to ensure supply of requested materials. Sponsorship requests are reviewed and distributed on a first - come, first-served basis.

Signature Of Requestor