



WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
855 W. Base Line Road, Rialto, CA 92376
PH: (909) 875-1804 FAX: (909) 875-1849

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 - 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
Vice President Daniel Jenkins

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.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public may address the Board on matters within its jurisdiction. Speakers are requested to keep their comments to no more than three (3) minutes. However, the Board of Directors is prohibited by State Law to take action on items not included on the printed agenda.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Updates to the External Affairs Committee
2. September 2024 Social Media Report.
3. Branding Consulting Services.
4. Sponsorships.
5. September Legislative Report.
6. Legislative Principles.

IV. ADJOURN

DECLARATION OF POSTING:

I declare under penalty of perjury, that I am employed by the West Valley Water District and posted the foregoing External Affairs Committee Agenda at the District Offices on September 26, 2024.

Elvia Dominguez

Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

DATE: September 30, 2024
TO: External Affairs Committee
FROM: Socorro Pantaleon, Gov't and Legislative Affairs Manager
SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 2024 SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

BACKGROUND:

The social media report 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:

The Public Outreach and Government Affairs team has been diligently working the past few months to ensure that the content and image that we share with our social media followers is not just educational and engaging, but that truly aligns with our strategic goal to develop and grow effective communication.

To align with this goal, we have been taking steps to put out content that presents the district as a proactive community partner, highlight conservation education, promote awareness of the value that WVWD brings to its community and leverage what we do on our platforms to seek new partnerships and opportunities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and File.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Social Media Report - August - September

AUG - SEPT

2024

SOCIAL MEDIA

Report



MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers
1,139
+6



Reach
972



Engagement
242



No. of Posts
14 posts

TOP POST



Post Impressions

287 Impressions

Post Engagement

49 interactions

Instagram

MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers
1,354
+14



Reach
1,491



Engagement
229



No. of Posts
14 posts

TOP POST



Post Impressions

346 Impressions

Post Engagement

7 interactions

MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers
666
+18



Reach/Impressions
1,240



Engagement
199



No. of Posts
4 posts

TOP POST



Post Impressions

500 Impressions

Post Engagement

140 interactions

MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers

430

+4



No. of Posts

14 posts

TOP POST



Post Impressions

184 Impressions

Post Engagement

11 interactions



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To align with this goal, we have been taking steps to put out content that presents the district as a proactive community partner, highlight conservation education, promote awareness of the value that WVWD brings to its community and leverage what we do on our platforms to seek new partnerships and opportunities.

While we are still in the early stages, we have continued to see an increase in our following and engagement with the content that we put out. As we continue to follow this route of posting engaging and aligned content, we will continue to update the external affairs committee with the insights we gain.

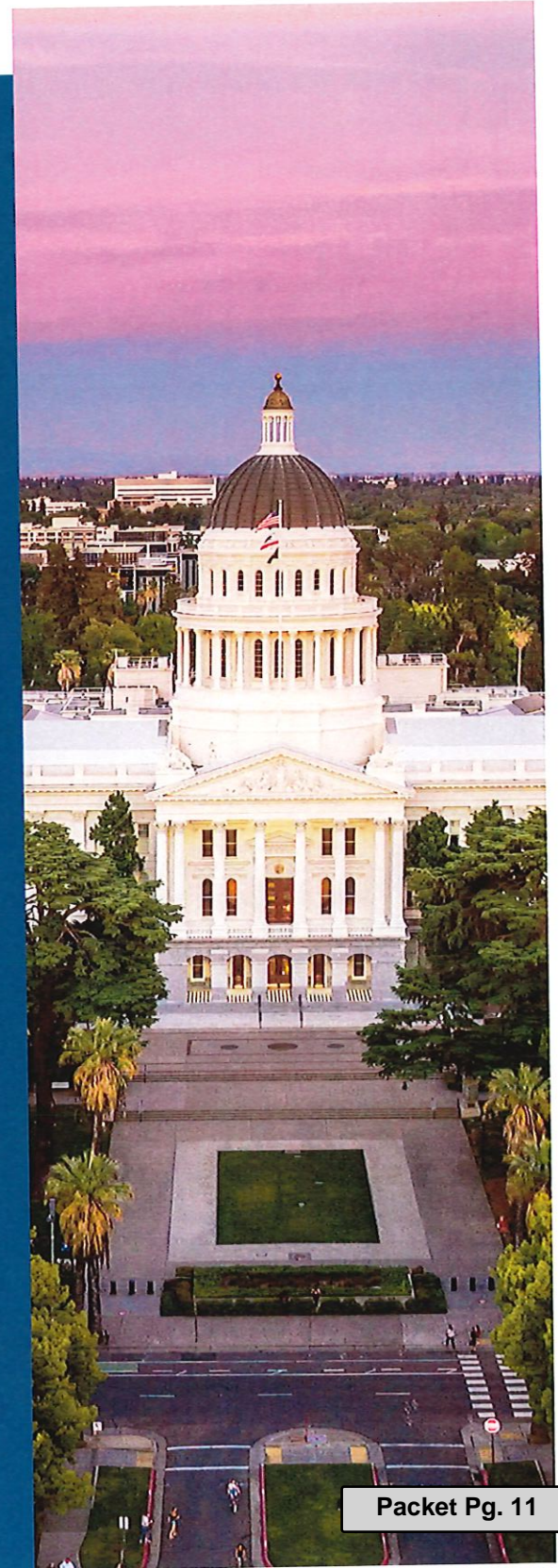
MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT



— September 2024

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CALENDAR

02

2024 Legislative Deadlines

September 30, 2024	Last Day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 and in the Governor's possession on or after Sept 1.
October 2, 2024	Bills enacted on or before this date take effect January 1, 2025.
November 5, 2024	General Election.

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:

Prop 218 Legislation:

The Legislature on Aug. 27 passed ACWA-sponsored AB 2257, authored by Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City), which would aid member agencies in defending against Proposition 218 lawsuits by requiring litigants to have participated and raised specific objections during the public administrative process. The bill is now on Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk and he has until Sept. 30 to sign or veto bills. ACWA has been leading a large coalition in support of the bill, building on the success of ACWA-sponsored SB 323 (Caballero, Chapter 216, Statutes of 2021), which created a 120-day statute of limitations for filing lawsuits against water and sewer rates through the Proposition 218 process

Low-Income Rate Assistance:

ACWA maintained an oppose-unless-amended position on SB 1255 (Durazo) and it failed to make it out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file, effectively stopping the bill. This bill would have required each retail water supplier that serves more than 3,300 connections to establish a water low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program with specified minimum requirements, some of which are unworkable.

Discontinuation of Residential Water Service for Nonpayment:

ACWA-sponsored AB 2599, authored by the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, passed the Legislature and is now before Gov. Newsom. The bill would incorporate agreed-upon amendments to SB 3 (Dodd, 2023), which made various changes to the Water Shutoff Protection Act, including granting the California Attorney General a restitution authority. AB 2599 would provide that this new authority does not cover personal property — as water systems do not have the authority to obtain personal property from their customers — and applies where there "has been unlawful conduct" as opposed to where there "may have been unlawful conduct" under the Act.

Water Rights:

The Legislature on Aug. 30 passed AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan) and it is now before Gov. Newsom. ACWA removed opposition to the bill after significant amendments limited the bill to increasing penalties for certain violations, including illegal diversions. These amendments represented an extraordinary improvement to the bill, which previously would have granted the State Water Resources Control Board new and sweeping authority to prevent diverters from exercising their water rights. With the amendments, AB 460 will ensure penalties serve as a deterrent to illegal diversions

ACWA REPORT

04

Direct Potable Reuse Regulations:

Last month, the Office of Administrative Law approved the Direct Potable Reuse Regulations that were previously adopted by the State Water Board on Dec. 19, 2023. As approved, the regulations address a number of issues identified in a comment letter from a coalition led by WaterReuse California and including ACWA. The regulations establish criteria for the introduction of recycled water either directly into a public water system or into a raw water supply immediately upstream of a water treatment plant.

Water Professionals Appreciation Week Oct. 5-13

California's Water Professionals Appreciation Week will kick off Oct. 5, celebrating the important role of water industry professionals and local public water agencies in ensuring safe and reliable water, wastewater and recycled water operations across California. Throughout the week, urban and agricultural water agencies are encouraged to leverage their communication channels to educate media, customers, local elected leaders and other key audiences about the essential role that water professionals play in providing safe and reliable water services

CSDA REPORT

05

House and Senate Action:

House GOP leaders are expected to bring their six-month stopgap funding plan to the floor again this week. The measure was pulled from floor consideration last week due to a number of Republican holdouts. The proposed Continuing Resolution (CR) would fund the federal government at current levels through March 28, 2025. It also includes a series of provisions that address issues outside of the regular appropriations process, including \$10 billion to replenish the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund, as well as language that would extend the authorization for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Additionally, the GOP-led measure includes controversial language that would require individuals to provide proof of citizenship in order to vote in federal elections.

The election-related provision – which mirrors a GOP-sponsored bill that passed the House in July – is a nonstarter for Senate Democrats and the Biden administration, who argue that noncitizen voting is already prohibited under federal law. Democratic leaders have also balked at the CR's six-month timeline, preferring a stopgap funding patch that expires in mid-December. It's unclear if Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) and his whip team will be able to persuade enough Republicans to support the plan. With government funding set to run out on September 30, congressional leaders have just two weeks to pass a CR. Failure to do so would result in a government shutdown.

Later in the week, and with an eye toward the November elections, House Republicans will look to advance more partisan measures, including bills that target what GOP members have labeled "woke" investing principles. The chamber will vote on two bills (H.R. 4790; H.R. 5339) that address the use of environmental, social, and governance factors in shareholder decisions. House Republicans will also try to advance a pair of resolutions (H.J. Res. 133; H.J. Res. 136) targeting what they call the Biden administration's "electric vehicle mandate." Finally, the House will consider two measures to address illegal immigration. One bill (H.R. 7909) would make undocumented immigrants who are convicted of, or who admit having committed sex offenses or domestic violence, inadmissible and deportable from the United States. A separate measure (H.R. 5717) would bar federal funding from going to any "sanctuary jurisdiction" for the purposes of addressing the ongoing migrant crisis. The full House schedule can be accessed [here](#).

Across the Capitol, senators will continue their focus on confirming President Biden's judicial nominees.

CSDA REPORT

05

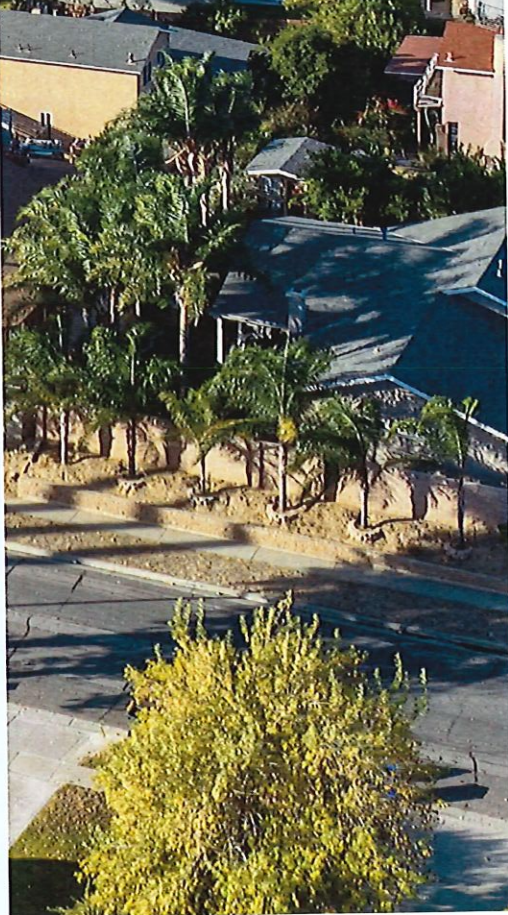
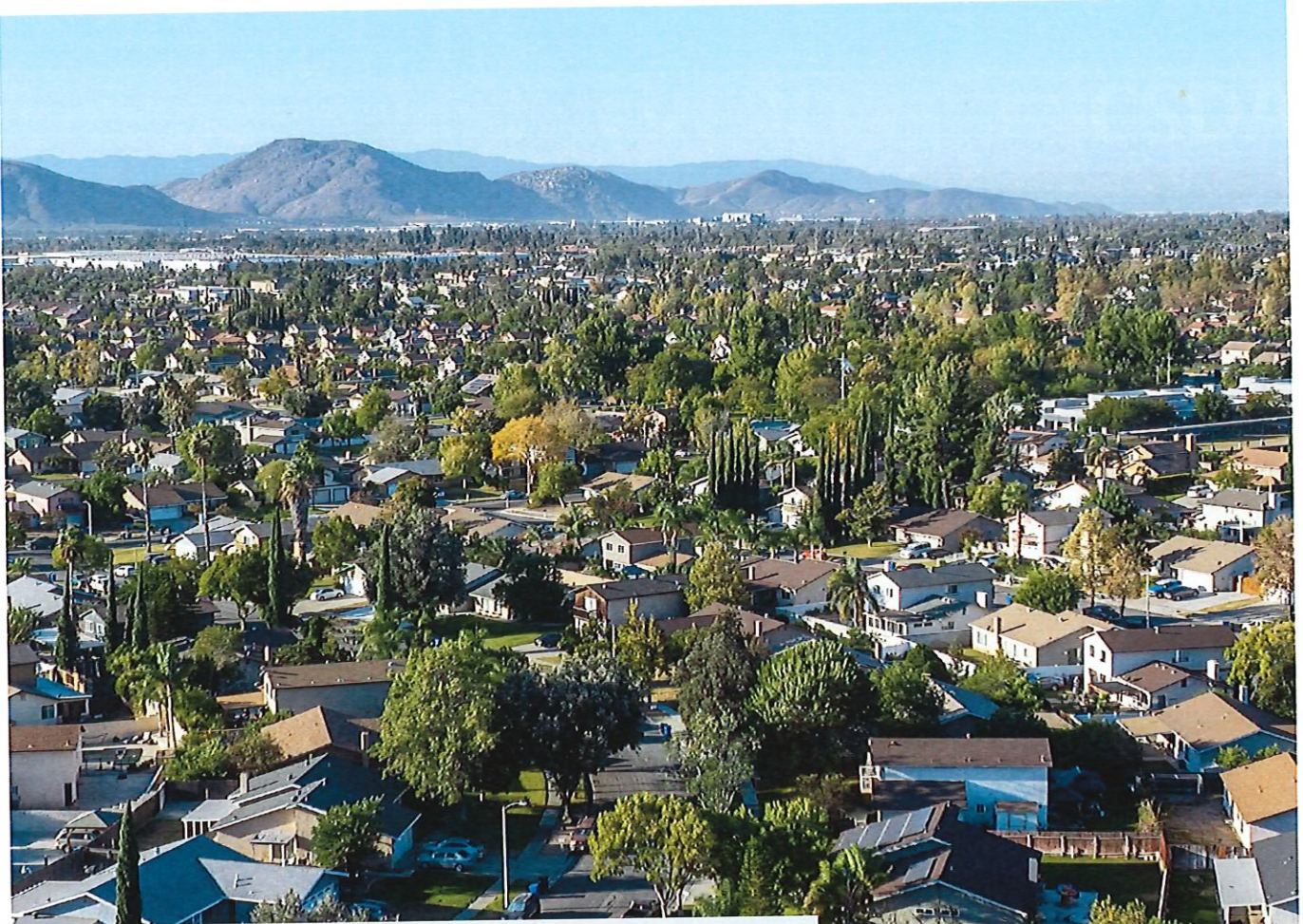
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2024-2025 Committee Assignments

CA State Assembly

06



Assembly Member James C. Ramos

District 45

Committees: Budget Subcommittee No.6 on Public Safety (chair), Budget, Governmental Organization, Job, Economic Development and the Economy, Local Government, Native American Affairs (Chair), Youth Homelessness in San Bernardino County (Chair), California's Lithium Economy, Fentanyl, Opioid Addiction and Overdose Prevention, Place Based Systems of Coordinate Care for Children and Families, Police Reform, Poverty and Economic Inclusion, Racism, Hate and Xenophobia, Regional Transportation Solutions, and the Happiness and Public Policy Outcomes



Assembly Majority Leader Emerita Eloise Gomez Reyes

District 47

Committees: Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials, Housing and Community Development, Public Safety, Utilities and Energy, Legislative Ethics, State Parks (Chair), Future of Work and Workers, Opportunities and Barriers for People with Disabilities in the Workplace, Place Based Systems of Coordinated Care for Children and Families, Policy Reform, Ports and Goods Movement, Racism, Hate and Xenophobia, Streamlining Services for Victims of Interpersonal Violence, Youth Homelessness in San Bernardino County, Building a Zero-Carbon Hydrogen Economy, Downtown Recovery

CA State Senate

07



State Senator Rosalie Ochoa Bogh

District 23

Committees: Education, Government Organization, Housing, Human Services, Legislative Ethics, Insurance



State Senator Richard D. Roth

District 31

Committees: Health (Chair), Career Technology and the New Economy, Joint Legislative Budget Committee, Business, Professions and Economic Development, Budget, Governmental Organization, Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services, Student Success, Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education Advisory Committee, the Governor's Military Council, the California Aviation Caucus, the Mental Health Caucus, the UC Legislative Roundtable, the California Law Revision Commission.

WVWD LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

08

The next few pages provide high level summaries on both Federal and State legislation that is critical to our district, along with positions taken 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
<p>S.3830 / H.R 8032 Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act</p> <p>Introduced by: Senator Alex Padilla</p>	<p>The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Establishment Act would establish a permanent, nationwide water assistance program to help families afford their water bills.</p>	<p>ACWA- Support</p> <p>EMWD – Support</p> <p>IEUA – Support</p> <p>WMWD – Support</p>	Support	<p>WVWD services low-income families and has previously supported LIWAP programs. Support for this bill would extend our participation in this program.</p>
<p>H.R 7525 Special District Grant Accessibility Act</p> <p>Introduced by: Representative Brittany Pettersen and Representative Pat Fallon</p>	<p>The Special District Grant Accessibility Act, sponsored by the National Special District Coalition’s (NSDC’s), embodies the longstanding legislative objective of codifying in federal law a first-ever, formal definition of “special district”. H.R. 7525 would direct federal agencies to recognize special districts as local governments for the purpose of ensuring that districts are eligible to receive appropriate forms of federal assistance, including funding</p>	<p>CSDA – Support</p> <p>CMUA – Support</p> <p>IEUA- Support</p>		<p>Special district’s access to federal funding has been limited due to not being seen as a local government entity. This issue was heightened during COVID when Federal Funding was available to cities and counties under the recognition of local government, however that funding was not available for special districts.</p>

	and resources through key grant programs.			
<p>H.R 7916 Removing Nitrate and Arsenic in Drinking Water Act</p> <p>Introduced by: Congresswoman Norma Torres and Congressman David Valadao</p>	<p>This Act would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide grants for nitrate and arsenic reduction by providing \$15 million for FY25 and every fiscal year thereafter. The bill also directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take into consideration the needs of economically disadvantaged populations impacted by drinking water contamination. The California State Water Resources Control Board found the Inland Empire to have the highest levels of contamination of nitrate throughout the state including 82 sources in San Bernardino. Eligible entities to access this proposed grant program include special districts as currently drafted.</p>	IEUA- Support	Support	As mentioned, high levels were reported in our service area. Currently, one of our wells is closed due to high levels of Arsenic. Support of this bill will extend our mission of providing safe and reliable drinking.
<p>H.R 7944 / S.1430 Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act</p>	<p>This Act would ensure that water utilities can continue to focus their efforts on maintaining water quality and would be exempted from</p>	IEUA- Support		Provides protection from lawsuits for PFAS contamination for water system entities that are not PFAS Polluters but passive receivers.

<p>Introduced by: Representative John Curtis</p>	<p>liability. The bill describes a “protected entity” as a public water system; a publicly or privately owned or operated treatment works; a municipality that has been issued a permit for stormwater discharges; a political subdivision of a state or a special district of a state acting as a wholesale water agency; a contractor performing the management or disposal activities; and other entities described throughout the bill.</p>			
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State Legislation – High Priority

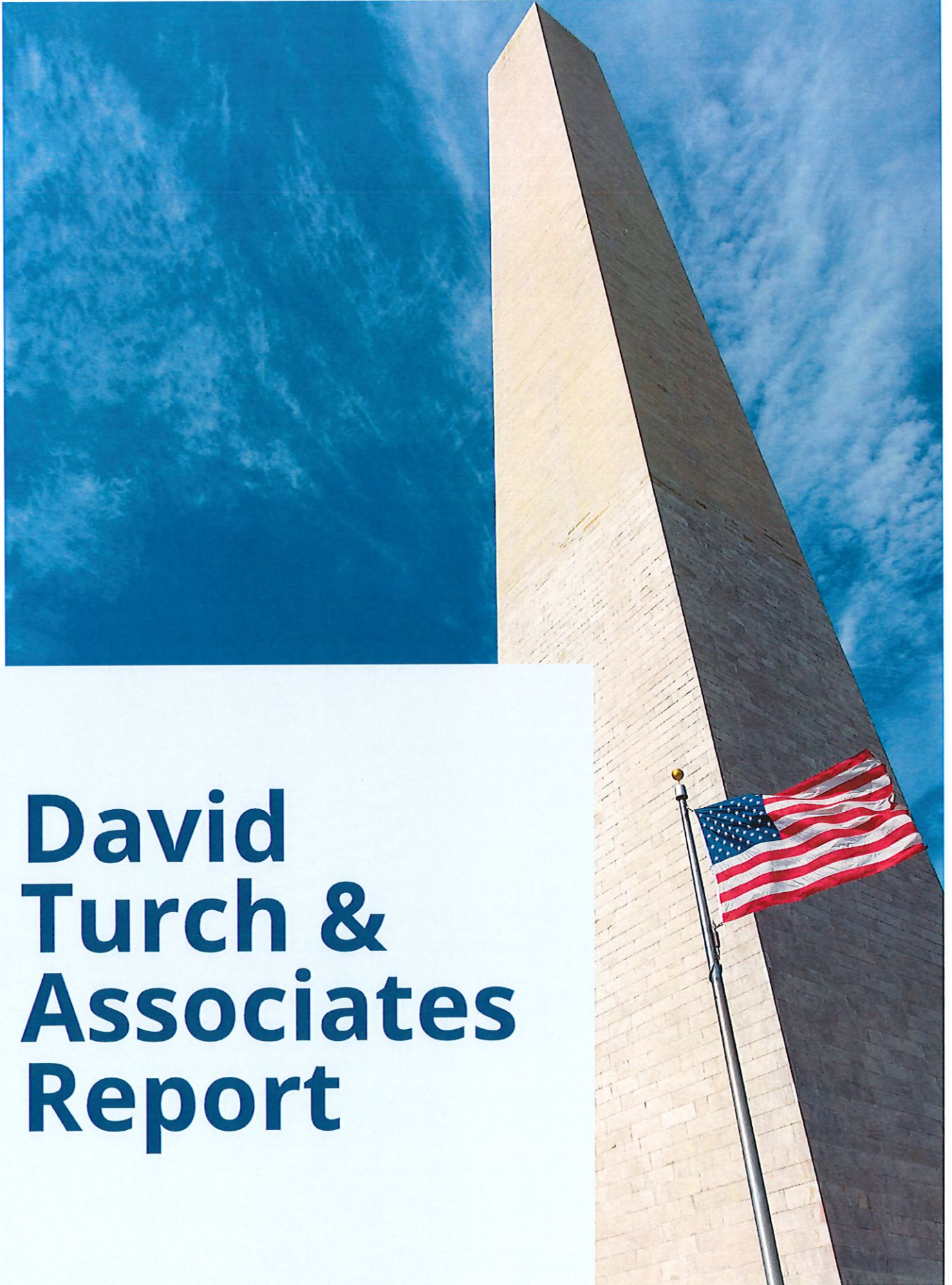
Bill	Summary	Positions taken by other agencies	WVWD Position	WVWD Impact
Assembly Bills				
<p>AB 1573</p> <p>Water conservation: landscape plants: nonfunctional turf.</p>	<p>As proposed to be amended, this bill would, after January 1, 2027, prohibit the installation of an irrigation system for nonfunctional turf, as defined, located on CII properties and on properties of homeowners' associations, common interest developments, and community service organizations to provide potable water to nonfunctional turf.</p> <p>The bill would require the Director of Water Resources to update MWELO to incorporate this prohibition not later than three years after the effective date of the bill.</p>	<p>ACWA- Not favor unless Amended</p> <p>CMUA- Oppose unless Amended</p>	<p>Watch</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>AB 2079</p> <p>Groundwater extraction: large-diameter, high-capacity water wells: permits.</p>	<p>This bill would impose requirements on local enforcement agencies regarding the approval process for new-large diameter, high-capacity wells. It would require these agencies to perform certain activities at least 30 days before deciding on a permit for such wells. Additionally, this bill would necessitate</p>	<p>ACWA- Oppose unless Amended</p> <p>CMUA- Oppose unless Amended</p> <p>IEUA- Oppose unless Amended</p>		<p>This bill is a significant overreach, as it pushes for extra protection over adjudicated basins, imposing additional costs, when these basins are already heavily protected. Currently, West Valley receives its water from two adjudicated basins.</p>

<p>Introduced by: Assembly Member Bennett</p>	<p>groundwater sustainability agencies overseeing basins where these wells are permitted to provide specific information to the local enforcement agency. Water agencies believe this bill, as currently drafted, could negatively impact groundwater management, water banking projects, and the ability to site wells. This bill died in committee on 6/11/24.</p>	<p>EMWD- Oppose unless Amended WMWD – Oppose unless Amended</p>		
<p>AB 2257 Local government: property-related water and sewer fees and assessments: remedies.</p> <p>Introduced by: Assembly Member Wilson</p>	<p>Sponsored by ACWA, this legislation would reduce agencies' exposure to adverse judicial intervention by requiring a potential litigant to participate in the Proposition 218 rate-setting process, provided the agency abides by specified procedures established by the bill.</p>	<p>CSDA – Support CMUA- Support EVWD – Support EMWD – Support WMWD – Support</p>		<p>As WWWD is looking at a potential rate change, supporting legislation that protects agencies against lawsuits is critical.</p>
<p>Senate Bills</p>				
<p>SB 366 The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.</p> <p>Introduced by: Senator Caballero</p>	<p>This bill would establish long-term water supply targets for the state to achieve, require a financing plan, and would update the requirement that state agencies develop a plan to achieve those targets, in consultation with local water agencies, wastewater service providers and other stakeholders. This</p>	<p>ACWA- Support CMUA- Support CSDA- Support SBVMWD- Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Supporting this bill would speak to water management that plans for our growing population and changing climate.</p>

	<p>bill was Coauthored by Senators Ochoa Bogh and Roth.</p>	<p>WMWD- Support EMWD - Support IEUA – Support</p>		
<p>SB 903 Environmental health: product safety: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances Introduced by: Senator Skinner</p>	<p>Sponsored by CASA, the Ending Forever Chemicals Act would prohibit a person from distributing, selling, or offering for sale a product that contains intentionally added PFAS, as defined, unless the Department of Toxic Substances Control has made a determination that the use of PFAS in the product is a currently unavoidable use, the prohibition is preempted by federal law, or the product is previously used.</p>	<p>ACWA- Support CMUA-Support EMWD-Support IEUA- Support WMWD – Support</p>		<p>Part of West Valley’s mission is to provide safe drinking water and to support legislation that offers the means to do so.</p>
<p>SB 937 Development projects: fees and charges Introduced by: Senator Wiener</p>	<p>This bill prohibits a local agency from requiring the payment of fees or charges, including water and sewer connection fees, until the date the certificate of occupancy is issued. The bill was amended in early April to exclude utility connection fees. On August 22, the bill was amended again putting water and sewer connection fees back into parts of the bill.</p>	<p>ACWA – Oppose unless Amended CSDA – Oppose CMUA – Oppose</p>		<p>Development related fees are crucial to funding essential infrastructure to serve new homes and businesses. This bill risks costly delays for the water, sewer, parks, libraries, flood protection and other facilities necessary to meet the needs of our growing communities. **Gut and Amend Alert: In an apparent attempt to satisfy the concerns of remaining opposition, the author amended the bill on August 22 to include language that would create a new and conflicting legal standard for the collection of water and sewer connection and capacity fees and place this new standard in a different, inappropriate section of the Government Code. Concerns has arisen that the new amendments could be interpreted to only allow fees to be collected in advance for connecting residences to water distribution or sewer</p>

				<p>collection systems with no certainty that water and wastewater agencies could recover other costs associated with serving the new development including recovering proportional costs for other necessary existing and new infrastructure.</p> <p>The author failed to run the language by members of the water community and now says it is too late to address our issues.</p> <p>CASA, CSDA and CMUA have been leading the effort to educate members on the concerns with this bill and are urging members to not support the legislation</p>
<p>SB 1218 Water: emergency water supplies.</p> <p>Introduced by: Senator Newman</p>	<p>Sponsored by Irvine Ranch Water District, this bill would declare that it is the established policy of the state to encourage, but not mandate, the development of emergency water supplies, and to support their use during times of water shortage. This bill aims to encourage the development of additional emergency water supplies beyond mandated baseline supplies.</p>	<p>CSDA – Support</p> <p>CMUA- Support</p> <p>IEUA- Support</p> <p>WMWD – Support</p>		<p>California has experienced two severe droughts in the past decade. The 2020- 22 drought began less than five years after California experienced its worst drought on record from 2012 through 2016. Climate modeling indicates that droughts will become more severe and frequent going forward.</p>
<p>SB 1255 Public water systems: need analysis: water rate assistance program</p> <p>Introduced by: Senator Durazo</p>	<p>This bill would require the State Water Resources Control to update a needs analysis of the state’s public water systems to include an assessment of the funds necessary to provide a 20% discount for low-income households served by specified community water systems; and for those same community water systems to meet a specified affordability threshold. This bill would also establish a water Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program funded with</p>	<p>ACWA- Oppose unless Amended</p> <p>CMUA- Oppose unless Amended</p> <p>EMWD- Oppose</p> <p>IEUA- Oppose unless Amended</p> <p>WMWD- Oppose</p>	<p>WVWD- Oppose unless Amended</p>	<p>Although the District is in support of a water LIRA program, this bill does not have a proper funding mechanism to create such a program. In return, an “op-out” approach will cause public distrust and cause an administrative burden on water agencies who will have to delegate refunds.</p>

	<p>voluntary contributions received based on an “opt-out” approach on all ratepayers. The bill would require qualified systems to provide each ratepayer the option and method of opting out at least three months prior to beginning collection of the “voluntary contribution,” and at least annually thereafter.</p> <p>Held in committee on 8/15</p>			
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David Turch & Associates Report

David Turch and Associates

TO: John Thiel, General Manager
Linda Jadeski, Assistant General Manager
Socorro Pantaleon, Manager Government and Legislative Affairs
West Valley Water District

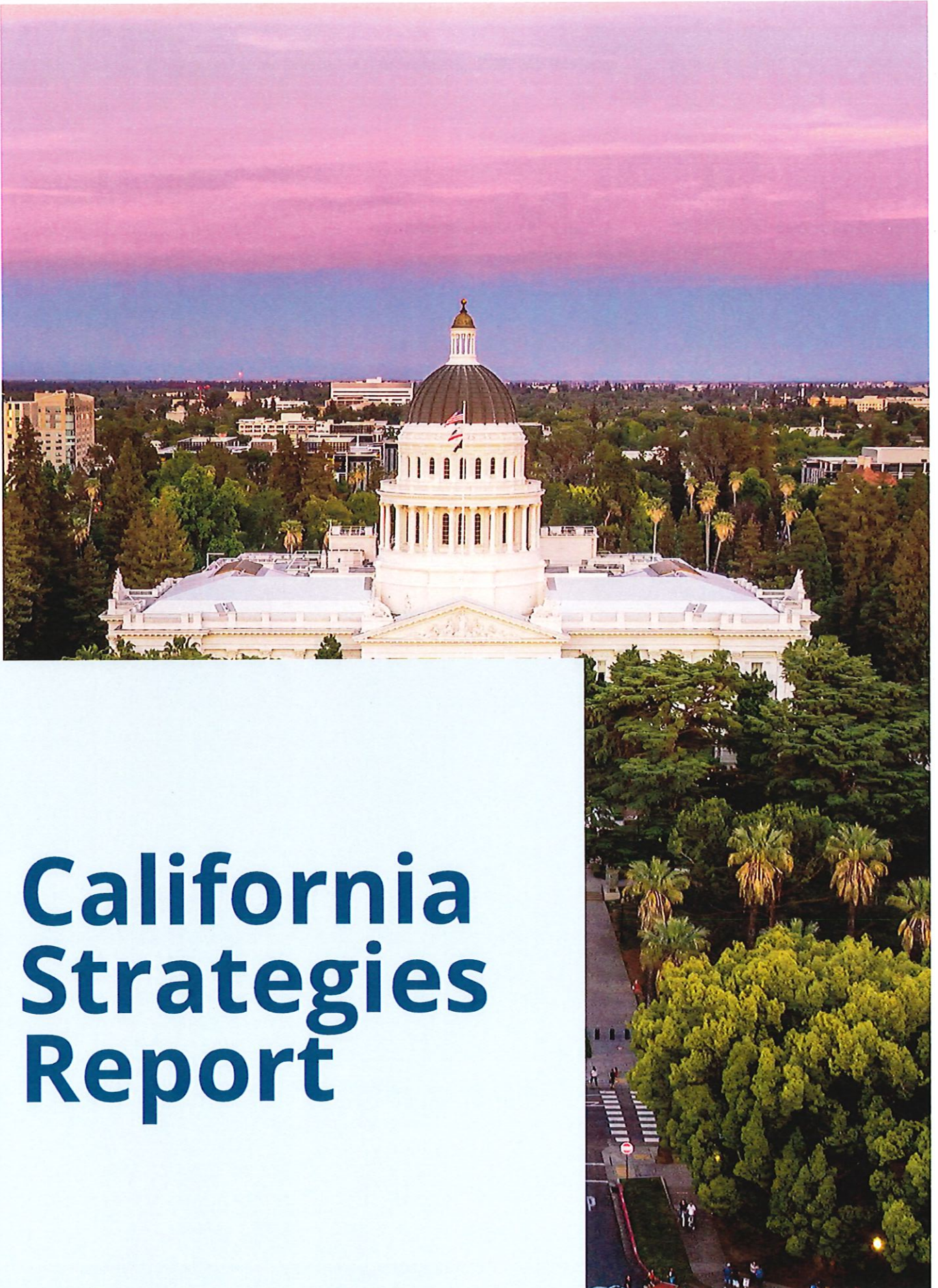
FROM: Jamie Jones
Jamie.jones@davidturch.com
202-543-3744

DATE: September 6, 2024

RE: Federal Advocacy Report for August 2024

- Senate Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee released its list of Congressionally Designated Spending (earmark) list. Senators Alex Padilla and Laphonza Butler submitted the following three WVWD projects to the Interior-Environment Appropriations Committee: Bunker Hill Regional Water Resiliency Project; Bloomington Waterline Replacement Project; and the Cybersecurity and Water Reliability Project. The Interior-Environment Subcommittee did not fund any of these requests. Padilla and Butler were only granted three projects in the EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) Drinking Water SRF account. On the House side, Representative Pete Aguilar secured \$1,105,800 for the District's Cybersecurity and Water Reliability Project, which is in the House Interior-Environment Appropriations bill.
- Attended WVWD's Association of San Bernardino County Special Districts (ASBCSD) sponsored dinner in which Representative Norma Torres, as the guest speaker, discussed her bill, H.R. 7916, the Nitrate and Arsenic in Drinking Water Act.
- Multiple communications with the office of Rep. Pete Aguilar and WVWD staff regarding the Roemer expansion project in an effort to secure Congressman Aguilar's attendance, as keynote speaker, celebrating the project completion. The initial target date was the first week in October. Received notice from WVWD staff that the unveiling ceremony is postponed until early next year, when project is expected to be completed. Notified Aguilar's staff. Will coordinate with Aguilar's staff once a new date has been set.
- Participated virtually in WVWD's External Affairs Committee meeting.
- Coordinated with District staff regarding response to electronic correspondence from the Environmental Finance Center at California State University, Sacramento (EFC at Sac State) which is working with EPA Region 9 to provide technical assistance to Community Grant recipients in completing their grant applications. EPA Region 9 has yet to obligate the \$2,000,000 for Bloomington Pipeline Alleyway Project.

- Scheduled follow-up virtual meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation Colorado Regional Office to discuss the District's AMI project and Water and Energy Efficiency Grant (WEEG) application. District staff was particularly interested in whether/how to apply for a BABA waiver. According to BOR staff, the agency has a request pending with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve a three-year BABA waiver, since currently there is no American manufacturing capacity to build AMI components. An OMB waiver decision is expected to be announced and approved before the end of the year. The WEEG application deadline is in October and grant awards are likely to be announced in May 2025.
- Ongoing contacts with congressional offices and federal agencies regarding WVWD's priorities and areas of interest.
- Kevin Bosch notifications to West Valley Water District regarding federal programs and funding grant opportunities for various departments/agencies including the Bureau of Reclamation, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture; and the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA.
- Provided WVWD with weekly Washington Updates covering legislative, executive and judicial branch activities.



California Strategies Report

West Valley Water District Monthly Board Report

Prepared by: California Strategies & Advocacy

To: Socorro Pantaleon

Date: 9/12/24

- California Strategies & Advocacy (CalStrat) worked with other water stakeholders in a coalition to stop SB 1255 (Durazo) in Assembly Appropriations. Our team met with Durazo's staff, sponsors of the bill, and Assembly Appropriations consultants to share concerns and request that the bill be paused until all stakeholders could have a fuller conversation on the details of such an important piece of legislation. SB 1255 sought to create a low-income rate assistance program for water customers.
- We also monitored amendments to other bills of interest to the District coming out of Appropriations and moving through the Floor in the last weeks of session. This included SB 937 (Wiener), related to connection fees for new development, which had last minute opposition from CMUA and other stakeholders due to amendments in appropriations committee.
- Provided information on California Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES) funding opportunities for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) 2024 program cycle, including what types of projects can be submitted, cost-share, and how to apply.
- We continued to send weekly legislative updates on all relevant bills as well as budget and end-of-session updates.
- CalStrat worked with WVWD staff to develop an agenda for the upcoming in-person planning workshop with WVWD staff and board members.
- We participated in weekly calls with WVWD to provide updates covering state legislative, budget, and regulatory activities.
- NOTE: Governor Newsom has until September 30 to sign or veto bills that were passed by the Legislature before it adjourned on August 31.

Most Recent Bill List:

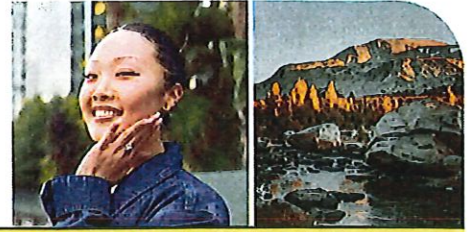
See separate document attached for bills listed with lengthier summaries.

Measure	Topic	Current Text Version	Status	Location	Calendar
AB 828 Connolly, D	Sustainable groundwater management: managed wetlands.	08/31/2024 - Enrolled HTML PDF	08/28/2024 - In Assembly. Concurrence in Senate amendments pending. May be considered on or after August 30 pursuant to Assembly Rule 77. Assembly Rule 77 suspended. Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.	08/28/2024 - Assembly ENROLLMENT	
AB 1827 Papan, D	Local government: fees and charges: water: higher consumptive water parcels.	08/27/2024 - Enrolled HTML PDF	08/27/2024 - Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 12 p.m.	08/27/2024 - Assembly ENROLLED	
AB 1834 Garcia, D	Resource adequacy: Electricity Supply Strategic Reliability Reserve Program.	08/31/2024 - Enrolled HTML PDF	08/28/2024 - In Assembly. Ordered to Engrossing and Enrolling.	08/28/2024 - Assembly ENROLLMENT	
AB 2214 Bauer-Kahan, D	Ocean Protection Council: microplastics.	08/28/2024 - Enrolled HTML PDF	08/26/2024 - Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.	08/26/2024 - Assembly ENROLLMENT	
AB 2318 Papan, D	State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account: receipts and expenditures: report.	08/29/2024 - Enrolled HTML PDF	08/27/2024 - Assembly Rule 77 suspended. Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling. (Ayes 77. Noes 0.).	08/27/2024 - Assembly ENROLLMENT	
AB 2368 Petrie-Norris, D	System reliability and outages.	08/29/2024 - Enrollment HTML PDF	08/29/2024 - Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling. (Ayes 76. Noes 0.).	08/29/2024 - Assembly ENROLLMENT	
AB 2501 Alvarez, D	Water quality control plans: donations and grants.	08/31/2024 - Enrolled HTML PDF	08/28/2024 - Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Assembly. (Ayes 39. Noes 0.). In Assembly. Ordered to Engrossing and Enrolling.	08/28/2024 - Assembly ENROLLMENT	
AB 2661 Soria, D	Electricity: Westlands Water District.	08/31/2024 - Enrollment HTML PDF	08/31/2024 - In Assembly. Concurrence in Senate amendments pending. Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.	08/31/2024 - Assembly ENROLLMENT	
AB 2735 Rubio, Blanca, D	Joint powers agreements: water corporations.	08/28/2024 - Enrolled HTML PDF	08/26/2024 - Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.	08/26/2024 - Assembly ENROLLMENT	

Measure	Topic	Current Text Version	Status	Location	Calendar
AB 2873 Garcia, D	Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative: grants.	08/28/2024 - Enrolled HTML PDF	08/26/2024 - Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Assembly. (Ayes 35. Noes 0.). In Assembly. Ordered to Engrossing and Enrolling.	08/26/2024 - Assembly ENROLLMENT	
AB 3087 Fong, Mike, D	California Community Colleges Economic and Workforce Development Program.	08/31/2024 - Enrolled HTML PDF	08/28/2024 - Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Assembly. (Ayes 39. Noes 0.). In Assembly. Ordered to Engrossing and Enrolling.	08/28/2024 - Assembly ENROLLMENT	
SB 366 Caballero, D	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.	08/29/2024 - Enrollment HTML PDF	08/29/2024 - Assembly amendments concurred in. (Ayes 38. Noes 0.) Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.	08/29/2024 - Senate ENROLLMENT	
SB 1156 Hurtado, D	Groundwater sustainability agencies: conflicts of interest: financial interest disclosures.	08/27/2024 - Enrolled HTML PDF	08/27/2024 - Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 2 p.m.	08/27/2024 - Senate ENROLLED	
SB 1177 Bradford, D	Public utilities: women, minority, disabled veteran, and LGBT business enterprises.	08/30/2024 - Enrolled HTML PDF	08/28/2024 - Assembly amendments concurred in. (Ayes 32. Noes 1.) Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.	08/28/2024 - Senate ENROLLMENT	
SB 1210 Skinner, D	New housing construction: electrical, gas, sewer, and water service: service connection information.	08/28/2024 - Enrolled HTML PDF	08/26/2024 - Assembly amendments concurred in. (Ayes 33. Noes 6.) Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.	08/26/2024 - Senate ENROLLMENT	
SB 1321 Wahab, D	Employment Training Panel: employment training program: projects and proposals.	08/29/2024 - Enrollment HTML PDF	08/29/2024 - Assembly amendments concurred in. (Ayes 31. Noes 9.) Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.	08/29/2024 - Senate ENROLLMENT	
SB 1340 Smallwood-Cuevas, D	Discrimination.	08/30/2024 - Enrollment HTML PDF	08/30/2024 - In Senate. Concurrence in Assembly amendments pending. Assembly amendments concurred in. (Ayes 31. Noes 9.) Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.	08/30/2024 - Senate ENROLLMENT	
SB 1390 Caballero, D	Groundwater recharge: floodflows: diversion.	08/22/2024 - Amended HTML PDF	09/01/2024 - VOTE: SB 1390 Caballero Senate Third Reading By Aguiar-Curry (FAIL)	08/20/2024 - Assembly THIRD READING	

YES on 4

**Prevent wildfires.
Provide safe drinking water.
Protect California.**



California is facing devastating wildfires, vulnerable drinking water supplies, extreme summer heat, and other major threats from a changing climate.

Proposition 4 makes urgent investments in proven solutions to protect our communities, health, and economy. It addresses threats to our iconic landscapes, coast, and wildlife before the damage becomes too costly and unmanageable.

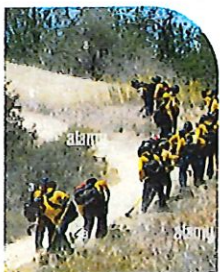
Prop 4 tackles our most urgent needs today, helping us protect California and what makes our state so special.

Prevent Devastating Wildfires and Smoke

Recent California wildfires have burned over 2 million acres, affecting our quality of life and health. A UCLA study found that 10 years of wildfire smoke have caused 50,000 premature deaths and \$400 billion in economic losses.

YES on 4 is a major step forward, investing in proven strategies to detect, prevent, and reduce the intensity and spread of fires in every region. In 2024, we've seen the return of huge, damaging fires that strain our state's capacity to respond.

- **Protects communities** by creating natural breaks and removing burnable brush around populated areas
- **Increases forest health** to reduce wildfire intensity



- **Improves early detection** and disaster response, deploying detection and early warning systems
- **Enhances safety** by upgrading available firefighting equipment, emergency communications, evacuation routes, and shelter availability

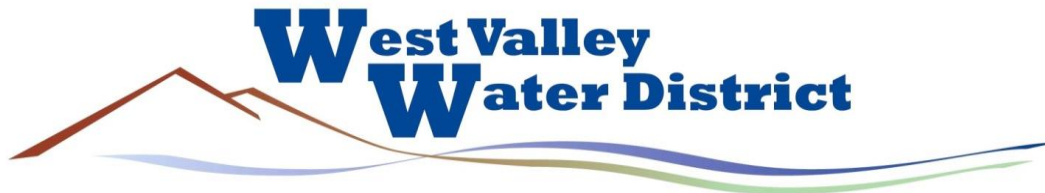
Provide Safe, Reliable Drinking Water & Boosting Supplies

We can't take our water supplies for granted. A changing climate, more frequent droughts, crumbling infrastructure, and water pollution are putting our supplies under pressure. A recent state study found that a changing climate could reduce key water sources more than 20% in the years ahead.

YES on 4 addresses these water supply challenges and takes important steps to clean our water and safeguard it from pollution.

- **Upgrades vital water** infrastructure
- **Fixes crumbling dams** and levees
- **Restores groundwater** supplies
- **Increases local water** recycling programs
- **Increases stormwater** capture
- **Provides water treatment** to filter harmful contaminants like lead, PFAS chemicals, and perchlorate





**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

DATE: September 30, 2024
TO: External Affairs Committee
FROM: Socorro Pantaleon, Gov't and Legislative Affairs Manager
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

BACKGROUND:

West Valley Water District (WVWD) is committed to working with stakeholders and representatives in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. to effectively communicate legislative priorities and support our mission to provide ratepayers with safe, high quality and reliable water service at a reasonable rate. The policy's purpose is to guide District officials and staff in considering legislative or regulatory proposals that are likely to impact the District.

The purpose of identifying Legislative principles is to provide clear direction to District staff regarding monitoring and acting upon bills during state and federal legislative sessions. Adherence to the Legislative Principles will ensure that legislative request and responses will be administered consistently with “one voice”.

DISCUSSION:

To be effective and engaged these guiding principles will allow staff in coordination with our State and Federal Lobbyist to in a timely and effectively manner respond to legislative alerts from ACWA, CSDA and other advocacy groups to be a voice in the water industry. The overall strategy for the 2024-2025 legislative session is to ensure and enhance WVWD’s operations and efficiency through the support or opposition of relevant legislation or policy initiatives.

The review of the legislative principles take into consideration: **best practices, legislative advocacy norms and lobbyist contract scope.** Staff worked with our state lobbyist (California Strategies) to ensure that the priorities within this document align with the district’s strategic plan.

A legislative workshop was held on September 14, 2024 to discuss the document and for the Board of Directors to provide feedback on the review of the legislative principles.

Attached as **Exhibit A** are the proposed Legislative Principles.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the committee provide feedback to the legislative principles.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. 2024-2025 Legislative Principles

Title	Content	Comments
<p>Title</p> <p>Introduction</p>	<p>West Valley Water Districts Legislative Principles</p> <p>West Valley Water District (WVWD) recognizes the importance of an active legislative program to protect and advocate for the interests of its customers in a timely matter. This program aims to address the challenges posed by proposed legislation, define desired outcomes, and determine positions on issues impacting the region that align with our strategic plan adopted by the district.</p> <p>As is standard practice, all proposed legislation and recommendation will be presented to External Affairs at their regularly scheduled meetings.</p> <p>In some cases, legislative positions of the District are required prior to a schedule External Affairs Committee meeting. In times where action is required prior to a scheduled External Affairs meeting, staff will follow an “Urgent Review Protocol”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will present a summary of the proposed legislation with the recommendation to the External Affairs Committee members and copy the General Manager for their recommendation. • If the External Affairs Committee is unavailable due to time constraints, the information will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for their consideration. 	<p>Due to recent changes to the Strategic Plan, a minor modification is being made to include strategic pan goals including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity, Equity, Inclusion • Transparency • Advancing District initiatives • Customer Connection NEW!! <p>Info presented based on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practice • Legislative advocacy norms • Lobbyist contract scope

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Once approved, the recommendation will be ready for the General Manager’s signature. <p>All positions taken on behalf of the District will be reported to the full Board. These legislative principles will be reviewed on an annual basis.</p>	
	DISTRICT ROLES	
Board of Directors	<p>Participates in meetings with legislators, agency representatives, and other stakeholders on behalf of WVWD.</p> <p>Review and advise on adopting a legislative platform for the incoming legislative year.</p> <p>Refrain from taking policy positions on behalf of WVWD, unless adopted by the full Board. Directors can take positions as private citizens of the community.</p>	
General Manager and Public Outreach and Government Affairs Staff	<p>Maintain a list of proposed legislation that may affect WVWD, its customers, and stakeholders.</p> <p>Monitor bills and work with associations such as, but not limited to: Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), American Water Works Association (AWWA), California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) and local water agencies.</p> <p>Work with our wholesale and local retail agencies to advocate on behalf of the needs of the region.</p>	

	<p>Submit letters and give direction to lobbyists to advocate on behalf of WVWD in a timely manner.</p> <p>Participate in weekly meetings with lobbyists and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Establish relationships with stakeholders, legislators, staff and others on behalf of WVWD’s advocacy efforts.</p>	
Lobbyists	<p>Provide regular reports to staff and members of the external affairs committee on appropriate bills.</p> <p>Advise staff on State and Federal legislation, relevant budget impacts, funding opportunities, and issues that directly or indirectly impact WVWD in a timely manner.</p> <p>As necessary, attend hearings and provide testimony on behalf of WVWD, as directed by staff.</p> <p>Maintain relationships with legislators, stakeholders and staff on behalf of WVWD.</p> <p>Maintain regular meetings with WVWD.</p> <p>Provide End of the Year update to WVWD Board of Directors.</p>	
Summary of the positions considered by	<p>When considering legislative or regulatory proposals, the Board may support or oppose based on the adopted policy principles.</p>	

<p>WVWD staff and Board of Directors</p>	<p>Actions that can be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● SUPPORT: This position reflects the District’s interest in seeing the legislation become law. District staff and legislative advocates will work for passage of the bill in its present form.● SUPPORT IF AMENDED: This is an affirmative position that suggests conditional support for a measure, but only if it is amended to incorporate specific amendments that directly address District priorities. Staff and legislative advocates will not advocate in support of the legislation unless it is amended as requested by the District.● WATCH: Take no action but monitor the bill to see if any amendments are added that may impact the District.● OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED: This is a position that suggests conditional opposition to a measure, unless it is amended to incorporate specific amendments that directly address District priorities. District staff and legislative advocates will not advocate in opposition to the legislation if it is amended as requested by the District.● OPPOSE: This position reflects the District’s interest in defeating the legislation. WVWD staff and legislative advocates will work for defeat of the measure in its present form and will not pursue amendments to address the measure’s shortcomings.	
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WVWD 2024-2025 Legislative Priorities

Legislative Priority	Content	Link to Strategic Plan	Comments
Water Supply Reliability	<p>Support measures to expand surface and groundwater supply.</p> <p>Support legislation that enhances water reliability for the region and to the water supplies of West Valley Water District.</p> <p>Support funding, resources, and projects that promote sustainability and resiliency.</p> <p><i>Advocate for projects and initiatives that secure long-term water resources, including infrastructure improvements and new water sources.</i></p>	<p>Manage and Deliver a Safe, Reliable, and Sustainable Water Supply</p>	
Water-Use Efficiency	<p>Support legislation that encourages attainable water efficiency standards & best practices.</p>	<p>Manage and Deliver a Safe, Reliable, and Sustainable Water Supply</p>	

	<p>Support funding for cost-effective water use efficiency and conservation measures.</p> <p>Support the implementation of advanced water technologies and practices that reduce water usage.</p> <p>Support public awareness campaigns to educate customers about the importance of water conservation.</p>		
<p>Local Control</p>	<p>Support legislation that is beneficial to Special Districts.</p> <p>Support legislation that expands options for local supply development.</p> <p>Oppose a “public goods charge” or “water tax” on public water agencies or their customers.</p> <p>Oppose measures that may impede the district's ability to maintain day-to-day operations.</p> <p>Support legislative and regulatory efforts that minimize cost impacts of</p>	<p>Develop and Grow Effective Communication and Advocacy Practices</p>	

	<p>new or expanded regulations and discourage measures that impose an undue burden on customers.</p> <p>Oppose legislation that pushes for a “one-size fits all” policy</p>		
<p>Strategic Partnership and Coalition Building</p>	<p>Promote collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies to achieve common goals and address shared challenges.</p> <p>Support initiatives that foster partnerships with other water districts, community organizations, and stakeholders.</p> <p>Advocate for policies that encourage resource sharing and joint projects to improve regional water management and service delivery.</p>	<p>Strengthen Partnerships with Outside Agencies</p>	
<p>Workforce</p>	<p>Support legislation that creates workforce and training opportunities in the water industry.</p> <p>Support legislation that addresses economic equity across the water/wastewater industry and</p>	<p>Be an Exemplary Employer</p>	

	<p>encourages more protected class inclusion.</p> <p>Support regional efforts/programs that strengthen the water industry and its workforce.</p>		
<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion</p>	<p>Endorse initiatives that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the water industry and community.</p> <p>Advocate for investments and funding allocations that promote a fair and equitable funding process for the public, ensuring diversity and equity considerations for disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>Support policies that ensure equitable access to water services for all customers, regardless of background or socioeconomic status.</p> <p>Advocate for representation and inclusion of diverse voices in decision-making processes.</p>	<p>Public Trust & Integrity</p>	

<p>Transparency</p>	<p>Support legislation that allows for greater public access to public meetings.</p> <p>Support measures that encourage the streamlining of processes to respond to public records requests.</p> <p>Support measures that protect and advance local governance and transparency.</p> <p>Advocate for practices that build trust and accountability between WVWD and its customers.</p>	<p>Public Trust and Integrity</p>	
<p>Advancing District initiatives</p>	<p>Protect local revenue sources and reserve funds.</p> <p>Maintain local government control over the rate-setting process.</p> <p>Prioritize cybersecurity to protect sensitive information and ensure compliance with legislative regulations related to data privacy and security.</p> <p>Use Information Technology (IT) tools to facilitate collaboration and</p>	<p>Effective Financial Stewardship</p> <p>Sound Planning, Innovation, and Best Practices</p>	

	<p>communication within the district and with external stakeholders.</p> <p>Embrace digital transformation initiatives to modernize processes and improve service delivery to our customers.</p>		
Water- Energy Nexus	<p>Support funding opportunities for investment in backup energy storage and other infrastructure needs to prepare public agencies to address Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events.</p> <p>Support preparation for broader deployment of zero-emission fleet vehicles and support efforts to manage energy use.</p>	<p>Sound Planning, Innovation, and Best Practices</p> <p>Health, Safety, and Regulatory Compliance</p>	
Access to Safe Affordable Drinking Water	<p>Support sensible, long-term solutions to assist disadvantaged communities with reliable access to safe, affordable drinking water.</p> <p>Oppose measures that impose fees on drinking water that would increase cost.</p>	<p>Manage and Deliver a Safe, Reliable, and Sustainable Water Supply</p>	

<p>Water Quality</p>	<p>Support measures that promote innovative technologies.</p> <p>Support measures that promote advanced water technologies and practices that reduce water usage.</p> <p>Support measures that promote environmental stewardship, consistent with District’s mission and water rights.</p> <p>Support sound science & transparent regulatory processes in establishing drinking water standards.</p> <p>Advocate for funding and resources to address emerging contaminants and improve water treatment processes.</p> <p>Promote policies that protect water sources from pollution and degradation.</p>	<p>Manage and Deliver a Safe, Reliable, and Sustainable Water Supply</p> <p>Health, Safety, and Regulatory Compliance</p>	
<p>Customer Connection</p>	<p>Support initiatives that improve communication and responsiveness to customer needs and concerns.</p>	<p>Superior Customer Service</p>	

	<p>Support initiatives that promote water awareness campaigns in the region to educate our customers on the value of water.</p> <p>Advocate for the implementation of technologies and practices that streamline customer interactions and service delivery.</p>		
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