



**WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
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**POLICY REVIEW AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President Gregory Young, 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. Updates to the Policy Review and Oversight Committee
2. Paid Family Leave Policy
3. Legislative Principles

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 November 14, 2024.

Elvia Dominguez

Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary

Date Posted: November 14, 2024



STAFF REPORT

DATE: November 20, 2024
TO: Policy Review and Oversight Committee
FROM: Haydee Sainz, Human Resources & Risk Manager
SUBJECT: Paid Family Leave Policy

MEETING HISTORY:

A comprehensive benefits packages can be used to attract and retain talent. Family friendly policies are highly valued by employees. Paid Family Leave (PFL) is a benefit that provides partial income replacement to eligible workers who have a full or partial loss of wages due to the need to care for a seriously ill or injured family member, to bond with a new child, or to participate in a qualifying event as a result of a family member's military deployment to a foreign country.

Protecting employees' jobs and pay while they manage personal family issues increases employee retention, reduces turnover, and enhances recruitment efforts. It is also essential to ensure that all workers can meet their health and family needs without jeopardizing their employment and income. Research shows that paid leave increases the likelihood that workers will return to work after childbirth, improves employee morale, and has neutral or positive effects on workplace productivity.

District employees currently pay for California State Disability Insurance (SDI) contributions from their paychecks (approximately 1.1% of taxable wages), which also includes Paid Family Leave. The District collects these contributions and sends them to the State and the State administers the program.

The District will be withdrawing employees from California State Disability Insurance and replacing it with The Standard Short-Term and Long-Term Disability plan because it is a more robust benefit and costs would be paid by the District. This proposed policy will also provide employees with a Self-Administered Paid Family Leave that mirrors the State's program.

DISCUSSION:

Offering a comprehensive benefits package is an important tool for the District to retain employees and be competitive and attractive to qualified candidates. Staff continues to seek and evaluate new benefits that will enhance the compensation package for employees. Paid Family Leave is an additional family friendly policy that is highly valued by the workforce because it supports employee work-life balance.

The District will be transitioning into a Short-Term Disability and Long-Term Disability insurance offered through The Standard. This only covers short-term cash benefits to employees who can't work due to a non-work-related injury, illness, or pregnancy, it does **NOT** include PFL. When considering a PFL program, staff evaluated and analyzed different funding structures and determined that a self-insured program is best suited for the District based on usage and costs in comparison to a private insurance.

The proposed Paid Family Leave Program would provide partial income replacement to eligible employees who have a full or partial loss of wages due to the need to care for a seriously ill or injured family member, to bond with a new child, or to participate in a qualifying event as a result of a family member's military deployment to a foreign country. The District's proposed program aligns with the State's PFL program and would provide the following benefits:

- Up to 8 weeks of paid benefits.
- 70% of base salary.
- Leave can be taken continuously or intermittently.

To be eligible, an employee must:

- Be a permanent employee of the District.
- Have earned at least \$300 in wages from the District within the 12 months immediately preceding the PFL start date.
- Have lost wages due to the need to provide care for a seriously injured or ill family member, to bond with a child or to participate in a qualifying event resulting from a family member's military deployment to a foreign country.

Lastly, PFL can be used in conjunction with other applicable leaves such as Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), California Family Rights Act (CFRA), and Pregnancy Disability Leave (PDL).

If approved by the Board of Directors, the program would go into effect January 1, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The District will pay approximately \$75,000 for STD and LTD for all employees. Similar to the Insurance programs (liability and worker's compensation), the District must set aside \$35,000 at all times in the event of a claim for benefits. This amount was determined based on an actuarial and working with Keenan and Associates, the District's benefit broker. There are sufficient funds within the Human Resources budget to meet this requirement. Eligible employees can use this benefit at no cost to them.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Committee forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors approve the proposed self-insured Paid Family Leave Program, which will become effective January 1, 2025.

Attachments

[WVWD Paid Family Leave Policy PFL 11.2024.pdf](#)

[PAID_FAMILY_LEAVE_POLICY FORMS 2024 \(DRAFT\).pdf](#)

1610. PAID FAMILY LEAVE (PFL)

The purpose of this section is to set forth the District's Policy as it pertains to Paid Family Leave (PFL) provisions for regular, full-time employees. Employees should refer to the District's leave policies for questions concerning eligibility for leave or rights pertaining to the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and/or the California Family Rights Act (CFRA).

Public Agencies, including Districts, are not required to participate in SDI and by extension PFL (refer to the DE 231SC). Therefore, authority to provide PFL resides with the District.

The purpose of this policy is to define the District's policies and procedures regarding the provision of the PFL benefit. This policy does not entitle employees to "job protection" during their period of absence.

Health Benefits. PFL provides only partial wage replacement when you need to take time off work for family leave. You may have rights under other laws, such as the FMLA or the CFRA. The District will maintain the health care coverage of employees on FMLA or CFRA leave on the same terms as before leave began.

Eligibility. All permanent employees who meet the below qualifications of the District shall be eligible for benefits under the District's PFL plan as applicable with the Personnel Policies and Procedures. An employee's eligibility for the provisions of this policy terminates at midnight on the date of termination of the employer-employee relationship; or at midnight on the fifteenth day following a leave of absence without pay; or on termination of this policy.

PFL military assist benefit payments are only available to eligible family members to participate in qualifying events. PFL military assist benefits are not available for the military member.

To qualify for PFL leave, an employee must:

1. Meet the District's definition for eligibility and be covered by the Personnel Policies and Procedures specifying PFL benefits.
2. Take time off from work to care for a seriously ill family member, to bond with a new child or to participate in a qualifying military event.
3. Have earned at least \$300 in wages from the District within the 12 months immediately preceding the PFL start date.
4. Submit your claim no later than 41 days after you begin your family leave. Do not file before your first day of leave.

An employee who is off work to care for a child, spouse, parent, registered domestic partner, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, or parent-in-law with a serious health condition, or to bond with a new child, may be eligible to receive benefits through the District's PFL program.

Process. Employees must submit a completed PFL request form to human resources. Employees may be required to provide substantiated documents. If approved, employees must code the time via payroll. When an employee applies for PFL benefits, the human resources manager will determine if the employee has any accrued but unused paid time off, other than sick time, available. If the employee has accrued but unused paid time off, other than sick time, available, then the employee will be required to use up to two (2) weeks of such time before becoming eligible for PFL benefits.

Employees who need to take time off work to care for a child, spouse, parent, registered domestic partner, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, or parent-in-law with a serious health condition or to bond with a new child may contact the human resources manager for information about the District's PFL program and how to apply for benefits. Employees should maintain regular contact with the human resources manager while absent from work so we may monitor employees' return-to-work status. In addition, employees should contact the human resources manager when ready to return to work so we may determine what positions, if any, are open.

Benefits. Benefits are payable through payroll via designated earnings/hour code. Eligible employees may be entitled to the following PFL benefits:

1. The minimum basic amount payable shall be no less than \$50.00 per week.
2. The maximum weekly benefit amount that an employee can receive when on PFL will be \$1,620 per week.
3. The maximum duration of PFL is up to eight (8) weeks.
4. If eligible, employees will receive 70% of wages for PFL.
5. These benefit amounts are available for a 12-month period, based on a rolling calendar, look-back period.

Interaction with California Sick Leave.

Subject to the provisions of the Personnel Policies and Procedures and Section 233 of the California Labor Code an employee is entitled to supplement up to one-half (currently 48 hours) of their annually accrued paid sick time under this policy if:

1. The leave is to attend to the illness of a child, spouse, parent, registered domestic partner or Designated Person.
2. The leave is to bond with a new child, leave can be taken anytime within the first 12 months of a child entering your family
3. After exhausting the allotted sick leave, if eligible, the employee must exhaust their leave banks in the following order:

- a. Administrative Leave;
- b. Floating Holiday;
- c. Comp time;
- d. Vacation.

Coordination of Leave. Employees may coordinate this family leave benefit with other accrued leave balances (Vacation, Sick, Comp Time, Floating Holiday). At no time, however, shall coordination result in payment to the employee of more than one hundred percent (100%) of that employee's "normal" base wages payable.

Probationary Period. If the employee was serving a probationary period at the time of a PFL period, the remainder of the probationary period must be completed.

Reinstatement. Employees taking time off work to care for a child, spouse, parent, registered domestic partner, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, or parent-in-law with a serious health condition or to bond with a new child are not guaranteed job reinstatement unless they qualify for such reinstatement under federal or California family and medical leave laws. Any time off for Paid Family Leave purposes will run concurrently with other leaves of absence, such as Family and Medical Leave/California Family Rights Act Leave or California New Parent Leave, if applicable. Please see the FMLA/CFRA policies for eligibility requirements.

State and Federal Taxes. Your PFL benefits are taxable and reportable on your federal return only. For state taxes, PFL benefit payments are not reportable by California pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code Section 17083.

Legal. If any paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this policy is held unlawful or invalid for any reason, said unlawfulness or invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions of this policy. Overall daily administration, application, and periodic review of this policy shall be the responsibility of the Human Resources Department.



Request for Paid Family Leave (PFL) Benefits - *Please return this form to the Human Resources Department*

Part A. STATEMENT OF EMPLOYEE		
Name	ID	
Phone	Email Address	
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Date you want family leave benefit to begin:	Return to work date:	
Reason for Requesting family leave benefit: <input type="checkbox"/> Care for Family Member <input type="checkbox"/> Bond with child <input type="checkbox"/> Military Assist		
Do you have more than one employer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Relationship of care, bonding, or military assist recipient: <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Grand child <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Parent-in-law <input type="checkbox"/> Sibling <input type="checkbox"/> Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
Do you anticipate this to be an intermittent claim? Yes No		
If yes, please provide further details:		
<p>DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE. By my signature on this claim statement I (1) claim Paid Family Leave benefits and certify that throughout the period covered by this claim I was providing care for, bonding with, or participating in a qualifying event with the recipient named above; (2) authorize Human Resources to release my personal information as shown on this claim to the care recipient's treating physician as they are respectively listed in Part C and Part D of this claim; and (3) authorize release and use of information as stated in the "Information Collection and Access" portion of this form.. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statement including any accompanying statements is to the best of my knowledge and belief true correct and complete. I agree that photocopies of this authorization shall be as valid as the original and I understand that authorizations contained in this claim statement are granted for a period of fifteen years from the date of my signature or the effective date of the claim, whichever is later.</p>		
Signature	Date	



Request for Paid Family Leave (PFL) Benefits - *Please return this form to the Human Resources Department*

PART B - BONDING CERTIFICATION (To be completed by Person Claiming PFL Benefits to Bond with a Child)			
EMPLOYEE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:		EMPLOYEE LEGAL LAST NAME:	
LEGAL NAME OF CHILD:			
CHILD'S GENDER: Male Female		CHILD'S DATE OF BIRTH:	(IF APPLICABLE) DATE OF FOSTER CARE OR ADOPTION PLACEMENT:
EVIDENCE OF RELATIONSHIP, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING AND ATTACH A COPY OF THE DOCUMENT CHECKED. (DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENT. IT WILL NOT BE RETURNED.)			
<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE <input type="checkbox"/> DECLARATION OF PATERNITY, CS-909 <input type="checkbox"/> FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT RECORDS, SOC 815		<input type="checkbox"/> INDEPENDENT ADOPTION PLACEMENT AGREEMENT, AD-924 <input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATE OF PLACEMENT, AD-907 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE. By my signature on this bonding certification, I authorize the medical provider, adoption agency, adoption party (ies), or foster care placement agency to disclose to Human Resources Department all facts concerning the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of the above-named child. I understand that willfully making a false statement or concealing a material fact in order to obtain payment of benefits is a violation of California law punishable by imprisonment or fine or both. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statement, including any accompanying statements or documents, is to the best of knowledge and belief true, correct, and complete. I agree that photocopies of his authorization shall be as valid as the original, and I understand that authorizations contained in this claim statement are granted for a period of fifteen years from the date of my signature or the effective date of the claim, whichever is later.			
SIGNATURE		DATE	
PART C - STATEMENT OF CARE RECIPIENT			
(May be completed by authorized representative if care recipient is mentally or physical unable to do so. MUST be signed by care recipient or care recipient's authorized representative.)			
Recipient's Date of Birth:		Recipient's Telephone Number:	
LEGAL NAME OF CARE RECIPIENT:		RECIPIENT'S GENDER:	
CARE RECIPIENT'S RESIDENCE ADDRESS:			
City	STATE:	ZIP:	
HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT AUTHORIZATION. I authorize any physician, practitioner, hospital, vocational rehabilitation counselor, or workers' compensation insurance carrier to furnish and disclose to my care provider, who is the claimant name and described in Part A of this claim, and to the Human Resources Department all facts concerning my condition that are within their knowledge and to allow inspection of and provide copies of any medical and billing records concerning my condition that are under their control. I understand that the Human Resources Department may disclose information as authorized by the California Unemployment Insurance Code and that such redisclosed information may no longer be protected by this rule. I agree that photocopies of this authorization shall be as valid as the original. I understand that, unless revoked by me in writing, this authorization is valid for fifteen years from the date received by the Disability & UI Department or the effective date of the claim, whichever is later. I understand that I may not revoke this authorization to avoid prosecution or to prevent the Disability & UI Department's recovery of monies to which it is legally entitled.			
SIGNATURE		DATE	



Request for Paid Family Leave (PFL) Benefits - *Please return this form to the Human Resources Department*

DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATION MAY BE MADE BY A LICENSED MEDICAL OR OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, CHIROPRACTOR, DENTIST, PODIATRIST, OPTOMETRIST, DESIGNATED PSYCHOLOGIST, OR AN AUTHORIZED MEDICAL OFFICE OF A UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FACILITY.

PART D DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATION (DO NOT COMPLETE THIS PART IF REASON FOR PFL LEASE IS BONDING WITH CHILD)		
CLAIMANT'S (CARE PROVIDER'S) SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:	CLAIMANT'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST):	
PATIENT'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST):		
PATIENT'S DATE OF BIRTH:	DOES YOUR PATIENT REQUIRE CARE BY THE CARE PROVIDER? (Yes/No)	
DIAGNOSIS OR, IF NOT YET DETERMINED, A DETAILED STATEMENT OF SYMPTOMS:		
PRIMARY ICD CODE:	SECONDARY ICD CODES:	DATE PATIENT'S CONDITION COMMENCED:
FIRST DATE CARE NEEDED:	DATE YOU ESTIMATE PATIENT WILL NO LONGER REQUIRE CARE BY THE CARE PROVIDER:	
APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY TOTAL HOURS:	Comments:	
WOULD DISCLOSURE OF THIS CERTIFICATE TO YOUR PATIENT BE MEDICALLY OR PSYCHOLOGICALLY DETRIMENTAL?		
DOCTOR'S LICENSE NUMBER:	STATE OR COUNTRY (IF NOT U.S.A.) IN WHICH DOCTOR IS LICENSED TO PRACTICE:	
DOCTOR'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST):		
DOCTOR'S ADDRESS (POST OFFICE BOX IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AS THE SOLE ADDRESS):		
City:	State	Zip
TYPE OF DOCTOR:	SPECIALTY (IF ANY):	
Doctor's Certification and Signature (REQUIRED): I certify under penalty of perjury that, based on my examination, this Doctor's Certificate truly describes the patient's condition and needed for care and the estimated duration thereof.		
ORIGINAL SIGNATURE OF ATTENDING DOCTOR - RUBBER STAMP IS NOT ACCEPTABLE:		Date:

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO: West Valley Water District, Human Resources Department 855 W. Baseline Rd. Rialto, CA 92377



STAFF REPORT

DATE: November 20, 2024
TO: Policy Review and Oversight Committee
FROM: Socorro Pantaleon, Public Outreach & Government Affairs Manager
SUBJECT: Legislative Principles

MEETING HISTORY:

09/14/2024: Board of Directors Legislative Workshop
09/30/2024: External Affairs Committee referred to Policy and Oversight Committee
10/15/2024: Presented to Policy and Oversight Committee

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.

On September 30, 2024 the External Affairs Committee supported Version 1 (Exhibit A) of the Legislative Principles that reflect industry norms for best advocacy practice.

10/15/2024: The External Affairs Committee supported Version (Exhibit A) that would support legislative norms but ensure that the Board of Directors are informed of all positions taken in a timely manner.

The Policy and Oversight Committee asked to bring back the item at the next committee meeting with a Legislative Principles flow chart that would show the legislative process. (Exhibit B).

Exhibit C: Principles adopted by the Board of Directors 11/3/2022.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the committee forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

Attachments

[Exhibit A - Proposed 2024-2025 Legislative Principles](#)

[Exhibit B - Leg Principles Flow Chart.pdf](#)

[Exhibit C - 2022-2024 Legislative Principles.pdf](#)

EXHIBIT A

WVWD 2024-2025 Legislative Principles

Title	Content	Comments
Introduction	<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>Developed by Public Outreach and Government Affairs in conjunction with, Lobbyist, management and the Board of Directors, this document strives to cover the District’s anticipated needs and its positions for the legislative term.</p> <p>By adopting this platform, West Valley Water District’s Board of Directors sets a clear direction for staff to adopt official district positions on clearly stated legislative issues throughout the year. By doing this, the legislative approval process is streamlined by receiving clear direction at the beginning of the legislative session from the Board on pertinent legislative issues.</p> <p>On both federal and state levels, West Valley may support legislative proposals, policies, and regulatory actions that are consistent with the Platform. WVWD may oppose those legislative proposals, policies, and regulatory actions that are inconsistent with Platform. In cases where a legislative proposal, policy, or regulatory action is not a priority for WVWD but may affect the water industry, WVWD may choose to take a “watch” position.</p> <p>Any legislative positions and/or actions that are deemed as potentially “controversial” by the General Manager will be presented to the Board for further action. Generally, WVWD will not address matters that are not pertinent to West Valley’s services, such as social or international issues. Items not addressed in the Platform or Priorities may require further Board direction.</p> <p>For proposed legislation, consistent with West Valley’s Legislative Platform, WVWD staff shall be authorized to prepare position letters for the General Manager’s signature. The General Manager or the Government Affairs Manager will inform the Board of Directors of WVWD's actions through written communication to the Board of Directors on advocacy efforts.</p> <p>There may be issues that arise that are not addressed in this platform or on which the Board may change its position. It is anticipated that staff will continue to interact with the Board to ensure the iterative process necessary to ensure that the advocacy needs of WVWD are met.</p> <p>Throughout the year, the Board may also take additional steps to direct staff to oppose or support policy initiatives as they arise.</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), Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC) 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 WVWD staff	<p>When considering legislative or regulatory proposals, the Board may support or oppose based on the adopted policy principles.</p> <p>Actions that can be taken:</p>	

<p>and Board of Directors</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><i>Manage and Deliver a Safe, Reliable, and Sustainable Water Supply</i></p>	
Water-Use Efficiency	<p>Support legislation that encourages attainable water efficiency standards & best practices.</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><i>Manage and Deliver a Safe, Reliable, and Sustainable Water Supply</i></p>	
Local Control	<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><i>Support legislative and regulatory efforts that minimize cost impacts of new or expanded regulations and discourage measures that impose an undue burden on customers.</i></p> <p><i>Oppose legislation that pushes for a “one-size fits all” policy</i></p>	<p><i>Develop and Grow Effective Communication and Advocacy Practices</i></p>	
Strategic Partnership and Coalition Building	<p><i>Promote collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies to achieve common goals and address shared challenges.</i></p> <p><i>Support initiatives that foster partnerships with other water districts, community organizations, and stakeholders.</i></p>	<p><i>Strengthen Partnerships with Outside Agencies</i></p>	

	Advocate for policies that encourage resource sharing and joint projects to improve regional water management and service delivery.		
Workforce	<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 encourages more protected class inclusion.</p> <p>Support regional efforts/programs that strengthen the water industry and its workforce.</p>	Be an Exemplary Employer	
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	<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>	Public Trust & Integrity	
Transparency	<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>	Public Trust and Integrity	
Advancing District initiatives	<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 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>	<p>Effective Financial Stewardship</p> <p>Sound Planning, Innovation, and Best Practices</p>	

<p>Water- Energy Nexus</p>	<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>	
<p>Access to Safe Affordable Drinking Water</p>	<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>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>	<p>Superior Customer Service</p>	

EXHIBIT B

Legislative

Principles Flow

Chart

Legislative Roadmap

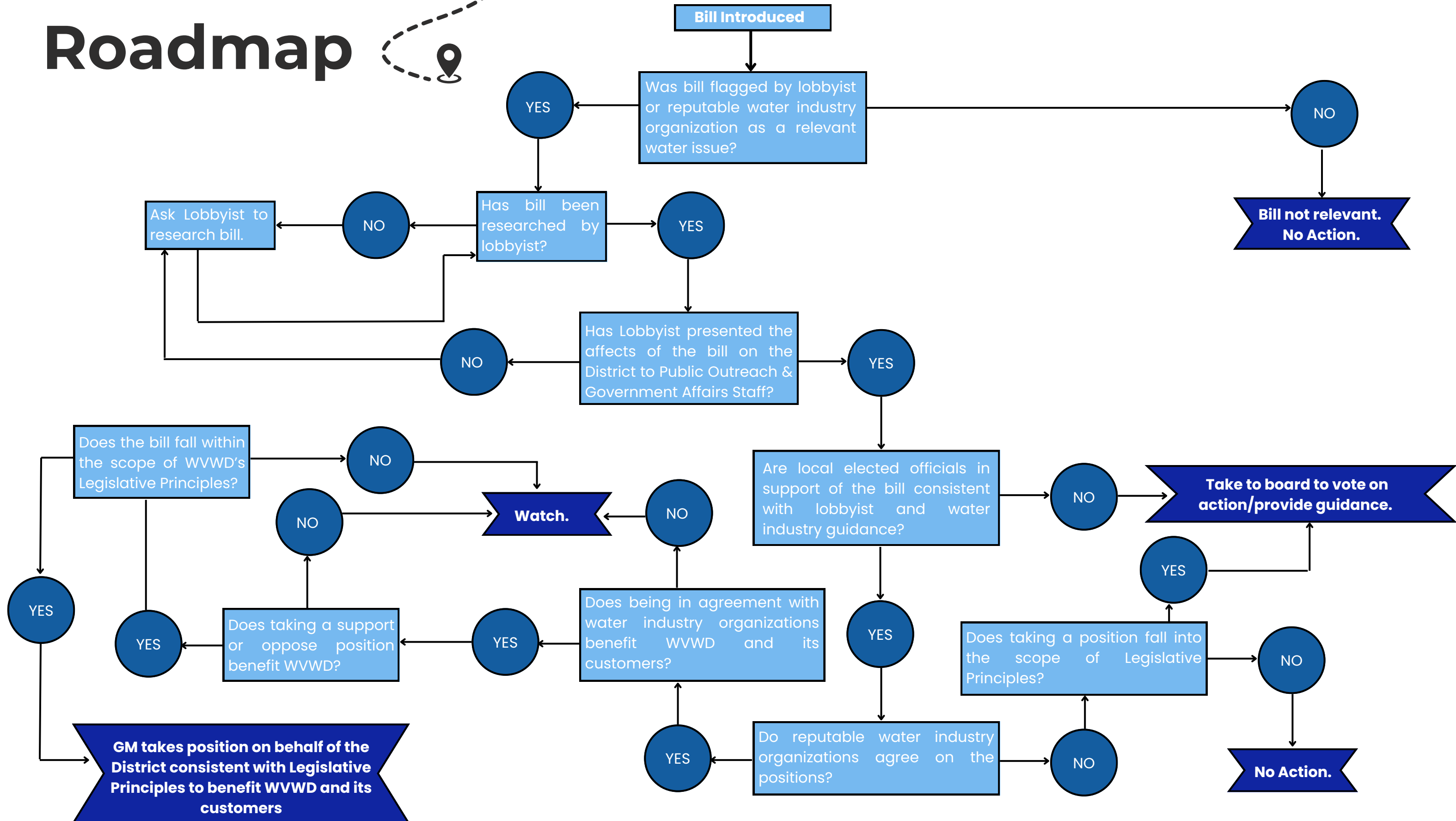
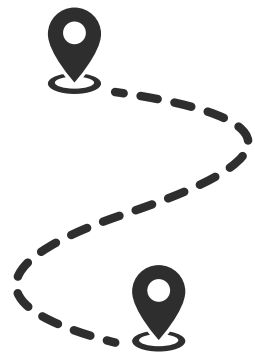


EXHIBIT C

WVWD 2022-2024 Legislative Principles

Title	Content	Comments
Summary	<p>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.</p> <p>The policy's purpose is to guide District officials and staff in considering legislative or regulatory proposals that are likely to impact the District.</p> <p>The purpose of identifying Legislative principles is to provide clear direction to District staff with regard to monitoring and acting upon bills during state and federal legislative sessions. Adherence to the Legislative Principles will ensure that legislative requests and responses will be administered consistently with “one voice”.</p> <p>When considering legislative or regulatory proposals, the District may support or oppose based on the adopted policy principles. In cases where a legislative proposal, policy, or regulatory action is not a priority for the District but may affect the water industry, the District may choose to take a “watch” position. There are also situations when the District may choose to take a position on a bill only if amendments are made.</p> <p>For proposed legislation, either consistent with the District’s principles or with legislative positions the District has taken, staff will prepare position letters for the General Manager’s signature. Items not addressed in the principles may require further Board direction. Any legislative positions and/or actions that are deemed as potentially “controversial” by the General Manager will be presented to the External Affairs Committee and the Board of Directors, if needed, for further action.</p>	

	DISTRICT ROLES	
Board of Directors	<p>Participates in meetings with legislators, agency representatives, and other stakeholders</p> <p>Testify on behalf of WVWD, as needed.</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), and local water agencies.</p> <p>Submit letters and give direction to lobbyist to help advocate for or against issues.</p> <p>Make further recommendations and or seek further direction from the external affairs committee, if a bill does not fall under the scope of the legislative principles or is a politically controversial issue.</p> <p>Participate in meetings with lobbyist 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>	
Summary	<p>When considering legislative or regulatory proposals, the District may support or oppose based on the adopted policy principles. In cases where a legislative proposal, policy, or regulatory action is not a priority for the District but may affect the water industry, the District may choose to choose to take a “watch” position. There are also situations when the District may choose to take a position on a bill only if amendments are made.</p>	

	For proposed legislation, either consistent with the District’s principles or with legislative positions the District has taken, staff will prepare position letters for the General Manager’s signature. Items not addressed in the principles may require further Board direction. Any legislative positions and/or actions that are deemed as potentially “controversial” by the General Manager will be presented to the External Affairs Committee and the Board of Directors, if needed, for further action.	
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WVWD 2024-2025 Legislative Priorities

Legislative Priority	Content	Comments
Workforce	<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 encourages more protected class inclusion.</p> <p>Support regional efforts/programs that strengthen the water industry and its workforce.</p>	
Local Government	<p>Support legislation that is beneficial to special districts.</p> <p>Support Local Governance And Transparency.</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 ratepayers.</p> <p>Oppose measures that may impede the district's ability to maintain day-to-day operations.</p>	
Water Supply Reliability	<p>Support measures to expand surface and groundwater supply.</p> <p>Support legislation that supports 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>Support Investment in local water supplies to reduce reliance on the delta.</p>	

Water Quality	<p>Support measures that promote innovative technologies.</p> <p>Support measures that promote environmental stewardship.</p> <p>Support sound science & transparent regulatory processes in establishing drinking water standards</p>	
Finance	<p>Protect local revenue sources and reserve funds.</p> <p>Maintain local government control over the rate-setting process.</p> <p>Support funding for cost-effective water use efficiency and conservation measures.</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 events.</p> <p>Support preparation for broader deployment of zero-emission fleet vehicles and support efforts to manage energy use.</p> <p>Support expanded definitions of renewable resources.</p>	
Access to Safe Affordable Drinking Water	<p>Support sensible, long-term solutions to assist disadvantaged communities with increased access to safe, affordable drinking water.</p> <p>Oppose measures that impose fees on drinking water that would increase cost.</p>	
Water-use Efficiency	<p>Support legislation that encourages attainable water efficiency standards & best practices.</p> <p>Support funding for cost-effective water use efficiency and conservation measures.</p>	