



SCV
WATER

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, July 21, 2022
Meeting Begins at 5:30 PM

Members of the public may attend by the following options:

In Person

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
Engineering Services Section
Boardroom
26521 Summit Circle
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

By Phone

Toll Free:
1-(833)-568-8864
Webinar ID: 161 115 0009

Virtually

Please join the meeting from your
computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1611150009>

Have a Public Comment?

Members of the public unable to attend this meeting may submit comments either in writing to ekang@scvwa.org or by mail to Eunie Kang, Executive Assistant, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 26501 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. All written comments received before 4:00 PM the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Committee members and posted on the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency website prior to the start of the meeting. Anything received after 4:00 PM the day of the meeting will be made available at the meeting, if practicable, and will be posted on the SCV Water website the following day. All correspondence with comments, including letters or emails, will be posted in their entirety.

(Public comments take place during Item 2 of the Agenda and before each Item is considered. Please see the Agenda for details.)

This meeting will be recorded and the audio recording for all Committee meetings will be posted to yourscvwater.com within 3 business days from the date of the Committee meeting.

Disclaimer: Attendees should be aware that while the Agency is following all applicable requirements and guidelines regarding COVID-19, the Agency cannot ensure the health of anyone attending a Board meeting. Attendees should therefore use their own judgment with respect to protecting themselves from exposure to COVID-19.

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350
(661) 297-1600

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Date: July 14, 2022

To: **Public Outreach and Legislation Committee**
Jerry Gladbach, Chair
Kathye Armitage
Beth Braunstein
R.J. Kelly
Lynne Plambeck

From: Steve Cole, Assistant General Manager 

The **Public Outreach and Legislation Committee** meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 5:30 PM at 26521 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350 in the Engineering Services Section (ESS) Boardroom.** Members of the public may attend in person or virtually. To attend this meeting virtually, please see below.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

This meeting will be conducted in person at the address listed above. As a convenience to the public, members of the public may also participate virtually by using the **Agency's Call-In Number 1-833-568-8864, Webinar ID: 161 115 0009 or Zoom Webinar by clicking on the <https://scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1611150009>**. Any member of the public may listen to the meeting or make comments to the Committee using the call-in number or Zoom Webinar link above. However, in the event there is a disruption of service which prevents the Agency from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using either the call-in option or internet-based service, this meeting will not be postponed or rescheduled but will continue without remote participation. The remote participation option is being provided as a convenience to the public and is not required. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting in person.

Attendees should be aware that while the Agency is following all applicable requirements and guidelines regarding COVID-19, the Agency cannot ensure the health of anyone attending a Committee meeting. Attendees should therefore use their own judgment with respect to protecting themselves from exposure to COVID-19.

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MEETING AGENDA

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| 1. | <u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u> | |
| 2. | <u>PUBLIC COMMENTS</u> – Members of the public may comment as to items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Agency that are not on the Agenda at this time. Members of the public wishing to comment on items covered in this Agenda may do so at the time each item is considered. (Comments may, at the discretion of the Committee Chair, be limited to three minutes for each speaker.) | |
| 3. | Legislative Consultant Report: | |
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| 4. * | Discussion of Draft Resolution and Initial Implementation Action from the Engagement Gap Analysis | 119 |
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| 6. | Communications Manager Activities: | |
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| * 6.3 | Sponsorship Tracking FY 2022/23 | 219 |
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| 7. | Adjournment | |
| * * | Indicates Attachment | |
| • | Indicates Handout | |

NOTICES:

Any person may make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation needed for that person to be able to participate in the public meeting by telephoning Eunie Kang, Executive Assistant, at (661) 297-1600, or in writing to Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency at 26501 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested. A telephone number or other contact information should be included so that Agency staff may discuss appropriate arrangements. Persons requesting a disability-related accommodation should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the Agency to provide the requested accommodation.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Committee less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection at the Santa Clarita Valley

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Water Agency, located at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350, during regular business hours. When practical, these public records will also be made available on the Agency's Internet Website, accessible at <http://www.yourscvwater.com>.

Posted on July 14, 2022.

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To: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency; Public Outreach & Legislation Committee
From: Van Scoyoc Associates (VSA); Geoff Bowman, Pete Evich, and Ashley Strobel
Date: July 11, 2022
Subject: July 2022 Report

FY2023 Appropriations Update

On June 23, 2022, the House Appropriations Committee marked up and passed the FY2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill on a 31 to 26 vote. Included in the Natural Resource Conservation Service Account of the bill is Representative Garcia's Community Project Funding of \$300,000.00 for the Bouquet Canyon Creek Project. SCV Water sent a thank you note to Congressman Garcia and his staff for including SCV Water in his requests to the Committee. Additionally, the Energy & Water bill passed the Appropriations Committee by a vote of 32 to 26 which includes \$8.9 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, and \$1.9 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation. The House is expected to consider the bills on the Floor during the week of July 18, 2022.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet begun marking up the 12 appropriations bills but is said to begin as early as mid-July. Senator Feinstein requested Congressionally Directed Spending of \$500,000 for the Arundo Removal Project in the Energy and Water bill. Senator Padilla included a \$1 million request for the Arundo Removal Project in the Energy and Water bill and a \$2 million request for the Bouquet Canyon Creek Project in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill. VSA will keep SCV Water apprised as activity on the House bills picks up and on timing of the Senate markups.

EPA Alternative Water Source Program Support Letter

VSA drafted a letter on behalf of SCV Water addressed to Senators Feinstein and Padilla encouraging support for inclusion of funding for the EPA's Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. Senator Padilla's staff informed VSA that the Senator led and sent a support letter for funding for the program to Chairman Merkley and Ranking Member Murkowski of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. Senator Feinstein included her signature on the letter. VSA is monitoring timing of the Senate appropriations markups and will keep SCV Water apprised on the status of funding for this program.

Congressional Leaders File Clean Water Act Amicus Brief to the Supreme Court

On June 27, Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Chair of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, along with 167 other Members of Congress filed an amicus brief on the *Sackett v. EPA* case, which may modify the scope of waterbodies covered under the jurisdiction of the federal Clean Water Act. The brief urges the Court and the federal agencies to uphold former Justice Kennedy's "significant nexus" test interpretation of the waters covered under the federal Clean Water Act. The Supreme Court will begin its 2022-2023 term and hear the case in October 2022.

EPA to Regulate PFAS Chemicals in Drinking Water

On June 15, the EPA updated its health advisory levels lowering PFOA to .004 parts per trillion (ppt) and PFOS to .02 ppt. EPA's 2016 advisory is 70 ppt for either compound or a combination of both. EPA also announced that it has established new health advisories for two other PFAS chemicals: GenX and PFBS. EPA's health advisories set lifetime exposure at 10 ppt for GenX chemicals and 2,000 ppt for PFBS. The Agency's interim drinking water advisories set thresholds that replace the 2016 advisories for PFOA and PFOS. The advisories warn that concentrations of the PFAS chemicals found in drinking water may pose health threats even at levels near zero.

EPA is also issuing final advisories for perfluorobutane sulfonic acid and its potassium salt (PFBS) and for hexafluoropropylene oxide (HPFO) dimer acid and its ammonium salt ("GenX" chemicals). EPA is urging states, tribes, territories, and drinking water utilities with PFAS contamination in drinking water to continue informing residents, conducting additional monitoring of PFAS levels, and sourcing the contamination. The advisories contain technical information for federal, state, and local agencies to help address PFAS in drinking water.

EPA additionally announced it is making available \$5 billion in grant funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities program from FY2022-2026. The program encourages small and underserved communities to apply for the initial \$1 billion in FY2022. The funding will be administered through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) mechanism and used to address PFAS chemicals in drinking water.

PFAS Testing Requirements Announced

On June 6, EPA issued the first order in a series authorized under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) which requires companies to conduct and submit testing on PFAS. The move is part of EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap and is expected to help the Agency better understand and address risks to human health. 6:2 fluorotelomer sulfonamide betaine, was the first chemical selected and is used in firefighting foam and floor finishing products. EPA believes the current data on this PFAS chemical is insufficient, and that testing will help address the gaps in needed data. Companies that receive the order will be required to test physical-chemical properties and health effects after inhalation of the PFAS chemical or provide EPA with information they believe the Agency did not find in its search for existing information. EPA stated that testing on

6:2 fluorotelomer sulfonamide betaine will assist in informing the Agency's knowledge of human effects of an additional 503 PFAS chemicals with similar structures.

EPA to Conduct Three Additional Toxicity Analyses

On June 27, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released an updated schedule stating the Agency plans to finalize toxicity assessments for two additional Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) chemicals, perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) and perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA), and issue a draft analysis on perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) for public comment by the end of 2022. EPA's research office will use the findings from the assessments to determine risks to human health and to potentially implement new regulations.

EPA Announces Funding for WIFIA Projects

On June 13, EPA announced notices of funding availability for the 2022 Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (WIFIA) and State Infrastructure Financing Authority (SWIFIA) programs. The notices of availability include \$5.5 billion for WIFIA and \$1 billion for SWIFIA. The 2022 funding will prioritize increasing investment in underserved communities, making substantive progress on lead service line replacements, addressing PFAS and other emerging contaminants, and supporting one water innovation and resilience. EPA is changing the way it accepts letters of interest from prospective borrowers and will allow letters of interest to be submitted and received by the Agency anytime on or after September 6, 2022.

House Water Resources Development Act Passes House

On June 6, the House version of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022 (H.R. 7776) passed by a vote of 384-37. The bill includes over 100 new environmental infrastructure activities that would be authorized through the bill. Included in the House version is a \$100 million authority for Los Angeles County which lists Santa Clarita Valley Water as an eligible sponsor. The Senate version passed through the Environment and Public Works Committee in April and is similar but not identical. The Senate is likely to take up its version of WRDA this summer, and Congress intends to vote on a final WRDA bill by the end of the year.

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-VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL-

July 11, 2022

To: Steve Cole, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
From: Dennis Albiani and Anthony Molina, California Advocates
Subject: July Report 2022

As the summer heat has arrived, the same can be said for all political fronts in California. The Legislature is at a pivotal time of the year with significant actions taking place that will shape the final month of the legislative session, final budget negotiations, and election season.

Currently, the Legislature is out on Summer Recess. Upon return on August 1st, bills that are tagged fiscal will be heard in their respective house's Appropriations Committee. Bills that have significant fiscal pressure on the state will move to the "Suspense File" and will be dispensed with on August 12th. The final "Suspense File" hearing will have implications for the final two weeks of the legislative session – bills that pass will remain active and be taken up for a full vote by the entire legislature – bills that do not pass will be dead for the year.

Moreover, before lawmakers headed out on Summer Recess, the Governor signed the "true" Budget agreement along with several Budget Trailer bills that were sent to his desk by the Legislature. However, over July and early August, there will still be several big-ticket budget items that will need to be ironed out before the legislative session concludes (E.g., Climate Package \$21 Billion). In addition, a major "sticking point" in Budget negotiations was resolved before the summer break, which provides relief to families in California due to the rising rates of inflation and gas prices. Both the Legislature and Governor have come to a resolution. California families will receive up to \$1,050 depending on their income level and the number of dependents.

And lastly, after nine months, the California Assembly is finally back at full capacity with 80 members. Over the past two weeks, there have been two new Assemblymembers sworn in who were victorious in their Special Election races – David Alvarez (D-San Diego) and Tina McKinnor (D-Los Angeles). Both will serve out the remainder of the current terms, however, they will have to re-run in the newly drawn Assembly districts in November. Also, the final Primary elections results will be certified on July 15th by the Secretary of the State. The most shocking result from the Primary election came in Senate District 4 where Republicans held a plus-four voter registration advantage, and two Democrats took the top two spots. Senate Democrats will pick up an uncontested seat once the results are certified.

SCVWA Bills with Positions

AB 2142 (Gabriel) Income taxes: exclusion: turf replacement water conservation program.

This bill allows for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2022, and before January 1, 2027, a gross income exclusion for any amount received as a rebate, voucher, or other financial incentive issued by a local water agency or supplier for participation in a turf replacement water conservation program.

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee “Suspense File.”

Position: Support

AB 2313 (Bloom) Water: judges and adjudications.

This bill would encourage the Judicial Council to establish a training and education program for judges related to complex water matters and require the Judicial Council to identify a set of independent and nonpartisan specialized staff employed by the judicial branch with expertise in water science, management, or law, who will be available to any judge adjudicating a water dispute. The bill would also authorize a judge to appoint a qualified special master to assist the judge with an action relating to water, with duties similar to those for special masters in comprehensive groundwater adjudications.

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee.

Position: Support

AB 2362 Ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation projects: permitting.

This bill requires the California Natural Resources Agency to establish an interagency working group to accelerate and streamline permitting for ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation projects.

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee.

Position: Support, if amended.

AB 2449 (Rubio) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

This bill will eliminate the previously existing concept of teleconference locations and will revise notice requirements to allow for greater public participation in teleconference meetings of local agencies. The bill does not mandate teleconferencing, it merely modernizes existing law to ensure greater public participation in meetings of local agencies that choose to utilize teleconferencing. The bill also requires that a quorum of the governing body be physically present at a clearly identified meeting location for all public meetings.

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee.

Position: Support

Note: This bill previously had a “watch” position. After discussion at the last POL meeting, SCVWA leadership decided to move to a “support” position. SCVWA has been added as a member of the “support” coalition letter. California Advocates supported the bill in the policy committee on behalf of the SCVWA.

SB 222 (Dodd) Water Affordability Assistance Program.

This bill would establish the Water Affordability Assistance Fund in the State Treasury to help provide water affordability assistance for drinking water and wastewater services to low-income ratepayers and ratepayers experiencing economic hardship in California. This bill will only become operative if an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute occurs.

Status: Assembly Floor

Position: Pending

Note: Given the most recent amendments to SB 222 (Dodd), SCVWA leadership will discuss the bill position with the Board.

SB 230 (Portantino) State Water Resources Control Board: Constituents of Emerging Concern

This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board to establish, maintain, and direct a dedicated Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC) in the Drinking Water Program to assess the state of information and recommend areas for further study on the occurrence of CECs in drinking water, and would establish the CEC Action Fund.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Position: Support

SB 520 (Wilk) Water resources: permit to appropriate: application procedure: mining use.

Provides an opportunity for members of the public to highlight concerns regarding mining projects' impacts on their local water supply, habitat species, and environmental and quality of life if the projects' water appropriation applications have been pending with the State Water Resources Control Board (board) for over 30 years.

Status: Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee. This bill failed passage and is dead.

Position: Support

SB 559 (Hurtado) Department of Water Resources: water conveyance systems: Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Fund.

This bill establishes the Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Fund in the State Treasury to be administered by the Department of Water Resources. Funds are to be expended to support subsidence repair costs, including environmental planning, permitting, design and construction, and necessary road and bridge upgrades required to accommodate capacity improvements. The bill directs funds to restore the capacity of 4 specified water conveyance systems, with 2 of those four expenditures being in the form of a grant to the Friant Water Authority and the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority.

Status: Assembly Floor, Inactive File

Position: Support

SCVWA Bills of Interest

AB 2451 (Wood) State Water Resources Control Board: drought planning.

This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to establish a Drought Section within the Division of Water Rights. The bill would require the Board, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, to adopt principles and guidelines for diversion and use of water in coastal watersheds during times of water shortage for drought preparedness and climate resiliency and for the development of watershed-level contingency plans to support public trust uses, public health and safety, and the human right to water in times of water shortage.

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee.

Position: Watch

AB 2106 (R. Rivas) Water quality: permits.

this bill requires the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to modernize its Stormwater Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS) database by December 2024. The bill also requires the Board to establish a statewide commercial, industrial, and institutional national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) order.

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee.

Position: Watch

AB 2157 (Rubio) Urban water use objectives: indoor residential water use.

This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board to collaborate and seek input from, stakeholders regarding the studies, investigations, and reports before making changes to the gallons per capita daily standard for indoor residential water use. This is a spot bill.

Status: Assembly Rules Committee. This bill was not referred. This bill is dead.

Position: Watch

AB 1157 (Hertzberg) Urban water use objectives: indoor residential water use.

This bill would change the standards for indoor residential water use, to reflect those recommended by DWR and the SWRCB. Specifically, it would change the indoor residential water use standards beginning January 1, 2025, to be 47 gallons per daily capita, and beginning January 1, 2030 – 42 gallons per daily capita.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Position: Watch

SB 1205 (Allen) Water rights: appropriation.

This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board to develop and adopt regulations to provide greater specificity as to the methods and practices for determining water availability in the issuance and administration of water rights permits and licenses, including consideration of the effects of climate change. The bill would require the Board to consult with

the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and qualified hydrologists and climate change scientists in preparing the regulations.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Position: Watch

SB 1219 (Hurtado) 21st-century water laws and agencies: committee.

This bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency and the Secretary for Environmental Protection to convene a “Blue Ribbon Commission” to develop and submit to the Governor and to the Legislature a strategic vision, proposed statutes, and recommendations for a modern 21st century set of water agencies for the state.

Status: Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee. This bill hearing was canceled by the author. This bill is dead.

Position: Watch

Budget Update

The Legislature and the Governor reached a “true” agreement on the Budget Act of 2022. As stated in the previous report, the original Budget bill ([SB 154](#)) that was passed by the Legislature was largely considered a “framework” to meet their constitutional deadline. The Budget has been subsequently amended by two Budget Bill Jr’s. ([AB 178](#)) and ([AB 180](#)). The agreed-upon budget which has been signed by the Governor totaled \$307.9-billion – the largest in state history. The spending plan centered on \$17 billion in a relief package to help families, seniors, low-income Californians, and small businesses. The package includes \$9.5 billion in gas/inflation refunds, \$1.4 billion in utility payment assistance, expanded tax credits, \$250 million for paid sick leave grants, a suspension of the sales tax on diesel fuel at a cost of \$439 million to the state, and \$75 million in drought relief grants. A detailed Floor Report of the most up-to-date Budget can be found [HERE](#).

To note, the Legislature has earmarked \$21 billion dollars for the “Climate Change Package” which includes \$1.465 billion for “Drought Resilience and Response.” The details for the “Drought Resilience and Response” package are continuing to be worked out between the Governor and Legislative leadership. As we learn more details of this specific budget package, will share them in a timely manner.

Lastly, below are a handful of budget details that have been approved in this year’s larger budget framework agreement in the water space:

- Provides \$100 million General Fund for dam safety projects and flood management over the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 fiscal years.
- Approves funding from the California Emergency Relief Fund for the following:
 - \$26 million for the continuing formulation of the California Water Plan.
 - \$200 million for Urban Water Community Drought Relief.
 - \$100 million for Small Community Drought Relief.
 - \$75 million for Conservation for Urban Suppliers.
 - \$25 million for Conservation for Small Suppliers.

- \$75 million for Turf Replacement.
- \$60 million for Agriculture Drought Response Program and Delta Response Pilot.
- \$10 million for Migratory Bird Habitat

Regulatory

State Water Resources Control Board

A new statewide emergency water conservation regulation that bans using potable (drinkable) water on decorative or non-functional grass at commercial, industrial, and institutional properties went into effect. It also requires urban water suppliers to implement all demand-reduction actions under Level 2 of their Water Shortage Contingency Plans. The State Water Board adopted the regulation at its May 24th board meeting, and the Office of Administrative Law gave it final approval on June 10th. The new restrictions are in response to Governor Newsom's March 28th Executive Order calling for water conservation directives to address California's new normal of climate extremes. The new regulation text can be found [HERE](#).

Department of Water Resources

The Department of Water Resources has released the [Grant Program Guidelines](#) and [Proposal Solicitation Package](#) for approximately \$193 million in grant funding to help local agencies advance water infrastructure and resilience projects. This critical statewide funding will support projects such as water desalination, wastewater treatment, water conservation, and groundwater recharge as California plans for the fourth year of drought.

California Advocates, Inc. Activity Report

- Participated in the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) "Monday Morning Lobby Group" meeting.
- Participated and represented SCVWA at the ACWA "State Legislative Committee Meeting" including the pre-meeting with key Region 8 committee members to coordinate positions.
- Participated and represented SCVWA at the ACWA "Special State Legislative Committee Meetings" including the pre-meeting with key Region 8 committee members to coordinate positions.
- Participated in the Southern California Water Coalition legislative meeting.
- Participated in the State Water Contractors meeting on state budget-related issues.
- Contacted Senator Dodd's office to discuss the amendments to SB 222 (Dodd) "Water Rate Assistance Program."
- Coordinated with the lead stakeholders on AB 2449 (Rubio) and added SCVWA to the "support coalition" letter.
- Met with key Legislators and the Governor's Administration on the Senate's Budget "Water Rights" proposal.
- Testified in policy committees on SCVWA bills with positions that included AB 2142 (Gabriel), AB 2313 (Bloom), AB 2449 (Rubio), and SB 520 (Wilk).

Key Dates and Deadlines

August

Aug. 1 – Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess

Aug. 12 – Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills.

Aug. 15 - 31. – Floor session only.

Aug. 25 – Last day to amend bills on the floor.

Aug. 31 – End of Session at midnight. Fall recess begins.

September

Sep. 30 – Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature.

November

Nov. 8 – General Election

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1112 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
Legislative Status Report 7/11/2022

AB 1 (**Garcia, Cristina D**) **Lead-Acid Battery Recycling Act of 2016: dealer notice: California battery fee.** (Amended: 5/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/23/2022-From Consent Calendar. Ordered to inactive file at the request of Senator Durazo.

Location: 6/23/2022-S. INACTIVE FILE

Summary: The Lead-Acid Battery Recycling Act of 2016, as part of the hazardous waste control laws, prohibits a person from disposing, or attempting to dispose, of a lead-acid battery at a solid waste facility or on or in any land, surface waters, watercourses, or marine waters, but authorizes a person to dispose of a lead-acid battery at certain locations. The act imposes a California battery fee on a person for specified types of replacement lead-acid batteries purchased from a dealer in the amount of \$1 until March 31, 2022, and in the amount of \$2 commencing April 1, 2022. The act requires a dealer to post a written notice or include on the purchaser’s receipt for one of these lead-acid batteries specified language, including language stating that the dealer is required by law to charge a nonrefundable \$1 California battery fee. A violation of the hazardous waste control laws is a crime. This bill would revise the language required to be included in that notice or on the purchaser’s receipt by increasing the stated amount of the California battery fee from \$1 to \$2. Because the failure of a dealer to include this revised language would be a crime under the hazardous waste control laws, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

AB 84 (**Committee on Budget**) **Employment: COVID-19: supplemental paid sick leave.** (Amended: 2/2/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 2/9/2022-Re-referred to Com. on B. & F.R.

Location: 2/9/2022-S. BUDGET & F.R.

Summary: (1)Existing law, the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014, entitles an employee who works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from the commencement of employment to paid sick days. Under existing law, an employee accrues paid sick days at a rate of not less than one hour per every 30 hours worked, subject to certain use, accrual, and yearly carryover limitations. Existing law requires the Labor Commissioner to enforce the act and provides for procedures, including investigation and hearing, and for remedies and penalties. Existing law, until December 31, 2020, provided for COVID-19 food sector supplemental paid sick leave for food sector workers and required a hiring entity to provide COVID-19 food sector

supplemental paid sick leave, as described, to each food sector worker unable to work due to specified reasons relating to COVID-19. Existing law also established, until December 31, 2020, COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for covered workers, including certain persons employed by private businesses of 500 or more employees or persons employed as certain types of health care providers or emergency responders by public or private entities. Existing law, until September 30, 2021, provided for COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for covered employees, in-home supportive service providers, and personal waiver care service providers who were unable to work or telework due to certain reasons related to COVID-19, including that the employee or provider was advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19. Existing law entitled a covered employee or provider to 80 hours of COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave, as specified, and set the compensation for that leave. This bill, beginning January 1, 2022, until September 30, 2022, would provide for COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for covered employees who are unable to work or telework due to certain reasons related to COVID-19, including that the employee is attending a COVID-19 vaccine or vaccine booster appointment for themselves or a family member, or is experiencing symptoms, or caring for a family member experiencing symptoms, related to a COVID-19 vaccine or vaccine booster. The bill would entitle a covered employee to 40 hours of COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave if that employee either works full time or was scheduled to work, on average, at least 40 hours per week for the employer in the 2 weeks preceding the date the covered employee took COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave. The bill would provide a different calculation for supplemental paid sick leave for a covered employee who is a firefighter subject to certain work schedule requirements and for a covered employee working fewer or variable hours, as specified. This bill would entitle a covered employee, in addition to the COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave described above, to take up to 40 more hours of COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave if the covered employee, or a family member for whom the covered employee is providing care, tests positive for COVID-19. The bill would authorize the employer to require the covered employee, if that employee tests positive, to submit to another test on or after the fifth day after the first positive test and provide documentation of those results. The bill would also authorize the employer to require the covered employee to provide documentation of a family member's test result before paying the additional COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave, as applicable. The bill would specify that the employer has no obligation to provide additional COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave if the employee refuses to provide documentation of a test result. This bill would provide that the total number of hours of COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave to which a covered employee is entitled to under these provisions is in addition to any paid sick leave available under the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014, and in addition to prior COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave the employee was entitled to, as specified. This bill would specify the compensation rate for a nonexempt and exempt covered employees. The bill would require the Labor Commissioner to enforce these COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave provisions, as provided. The bill would also require the Labor Commissioner to make publicly available a model notice relating to COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave. This bill would also provide for COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for specified in-home supportive service providers and personal waiver care service providers, as defined, who are unable to work or telework due to certain reasons related to COVID-19. Under the bill, a provider would be entitled to COVID-19 supplemental paid leave for the same reasons as a covered employee. The bill would entitle a provider to up to 40 hours of COVID-19 supplemental paid leave, if the provider worked or was scheduled to work, on average, at least 40 hours per week, as specified, or met certain other work conditions, and entitle a provider to take additional COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave under specified conditions. The bill would set the compensation rate for this supplemental paid sick leave, as specified. The bill would authorize the State Department of Social Services and the State Department of Health Care Services to implement, interpret, or make these provisions specific by means of all-county letters or similar instructions, without taking any regulatory action. This bill would make these requirements, with respect to covered employees, in-home supportive service providers, and personal waiver care service providers, to provide COVID-

19 supplemental paid sick leave take effect 10 days after the date of enactment of the bill and would apply these provisions retroactively to January 1, 2022, as specified. The bill would provide that the requirement to provide COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave would apply until September 30, 2022, as specified.(2)This bill would appropriate \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Labor Commissioner to implement the provisions related to the COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave, as specified.(3)This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as a bill providing for appropriations related to the Budget Bill.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 350](#) (Villapudua D) Agriculture: Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995: technical assistance grant program: groundwater conservation planning. (Amended: 8/26/2021 [html pdf](#))

Status: 9/10/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(15). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on 9/2/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 9/10/2021-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: The Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995 requires the Department of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming, to establish and oversee a Healthy Soils Program to seek to optimize climate benefits while supporting the economic viability of California agriculture by providing incentives, including loans, grants, research, and technical assistance, and educational materials and outreach, to farmers whose management practices contribute to healthy soils and result in net long-term on-farm greenhouse gas benefits. In this connection, the department has also established the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to implement irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gases and save water on agricultural operations. This bill would require, upon an appropriation of funds, the Department of Food and Agriculture to establish and administer a 3-year grant program to fund technical assistance to support landowners located in a critically overdrafted basin, as defined, in reaching water use reduction goals established pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The bill would require the department, in its development of the grant program, to establish various criteria, guidelines, restrictions, processes, and requirements for the qualification and administration of grants to technical assistance providers, as specified. The bill would authorize the department to use specified guidelines to administer this program. The bill would require the grant program to fund one or more technical assistance providers in each critically overdrafted basin. The bill would require the department to ensure that at least 25% of the grant program funds are used to provide technical assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, as defined. The bill would require that technical assistance from the grant program be provided directly to landowners in a critically overdrafted basin to design, develop, and implement on-farm conservation plans for agricultural lands that are at risk of falling due to water shortages. This bill contains other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 641](#) (Holden D) Transportation electrification: local publicly owned electric utilities. (

Amended: 7/15/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 8/27/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(12). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/23/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 8/27/2021-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: Existing law requires a local publicly owned electric utility with an annual electrical demand exceeding 700 gigawatts, determined as provided, to adopt an integrated resource plan to meet certain goals. Existing law requires the local publicly owned electric utility, as a part of its integrated resource plan update, to consider establishing electric vehicle grid integration strategies and evaluating how its electric vehicle grid integration programs further the electric vehicle grid integration strategies it has established. This bill would require each local publicly owned electric utility to facilitate and ensure the availability of at least one station for public charging of passenger motor vehicles within its service territory. The bill would require each local publicly owned electric utility to develop and adopt a transportation electrification plan, individually, or in collaboration with other local publicly owned electric utilities, local governments, or local or regional transportation planning organizations, to include certain information to support the level of electric vehicle adoption required for the state to meet certain goals. The bill would require local publicly owned electric utilities to make their adopted plans available on their internet websites. The bill would deem a local publicly owned electric utility that has adopted an integrated resource plan or a transportation electrification plan before January 1, 2022, to be in compliance with the bill's requirements and would require the utility to update the adopted plan at least once every 5 years. Because the bill would increase the duties of local publicly owned electric utilities, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 754](#) (Mathis R) Sustainable groundwater management: groundwater sustainability plan. (

Amended: 4/15/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 7/5/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(14). (Last location was S. 2 YEAR on 7/14/2021)

Location: 7/5/2022-S. DEAD

Summary: Existing law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources that are designated as basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2020, and requires all other groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2022, except as specified. The act authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to designate a high- or medium-priority basin as a probationary basin if the basin is not entirely covered by an adopted groundwater sustainability plan or plans or a department-approved alternative by the applicable deadline. The act authorizes the board to adopt an interim plan for a probationary basin, as specified. This bill would authorize the department to extend the deadline for a high- or medium-priority basin not subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated plans by up to 180 days after January 31, 2022, upon

request of a local agency or groundwater sustainability agency in the basin for an extension of a specified period of time. The bill would require a request to be submitted by January 3, 2022, and to be responded to by the department by January 10, 2022. The bill would make conforming changes to the authority of the board to designate a high- or medium-priority basin as a probationary basin for the failure to manage a basin under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated plans by the applicable deadlines.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1164](#) (Flora R) Dams and reservoirs: exclusions: publicly owned or operated regulating basins. (Amended: 5/23/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/28/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (June 28). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/28/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources to supervise the maintenance and operation of dams and reservoirs as necessary to safeguard life and property. Existing law requires the department to adopt, by regulation, a schedule of fees to cover the department's costs in carrying out the supervision of dam safety. Existing law excludes certain obstructions from being considered a dam, including a barrier that is not across a stream channel, watercourse, or natural drainage area and that has the principal purpose of impounding water for agricultural use. This bill would additionally exclude from being considered a dam a regulating basin, as defined, owned or operated by a public entity that is not across a stream channel, watercourse, or natural drainage if certain criteria are met, including, among other criteria, that the owner or operator of the regulating basin, before the construction of the regulating basin, submit to the department an inundation map, stamped by a licensed civil engineer, identifying the flow and depth of water from the regulating basin in the event of a failure of a barrier constructed to form the regulating basin, and that the owner or operator, immediately upon the identification of a failure or the risk of failure of a barrier or works critical to the safe operation of the regulating basin, notify the county sheriff and local emergency managers of all properties likely to be impacted by a failure. The bill would define "natural drainage" for purposes of these provisions. The bill would also make nonsubstantive changes.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1195](#) (Garcia, Cristina D) Limited Eligibility and Appointment Program: lists. (Amended: 5/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/29/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 5. Noes 0.) (June 29). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/29/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200

Summary: Existing law creates the Department of Human Resources, which succeeds to and is vested with all of the powers and duties exercised and performed by the Department of Personnel Administration. Existing law specifically grants the department the powers, duties, and authority necessary to operate the state civil service system in accordance with Article VII of the California Constitution, the Government Code, the merit principle, and applicable rules duly adopted by the State Personnel Board. Existing law creates the Limited Examination and Appointment Program (LEAP), which the Department of Human Resources administers, to provide an alternative to the traditional civil service examination and appointment process to facilitate the hiring of persons with disabilities. Existing law requires the Department of Human Resources, when an appointing power seeks to fill a vacant position by using an employment list, to provide the appointing power with a certified list of the names and addresses of all eligible candidates, as specified. Existing law requires the department to provide a single certified list of eligible candidates if more than one employment list or LEAP referral list exists, and the department is required to combine the names and addresses of all eligible candidates. This bill would, notwithstanding those provisions, require the department to, upon request of the appointing power, provide the appointing power a LEAP referral list without combining that list with a parallel list and would authorize the appointing power to select and hire any individual from that a referral list to fill any vacancy.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1642](#) (Salas D) California Environmental Quality Act: water system well and domestic well projects: exemption. (Amended: 6/30/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/30/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/29/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of an environmental impact report on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. This bill would, until January 1, 2028, exempt from CEQA a well project, as defined, that meets specified conditions, including that the domestic well or the water system to which the well is connected has been designated by the state board as high risk or medium risk in the state board's drinking water needs assessment. The bill would require a lead agency, before determining that a well project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to these provisions, to contact the state board to determine whether claiming the exemption will affect the ability of the well project to receive federal financial assistance or federally capitalized financial assistance. The bill would require a lead agency that determines that a well project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to these provisions to file a notice of exemption with the Office of Planning and Research and the county clerk, as provided. Because the bill would increase the responsibilities of a lead agency related to the applicability of

this exemption, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1717](#) ([Aguiar-Curry D](#)) **Public works: definition.** (Amended: 5/19/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/27/2022-In committee: Referred to suspense file.

Location: 6/27/2022-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: Existing law requires that, except as specified, not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages, determined by the Director of Industrial Relations, be paid to workers employed on public works projects. Existing law defines the term “public works” for purposes of requirements regarding the payment of prevailing wages to include construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid for using public funds, except as specified. Existing law makes a willful violation of laws relating to the payment of prevailing wages on public works a misdemeanor. This bill would expand the definition of “public works” to include fuel reduction work done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of public funds performed as part of a fire mitigation project, as specified. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1733](#) ([Quirk D](#)) **State bodies: open meetings.** (Introduced: 1/31/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 4/20/2022-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

Location: 2/18/2022-A. G.O.

Summary: Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a state body be open and public and all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body. The act defines a "meeting" to include any congregation of a majority of the members of a state body at the same time and place to hear, discuss, or deliberate upon any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the state body to which it pertains. The act authorizes teleconferenced meetings under specified circumstances, provided that at least one member of the state body is physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting, and all votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting are taken by rollcall. The act provides that if the state body elects to conduct a meeting or proceeding by teleconference, the state body is required to post agendas at all teleconference locations and conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the rights of any party or member of the public appearing before the state body. The act requires each teleconference location to be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location to be accessible to the public, and the agenda to provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the state body at each teleconference

location. This bill would specify that a "meeting" under the act, includes a meeting held entirely by teleconference. The bill would require all open meetings to be held by teleconference, would allow for use of teleconference in closed sessions, and would remove existing provisions of the act that require each teleconference location to be identified in the notice and agenda and accessible to the public. The bill would instead require the state body to provide a means by which the public may remotely hear, or hear and observe, the meeting and may remotely address the state body via two-way audio-visual platform or two-way telephonic service, as specified, and would require information to be provided in any notice to the public indicating how the public can access the meeting remotely. The bill would require the state body to provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the state body. The bill would require the state body to provide members of the public a physical location to hear, observe, and address the state body, and would authorize the members of the state body to participate in a meeting remotely or at a designated physical meeting location, and specify that physical presence at any physical meeting location is not necessary for the member to be deemed present at the meeting. The bill would require the agenda to be posted 10 days in advance of the meeting, or as provided in accordance with the provisions applicable to a special or emergency meeting, as well as posted on the state body's internet website and, on the day of the meeting, at any physical meeting location designated in the notice. The bill would also provide that the notice of the meeting is required to specify the means by which a meeting may be accessed by teleconference. The bill would prohibit the notice and agenda from disclosing any information regarding any remote location from which a member is participating, and require members attending a meeting from a remote location to disclose whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

AB 1748 (Seyarto R) Exempt surplus land: regional housing need. (Amended: 4/6/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/6/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was A. H. & C.D. on 4/20/2022)

Location: 5/6/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law prescribes requirements for the disposal of surplus land by a local agency. Existing law defines "surplus land" for these purposes to mean land owned in fee simple by any local agency for which the local agency's governing body takes formal action declaring that the land is surplus and is not necessary for the agency's use. Existing law provides that an agency is not required to follow the requirements for disposal of surplus land for "exempt surplus land," except as provided. Existing law categorizes as "exempt surplus land," surplus land that a local agency is transferring to another local, state, or federal agency for the agency's use. This bill would add to the definition of "exempt surplus land," surplus land that is zoned for a density of up to 30 residential units, if residential properties within a radius of 500 feet of the site are zoned to have an allowable density of fewer than 30 dwelling units per acre and the most recent annual progress report, as described, submitted by the city or county that owns the surplus land shows that the total number of low-income and very low income housing units built within the city or county meets or exceeds proportionate annual progress toward the number of those housing units needed to meet the city's or county's share of regional housing need for the 6th cycle of its housing element, as described. This bill contains other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1774](#) ([Seyarto R](#)) **California Environmental Quality Act: water conveyance or storage projects: judicial review. (Introduced: 2/3/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))**

Status: 4/29/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was NAT. RES. on 2/10/2022)

Location: 4/29/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of an environmental impact report (EIR) on a project that the lead agency proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. CEQA establishes a procedure by which a person may seek judicial review of the decision of the lead agency made pursuant to CEQA. This bill would require the Judicial Council to adopt rules of court applicable to actions or proceedings brought to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the certification or adoption of an environmental impact report for water conveyance or storage projects, as defined, or the granting of project approvals, including any appeals to the court of appeal or the Supreme Court, to be resolved, to the extent feasible, within 270 days of the filing of the certified record of proceedings with the court to an action or proceeding seeking judicial review of the lead agency's action related to those projects. The bill would require the lead agency to prepare the record of proceedings for a water conveyance or storage project, as provided, and to include a specified notice in the draft EIR and final EIR for the water conveyance or storage project. By imposing additional duties on lead agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1776](#) ([Gallagher R](#)) **Resource conservation districts: California Prompt Payment Act. (Amended: 3/24/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))**

Status: 6/29/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 13. Noes 0.) (June 28). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/28/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the California Prompt Payment Act, generally provides that a state agency that acquires property or services pursuant to a contract with a business but fails to make payment to the person or business on the date required by the contract is subject to a late payment penalty, as specified. The act requires state agencies to pay applicable penalties, without requiring that the

claimant submit an additional invoice for these amounts, whenever the state agency fails to submit a correct claim to the Controller by the required payment approval date and payment is not issued within 45 calendar days from the state agency receipt of an undisputed invoice. The act requires a state agency to pay, through the Controller, to the claimant a penalty at a rate of 10 percent above the United States Prime Rate on June 30 of the prior fiscal year if the claimant is a certified small business, a nonprofit organization, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, or a small business or nonprofit organization that provides services or equipment under the Medi-Cal program, as prescribed. The act requires, if the Director of Finance determines that a state agency or the Controller is unable to promptly pay an invoice as provided for by this chapter due to a major calamity, disaster, or criminal act, the late payment penalty provisions described above to be suspended, except as they apply to certain claimants, including a certified small business, a nonprofit organization, or a nonprofit public benefit corporation. This bill would include a resource conservation district in the list of entities entitled to the late payment penalty and excepted from the suspension provision described above. This bill contains other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |
| Notes 1: | | | | | |

[AB 1784](#) (Smith R) Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014: groundwater sustainability projects: grants and loans. (Introduced: 2/3/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/6/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was A. PRINT on 2/3/2022)

Location: 5/6/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014, approved by the voters as Proposition 1 at the November 4, 2014, statewide general election, authorizes, among other things, the issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$7,120,000,000 to finance a water quality, supply, and infrastructure improvement program. Existing law provides for the sum of \$900,000,000 to be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014, for expenditures on, and competitive grants, and loans for, projects to prevent or clean up the contamination of groundwater that serves or has served as a source of drinking water, as provided. Existing law requires a project that receives funding to be selected by a competitive grant or loan process with added consideration for those projects that leverage private, federal, or local funding, and outlines the additional requirements and processes applicable to projects that receive funding. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to these latter provisions.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |
| Notes 1: | | | | | |

[AB 1791](#) (Nazarian D) Rent control: local ordinances: residential units. (Amended: 4/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/6/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was A. H. & C.D. on 4/18/2022)

Location: 5/6/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law, the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, prescribes statewide limits on the application of local rent control with regard to certain properties. That act, among other things, authorizes an owner of residential real property to establish the initial and all subsequent rental rates for a dwelling or unit that has been issued a certificate of occupancy after February 1, 1995, has already been exempt from a residential rent control ordinance as of February 1, 1995, pursuant to a local exemption for newly constructed units, or is alienable separate from the title to any other dwelling unit or is a subdivided interest in a subdivision and meets specified requirements, subject to certain exceptions. This bill would prevent the application of the above-described limitation on local rent control measures where the property is owned by an applicable large business, defined as a business entity that owns 10 or more single-family residential properties and has annual gross receipts of \$1 billion or more.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1795](#) (Fong R) Open meetings: remote participation. (Introduced: 2/7/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 4/29/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was G.O. on 2/18/2022)

Location: 4/29/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, requires state bodies to allow all persons to attend meetings and provide an opportunity for the public to address the state body regarding any item included in its agenda, except as specified. This bill would require state bodies, subject to existing exceptions, to provide all persons the ability to participate both in-person and remotely, as defined, in any meeting and to address the body remotely.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1811](#) (Fong, Mike D) Local flood protection: planning: climate change. (Amended: 6/9/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 6/29/2022-Read second time. Ordered to Consent Calendar.

Location: 6/28/2022-S. CONSENT CALENDAR

Summary: Existing law authorizes a local agency to prepare a local plan of flood protection and prescribes that a plan include, among other components, a strategy to meet the urban level of flood protection, including planning for residual flood risk and system resiliency. This bill would require this strategy, if a plan is prepared by a local agency, to also include planning for climate change and rainwater and stormwater management. The bill would require the plan to additionally include an update on the status of coordination with water suppliers on how the management of flood waters can bolster local water supplies.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1845](#) (Calderon D) Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: alternative project delivery methods. (Amended: 6/16/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/30/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 5. Noes 0.) (June 29). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/30/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Existing law generally sets forth the requirements for the solicitation and evaluation of bids and the awarding of contracts by local agencies for public works contracts. Existing law authorizes certain entities, including the Department of General Services, the Military Department, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and specified local agencies, to use the design-build procurement process, as prescribed, for specified public works. This bill would authorize the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to use the design-build procurement process for certain regional recycled water projects or other water infrastructure projects. The bill would define “design-build” to mean a project delivery process in which both the design and construction of a project are procured from a single entity. The bill would require the district to use a specified design-build procedure to assign contracts for the design and construction of a project, as defined. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1865](#) (Bennett D) Court fee waiver: water rights cases. (Amended: 3/16/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/15/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (June 14). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/15/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Existing law requires the court to grant a fee waiver to an applicant at any stage of the proceedings at both the appellate and trial court levels if the applicant meets specified standards of eligibility and application requirements, including a person who is receiving certain public benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income or Medi-Cal, or who has a monthly income of 125% or less of the current poverty guidelines, as specified. An initial fee waiver excuses the applicant from paying, among other fees and costs, fees for the first pleading and other court fees and costs as specified in rules adopted by the Judicial Council. This bill would require a court to initially grant permission to proceed without paying court fees and costs to a person who was joined or countersued in a case involving a water right held by the person.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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SCV Water DKA
Agency AM

Notes 1:

[AB 1867](#) (Lee D) School facilities: modernization projects: bathrooms. (Amended: 4/19/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/15/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (June 15). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/15/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998 (the Greene Act), requires the State Allocation Board to allocate to applicant school districts prescribed per-unhoused-pupil state funding for the construction and modernization of school facilities, including hardship funding, and supplemental funding for site development and acquisition. This bill would require the governing board of a school district, if the governing board of the school district intends to seek state funding pursuant to the Greene Act for a school modernization project for a school facility constructed before January 1, 2012, to include, as part of the modernization project submitted to the Division of the State Architect, faucet aerators and water-conserving plumbing fixtures in all bathrooms. The bill would provide that these provisions apply only to those projects submitted to the Division of the State Architect beginning 3 months after voters approve a statewide general obligation bond that provides funds for certain school facilities at a statewide election occurring after November 1, 2022. The bill also would provide that these provisions apply only to those projects that propose to repair or make alterations to the interior of a school building and do not apply to projects that only propose to repair or make alterations to the exterior of a school building, the school grounds, or the playing fields of a school. The bill also would provide that these provisions do not apply to bathrooms that already contain both faucet aerators and water-conserving plumbing fixtures at the time the modernization project is submitted.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water | DKA | | | | |
| Agency | AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1879](#) (Mathis R) California regional water quality control boards: unfounded or frivolous complaints. (Amended: 6/30/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/30/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/29/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Under existing law, the State Water Resources Control Board and the California regional water quality control boards implement the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act by prescribing waste discharge requirements for discharges to the waters of the state, as specified. Existing law authorizes the state board and the regional boards to hold hearings necessary for carrying out their duties, as specified. This bill would authorize a regional board to develop a plan or policy to address unfounded or frivolous complaints.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1883](#) (Quirk-Silva D) Public restrooms. (Amended: 6/23/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/23/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/22/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Existing law requires every public agency, as defined, that conducts an establishment serving the public or open to the public and that maintains restroom facilities for the public, to make every water closet available without cost or charge, as provided. Existing law also requires publicly and privately owned facilities where the public congregates to be equipped with sufficient temporary or permanent restrooms to meet the needs of the public at peak hours. This bill would require each local government, as defined, to complete an inventory of public restrooms owned and maintained by the local government, either directly or by contract, that are available to the general population in its jurisdiction. The bill would require local governments to report their findings to the State Department of Public Health, which would be required to compile the information and to make the inventory available in a searchable database on its internet website, as specified. The bill would require the database to be updated quarterly. The bill would require the department to conduct educational outreach to the general public and homelessness service providers that the database is available on its internet website. The bill would repeal its provisions on January 1, 2027. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1932](#) (Daly D) Public contracts: construction manager at-risk construction contracts. (Amended: 6/2/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/2/2022-Read second time and amended. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 6/2/2022-S. THIRD READING

Summary: Existing law authorizes, until January 1, 2023, a county, with approval of the board of supervisors, or a public entity, of which the members of the county board of supervisors make up the members of the governing body of that public entity, with the approval of its governing body, to utilize construction manager at-risk construction contracts for the erection, construction, alteration, repair, or improvement of any infrastructure, owned or leased by the county, subject to certain requirements, including that the method may only be used for projects that are in excess of \$1,000,000. This bill would extend those provisions until January 1, 2029, and would also make a nonsubstantive change.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

AB 1944 (Lee D) Local government: open and public meetings. (Amended: 5/25/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 7/5/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(14). (Last location was S. GOV. & F. on 6/8/2022)

Location: 7/5/2022-S. DEAD

Summary: Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. The act contains specified provisions regarding the timelines for posting an agenda and providing for the ability of the public to observe and provide comment. The act allows for meetings to occur via teleconferencing subject to certain requirements, particularly that the legislative body notice each teleconference location of each member that will be participating in the public meeting, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that members of the public be allowed to address the legislative body at each teleconference location, that the legislative body post an agenda at each teleconference location, and that at least a quorum of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the local agency's jurisdiction. The act provides an exemption to the jurisdictional requirement for health authorities, as defined. This bill would require the agenda to identify any member of the legislative body that will participate in the meeting remotely. The bill would also require an updated agenda reflecting all of the members participating in the meeting remotely to be posted, if a member of the legislative body elects to participate in the meeting remotely after the agenda is posted. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

AB 1953 (Maienschein D) Drinking water: accessible water bottle refill stations. (

Amended: 3/29/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/20/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(8). (Last location was A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/27/2022)

Location: 5/20/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: The California Safe Drinking Water Act provides for the operation of public water systems and imposes on the State Water Resources Control Board various responsibilities and duties relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health. This bill would require, by January 1, 2025, the owner or operator of a transit hub, local park, public building, publicly owned building, shopping mall, or municipal golf course that has a water infrastructure source to install and maintain at least one, or maintain at least one existing, accessible water bottle refill station, as prescribed and except as specified. The bill would also require those owners and operators that have a water bottle refill station that is not accessible to upgrade, by January 1, 2025, the water bottle refill station to an accessible water bottle refill station. By imposing additional requirements on local agencies that own or operate local parks, publicly owned buildings, or municipal golf courses, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. If installation or maintenance of, or upgrade to, an accessible water bottle refill station is not feasible, the bill would authorize substitution of an accessible water cooler or accessible drinking fountain bubbler. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 1996](#) ([Cooley D](#)) **State government: administrative regulations: review. (Introduced: 2/10/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))**

Status: 5/20/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(8). (Last location was A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/27/2022)

Location: 5/20/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law, the Administrative Procedure Act, in part, authorizes various state entities to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations for various specified purposes. These rulemaking provisions of the act require the Office of Administrative Law and the state agency proposing to adopt, amend, or repeal a regulation to review the proposed changes for, among other things, consistency with existing state regulations. Existing law requires the office to initiate a priority review of existing regulations when requested by a committee of the Legislature, as specified. This bill would require each state agency to, on or before January 1, 2026, review that agency's regulations, identify any regulations that are duplicative, overlapping, inconsistent, or out of date, to revise those identified regulations, as provided, and report to the Legislature and Governor, as specified. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2027.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2016](#) ([Bauer-Kahan D](#)) **State Water Resources Control Board: desalination plant: feasibility study. (Amended: 6/23/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))**

Status: 6/23/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/20/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources, not later than July 1, 2004, to report to the Legislature on potential opportunities and impediments for using seawater and brackish water desalination, and to examine what role, if any, the state should play in furthering the use of desalination technology. Existing law requires the department to convene a Water Desalination Task Force, composed of representatives from listed agencies and interest groups, to advise the department in carrying out these duties and in making recommendations to the Legislature. This bill would repeal those provisions. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2041](#) (Garcia, Eduardo D) California Safe Drinking Water Act: primary drinking water standards: compliance. (Amended: 4/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/20/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(8). (Last location was A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/11/2022)

Location: 5/20/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, requires the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt primary drinking water standards for contaminants in drinking water. Existing law requires the state board to consider specified criteria when it adopts a primary drinking water standard, including the technological and economic feasibility of compliance. This bill would require the state board to take specified actions if the state board adopts a primary drinking water standard with a compliance period for which public water systems are given a designated period of time to comply with the primary drinking water standard without being held in violation of the primary drinking water standard. Specifically, the bill would require the state board to determine which public water system may not be able to comply with the primary drinking water standard without receiving financial assistance and develop a compliance plan, including a financial plan to assist that public water system in complying with the primary drinking water standard. The bill would also require the state board, if a public water system is in violation of the primary drinking water standard after the compliance period, to take into consideration whether or not the public water system implemented the compliance plan.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2054](#) (Quirk-Silva D) Corporation taxes: exempt organizations: mutual ditch or irrigation companies: public water system: mutual water companies. (Amended: 4/19/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/20/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(8). (Last location was A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/11/2022)

Location: 5/20/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: The Corporation Tax Law, in modified conformity with federal income tax laws, exempts various types of organizations from taxes imposed by that law, including an exemption for transfers of assets by specified mutual water companies that are tax exempt under federal income tax laws, but are a taxable entity under state law when certain conditions are met. This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2023, and before January 1, 2028, would exempt from the taxes imposed by the Corporation Tax Law a mutual ditch or irrigation company that operates a public water system if the company complies with specified requirements, including those open meeting and record accessibility requirements for eligible persons. The bill would require the California Association of Mutual Water Companies Joint Powers Risk and Insurance Management Authority, commencing July 1, 2027, to conduct outreach to eligible mutual ditch or irrigation companies regarding the potential repeal of the exemption. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water | DKA | | | | |

Notes 1:

AB 2081 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Municipal water districts: water service: Indian lands. (

Amended: 5/12/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 6/21/2022-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 6/21/2022-S. THIRD READING

Summary: Existing law, the Municipal Water District Law of 1911, provides for the formation of municipal water districts and grants to those districts specified powers. Existing law permits a district to acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recycle, recapture, and salvage any water for the beneficial use of the district, its inhabitants, or the owners of rights to water in the district. Existing law, upon the request of certain Indian tribes and the satisfaction of certain conditions, requires a district to provide service of water at substantially the same terms applicable to the customers of the district to the Indian tribe’s lands that are not within a district, as prescribed. Existing law also authorizes a district, until January 1, 2023, under specified circumstances, to apply to the applicable local agency formation commission to provide this service of water to Indian lands, as defined, that are not within the district and requires the local agency formation commission to approve such an application. This bill, among other things, would extend the above provisions regarding the application to the applicable local agency formation commission to January 1, 2027. By imposing new duties on local officials, the bill would create a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

AB 2106 (Rivas, Robert D) Water quality: permits. (Amended: 6/30/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 6/30/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/29/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Under existing law, the State Water Resources Control Board and the 9 California regional water quality control boards regulate water quality and prescribe waste discharge requirements in accordance with the federal national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit program established by the federal Clean Water Act and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Existing law requires each regional board to formulate and adopt water quality control plans for all areas within the region, as provided. This bill would require, on or before December 31, 2024, the state board to modernize its stormwater data collection systems through specified actions.

This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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SCV Water DKA
Agency AM

Notes 1:

[AB 2108](#) (Rivas, Robert D) Water policy: environmental justice: disadvantaged and tribal communities. (Amended: 6/16/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/28/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 7. Noes 2.) (June 28). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/28/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Existing law establishes the State Water Resources Control Board (state board) in the California Environmental Protection Agency. The state board consists of 5 members appointed by the Governor, including one member who is not required to have specialized experience. Existing law requires one of those members, excluding the member who is not required to have specialized experience, to additionally be qualified in the field of water supply and water quality relating to irrigated agriculture. This bill would require that one of the persons appointed by the Governor to the state board be qualified in the field of water supply and water quality relating to disadvantaged or tribal communities and not be the same member as the member appointed who is qualified in the field of water supply and water quality relating to irrigated agriculture. The bill would also require that at least one person appointed to each regional board have specialized experience relating to disadvantaged or tribal communities, except as provided. The bill would prohibit, in making those appointments, preference to be given on the basis of ethnicity or national origin. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2113](#) (Rivas, Robert D) State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account: annual proceed transfers. (Amended: 3/15/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/20/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(8). (Last location was A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/4/2022)

Location: 5/20/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Under existing law, the State Water Resources Control Board and the 9 California regional water quality control boards regulate water quality and prescribe waste discharge requirements in accordance with the federal national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit program established by the federal Clean Water Act and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Existing law requires each regional board to formulate and adopt water quality control plans for all areas within the region, as provided. This bill would create within the Waste Discharge Permit Fund the Waterway Recovery Account, the Citizen Monitoring Account, the Community Capacity Building Account, and the Stormwater Innovation Account, and, subject to future legislation, would annually transfer from the annual proceeds of the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account, subject to a future legislative act, the following amounts: 30% to the Waterway Recovery Account; 5% to the Citizen Monitoring Account, but in no instance less than

\$250,000; 10% to the Community Capacity Building Account, but in no instance less than \$500,000; and 5% to the Stormwater Innovation Account. The bill would require moneys in the Waterway Recovery Account to be distributed by the state board, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to each regional board on a pro rata basis to expend on specified purposes, including, among others, restoration projects that improve water quality. The bill would provide that moneys in each of the other 3 accounts created by the bill are available for the state board to expend, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the following purposes: for the Citizen Monitoring Account, to fund a specified state board program to increase water quality monitoring or to establish a priority water-contact recreation site monitoring program; for the Community Capacity Building Account, to create and fund a community capacity program to increase disadvantaged and tribal community participation in state board outreach and regulatory processes; and for the Stormwater Innovation Account, for specified activities relating to stormwater best management practices. This bill contains other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2142](#) (Gabriel D) Income taxes: exclusion: turf replacement water conservation program. (Amended: 4/6/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)
Status: 6/27/2022-In committee: Referred to suspense file.
Location: 6/27/2022-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: The Personal Income Tax Law and the Corporation Tax Law, in conformity with federal income tax law, generally defines “gross income” as income from whatever source derived, except as specifically excluded, and provides various exclusions from gross income. Existing law provides an exclusion from gross income for any amount received as a rebate or voucher from a local water or energy agency or supplier for the purchase or installation of a water conservation water closet, energy efficient clothes washers, and plumbing devices, as specified. This bill would, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2022, and before January 1, 2027, under both of these laws, provide an exclusion from gross income for any amount received as a rebate, voucher, or other financial incentive issued by a public water system, as defined, local government, or state agency for participation in a turf replacement water conservation program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|---------------------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | Support - Coalition | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2157](#) (Rubio, Blanca D) Urban water use objectives: indoor residential water use. (Introduced: 2/15/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)
Status: 5/6/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was A. PRINT on 2/15/2022)
Location: 5/6/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources, in coordination with the State

Water Resources Control Board, and in collaboration with and input from stakeholders, to conduct necessary studies and investigations and authorizes the department and the board to jointly recommend to the Legislature a standard for indoor residential water use. Existing law, until January 1, 2025, establishes 55 gallons per capita daily as the standard for indoor residential water use, beginning January 1, 2025, establishes the greater of 52.5 gallons per capita daily or a standard recommended by the department and the board as the standard for indoor residential water use, and beginning January 1, 2030, establishes the greater of 50 gallons per capita daily or a standard recommended by the department and the board as the standard for indoor residential water use. This bill would make a nonsubstantive change to the provision requiring the department and the board to collaborate with, and seek input from, stakeholders with regard to the studies, investigations, and report.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2173](#) ([Petrie-Norris D](#)) **Public contracts: payment. (Enrolled: 6/29/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))**

Status: 6/27/2022-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Assembly. (Ayes 36. Noes 0.). In Assembly. Ordered to Engrossing and Enrolling.

Location: 6/27/2022-A. ENROLLMENT

Summary: Existing law, until January 1, 2023, authorizes the retention proceeds withheld from any payment by an awarding entity, as described, from the original contractor, by the original contractor from any subcontractor, and by a subcontractor from any subcontractor, to exceed 5% on specific projects where the director of the applicable department, as specified, has made, or the governing body of the public entity or designated official of the public entity has approved, a finding prior to the bid that the project is substantially complex and requires a higher retention and the department or public entity includes both this finding and the actual retention amount in the bid documents. This bill would make these provisions operative indefinitely.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2201](#) ([Bennett D](#)) **Groundwater sustainability agency: groundwater extraction permit: verification. (Amended: 6/22/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))**

Status: 6/30/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 3. Noes 1.) (June 29). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/30/2022-S. APPR.

Summary: Existing law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources that are designated as basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2020, and requires all other groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by

January 31, 2022, except as specified. Existing law authorizes any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to decide to become a groundwater sustainability agency for that basin and imposes specified duties upon that agency or combination of agencies, as provided. Existing law also authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to designate a high- or medium-priority basin as a probationary basin under certain conditions for specified purposes. This bill would prohibit a county, city, or any other water well permitting agency from approving a permit for a new groundwater well or for an alteration to an existing well in a basin subject to the act and classified as medium- or high-priority unless specified conditions are met, including that it obtains a written verification, from the groundwater sustainability agency that manages the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located, determining that, among other things, the extraction by the proposed well is consistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable groundwater sustainability plan adopted by that groundwater sustainability agency or an alternate plan approved or under review by the Department of Water Resources. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2248](#) ([Garcia, Eduardo D](#)) **Water quality: California-Mexico cross-border rivers. (**

Amended: 6/30/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 6/30/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/29/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Current law establishes the California-Mexico Border Relations Council in state government, chaired by the Secretary for Environmental Protection, and prescribes the functions and duties of the council with respect to coordinating the activities of state agencies that are related to cross-border programs, initiatives, projects, and partnerships that exist within state government, and state and local efforts that are of concern between California and Mexico. Existing law requires the council to develop a strategic plan to guide a project to study, monitor, remediate, and enhance water quality in the New River in the County of Imperial. Existing law requires the council to establish the New River Water Quality, Public Health, and River Parkway Development Program to coordinate funding for, and the implementation of, recommendations from the strategic plan and related projects. This bill would make \$100,000,000 available from the General Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act or another statute, to the State Water Resources Control Board for grants and direct expenditures to address water quality problems arising in California-Mexico cross-border rivers. The bill would require the funding to be available for purposes consistent with the New River Water Quality, Public Health, and River Parkway Development Program and water quality projects for the Tijuana River and would make 5% of the funding available for the administrative costs of the state board in implementing these provisions and 5% available for the costs of the Office of the Attorney General in enforcing these provisions. The bill would require the state board, in consultation with the California Environmental Protection Agency, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board, to administer the funding, as specified. The bill would require expenditures of the funding to be consistent with the work of the California Environmental Protection Agency Border Affairs Program and would require priority for the funding to be given to projects that have funding

committed by the United States, the Republic of Mexico, the State of Baja California, or the City of Tijuana or Mexicali. The bill would authorize grant funding to be conditioned on enforceability and accountability mechanisms agreed upon by the state board and the recipient, as prescribed, and would authorize funding to be provided for activities or projects in the State of Baja California under certain circumstances. The bill would require the state board and the California Environmental Protection Agency to notify the leadership office in each house of the Legislature on cross-border collaboration and the expenditure of the funding.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2313](#) (Bloom D) Water: judges and adjudications. (Amended: 6/30/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/30/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/29/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: (1)Existing law authorizes the Judicial Council to conduct institutes and seminars for the purpose of orienting judges to new judicial assignments, keeping them informed concerning new developments in the law, and promoting uniformity in judicial procedure, as specified. This bill would authorize the Judicial Council, on or before January 1, 2025, to establish a program that provides training and education to judges in specified actions relating to water, as defined. The bill would provide that the program may be funded by an appropriation from the General Fund in the annual Budget Act or another statute, or by using existing funds for judicial training. The bill would require a court to prioritize assigning a judge with training or education under the program for actions relating to water, if certain conditions are met.

This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | Support - Coalition | AA--Coalition | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2357](#) (Ting D) Surplus land. (Amended: 4/5/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 7/5/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(14). (Last location was S. GOV. & F. on 6/1/2022)

Location: 7/5/2022-S. DEAD

Summary: Existing law prescribes requirements for the disposal of surplus land by a local agency, as defined, and requires, except as provided, a local agency disposing of surplus land to comply with certain notice requirements before disposing of the land or participating in negotiations to dispose of the land with a prospective transferee, particularly that the local agency send a notice of availability to specified entities that have notified the Department of Housing and Community

Development of their interest in surplus land, as specified. Under existing law, if the local agency receives a notice of interest, the local agency is required to engage in good faith negotiations with the entity desiring to purchase or lease the surplus land. Existing law defines “exempt surplus land,” for which a local agency is not required to follow the requirements for disposal of surplus land, except as provided, as, among other things, surplus land that is subject to valid legal restrictions that are not imposed by the local agency and that would make housing prohibited, as specified. This bill would also require the department to maintain on its internet website a listing of all entities, including housing sponsors, that have notified the department of their interest in surplus land for the purpose of developing low- and moderate-income housing. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

AB 2362 (Mullin D) Publicly and environmentally beneficial projects: interagency coordination: permits. (Amended: 6/30/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 6/30/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/29/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: (1)Existing law requires the Natural Resources Agency, by July 1, 2017, and every 3 years thereafter, to update the state’s climate adaptation strategy to identify vulnerabilities to climate change by sectors and priority actions needed to reduce the risks in those sectors. Existing law requires the agency to explore, and authorizes the agency to implement, options within the agency’s jurisdiction to establish a more coordinated and efficient regulatory review and permitting process for coastal adaptation projects that use natural infrastructure. This bill would require the agency, on or before July 1, 2023, in coordination with the California Environmental Protection Agency, to convene the Interagency Working Group comprised of regulatory agencies under the auspices of the agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency that are responsible for permitting environmentally beneficial projects, that include procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment and that serve the primary purposes of aquatic, riparian ecosystem, or upland habitat restoration, enhancement, or establishment, to coordinate efficient regulatory review and permitting mechanisms, as provided. The bill would authorize the Interagency Working Group to establish and consult with a panel of stakeholders of no more than 15 members, as specified. The bill would require the meetings of the Interagency Working Group and the stakeholder panel to be publicly held with appropriate advance public notice. The bill would require the Interagency Working Group to, among other things, identify existing programmatic and other efficient permitting mechanisms, coordinate actions to expedite permitting for those projects, and develop and implement, as specified, robust internal training procedures, including manuals, guidelines, and other materials, to ensure that each state entity involved in permitting projects uses the same standards to evaluate permit applications, and would require those training manuals, guidelines, and other materials to be readily and publicly available on each applicable state entity’s internet website. The bill would require the agency, on or before July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, to submit a comprehensive report, as specified, to the Legislature evaluating regulatory and permitting mechanisms that meaningfully accelerate those projects. The bill would require the agency to provide funding for the participation of state entities within its jurisdiction in carrying out these provisions. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2028.

This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | Support if Amended - Coalition | AA--Coalition | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2368](#) (Bloom D) Water: Department of Water Resources. (Introduced: 2/16/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/6/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was A. PRINT on 2/16/2022)

Location: 5/6/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law establishes in the Natural Resources Agency the Department of Water Resources, which is under the control of the Director of Water Resources. Existing law provides for the appointment of the director by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to that provision.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2387](#) (Garcia, Eduardo D) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022. (Amended: 3/21/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/19/2022-In committee: Held under submission.

Location: 5/11/2022-A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, approved by the voters as Proposition 68 at the June 5, 2018, statewide primary election, authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,100,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. Article XVI of the California Constitution requires measures authorizing general obligation bonds to specify the single object or work to be funded by the bonds and further requires a bond act to be approved by a 2/3 vote of each house of the Legislature and a majority of the voters. This bill would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$7,430,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs. This bill contains other related provisions.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water | DKA | | | | |

Notes 1:

AB 2412 (Villapudua D) Agriculture: State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program. (

Amended: 4/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 5/20/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(8). (Last location was A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/11/2022)

Location: 5/20/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law, the Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995, requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to establish and oversee an environmental farming program that provides incentives to farmers whose practices promote the well-being of ecosystems, air quality, and wildlife and their habitat. The act requires the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to convene the Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming to advise the secretary on the implementation of the Healthy Soils Program and the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program, and to assist federal, state, and local government agencies, as appropriate or necessary, on issues relating to the impact of agricultural practices on air, water, and wildlife habitat, as specified. This bill would require the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature of additional funds, to administer the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program to provide grants to agricultural operations to implement irrigation, water reclamation, water storage, or groundwater recharge systems that reduce greenhouse gases and energy use or increase water use efficiency. The bill would require the secretary, on or before one year after receiving an appropriation by the Legislature for these purposes, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming, to develop guidelines for awarding grants under the program, as specified. The bill would require the secretary, on or before January 1, 2027, and biennially thereafter, to submit a report to the Legislature, as prescribed.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA | | | | |
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Notes 1:

AB 2419 (Bryan D) Environmental justice: federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Justice40 Advisory Committee. (

Amended: 6/9/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 6/29/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 9. Noes 3.) (June 28). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/28/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Existing law establishes the Strategic Growth Council consisting of specified state agency members and members of the public. Existing law requires the council, among other things, to recommend policies and investment strategies and priorities to the Governor, the Legislature, and to appropriate state agencies to encourage the development of sustainable communities, such as those communities that promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety. The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides additional federal funds to rebuild the nation's infrastructures. Executive orders issued by President Biden established the federal Justice40 Initiative with the goal that 40% of the overall federal

benefits flow to disadvantaged communities and stating that the implementation of the IIJA should prioritize investing public dollars equitably, including through the Justice40 Initiative. This bill would require a minimum of 40% of funds received by the state under the IIJA and certain other federal funds to be allocated to projects that provide direct benefits to disadvantaged communities and disadvantaged unincorporated communities and, except as specified, a minimum of an additional 10% be allocated for projects that provide direct benefits to low-income households and low-income communities, as provided. The bill would require state agencies administering those federal funds to perform specified tasks related to the expenditure of those federal funds. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2449](#) ([Rubio, Blanca D](#)) **Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences. (Amended: 6/30/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))**

Status: 6/30/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/29/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. The act contains specified provisions regarding the timelines for posting an agenda and providing for the ability of the public to observe and provide comment. The act allows for meetings to occur via teleconferencing subject to certain requirements, particularly that the legislative body notice each teleconference location of each member that will be participating in the public meeting, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that members of the public be allowed to address the legislative body at each teleconference location, that the legislative body post an agenda at each teleconference location, and that at least a quorum of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the local agency’s jurisdiction. The act provides an exemption to the jurisdictional requirement for health authorities, as defined. This bill would revise and recast those teleconferencing provisions and, until January 1, 2026, would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements that each teleconference location be identified in the notice and agenda and that each teleconference location be accessible to the public if at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda that is open to the public and situated within the local agency’s jurisdiction. Under this exception, the bill would authorize a member to participate remotely under specified circumstances, including participating remotely for just cause or due to emergency circumstances. The emergency circumstances basis for remote participation would be contingent on a request to, and action by, the legislative body. The bill would define terms for purposes of these teleconferencing provisions.

This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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SCV Water Agency DKA AM Support - Coalition

Notes 1:

[AB 2451](#) (Wood D) State Water Resources Control Board: drought planning. (Amended: 6/23/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/23/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/20/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Existing law establishes within the Natural Resources Agency the State Water Resources Control Board and the California regional water quality control boards. Existing law requires the work of the state board to be divided into at least 2 divisions, known as the Division of Water Rights and the Division of Water Quality. Existing law requires the state board to formulate and adopt state policy for water quality control. This bill would create a Drought Section within the state board, as specified. The bill would require the state board, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, to adopt principles and guidelines for diversion and use of water in coastal watersheds, as specified, during times of water shortage for drought preparedness and climate resiliency. The bill would require that the principles and guidelines provide for the development of watershed-level contingency plans to support public trust uses, public health and safety, and the human right to water in times of water shortage, among other things. The bill also would require the state board, prior to adopting those principles and guidelines, to allow for public comment and hearing, as provided. The bill would require the state board to adopt those principles and guidelines no later than March 31, 2024. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2505](#) (Gray D) Water theft: irrigation districts. (Chaptered: 6/20/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/20/2022-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 23, Statutes of 2022.

Location: 6/16/2022-A. CHAPTERED

Summary: Existing law authorizes the legislative body of a local agency, as defined, that provides water services to adopt an ordinance that prohibits water theft, as defined, subject to an administrative fine or penalty, as specified. Existing law requires the local agency to adopt an ordinance that sets forth the administrative procedures governing the imposition, enforcement, collection, and administrative review of the administrative fines or penalties for water theft and to establish a process for granting a hardship waiver to reduce the amount of the fine, as specified. Existing law, the Irrigation District Law, provides for the formation of irrigation districts with prescribed powers. This bill would authorize irrigation districts, as defined, to impose fines or penalties for water theft in accordance with both of the above-described provisions, and would provide that the above-specified provisions do not cap or limit the fines that an irrigation district may impose in accordance with the Irrigation District Law. This bill contains other existing laws.

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Notes 1:

[AB 2536](#) ([Grayson D](#)) **Development fees: impact fee nexus studies: connection fees and capacity charges. (Enrolled: 7/1/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))**

Status: 6/30/2022-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Assembly. (Ayes 37. Noes 0.). In Assembly. Ordered to Engrossing and Enrolling.

Location: 6/30/2022-A. ENROLLMENT

Summary: The Mitigation Fee Act requires a local agency that establishes, increases, or imposes a fee as a condition of approval of a development project to, among other things, determine a reasonable relationship between the fee's use and the type of development project on which the fee is imposed. Existing law requires a local agency that conducts an impact fee nexus study to follow certain standards and practices, as specified. Existing law also requires a local agency to hold at least one open and public meeting prior to levying a new fee or service charge, as specified. This bill would require a local agency, prior to levying a new fee or capacity charge or approving an increase in an existing fee or capacity charge, to evaluate the amount of the fee or capacity charge. The bill would require the evaluation to include evidence to support that the fee or capacity charge does not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing service, as specified. The bill would require all information constituting the evaluation to be made publicly available at least 14 days prior to a specified meeting. This bill contains other existing laws.

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Notes 1:

[AB 2605](#) ([Villapudua D](#)) **Water quality: state certification. (Amended: 4/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))**

Status: 4/29/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was E.S. & T.M. on 3/10/2022)

Location: 4/29/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Under existing law, the State Water Resources Control Board and the California regional water quality control boards prescribe waste discharge requirements in accordance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Under federal law, any applicant seeking a federal license or permit for an activity that may result in any discharge into the navigable waters of the United States is required to first seek a state water quality certification, as specified. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authorizes the state board to certify or provide a statement to a federal agency, as required pursuant to federal law, that there is reasonable assurance that an activity of any person subject to the jurisdiction of the state board will not reduce water quality below applicable standards. The federal act provides that if a state fails or refuses to act on a request for this certification within a reasonable period of time, which shall not exceed one year after receipt of the request, then the state certification requirements are waived with respect to the federal application. This bill would authorize the state board to delegate its authority regarding the above-described issuance of a certificate or statement to the regional boards. The bill would require a project proponent, as defined, to request a prefiling meeting with the state board, as specified. The bill would require the state board to act on the certification request within 60 days,

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except as specified. The bill would require a certification request to the state board for either an individual license or permit or a general license or permit to contain specified information. The bill would require the state board to take specified actions depending on whether it grants, grants with conditions, or denies the certification request.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2742](#) (Friedman D) Water meters: urban water suppliers. (Introduced: 2/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/6/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was A. PRINT on 2/18/2022)

Location: 5/6/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: The Water Measurement Law generally requires the installation of a water meter as a condition of new water service on and after January 1, 1992. The law, with certain exceptions, requires an urban water supplier to install water meters on all municipal and industrial service connections that are located in its service area on or before January 1, 2025. This bill would delay that requirement for an urban water supplier to install the water meters to on or before January 1, 2030.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2811](#) (Bennett D) California Building Standards Commission: recycled water: nonpotable water systems. (Introduced: 2/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 4/29/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was E.S. & T.M. on 3/17/2022)

Location: 4/29/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: The California Building Standards Law provides for the adoption of building standards by state agencies by requiring all state agencies that adopt or propose adoption of any building standard to submit the building standard to the California Building Standards Commission for approval and adoption. Existing law requires the commission to conduct research to assist in the development of mandatory green building standards for the installation of recycled water systems for newly constructed commercial and public buildings, in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board and other interested parties. This bill would require, commencing January 1, 2024, all newly constructed nonresidential buildings be constructed with dual plumbing to allow the use of recycled water for all applicable nonpotable water demands, as defined, if that building is located within an existing or planned recycled water service area, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2857](#) (Bauer-Kahan D) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater sustainability plans: domestic well impacts. (Amended: 3/24/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 4/29/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was W.,P. & W. on 3/24/2022)

Location: 4/29/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources that are designated as basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2020, and requires all other groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2022, except as specified. The act prescribes that a groundwater sustainability plan contain certain information, including, where appropriate and in collaboration with the appropriate local agencies, control of saline water intrusion, wellhead protection areas and recharge areas, a well abandonment and well destruction program, well construction policies, and impacts on groundwater dependent ecosystems. This bill would additionally require that a groundwater sustainability plan include measures to mitigate adverse impacts on domestic wells, as defined, including, but not limited to, compensating an owner of a domestic well or a user of water from a domestic well for increased energy costs associated with deeper groundwater pumping and increased costs to households associated with the delivery of water from an existing water supply system or alternative water supply. The bill would prohibit a mitigation measure from subjecting an owner of a domestic well or a user of water from a domestic well to an unreasonable financial burden or expense. By requiring local agencies that are groundwater sustainability agencies to include this additional information in their groundwater sustainability plans, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. Insofar as this bill requires local agencies that are groundwater sustainability agencies to include in their mitigation measures compensation to owners of domestic water wells and users of water from domestic water wells for increased costs, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2858](#) (Dahle, Megan R) Fish and wildlife: safe harbor agreements. (Introduced: 2/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/6/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was A. PRINT on 2/18/2022)

Location: 5/6/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law, the California State Safe Harbor Agreement Program Act, establishes a program that encourages landowners to manage their lands voluntarily to benefit endangered, threatened, or candidate species, or declining or vulnerable species, and not be subject to additional regulatory restrictions as a result of their conservation efforts. The act requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife, to the maximum extent practicable, to prioritize the review of, and decision to approve, a safe harbor agreement if the property proposed to be enrolled in the

agreement is encumbered by a conservation easement that requires a permanent commitment to protect, restore, and maintain habitat conditions, provided that the department finds that practices consistent with the conservation easement can reasonably be expected to provide a net conservation benefit to the species listed in the application. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation that would require safe harbor agreements authorized pursuant to the act to be reviewed and either approved and signed, or denied, by the department in a specified period of time upon receipt of all documents required by the act.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2874](#) (Cooley D) Fire prevention: electrical utility facilities and maintenance: liability of contractors. (Amended: 3/28/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/6/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was A. U. & E. on 3/17/2022)

Location: 5/6/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law requires each electrical corporation, local publicly owned electric utility, and electrical cooperative to construct, maintain, and operate its electrical lines and equipment in a manner that will minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire posed by those electrical lines and equipment. Existing law requires any person that owns, controls, operates, or maintains any electrical transmission or distribution line upon any mountainous, forest-covered, brush-covered, or grass-covered land to maintain a clearance between all vegetation and all conductors that are carrying electrical current, as prescribed. This bill would provide that a person or entity that performs tree trimming or vegetation maintenance services or specialty electrical contracting services under contract to an electrical utility is not liable for any damage or injury that results from a fire ignited by electrical utility facilities, except for damage or injury proximately caused by the contractor's negligence, gross negligence, or willful misconduct. The bill would, for contractors who retain at least \$10,000,000 of fire liability insurance, limit the liability to the dollar amount of fire liability insurance possessed by the contractor, as provided. The bill would define various terms for purposes of those provisions and would state related findings and declarations of the Legislature.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2876](#) (Bigelow R) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. (Introduced: 2/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/6/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was A. PRINT on 2/18/2022)

Location: 5/6/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources that are designated as basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2020,

and requires all other groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2022, except as specified. The act requires all relevant state agencies to consider the policies of the act, and any adopted groundwater sustainability plans, when revising or adopting policies, regulations, or criteria, or when issuing orders or determinations, where pertinent. This bill contains other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

AB 2877 ([Garcia, Eduardo D](#)) **Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund: tribes.** (Amended: 6/30/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/30/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/29/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Current law establishes the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury to help water systems provide an adequate and affordable supply of safe drinking water in both the near and long terms. Existing law continuously appropriates to the State Water Resources Control Board moneys deposited in the fund for the development, implementation, and sustainability of long-term drinking water solutions, among other things. Existing law requires the state board to expend moneys in the fund for grants, loans, contracts, or services to assist eligible recipients. Existing law includes within the list of “eligible recipients,” public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, mutual water companies, federally recognized California Native American tribes, specified nonfederally recognized Native American tribes, administrators, groundwater sustainability agencies, community water systems, and technical assistance providers. This bill would specify that any waiver of tribal sovereignty that is required by the state board for a tribe that is an eligible recipient to access funding from the fund shall be narrowly drafted to serve both the individual needs of the tribe and make the funding agreement enforceable. The bill would require the state board to include its designated tribal advisor in all discussions with eligible recipients, except as specified. The bill would require the state board to consider the extent that funds for safe drinking water projects from the programs administered by the state board are distributed to eligible recipients that are federally recognized California Native American tribes or specified nonfederally recognized Native American tribes and make diligent efforts to ensure the distribution of funds to those eligible recipients. The bill would require the state board to expend those funds, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for grants, loans, contracts, or services to assist those eligible recipients. The bill would require the state board to post on its internet website, and update annually, the number of inquiries for funding received from tribes, the number of applications for funding received from tribes, and the total amount of funding granted to tribes each year.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

AB 2895 ([Arambula D](#)) **Water: permits and licenses: temporary changes: water or water rights**

transfers. (Amended: 6/23/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/23/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/20/2022-S. APPR.

Calendar: 8/1/2022 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Under existing law, the State Water Resources Control Board administers a water rights program pursuant to which the board grants permits and licenses to appropriate water. Existing law authorizes a permittee or licensee to temporarily change the point of diversion, place of use, or purpose of use due to a transfer or exchange of water or water rights if the transfer would only involve the amount of water that would have been consumptively used or stored by the permittee or licensee in the absence of the proposed temporary change, would not injure any legal user of the water, and would not unreasonably affect fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses. Existing law prescribes the process for a permittee or licensee to petition the board for a temporary change due to a transfer or exchange of water rights, and imposes on the board related notice, decision, and hearing requirements. Under that process, a petitioner is required to publish notice of a petition in a newspaper, as specified. Existing law requires a petition to contain specified information and requires a petitioner to provide a copy of the petition to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the board of supervisors of the county or counties in which the petitioner currently stores or uses the water subject to the petition, and the board of supervisors of the county or counties to which the water is proposed to be transferred. This bill would revise and recast the provisions regulating temporary changes due to a transfer or exchange of water rights, including, among other revisions, specifying that those provisions apply to a person who proposes a temporary change for purposes of preserving or enhancing wetlands habitat, fish and wildlife resources, or recreation. The bill would eliminate the requirement that a petitioner publish notice of a petition in a newspaper. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[AB 2919](#) (Fong R) Dams: release of water: fish populations. (Amended: 3/24/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 4/29/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was W.,P. & W. on 3/24/2022)

Location: 4/29/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to examine all dams in all rivers and streams in the state naturally frequented by fish. If, in the opinion of the Fish and Game Commission, there is not free passage for fish over or around any dam, existing law requires the department to cause plans to be furnished for a suitable fishway, and to order in writing the owner of the dam to provide the dam with a durable and efficient fishway. Existing law requires the owner of a dam to allow sufficient water at all times to pass through a fishway, or in the absence of a fishway, allow sufficient water to pass over, around or through the dam, to keep in good condition any fish that may be planted or exist below the dam. This bill would provide that, notwithstanding any other law, the release of water from a dam shall only be regulated based on actual fish populations and not based on approximate fish populations.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
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SCV Water DKA
Agency AM

Notes 1:

[AB 2940](#) ([Dahle, Megan R](#)) **Water rights: reasonable and beneficial use of water. (**

Introduced: 2/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/6/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was A. PRINT on 2/18/2022)

Location: 5/6/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law declares that the right to water is limited to that water that is reasonably required for the beneficial use to be served, and does not extend to the waste or unreasonable use, unreasonable method of use, or unreasonable method of diversion of water. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to that provision.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 37](#) ([Cortese D](#)) **Contaminated Site Cleanup and Safety Act. (Amended: 9/3/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#))**

Status: 9/10/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(15). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on 9/8/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 9/10/2021-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: (1)Existing law requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control to compile a list of specified information, including, but not limited to, hazardous waste facilities where the department took, or contracted for the taking of, corrective action to remedy or prevent, for example, an imminent substantial danger to public health. Existing law requires the State Department of Health Care Services to compile a list of all public drinking water wells that contain detectable levels of organic contaminants and that are subject to water analysis by local health officers. Existing law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to compile a list of specified information, including, but not limited to, all cease and desist orders and cleanup and abatement orders issued under the Water Code that concern the discharge of wastes that are hazardous materials. Existing law requires designated local enforcement agencies to compile and submit to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery a list of all solid waste disposal facilities from which there is a known migration of hazardous waste, and requires the department to compile these lists into a statewide list. Existing law requires these agencies to update the information as appropriate, but at least annually, and to submit the information to the Secretary for Environmental Protection. Under existing law, the Secretary for Environmental Protection is required to consolidate the information provided by these state agencies and distribute the information in a timely fashion to each city and county in which sites on the lists are located and to any other person upon request. This bill would repeal the requirement for the State Department of Health Care Services to compile a list of all public drinking water wells, as described above. The bill would repeal the requirement for the state agencies to provide their respective lists to the Secretary for Environmental Protection and instead require these agencies to post the lists on their respective internet websites. The bill would repeal the requirement for the Secretary for Environmental Protection to consolidate the information submitted by the state agencies and instead require the secretary to post the information, or links to the information, on the California Environmental Protection Agency's internet website. The bill would repeal the requirement

for the Secretary for Environmental Protection to distribute the information to each city and county in which sites on the lists are located and to any other person upon request. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

SB 42 (**Wieckowski D**) **Department of Fish and Wildlife: Eden Landing Ecological Reserve.** (Amended: 6/23/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 6/27/2022-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 6/27/2022-A. THIRD READING

Summary: Existing law authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the approval of the Fish and Game Commission, to, among other things, maintain, use, and administer land suitable for the purpose of establishing ecological reserves. The Budget Act of 2021 appropriated \$50,000 from the General Fund to the department to rename the “Eden Landing Ecological Reserve” the “Congressman Pete Stark Ecological Reserve.” This bill would amend the Budget Act of 2021 by revising “Congressman Pete Stark Ecological Reserve” to “Congressman Pete Stark Ecological Reserve at Eden Landing” within that appropriation and would rename the “Eden Landing Ecological Reserve,” as specified in certain regulations, the “Congressman Pete Stark Ecological Reserve at Eden Landing.” The bill would require the department to implement that name change and would provide that, notwithstanding any other law, commission approval is not required to implement the name change. This bill contains other related provisions.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

SB 222 (**Dodd D**) **Water Rate Assistance Program.** (Amended: 6/23/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 6/23/2022-Read third time and amended. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 6/21/2022-A. THIRD READING

Summary: Existing law, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, requires the State Water Resources Control Board to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health. Existing law declares it to be the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. Existing law requires the state board, by January 1, 2018, to develop a plan for the funding and implementation of the Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program, as prescribed. Existing law requires the state board, by February 1, 2018, to report to the Legislature on its findings regarding the feasibility, financial stability, and desired structure of the program, including any recommendations for legislative action that may need to be taken. This bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Fund in the State Treasury to help provide water affordability assistance, for both drinking water and wastewater services, to low-income residential ratepayers. The bill would make moneys in the fund available upon appropriation by the Legislature to the state board to provide, in consultation with relevant agencies, direct water bill

assistance, water bill assistance to residential ratepayers served by eligible systems, as defined, and by tribal water systems that choose to participate and would require 80% of total funds to be directly applied to customer assistance. The bill would authorize the state board to identify and contract with a third-party fund administrator. The bill would impose requirements on the state board in connection with the program, including, among others, within 270 days of the effective date, as defined, adopting guidelines in consultation with relevant agencies and an advisory group for implementation of the program and preparing a report to be posted on state board's internet website identifying how the fund has performed. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | Pending | | | |

Notes 1:

SB 230 (Portantino D) State Water Resources Control Board: Constituents of Emerging Concern in Drinking Water Program. (Amended: 6/22/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/28/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 8. Noes 0.) (June 28). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/28/2022-A. APPR.

Calendar: 8/3/2022 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS, HOLDEN, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, requires the State Water Resources Control Board to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health. The state board's duties include, but are not limited to, conducting research, studies, and demonstration programs relating to the provision of a dependable and safe supply of drinking water, enforcing the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, and adopting and enforcing regulations. This bill would require the state board to build upon its existing work dealing with, and work to improve its knowledge of, constituents of emerging concern (CEC) in water and, as part of this work, to improve its knowledge of CECs in drinking water by assessing the state of information, as specified. The bill would authorize the state board to establish, maintain, and direct a dedicated program called the Constituents of Emerging Concern in Drinking Water Program. The bill would authorize the state board to convene a Science Advisory Panel to review and provide recommendations to the state board on CECs for further action, among other duties. The bill would require the state board to provide a report to the Legislature 3 years after the panel is convened on the work conducted by the panel. This bill contains other related provisions.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | Support | | | |

Notes 1:

SB 463 (Dahle R) Water: landowner or water right holder right to modify, repair, or replace jointly used conduits. (Amended: 1/10/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 7/5/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(14). (Last location was A. W.,P. & W. on 1/10/2022)

Location: 7/5/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law declares that the general welfare requires that the water resources of the state be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent of which they are capable, that the waste or unreasonable use or unreasonable method of use of water be prevented, and that the conservation of water is to be exercised with a view to the reasonable and beneficial use of water in the interest of the people and for the public welfare. This bill would authorize a landowner, where a conduit is constructed across or buried beneath the lands of 2 or more landowners, and the conduit is not under the control or management of any public agency or authority, to modify, repair, or replace, as defined, the conduit on or beneath their land if the modification, repair, or replacement is made in a manner that does not impede the flow of the water to any other water right holder receiving a benefit of the conduit. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 520](#) (Wilk R) Water resources: permit to appropriate: application procedure: mining use. (

Amended: 3/17/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 7/5/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(14). (Last location was A. W.,P. & W. on 6/21/2022)

Location: 7/5/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Under existing law, the State Water Resources Control Board administers a water rights program pursuant to which the board grants permits and licenses to appropriate water. Existing law requires an application for a permit to appropriate water to include, among other things, sufficient information to demonstrate a reasonable likelihood that unappropriated water is available for the proposed appropriation. Existing law requires the board to issue and deliver a notice of an application as soon as practicable after the receipt of an application for a permit to appropriate water that conforms to the law. Existing law allows interested persons to file a written protest with regard to an application to appropriate water and requires the protestant to set forth the objections to the application. Existing law declares that no hearing is necessary to issue a permit in connection with an unprotested application, or if the undisputed facts support the issuance of the permit and there is no disputed issue of material fact, unless the board elects to hold a hearing. This bill, if the board has not rendered a final determination on an application for a permit to appropriate water for a beneficial use or uses that include mining use within 30 years from the date the application was filed, would require the board to issue a new notice and provide an opportunity for protests before rendering a final determination, with specified exceptions.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|-------------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | Support | AA - Folder | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 559](#) (Hurtado D) Department of Water Resources: water conveyance systems: Water Conveyance Restoration Fund. (Amended: 8/30/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 9/10/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(15). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on 9/8/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)

Location: 9/10/2021-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Under existing law, the United States Bureau of Reclamation operates the federal Central Valley Project and the Department of Water Resources operates the State Water Project to supply water to persons and entities in the state. Existing law requires the Friant-Kern Canal to be of such capacity as the Department of Water Resources determines necessary to furnish an adequate supply of water for beneficial purposes in the area to be served by the canal. This bill would establish the Water Conveyance Restoration Fund in the State Treasury to be administered by the Department of Water Resources in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The bill would require all moneys deposited in the fund to be expended, upon appropriation by the Legislature, in support of subsidence repair costs, including environmental planning, permitting, design, and construction and necessary road and bridge upgrades required to accommodate capacity improvements. The bill would require the Director of Water Resources to apportion money appropriated from the fund, subject to specified requirements, for the Friant-Kern Canal, Delta-Mendota Canal, San Luis Field Division of the California Aqueduct, and San Joaquin Division of the California Aqueduct. The bill would require the director to disburse the funding to the owner of the conveyance facility subject to an agreement that addresses specified issues. The bill would require the director to convene a public meeting for comment on the director's apportionment of appropriated funding and the agreement and would require the Department of Water Resources to submit to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee annual and final reports, as prescribed. The bill would make these provisions inoperative on July 1, 2030, and would repeal the provisions as of January 1, 2031.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | Support - Coalition | AA--Coalition | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 733](#) (Hueso D) Gas corporations: renewable gas procurement. (Amended: 6/29/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/29/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/27/2022-A. APPR.

Calendar: 8/3/2022 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS, HOLDEN, Chair

Summary: Existing law vests the Public Utilities Commission with regulatory authority over public utilities, including gas corporations. Existing law requires the commission, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board, to consider adopting specific biomethane procurement targets or goals for each gas corporation, as specified. Existing law requires that the commission, before establishing biomethane procurement targets or goals, find that the targets or goals are cost-effective means of achieving the reductions in emissions of short-lived climate pollutants and other greenhouse gases forecast pursuant to specified laws and that the targets or goals comply with all applicable state and federal laws. This bill would require the commission to open a new proceeding, or a new phase of an existing proceeding, to consider establishing procurement goals for renewable hydrogen, as defined, and consider requiring each gas corporation and core transport agent to annually procure a proportionate share of renewable hydrogen to meet those goals. The bill would require the commission to make specified findings before establishing renewable hydrogen procurement targets or goals. The bill would also require the commission to evaluate whether authorizing a gas corporation to recover in its rate base expenses incurred from investments in infrastructure to interconnect facilities producing biomethane, renewable hydrogen, or both, is just

and reasonable, as specified.

This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 786](#) (**[Hertzberg D](#)**) **County birth, death, and marriage records: blockchain.** (Amended: 6/29/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/29/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/28/2022-A. APPR.

Calendar: 8/3/2022 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS, HOLDEN, Chair

Summary: Existing law requires the State Registrar, local registrar, or county recorder, upon request and payment of the required fee, to supply to an applicant a certified copy of the record of a birth, fetal death, death, marriage, or marriage dissolution registered with the official. Existing law requires the certificate to contain certain information and to be printed on chemically sensitized security paper, as specified. This bill would authorize a county recorder to, upon request, issue a certified copy of a birth, death, or marriage record issued pursuant to those provisions, in addition to the required method described above, by means of blockchain technology, defined as a decentralized data system, in which the data stored is mathematically verifiable, that uses distributed ledgers or databases to store specialized data in the permanent order of transactions recorded. The bill would require the county recorder to ensure that the release of those copies is subject to technical safeguards sufficient to prevent fraud and unauthorized or illegal access, destruction, use, modification, and disclosure.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 832](#) (**[Dodd D](#)**) **Water rights: measurement of diversion.** (Amended: 4/6/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/20/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(8). (Last location was S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/25/2022)

Location: 5/20/2022-S. DEAD

Summary: Existing law defines various terms applicable to the Water Code. This bill would define "water year," unless otherwise specified, to mean the 12-month period beginning October 1 and ending September 30. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 880](#) (Laird D) Water diversion: monitoring and reporting: University of California Cooperative Extension. (Introduced: 1/26/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/28/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To consent calendar. (Ayes 14. Noes 0.) (June 28). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/28/2022-A. APPR.

Calendar: 8/3/2022 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS, HOLDEN, Chair

Summary: Existing law requires a person who diverts 10 acre-feet of water or more per year under a permit or license to install and maintain a device or employ a method capable of measuring the rate of direct diversion, rate of collection to storage, and rate of withdrawal or release from storage, as specified and with certain exceptions. Existing law requires the measurements to be made using the best available technologies and best professional practices using a device or methods satisfactory to the State Water Resources Control Board. Existing law authorizes the board to adopt regulations requiring measurement and reporting of water diversion and use by persons including, but not limited to, those authorized to appropriate water under a permit, license, or registration for small irrigation use or livestock stockpond use, or a certification for livestock stockpond use. Existing law, until January 1, 2023, requires any diverter, who has completed an instructional course regarding the devices or measurement method administered by the University of California Cooperative Extension, including passage of a proficiency test before the completion of the course, to be considered a qualified individual when installing and maintaining devices or implementing methods of measurement that were taught in the course for the diverter's diversion. Existing law also requires the University of California Cooperative Extension and the board to develop the curriculum of the course and the proficiency test. This bill would indefinitely extend the above-described provisions. This bill contains other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 886](#) (Wiener D) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: public universities: university housing development projects. (Amended: 6/16/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/29/2022-June 29 set for first hearing. Placed on suspense file.

Location: 6/29/2022-A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of an environmental impact report on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. This bill would, until January 1, 2030, exempt from CEQA a university housing development project, as defined, carried out by a public university, as defined, on real property owned by the public university if the project meets certain requirements, including that each building within the project is certified as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) platinum or better by the United States Green Building Council, that the project's construction impacts are fully mitigated, and that the project is not located, in whole or in part, on certain types of sites, including a site that is within a

special flood hazard area subject to inundation by a 1% annual chance flood or within a regulatory floodway as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as provided. The bill, with respect to a site that is within a special flood hazard area subject to inundation by a 1% annual chance flood or within a regulatory floodway, would prohibit a local government from denying an application on the basis that a public university did not comply with any additional permit requirement, standard, or action adopted by that local government applicable to the site if the public university is able to satisfy all applicable federal qualifying criteria in order to demonstrate that the site meets these criteria and is otherwise eligible to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to the above requirements. By imposing additional duties on local governments, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would provide that a university housing development project is not exempt from CEQA if, among other things, the project would require the demolition of specified housing or a historic structure that is listed on a national, state, or local historic register. The bill would require the public university to hold at least one noticed public hearing to hear and respond to public comments before determining that the university housing development project is exempt under the bill's provision. The bill would require the lead agency, before the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for each building within a project, to obtain the LEED certification of the building, and to make a determination that all construction impacts of the project have been fully mitigated and issue a notice of that determination. The bill would require the lead agency to file the LEED certification and the notice with the Office of Planning and Research and the county clerk of the county in which the project is located. The bill would require the Office of Planning and Research and the county clerk to make the certification and notice available to the public. To the extent that this bill would impose additional duties on a local agency, including the county clerk, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

SB 890 (Nielsen R) Department of Water Resources: Water Storage and Conveyance Fund: water storage and conveyance. (Amended: 2/23/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 3/8/2022-March 8 set for first hearing. Failed passage in committee. (Ayes 3. Noes 6.)

Location: 2/9/2022-S. N.R. & W.

Summary: Under existing law, the United States Bureau of Reclamation operates the federal Central Valley Project and the Department of Water Resources operates the State Water Project to supply water to persons and entities in the state. Existing law requires the Friant-Kern Canal to be of such capacity as the department determines necessary to furnish an adequate supply of water for beneficial purposes in the area to be served by the canal. This bill would establish the Water Storage and Conveyance Fund in the State Treasury to be administered by the department. The bill would require all moneys deposited in the fund to be expended, upon appropriation by the Legislature, in support of subsidence repair and reservoir storage costs, including environmental planning, permitting, design, and construction and all necessary road and bridge upgrades required to accommodate capacity improvements. The bill would require the department to expend from the fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, specified monetary amounts to complete funding for the construction of the Sites Reservoir, and to restore the capacity of 4 specified water conveyance systems, as prescribed, with 2 of those 4 expenditures being in the form of a grant to the Friant Water Authority and to the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority. This bill would make these provisions inoperative on July 1, 2030, and would repeal it as of January 1, 2031. This bill contains other related provisions.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

SB 896 (Dodd D) Wildfires: defensible space: grant programs: local governments. (

Amended: 5/5/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 6/14/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 9. Noes 0.) (June 13). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/13/2022-A. APPR.

Calendar: 8/3/2022 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS, HOLDEN, Chair

Summary: Existing law requires a person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining a mountainous area, forest-covered lands, shrub-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or land that is covered with flammable material to maintain defensible space of 100 feet from each side. Existing law requires the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish a statewide program to allow qualified entities, including counties and other political subdivisions of the state, to support and augment the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in its defensible space and home hardening assessment and education efforts. Existing law requires the director to establish a common reporting platform that allows defensible space and home hardening assessment data, collected by the qualified entities, to be reported to the department. This bill would require any local governmental entity that is qualified to conduct these defensible space assessments in very high and high fire hazard severity zones, as specified, and that reports that information to the department, to report that information using the common reporting platform. The bill would require the department, on December 31, 2023, and annually thereafter, to report to the Legislature all defensible space data collected through the common reporting platform, as provided. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

SB 938 (Hertzberg D) The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000: protest proceedings: procedural consolidation. (Chaptered: 7/1/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 7/1/2022-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 89, Statutes of 2022.

Location: 7/1/2022-S. CHAPTERED

Summary: Existing law, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, provides the exclusive authority and procedure for the initiation, conduct, and completion of changes of organization and reorganization for cities and districts, except as specified. Under existing law, in each county there is a local agency formation commission (commission) that oversees these changes of organization and reorganization. Existing law authorizes a commission to dissolve an inactive district if specified conditions are satisfied. This bill would also authorize a commission to initiate a proposal for the dissolution of a district, as described, if the commission

approves, adopts, or accepts a specified study that includes a finding, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that, among other things, the district has one or more documented chronic service provision deficiencies, the district spent public funds in an unlawful or reckless manner, or the district has shown willful neglect by failing to consistently adhere to the California Public Records Act. The bill would require the commission to adopt a resolution of intent to initiate a dissolution based on these provisions and to provide a remediation period of at least 12 months, during which the district may take steps to remedy the stated deficiencies. The bill would authorize the commission, at the conclusion of the remediation period, to find that the district has failed to remedy the deficiencies and adopt a resolution to dissolve the district. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

SB 995 ([Nielsen R](#)) **Navigable waters: hazardous, medical, or human waste.** (Amended: 3/21/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 4/29/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was E.Q. on 3/22/2022)

Location: 4/29/2022-S. DEAD

Summary: Existing law makes it a misdemeanor to place, deposit, or dump garbage in or upon the navigable waters of this state, or to place, deposit, or load it upon a vessel, with intent that it be dumped or deposited in or upon the navigable waters of this state or at any point in the ocean within 20 miles of any point on the coastline of the state. This bill would also make it a misdemeanor to place, deposit, or dump hazardous, medical, or human waste in or upon the navigable waters of this state, or to place, deposit, or load it upon a vessel, with intent that it be dumped or deposited in or upon the navigable waters of this state or at any point in the ocean within 20 miles of any point on the coastline of the state. By creating a new crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

SB 1020 ([Laird D](#)) **Clean Energy, Jobs, and Affordability Act of 2022.** (Amended: 5/23/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/28/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 8. Noes 3.) (June 27). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/27/2022-A. APPR.

Calendar: 8/3/2022 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS, HOLDEN, Chair

Summary: The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency responsible for monitoring and regulating sources emitting greenhouse gases. The act requires the state board to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas

emissions and to update the scoping plan at least once every 5 years. The act requires the state board to conduct a series of public workshops to give interested parties an opportunity to comment on the plan and requires a portion of those workshops to be conducted in regions of the state that have the most significant exposure to air pollutants, including communities with minority populations, communities with low-income populations, or both. This bill instead would modify, with respect to the provision that a portion of the workshops be conducted in regions of the state that have the most significant exposure to air pollutants, the above-described included communities as additionally being areas designated as federal extreme nonattainment. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1059](#) ([Becker D](#)) Privacy: data brokers. (Amended: 4/21/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/20/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(8). (Last location was S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/16/2022)

Location: 5/20/2022-S. DEAD

Summary: Existing law, the California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018 (CCPA), grants a consumer various rights with respect to personal information that is collected or sold by a business, as defined, and also establishes, as approved by the voters as Proposition 24 at the November 3, 2020, statewide general election, the California Privacy Protection Agency and vests it with full administrative power, authority, and jurisdiction to implement and enforce the CCPA. The California Constitution grants a right of privacy. Existing law requires data brokers to register with, and provide certain information to, the Attorney General. Existing law defines a data broker as a business that knowingly collects and sells to third parties the personal information of a consumer with whom the business does not have a direct relationship, subject to specified exceptions. Existing law subjects data brokers that fail to register to injunction and liability for civil penalties, fees, and costs in an action brought by the Attorney General, with any recovery to be deposited in the Consumer Privacy Fund, as specified. Existing law imposes a \$100 civil penalty for each day a data broker fails to register. This bill would include in the definition of data broker a business that knowingly collects and shares, as defined, certain personal information to third parties. The bill would transfer all authority and responsibilities under the provisions relating to data broker registration from the Attorney General to the CCPA, including by requiring data brokers to annually register with the CPPA on or before January 31. However, the bill would authorize the Attorney General to also bring an action against a data broker that fails to register. The bill would require data brokers to provide additional information to the CPPA during the registration process would increase the civil penalty for failing to register to \$200 for each day the data broker fails to register. The bill would require the CPPA to adopt regulations in compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act. The bill would also make other technical changes. This bill contains other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1124](#) ([Archuleta D](#)) Public health goal: primary drinking water standard: manganese. (

Amended: 6/23/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/28/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 6. Noes 2.) (June 28). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/28/2022-A. APPR.

Calendar: 8/3/2022 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS, HOLDEN, Chair

Summary: The California Safe Drinking Water Act provides for the operation of public water systems and tasks the State Water Resources Control Board with various responsibilities and duties relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health. The act requires the state board to adopt primary drinking water standards for contaminants in drinking water that are based upon specified criteria, as provided. The act requires the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to prepare and publish an assessment of the risks to public health posed by each contaminant for which the state board proposes a primary drinking water standard. The act requires the risk assessment to contain an estimate of the level of the contaminant in drinking water that is not anticipated to cause or contribute to adverse health effects, or that does not pose any significant risk to public health, also known as the public health goal for the contaminant. The act requires the state board to consider specified criteria when it adopts a primary drinking water standard, including the public health goal for the contaminant published by OEHHA. This bill would require, on or before July 1, 2025, OEHHA to prepare a public health goal for manganese, as provided. The bill would require the state board, after OEHHA publishes a public health goal for manganese, to adopt a primary drinking water standard, as defined, for manganese and to establish for that standard, and for the period before adoption of that standard, monitoring requirements for manganese, as specified. The bill would require, on or before January 31, 2024, the state board to consider establishing a notification and response level for manganese that would remain in place until the state board adopts a primary drinking water standard for manganese. The bill would authorize the state board, before adopting a primary drinking water standard for manganese, to continue to provide funding for treatment, source protection, and alternative water supplies and to continue to require community water systems to monitor manganese in their source water and within their distribution systems, as provided.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1144](#) (Wiener D) Water efficiency and quality assessment reports: state buildings and public school buildings. (Amended: 6/16/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/29/2022-VOTE: Do pass as amended and be re-referred to the Committee on [Appropriations] (PASS)

Location: 6/29/2022-A. APPR.

Calendar: 8/3/2022 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS, HOLDEN, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, requires the State Water Resources Control Board (state board) to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health. In this regard, existing law prohibits a person from using any pipe, pipe or plumbing fitting or fixture, solder, or flux that is not lead free in the installation or repair of any public water system or any plumbing in a facility providing water for human consumption, except as

provided. This bill would require, no later than January 1, 2025, except as provided, an operating agency, as defined, to complete a water efficiency and quality assessment report, as specified, for each covered building. The bill would define a “covered building” to mean a building owned and occupied, or leased, maintained, and occupied, by a state agency, or a public school building, as described. If the report identifies noncompliant plumbing fixtures and noncompliant appliances, the bill would require the operating agency to replace those fixtures and appliances that fail to meet water efficiency standards, as specified, at the earliest practical time, subject to available funding. If the report determines that a building’s potable water system is contaminated with lead, the bill would require the operating agency to fit all drinking and cooking water sources with particulate and lead filters as soon as possible, no later than one year from receipt of the report, subject to available funding, as specified. If the report determines that a building contains lead pipe, the bill would require the operating agency to replace the lead pipe at the earliest practical time, subject to available funding. If the report determines that a building contains pipe of unknown material that was installed prior to 2010, the bill would require the operating agency to either treat the pipe as lead pipe or test the pipe to determine if it meets the definition of lead pipe. The bill would also require that buildings that contain non-lead-free pipe be remediated by providing occupants access to drinking fountains with filters, as specified, subject to available funding. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1146](#) ([Grove R](#)) **Water rights: reasonable and beneficial use of water. (Introduced: 2/16/2022 [html pdf](#))**

Status: 2/23/2022-Referred to Com. on RLS.

Location: 2/16/2022-S. RLS.

Summary: Existing law declares that the right to water is limited to that water that is reasonably required for the beneficial use to be served, and does not extend to the waste or unreasonable use, unreasonable method of use, or unreasonable method of diversion of water. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to that provision.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1150](#) ([Gonzalez D](#)) **Pure and safe drinking water. (Introduced: 2/16/2022 [html pdf](#))**

Status: 2/23/2022-Referred to Com. on RLS.

Location: 2/16/2022-S. RLS.

Summary: Existing law, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, requires the State Water Resources Control Board to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health and vests with the state board specified responsibilities. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to legislative findings and declarations in the act relating to pure and safe drinking water.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1157](#) (Hertzberg D) Urban water use objectives. (Amended: 6/16/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/16/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/14/2022-A. APPR.

Calendar: 8/3/2022 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS, HOLDEN, Chair

Summary: Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, and including collaboration with and input from stakeholders, to conduct necessary studies and investigations and authorizes the department and the board to jointly recommend to the Legislature a standard for indoor residential water use. Existing law, until January 1, 2025, establishes 55 gallons per capita daily as the standard for indoor residential water use. Existing law establishes, beginning January 1, 2025, the greater of 52.5 gallons per capita daily or a standard recommended by the department and the board as the standard for indoor residential water use, and beginning January 1, 2030, establishes the greater of 50 gallons per capita daily or a standard recommended by the department and the board as the standard for indoor residential water use. Existing law requires the board, in coordination with the department, to adopt by regulation variances recommended by the department and guidelines and methodologies pertaining to the calculation of an urban retail water supplier's urban water use objective recommended by the department. This bill would eliminate the option of using the greater of 52.5 gallons per capita daily and the greater of 50 gallons per capita daily, as applicable, or a standard recommended by the department and the board as the standard for indoor residential water use. The bill would instead require that from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2030, the standard for indoor residential water use be 47 gallons per capita daily and beginning January 1, 2030, the standard be 42 gallons per capita daily. The bill would require the department, in coordination with the board to conduct necessary studies and investigations to assess and quantify the economic benefit and impacts of meeting the 2030 indoor residential use standard on water, wastewater, and recycled water systems, as specified. The bill would require the department to summarize the findings of these studies and investigations in a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2027. The bill would require, on or before January 1, 2028, the department, in coordination with the board, to submit a report to the Legislature on the progress of urban retail water suppliers towards achieving their urban water use objective.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1166](#) (Grove R) Department of Water Resources: appropriations of water. (Introduced: 2/17/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 3/2/2022-Referred to Com. on RLS.

Location: 2/17/2022-S. RLS.

Summary: Under existing law, the Department of Water Resources is required to make and file with the State Water Resources Control Board applications for the appropriation of any water that, in the

department's judgment, is or may be required in the development and completion of all or part of a general or coordinated plan for the development, utilization, or conservation of the water resources of the state. Existing law gives those applications priority, as of the date of filing the application, over any subsequent application and generally exempts the applications from certain water rights diligence provisions. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

SB 1188 ([Laird D](#)) **Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: financial assistance.** (Amended: 3/15/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/28/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To consent calendar. (Ayes 8. Noes 0.) (June 28). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/28/2022-A. APPR.

Calendar: 8/3/2022 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS, HOLDEN, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Law of 1997, establishes the continuously appropriated Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to provide financial assistance for the design and construction of projects for public water systems that will enable those systems to meet safe drinking water standards. Existing law authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board, to the extent permitted by federal law, to provide up to 100% grant funding, and principal forgiveness and 0% financing on loans, from the fund to a project for a water system that serves a severely disadvantaged community. Existing law requires the interest rate for repayable financing provided from the fund to be 0% if the financing is for a public water system that serves a disadvantaged community with a financial hardship or if the financing is for a public water system that provides matching funds. This bill would delete those provisions relating to 0% financing and interest and would instead generally authorize the board, to the extent authorized by federal law, to provide reduced or 0% financing to further the purposes of the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Law of 1997. The bill would delete the requirement that a water system serve a severely disadvantaged community in order to be provided with up to 100% grant funding or principal forgiveness and instead authorize providing that grant funding or principal forgiveness to certain other water systems. By making moneys in the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, a continuously appropriated fund, available for new purposes, the bill would make an appropriation. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

SB 1197 ([Caballero D](#)) **Water Innovation and Drought Resiliency Act of 2022.** (Amended: 3/16/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 5/20/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(8). (Last location was S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/2/2022)

Location: 5/20/2022-S. DEAD

Summary: Existing law declares that the protection of the public interest in the development of the water resources of the state is of vital concern to the people of the state and that the state shall determine in what way the water of the state, both surface and underground, should be developed for the greatest public benefit. Existing law creates the Office of Planning and Research to serve the Governor as staff for long-range planning and research and as a comprehensive state planning agency. This bill, the Water Innovation and Drought Resiliency Act of 2022, would create the Initiative to Advance Water Innovation and Drought Resiliency at the office for the furtherance of new technologies and other innovative approaches in the water sector. The bill would require the office, as part of the initiative, to take specified measures on or before December 31, 2024, to advance innovation in the water sector and ensure a drought-resilient economy. The bill would require the office to submit to the Legislature and post on its internet website a report detailing the actions taken as part of the initiative and recommendations for further actions. The bill would make findings and declarations regarding the need for water innovation. This bill contains other related provisions.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1205](#) (Allen D) Water rights: appropriation. (Amended: 6/30/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/30/2022-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/28/2022-A. APPR.

Calendar: 8/3/2022 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS, HOLDEN, Chair

Summary: Under existing law, the State Water Resources Control Board administers a water rights program pursuant to which the board grants permits and licenses to appropriate water. As a prerequisite to the issuance of a permit to appropriate water, existing law requires certain facts to exist, including that there is unappropriated water available to supply the applicant. This bill would require the board to develop and adopt regulations to govern consideration of climate change in water availability analyses used in the board's review of applications for water rights permits, including consideration of the effects of climate change, as specified, upon watershed hydrology as part of the preparation of water availability analyses. The bill would require the board to consult with the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and qualified hydrologists and climate change scientists, among others, in preparing the regulations.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1218](#) (Hurtado D) Delta Stewardship Council: annual water supply reliability estimation. (

Introduced: 2/17/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 4/29/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was N.R. & W. on 3/2/2022)

Location: 4/29/2022-S. DEAD

Summary: Existing law, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009, establishes the Delta Stewardship Council, which is required to develop, adopt, and commence implementation of a comprehensive management plan, known as the Delta Plan, for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This bill would require the council, at least once annually, to publish on its internet website, in consultation with relevant state and federal agencies and the public, a water supply reliability estimation for the water flows into the Delta and out of the Straits of Carquinez and into the San Francisco Bay.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1219](#) ([Hurtado D](#)) 21st century water laws and agencies: committee. (Amended: 4/6/2022 [html pdf](#))

Status: 7/5/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(14). (Last location was A. W.,P. & W. on 6/2/2022)

Location: 7/5/2022-A. DEAD

Summary: Existing law establishes the State Water Resources Control Board within the California Environmental Protection Agency with specified duties relating to, among other things, administering water rights, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and the California Safe Drinking Water Act. Existing law establishes the Department of Water Resources within the Natural Resources Agency and prescribes the jurisdiction and various general administrative authorities and duties of the department regarding, among other things, matters pertaining to water resources and dams in the state. This bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency and the Secretary for Environmental Protection to convene a committee to develop and submit, on or before December 31, 2024, to the Governor and to the Legislature a strategic vision, proposed statutes, and recommendations for a modern 21st century set of water laws and regulations and state and local water agencies for the state, as provided. The committee would consist of 5 specified heads of state agencies, 2 members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly. The bill would require the Governor or the committee to appoint a “blue ribbon” citizen commission or taskforce, a stakeholder advisory committee, and any other group that the Governor or the committee deems necessary or desirable to assist in carrying out these provisions. The bill would require all relevant state agencies, at the request of the committee, to make available staff and resources to assist in the preparation of the strategic vision and proposed statutes. The bill would authorize the committee, its members, and state agencies represented on the committee to contract for consultants to assist in the preparation of the strategic vision and proposed statutes, as specified, and would exempt those contracts from certain public contracting requirements.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1220](#) ([Hurtado D](#)) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater sustainability plans. (Introduced: 2/17/2022 [html pdf](#))

Status: 5/6/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was S. N.R. & W. on

3/2/2022)

Location: 5/6/2022-S. DEAD

Summary: Existing law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources that are designated as basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2020, and requires all other groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2022, except as specified. This bill would provide that nothing in those provisions relating to making submissions to the department shall be construed to prohibit groundwater sustainability agencies that have developed multiple groundwater sustainability plans for a basin from amending the coordination agreement following department issuance of an assessment of the plans. This bill contains other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1221](#) ([Hurtado D](#)) **Wastewater operator certification program. (Introduced: 2/17/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))**

Status: 3/2/2022- Referred to Com. on RLS.

Location: 2/17/2022-S. RLS.

Summary: Existing law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to examine and certify persons as to their qualifications to operate water treatment plants and water distribution systems. Existing law requires the certification to indicate the classification of water treatment plant or water distribution system that the person is qualified to operate. Existing law requires the board to issue a water treatment operator certificate and water distribution operator certificate by reciprocity to any person holding a valid, unexpired, comparable certification issued by another state, the United States, prescribed territories or tribal governments, or a unit of any of these. Existing law requires the board to classify types of wastewater treatment plants for the purpose of determining the levels of competence necessary to operate them. Existing law requires a person who operates a nonexempt wastewater treatment plant to possess a valid, unexpired wastewater certificate, as defined. Existing law requires the board to develop and specify in its regulations the training necessary to qualify a person for a wastewater certificate for each type and class of plant. Existing law authorizes the board to accept experience in lieu of qualification training. This bill would make a nonsubstantive change in the provision regarding accepting experience in lieu of qualification training.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1253](#) ([Melendez R](#)) **Infrastructure plan: flood control: delta levees. (Amended: 3/8/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))**

Status: 6/28/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To consent calendar. (Ayes 14. Noes 0.) (June 28). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/28/2022-A. APPR.

Calendar: 8/3/2022 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS, HOLDEN, Chair

Summary: The California Infrastructure Planning Act requires the Governor to submit annually to the Legislature, in conjunction with the Governor's Budget, a proposed 5-year infrastructure plan containing prescribed information. Existing law requires the plan to identify state infrastructure needs and set out priorities for funding. This bill would additionally require the plan to set out infrastructure priorities relating to specified flood prevention and maintenance projects.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1254](#) ([Hertzberg D](#)) **Drinking water: administrator: managerial and other services. (**

Amended: 6/15/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)

Status: 6/21/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To consent calendar. (Ayes 10. Noes 0.) (June 21). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/21/2022-A. APPR.

Calendar: 8/3/2022 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS, HOLDEN, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, provides for the operation of public water systems and imposes on the State Water Resources Control Board various responsibilities and duties. The act authorizes the state board to contract with, or provide a grant to, an administrator to provide administrative, technical, operational, legal, or managerial services, or any combination of those services, to a designated water system to assist with the provision of an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water. Existing law prescribes the processes and procedures pursuant to which the state board may identify a designated water system in need of services, order a designated water system to accept services from an administrator, and work with the administrator of a designated water system to develop adequate technical, managerial, and financial capacity to deliver an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water so that administrator services are no longer necessary. This bill would, among other things, revise the definition of "designated water system" and limit the liability of an administrator when the state board appoints an administrator to a designated water system, as prescribed.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1373](#) ([Kamlager D](#)) **Surplus land disposal. (Amended: 6/20/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#).)**

Status: 6/30/2022-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 6/30/2022-A. THIRD READING

Summary: Existing law prescribes requirements for the disposal of surplus land by a local agency,

as defined. Existing law provides that certain dispositions of real property by local agencies are subject to surplus land disposal procedures as they existed on December 31, 2019, without regard to specified amendments that took effect on January 1, 2020, if those dispositions comply with specified requirements and the disposition is completed not later than December 31, 2022. Existing law extends the date that the disposition must be completed by to December 31, 2024, for specified properties, including properties related to the Metro North Hollywood Joint Development Project. Existing law further extends the dates by which the disposition of property must be completed, as specified, if the disposition of property, the local agency's right or ability to dispose of the property, or a development project for which the property is proposed to be transferred, is the subject of judicial challenge. This bill would extend the date by which the disposition of property must be completed to December 31, 2024, if the property is located in a local agency with a population of over 2,000,000 persons and the local agency has either an option agreement duly authorized by the local agency's governing body to purchase the property from the former redevelopment agency, or an exclusive negotiation agreement with a private entity to develop the subject property for economic development or housing purposes. The bill would further extend that date if the disposition of property, the local agency's right or ability to dispose of the property, or a development project for which the property is proposed to be transferred, is the subject of judicial challenge. This bill contains other related provisions.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1414](#) ([Durazo D](#)) **Surplus land disposal. (Introduced: 2/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))**

Status: 3/9/2022-Referred to Com. on RLS.

Location: 2/18/2022-S. RLS.

Summary: Existing law prescribes requirements for the disposal of surplus land by a local agency, as defined. Existing law provides that certain dispositions of real property by local agencies are subject to surplus land disposal procedures as they existed on December 31, 2019, without regard to specified amendments that took effect on January 1, 2020, if those dispositions comply with specified requirements. Existing law extends the dates by which the disposition of property must be completed, as specified, if the disposition of property, the local agency's right or ability to dispose of the property, or a development project for which the property is proposed to be transferred, is the subject of judicial challenge. This bill would make a nonsubstantive change to the provision extending the dates by which the disposition of property must be completed if the property is subject to judicial challenge.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1442](#) ([Borgeas R](#)) **Water conservation and reclamation projects. (Introduced: 2/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))**

Status: 3/9/2022-Referred to Com. on RLS.

Location: 2/18/2022-S. RLS.

Summary: Existing law establishes the Water Conservation Projects Act of 1985 and declares the intent of the Legislature to encourage local agencies and private enterprise to implement water conservation and reclamation projects. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to related legislative findings and declarations.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1459](#) (Caballero D) State water policy. (Introduced: 2/18/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 3/9/2022-Referred to Com. on RLS.

Location: 2/18/2022-S. RLS.

Summary: The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act requires the State Water Resources Control Board to formulate and adopt state policy for water quality control.This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to that provision.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1469](#) (Bradford D) Water corporations: rates. (Amended: 6/6/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 6/23/2022-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 14. Noes 0.) (June 22). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/22/2022-A. APPR.

Calendar: 8/3/2022 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS, HOLDEN, Chair

Summary: Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission, in establishing rates for water service, to consider separate charges for costs associated with customer service, facilities, variable operating costs, or other components of the water service provided to water users. Existing law requires the commission to consider, and authorizes the commission to authorize, a water corporation to establish programs, including rate designs, for achieving conservation of water and recovering the cost of these programs through the rates. This bill would, upon application by a water corporation, require the commission to consider, and authorize the commission to authorize, the implementation of a mechanism that separates the water corporation's revenues and its water sales, as provided. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

[SB 1485](#) (Rubio D) Elections: required filings. (Amended: 3/16/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#))

Status: 4/29/2022-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(5). (Last location was E. & C.A. on

3/23/2022)

Location: 4/29/2022-S. DEAD

Summary: Under existing law, if an incumbent officer of a county does not deliver their nomination papers by 5 p.m. on the 88th day before the direct primary election, any person other than the incumbent has until 5 p.m. on the 83rd day before the election to file nomination documents for the elective office. This bill would require the county elections official to post on their internet website an office that has an extended nomination period. By increasing the duties of local elections officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other existing laws.

| Organization | Assigned | Position | Priority | Subject | Group |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| SCV Water Agency | DKA AM | | | | |

Notes 1:

Total Measures: 99

Total Tracking Forms: 99

MEMORANDUM

July 1, 2022

To: ACWA State Legislative Committee

From: Kylie Wright, State Relations Assistant

Re: 2022 State Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule

Below is **bill packet #1** for the State Legislative Committee meeting on **Wednesday, July 6, 2022**. The meeting will begin at **10:00 a.m. REMOTELY OVER ZOOM**. **See top of agenda page or email for login information**. If you have questions or concerns regarding any of the bills in the packet, please contact the advocate assigned to the bill prior to the meeting.

The ACWA State Legislative Committee will meet on the following dates in 2022:

➤ August 5, 2022

Annual Planning Meeting: October 28, 2022

All meetings will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and will adjourn around 12:00 p.m. If you have any questions please email Kylie Wright, ACWA State Relations Assistant, at kyliew@acwa.com, or call at (916) 441-4545.

Excused Absences and Designation of an Alternate

Active participation by members appointed to the ACWA State Legislative Committee is critical to the success of its mission as described in the ACWA Bylaws and the ACWA Committee Guidelines. Therefore, regular attendance is essential. The ACWA Committee Guidelines state that two unexcused absences from the Committee will constitute a resignation of the Committee Member. The Committee Member should submit a request for an excused absence to the Region Chair, or if unavailable, to the Region Vice-Chair, and copy Kylie Wright via email at kyliew@acwa.com.

The State Legislative Committee Chair has been asked to provide clarification as to whether a Committee Member not able to attend a meeting is authorized to designate an alternate to act on behalf of the Committee Member. ACWA bylaws and committee guidelines do not provide for designation of alternates for Committee Members. The Committee's long-standing practice, however, has been and will continue to be to allow a Member of the Committee with an excused absence to designate an alternate. The Committee Member will be required to secure the concurrence of the appropriate ACWA Region Chair for the alternate. The Committee Member should provide the name of the approved alternate to Kylie Wright prior to the Committee meeting. The alternate will be authorized to fully participate in all discussions of the Committee and to vote on issues before the Committee. Committee Members, including alternates, act on behalf of the region for which they were appointed to represent.

ACWA State Legislative Committee's Guidelines for Taking Positions on Legislation

Last Revised January 2018

Background

A number of controversial bills are introduced each year in the California Legislature. It is always important to understand how ACWA takes positions on legislation. An explanation of that process follows, including details on ACWA's State Legislative Committee's Annual Planning Meeting.

State Legislative Committee: A Definition

ACWA's State Legislative Committee (the Committee) is a standing and limited committee composed of not more than four representatives from each of ACWA's ten geographically-based regions, for a total of not more than forty members. Representatives are: (1) nominated by an ACWA member agency; (2) recommended from that pool of candidates by the Chair of the respective region (in most cases in consultation with the region's board) to the ACWA President; and (3) appointed by ACWA's President for a two-year term.

The Role of ACWA Members and the Committee's Annual Planning Meeting

To establish priorities for the legislative session, each summer the Committee notifies all ACWA member agencies via announcements in ACWA News, via e-mail and through a direct letter to the agency General Manager that the Committee is accepting proposals for legislation to review and consider for sponsorship or support. ACWA's State Legislative Department compiles the proposals, completes a thorough analysis of each submission, and provides it to Committee Members with a recommendation for action. The Committee then reviews the proposals in the fall at its annual planning meeting and determines legislative priorities for the following year, including which proposals will or will not be sponsored or supported by ACWA.

Committee Meetings

During the regular legislative session, which begins in January of odd-numbered years, the Committee meets approximately every three weeks, for a total of ten meetings a year, to review legislation. Special meetings may be called on an as-needed basis. ACWA positions on legislation are determined by a vote of the Committee (i.e., Committee Members and approved alternates) based on analyses and recommendations prepared by ACWA legislative staff. Analyses are sent to members of the Committee and other ACWA members, as requested, in one or more electronic mailings before each Committee meeting. The Committee discusses each bill during its meetings and votes on positions to guide ACWA staff advocacy efforts on the legislation.

ACWA's Positions on Legislation

The Committee takes positions on legislation that, if enacted, would impact ACWA members. The Committee may take the following positions on legislation: Oppose, Support, Oppose Unless Amended, Support if Amended, Not Favor, Favor, Not Favor Unless Amended, Favor if Amended, and Watch (neutral). ACWA's legislative staff testifies at hearings and lobbies legislators and staff through meetings and member agency contacts on all positions except

Watch, Favor and Not Favor. For Favor and Not Favor positions, written communication of ACWA's position is provided to the legislator.

Positions are not normally taken on legislation if member agencies are on opposite sides of an issue. Exceptions include legislation that, if enacted, would establish poor precedent if applied broadly to ACWA member agencies.

If a particular bill requires further review before consensus on an official ACWA position can be determined, policy subcommittees may be formed to assist the Committee's review of proposed legislation.

Motions During Debate

When bringing or debating a motion before the State Legislative Committee, the following process will apply. The three steps for bringing a motion before the State Legislative Committee (committee) are:

- (a) A Committee Member makes a motion
- (b) Another Committee Member seconds the motion
- (c) The Chair states the motion

Once the motion has been stated by the Chair, it is open to formal discussion. While only one motion can be considered at a time, and a motion must be disposed of before any other question is considered;

- (a) A motion may be amended before it is voted on, either by the consent of the Committee Members who moved and seconded, or by a new motion and second, which is then approved by the Committee.
- (b) A motion may be tabled before it is voted on by motion made to table, which is then seconded and approved by the Committee.
- (c) A motion may be rejected without further discussion of or action on the motion by a motion of "objection to consideration," which is then seconded and approved by the Committee.
- (d) Further discussion of a motion can be terminated by a motion "to call the question," which is then seconded and approved by the Committee. Any Committee Member, including the Chair, may make or second a motion.

Amendment Development Process

If the Committee takes an Oppose Unless Amended or Support if Amended position, the Committee will typically discuss the concepts for the amendments at the meeting. Then a Committee Member(s) or ACWA's legislative staff, in consultation with Committee Members as needed, will develop the amendments after the meeting.

In some situations, a Committee Member, staff or a guest may develop an amendment set for consideration by the Committee at the meeting. In order to facilitate an informed decision by the Committee, it is the Committee's policy to have proposed written amendment sets available for review by the Committee as soon as is feasible. Therefore, absent extenuating

circumstances, proposed written amendments should be provided to ACWA staff for distribution to the Committee at least forty-eight hours in advance of the Committee meeting. If extenuating circumstances exist so that a guest cannot provide an amendment set to staff 48 hours in advance of the meeting, a guest may ask a Committee Member to present the amendment set (as opposed to guests distributing amendment sets at the meeting without any prior vetting).

Information Sharing

To provide adequate information to the entire ACWA membership, the Committee sponsors an annual Legislative Symposium, provides state legislative updates in ACWA News, posts positions and other information on the State Legislative Committee page of ACWA's Web site, and sends out advisories and alerts on key legislation. State Legislative Committee Members may access information on the State Legislative Committee page by logging in on acwa.com and navigating to the My ACWA tab > ACWA Committees > State Legislative Committee > 2022 State Legislative Committee Meeting Materials (Members Only). ACWA's legislative department is available to provide specific information on bills, and Committee Members are encouraged to communicate ACWA positions on priority legislation at the region level. ACWA's State Legislative Department appreciates being informed by ACWA members of positions taken by ACWA members on legislation.

For more information, contact Adam Quiñonez, ACWA Director of State Relations, at (916) 441-4545 or adamq@acwa.com.

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ACWA State Legislative Committee

July 06, 2022

REMOTE ACCESS ONLY

Click [HERE](#) for Video Login

Meeting ID: 844 6911 0655; Passcode: 044982

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

-
- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Welcome | Brian Poulsen, Chair Lauren Layne, Vice Chair |
| 2. Review of Bill Packet* | |
| 3. Other Business | |
| 4. Adjourn | |

Reminder: Next State Legislative Committee Meeting on **August 5, 2022**

*Bill packets are also available online by logging on to www.acwa.com.

To access, go to the About My ACWA tab > ACWA Committees > State Legislative > 2022 State Legislative Committee Meeting Materials (Members Only)

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BILL PACKET #1

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SENATE BILLS:

SB 222: Water affordability assistance program.

Author: Dodd (D-Napa)

Introduced: 01-14-21

Amended: 06-23-22

Sponsors:

Clean Water Action,
Community Water Center,
Leadership Counsel for
Justice and Accountability

Current Position:

Watch

Recommended Position:

Oppose Unless Amended

Assigned to: Cindy Tuck/Kylie Wright

Existing Law

The California Safe Drinking Water Act requires the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health. California’s “Human Right to Water” declares it the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, **affordable**, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.

AB 401 (Statutes of 2015, Chapter 662) required the State Water Board, by January 1, 2018, to develop a plan for the funding and implementation of a Low-Income Water Rate Assistance (LIRA) Program. This law required the State Water Board, by February 1, 2018, to report to the Legislature on its findings regarding the feasibility, financial stability, and desired structure of the program, including any recommendations for legislative action.

Bill Summary

1. Water Rate Assistance Program and Fund - Overview

SB 222 would direct the **State Water Board** to develop and administer the Water Rate Assistance Program. The bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Fund (Fund) in the State Treasury. The Fund would provide water affordability assistance for both drinking water and wastewater services to low-income residential ratepayers. Money in the Fund would be made available upon appropriation by the Legislature to the State Water Board to provide, in consultation with relevant agencies, direct water bill assistance to residential ratepayers served by eligible systems and by tribal water systems that choose to participate.

2. Definitions

SB 222 would define the following terms:

- A) “Effective Date” as the **date of appropriation of funding** in the annual Budget Act or another statute for purposes of this chapter;
- B) “Eligible system” as a community water system (CWS) or sewer system;
- C) “Low-income” as an annual household income that is equal to or no greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline level and consistent with the guidelines established for the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program;
- D) “Relevant agencies” as those agencies that have a role, through data collection; regulation, or enforcement, in providing services, oversight, and assistance to public water systems and low-income ratepayers; and
- E) “Residential ratepayer” as a resident of a single-family or multifamily resident who **receives a bill** for water or wastewater.

3. Administrative Costs

SB 222 would authorize the State Water Board, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to expend Fund moneys for reasonable administration costs. Commencing 365 days after the effective date, the bill would require that reasonable administration costs of the State Water Board and the relevant agencies not exceed 10 percent of the annual deposits into the Fund.

The bill would authorize the State Water Board to reimburse eligible systems for reasonable administration costs, which would not count towards the 10 percent limitation. The bill would require, commencing 365 days after the effective date, that eighty percent of the total funds would be applied directly to customer assistance. Additionally, the bill would require the State Water Board to provide eligible systems funds for administration of the program, not to exceed the greater of 3 percent of the total subsidy or two thousand dollars.

4. Fund Administration

SB 222 would authorize the State Water Board to:

- A) Deposit moneys into the Fund from federal or state funding, voluntary contributions, and funding agreements;
- B) Develop and implement a process for disbursing program funds to eligible systems, tribal water systems, or third-party providers, including controls to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse;
- C) Expend, upon appropriation by the Legislature, moneys in the Fund for **grants**, contracts, or services to assist eligible recipients;
- D) Provide technical assistance to eligible systems, serving fewer than 3,300 connections to administer the application of funds to low-income households;
- E) Identify and contract with a **third-party fund administrator** for work such as, but not limited to, eligibility determination, call center services, internet-based enrollments, and document intake and processing;
- F) Establish a process to regularly confirm the eligibility of recipients.

5. Program Implementation

- A. Guidelines and Stakeholder Advisory Group

The State Water Board, in consultation with relevant agencies, would be required to adopt **guidelines** for implementation of this program within 270 days of the effective date. SB 222 would require the State Water Board to consult with an advisory group that would include representatives of the following:

- 1) Community water systems;
- 2) Sewer systems;
- 3) Technical assistance providers, including those that support the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program;
- 4) Local agencies, including those that manage multi-family housing for low-income residents;
- 5) NGOs that work with residents of disadvantaged communities (DACs);
- 6) Representatives from the public, including, but not limited to, low-income residents and residents served by tribal water systems.

The guidelines would include:

- 1) Direction to eligible systems to automatically enroll households in which:
 - a) any member of the customer's household is currently enrolled, or a recipient of, CalWORKs, CalFresh, general assistance, Medi-Cal, Supplemental Security Income, State Supplementary Payment Program, or the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; or
 - b) the household is a utility customer enrolled in the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program or the Family Electric Rate assistance program;
- 2) Minimum requirements for eligible systems, including the establishment of system wide low-income rate assistance "programs," the ability to confirm eligibility for enrollment, and a process for expanding the assistance program if funding increases;
- 3) A system to **audit** eligible systems receiving funds.

B. Annual Report

SB 222 would require the State Water Board, following a public hearing, and in consultation with relevant agencies and the advisory group, to adopt an annual report to be posted on the State Water Board's website identifying how the Fund has performed. The bill would require that the annual report contain:

- 1) A report of expenditures from the Fund for the prior fiscal year, including how many households were served, and estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year;
- 2) An estimate of the number of households eligible for assistance. The estimate could not be based on a household-by-household evaluation;
- 3) An evaluation of available information regarding any **household-level affordability** issues that remain after application of bill assistance;
- 4) Methods to ensure timely and meaningful public participation and encourage enrollment in the program;
- 5) An estimate of the funding needed for the next fiscal year based on the amount available in the fund, anticipated funding needs, other existing funding sources, and other relevant data and information.

C. Electrical and Gas Customer Data

SB 222 would require, within 270 days of the effective date, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish a mechanism for electrical and gas corporations to share data with the State Water Board regarding customers enrolled in, or eligible to be enrolled in, the CARE program. SB 222 would also allow the State Water Board to enter into agreements with local publicly owned electric utilities and local publicly owned gas utilities, including but not limited to, municipal utility districts and irrigation districts, to regularly share data regarding utility customers enrolled in, or eligible to be enrolled in, affordability programs benefiting low-income customers. The agreements could authorize the State Water Board to provide data to eligible systems to assist with the administration of the program. This data sharing would be subject to the confidentiality provisions of California Government Code Section 6254.16.

6. Fund Expenditures

A. Advance Payments

SB 222 would allow the State Water Board to make advance payments from the Fund, as necessary. Before distribution of an advance payment, eligible systems would be required to provide an estimate of the number of households enrolled in the program and their expected bill discounts. The State Water Board would have discretion regarding whether to offer advance payments and what terms and conditions would apply.

B. Affordability Pilot Projects

The bill would authorize the State Water Board to include the guidelines authorization for pilot projects that include expenditures that improve affordability for residential households through the installation of water efficiency measures or programs that otherwise improve residential **household affordability** in mobilehome parks, multifamily housing, or other households that do not directly pay a water or wastewater bill.

7. Program Administration

The bill would require that the State Water Board:

- A) Provide guidance, oversight, and funding for low-income rate assistance for customers of eligible systems;
- B) For an eligible system that is not regulated by the CPUC, provide oversight of eligible systems' implementation of the program to ensure effectiveness and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse; and
- C) Consider identifying alternative entities to distribute and track benefits if the State Water Board has determined an eligible system is incapable of administering the program.

8. Existing LIRA Programs

The bill would require the State Water Board to coordinate with the CPUC to cease existing duplicative rate assistance programs offered by the investor-owned water utilities and transition the customers to this program. Any eligible system would be allowed to offer assistance in addition to, or on top of, the assistance provided through this program.

9. Compliance, Service Discontinuation and Enforcement

SB 222 would require all eligible systems, within 365 days of the effective date, to offer water rate assistance that complies with the minimum requirements for the guidelines.

The bill would require, prior to disconnection of service, a CWS to provide customers with arrears a notice that they may enter into a payment plan and after 30 days of the notice (instead of after 7 business days of the notice under existing law) disconnection may occur. A CWS would be prohibited from discontinuing water service to a customer that remains current on a payment plan. The payment plan and its associated rules would have to comply with existing law (SB 998), except that this applicability would be to systems of all sizes.

The bill would give enforcement authority to the Attorney General as specified. Any eligible system that did not establish and maintain a program consistent with the minimum requirements would be deemed an “at-risk” water system for purpose of the mandatory consolidation authority. Finally, the bill would authorize the State Water Board to qualify awards of financial assistance upon the establishment of a LIRA program consistent with the minimum requirements.

Amendment History

01-14-21 as Introduced

- 1) Fund – Would establish the Water Affordability Assistance Fund to help provide water affordability assistance, for both drinking water and wastewater services, to low-income ratepayers and ratepayers experiencing economic hardship in California.
- 2) Fund Purposes - Would consist of:
 - A) Water bill assistance;
 - B) Water bill credits;
 - C) Water crisis assistance;
 - D) Affordability assistance; and
 - E) Short-term assistance to public water systems to administer the program.
- 3) Implementing Agency – The State Water Board would be required to develop guidelines and fund oversight procedures for implementation of the program by January 1, 2023, consulting with an advisory group, and adopting an annual fund expenditure plan.
- 4) Customer Data – By July 1, 2022, the CPUC would be required to establish a mechanism for electrical corporations and gas corporations to, and would authorize the State Water Board to require local publicly owned electric utilities and local publicly owned gas utilities to, regularly share specified customer data with the State Water Board, subject to certain confidentiality protections.

04-05-21 Amendments

- 1) Title/Fund Name – Changed the program title from “Water Affordability Assistance Program” to “the “Water Rate Assistance Program” and the Fund name from the “Water Affordability Assistance Fund” to the “Water Rate Assistance Fund.”

- 2) Implementing Agency – Changed the implementing agency from the State Water Board to California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD).
- 3) Fund Purposes -
 - A) Deleted the Fund purpose of short-term assistance to public water systems to administer program component, including initial startup costs; and,
 - B) Added new purpose of technical assistance for small public water systems.
- 4) Third-Party Administrators - Added that CSD could identify and contract with a third-party fund administrator.
- 5) Cost Cap – Increased the proposed administrative costs cap for CSD from five to ten percent of the annual deposits.
- 6) Funding Distribution – Added that the process that the CSD would develop for disbursing funds could include third-party providers making direct payments to CWSs.
- 7) Recipient Eligibility – Added that CSD would be required to:
 - A) Verify (or have the third-party administrator) verify the eligibility of each recipient and establish a process to regularly confirm the eligibility of recipients; and
 - B) Consider: 1) if any member of the customer’s household is a current enrollee in or recipient of CalWORKS, CalFresh, general assistance, Medi-Cal, Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment Program, or California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; or 2) if the customer is a utility customer enrolled in the CARE program or the Family Electric Rate Assistance Program.
- 8) State Water Board Role – The amendments would result in the State Water Board having the following roles:
 - A) A JOINT role with CSD in the adoption of the annual Fund Expenditure Plan (FEP);
 - B) A consultative role relative to CSD’s development of guidelines and fund oversight procedures;
 - C) A joint role with CSD and CPUC in development of water bill affordability challenge metrics;
 - D) A consultative role relative to CSD’s expenditure of early (pre-Fund Expenditure Plan) deposits;
 - E) An unclear role related to collection of public water system rate and system boundary data (i.e., **“CSD shall coordinate with the state board to collect and ensure the accuracy of water rate data and water system boundary data from each public water system”**);
 - F) A consultative role relative to CSD’s oversight of the public water system’s implementation of the program;
 - G) A consultative role (together with the CPUC) for CSD’s development of performance metrics for the program; and
 - H) A consultative role relative to the CSD’s identification of alternative entities to distribute and track benefits if a public water system is unwilling to do so, or if CSD has determined that the system is incapable of administering the program.

04-20-21 Amendments

- 1) Water Rate Assistance Fund Uses – Removed the following proposed authorized uses:

- A) Affordability assistance to low income households served by domestic wells;
 - B) Water efficiency measures for low-income households; and
 - C) Technical assistance for small public water systems (this was moved to a different section and limited to assistance for administration of program components and start-up costs).
- 2) CPUC/Changes to Rate Assistance Programs – Added proposed requirement that that the FEP would have to include funding for a low-income rate assistance program before the existing rate assistance programs for investor-owned water utilities cease and customers are transitioned to the new program.
 - 3) State Mandate – Removed stipulation that no state reimbursement would be required by this bill.

05-03-21 Amendments

- 1) Water Rate Data – **Removed the proposed requirement that CSD coordinate with the State Water Board to collect and ensure the accuracy of water rate data and water system boundary data from each public water system.**

05-20-21 Amendments

- 1) Budget Appropriation – Specified that the operation of the chapter would be contingent upon an appropriation in the Budget Act or another statute for that purpose.

06-17-21 Amendments

- 1) Administrative Cost Cap – Added that “reasonable costs associated with the administration of this chapter” would include associated State Water Board administrative costs.
- 2) Sewer Systems – Added that the process that CSD would develop for disbursing program funds would also cover sewer systems (not just public water systems).
- 3) Technical Assistance – Instead of authorizing use of funding for technical systems to small water systems, proposes technical assistance for public water systems or sewer systems serving fewer than 3,300 connections.
- 4) FEP Adoption – Instead of proposing that CSD and the State Water Board both adopt the FEP, would have CSD adopt the FEP in consultation with the State Water Board.

07-05-21 Amendments

- 1) Customer Data – Removed the proposed requirement that CSD ensure that the confidentiality of the contact information is protected under reasonable security procedures. Added proposed requirement that the shared data would be subject to the Information Practices Act of 1977. Removed the proposed provision stating that a local publicly owned electric or gas utility is not subject to civil or criminal liability for the accuracy of, or any use, nonuse or improper release of the shared contact information.

07-15-21 Amendments

- 1) LIRA - Added a proposed requirement that once a FEP is adopted and includes funding for a LIRA program, CSD must provide low-income rate assistance for customers of public water systems and eligible households that do not receive a direct water bill.
- 2) Existing Programs – Would provide that this law does not prohibit a public water system not regulated by the CPUC from offering assistance to ratepayers that is in addition to, or on top of, the assistance provided through the program.
- 3) “Low Income” – Changes the proposed definition to “an annual household income that is not greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline level” and consistent with the CARE program.

08-30-21 Amendments

- 1) Administrative Costs – Added that CSD could reimburse public water systems and sewer systems for reasonable costs associated with the administration of this chapter, which would not count toward the 10-percent limitation, and a minimum of 80 percent of total funds would have to be directly applied to customer assistance.
- 2) “Early” Fund Expenditures – Added that if moneys were deposited into the fund before the adoption of an annual fund expenditure plan, CSD would be required to expend those moneys from the fund to provide water crisis assistance to low-income households through direct assistance to the low-income households, payment of delinquent amounts to the public water system or sewer system, or some other disbursement mechanism.
- 3) Customer Credit – A public water system or sewer system would be required to apply a credit to a customer account for funds received from CSD that are intended to address the customer’s delinquency.

06-23-22 Amendments

- 1) Implementing Agency – **Changed from CSD to the State Water Board.**
- 2) Crisis Assistance and Renter’s Credit – Deleted the proposal for funding for crisis assistance and renter’s credit.
- 3) Administrative Procedure Act (APA) – Added an exemption for this program from APA and deleted the proposed emergency regulation authority.
- 4) Annual Report – Eliminated the proposed requirement for adoption of an annual fund expenditure plan and replaced that with a proposed annual report to be posted to the State Water Board’s website.
- 5) Implementation Deadline – Revised the proposed implementation deadlines to be based from the “effective date” of the program, which would be defined as the date of appropriation of funding in the annual Budget Act or another statute.
- 6) Administrative Costs – Added a proposed requirement that the State Water Board provide to CWSs and sewer systems funds to administer the program not to exceed the greater of 3 percent of the total subsidy or \$2,000.
- 7) Automatic Enrollment – Added that household enrolled in specified federal and state assistance programs would be automatically enrolled in the program.

- 8) Affordability Pilot Projects – Added that the State Water Board could authorize pilot projects that improve affordability for residential households as specified (e.g., water efficiency measures or other programs).
- 9) Advance Payments – Added that the State Water Board would have the discretion to offer advance payments and determine what terms and conditions would apply.
- 10) Existing Programs – Added that the CPUC would cease duplicative customer assistance programs offered by investor-owned water utilities.
- 11) Additional Action – Added proposed authority (based on SB 200) for the State Water Board to take additional action as may be appropriate for adequate administration and operation of the fund and provision of direct water bill assistance.
- 12) Discontinuation of Service - The bill would require, prior to disconnection of service, a CWS to provide customers with arrearages a notice that they may enter into a payment plan and after **30 days** of the notice, disconnection may occur. A CWS would be prohibited from discontinuing water service to a customer that remained current on a payment plan. The payment plan and its associated rules would have to comply with existing law (SB 998), except that this applicability would be to systems of all sizes (i.e., adding systems of 200 or fewer connections).
- 13) Compliance (System Role) – Added that all eligible systems would be required to offer water rate assistance that complies with the minimum requirements within 365 days of the effective date.
- 14) Audit – Added that the guidelines would include a provision regarding the audit of eligible systems receiving funds.
- 15) Enforcement – Added:
 - A) Proposed authority for the Attorney General to enforce, as specified;
 - B) Proposed mandate that any eligible system that did not establish and maintain a program consistent with the minimum requirements would be deemed an “at-risk” water system for purposes of the mandatory consolidation authority in existing law.
 - C) Proposed authority for the State Water Board to qualify awards of financial assistance upon the establishment of a LIRA program consistent with the minimum requirements.

Staff Comments

1. Legislative and Regulatory History

SB 222 is the “son of AB 401.” AB 401 (Dodd, 2015). (Please see above regarding existing law.) When AB 401 went through the Legislature, ACWA worked with the Author on the bill and maintained a “Watch” position. In taking the “Watch” position on AB 401, ACWA recognized that there could be a reasonable statewide water LIRA program.

AB 401 required a “collaborative” process, and ACWA lobbied aggressively for such a process in both public meetings and stakeholder meetings. ACWA’s AB 401 Implementation Working Group guided the policy work. ACWA developed and submitted detailed comment letters that

addressed many aspects of the program and led an ACWA team that actively participated in stakeholder meetings.

Early in the process, State Water Board staff proposed a water tax as the funding source. ACWA advocated for progressive funding sources. Ultimately, the State Water Board submitted its [*Recommendations for Implementation of a Statewide Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program*](#) (“AB 401 Report”) to the Legislature in February of 2020 (two years late). In the AB 401 Report, the State Water Board envisioned most of the distribution of program benefits through water bills, crisis assistance for water ratepayers, and a renter’s water credit for residents who pay for water service indirectly through rent. For the funding source, the State Water Board ultimately recommended progressive revenue sources and a bottled water tax. [AB 401 Report, Page 9.] This was major progress relative to where the discussion started. It should be noted, however, that the AB 401 Report does include discussion and tables with funding options that include a “water user surcharge” (i.e., a water tax). [Pages 46-48.] ACWA opposes a water tax for funding this program for multiple reasons, including that it would be regressive and work against water affordability.

2. ACWA’s Advocacy on SB 222 and Bill Status

The State Legislative Committee’s COVID-19 Relief Funding and LIRA Working Group has guided ACWA’s policy work on SB 222. (The Working Group dealt with both SB 222 and SB 223 (Dodd) and devoted many hours to its work in 2021.) From the beginning, ACWA has advocated for a reasonable and efficient Water LIRA program. The introduced version of SB 222 was highly problematic. The State Legislative Committee took an Oppose-Unless-Amended position. ACWA wrote and sent an eight-page paper to the Author and the first policy committee in February with concerns. Over several months, ACWA lobbied four policy committees and two appropriations committees, and that advocacy led to policy committee and appropriations committee amendments that much improved the bill.

ACWA was able to move from the Oppose-Unless-Amended position to a Watch position on August 20, 2021. On September 2, Senator Dodd moved SB 222 to the inactive file at the Newsom Administration’s request to allow work on amendments over the interim.

On June 8, 2022, Senator Dodd’s office reached out to ACWA and other associations to share new amendments and noted that the Assembly would take up the bill on the Assembly Floor in August. Since June 8, ACWA has met with the Author’s staff and bill sponsors and talked with the Newsom Administration at multiple levels in order to inform the discussion at the State Legislative Committee’s Working Group (the COVID-19 Relief Funding and LIRA Working Group) meeting on June 29, 2022 and the writing of this analysis. It is important to note that **the bill is at the Assembly Floor.**

3. Funding

SB 222 would not create a funding source; rather it would establish the Water Rate Assistance Program that would be implemented if the Legislature makes an appropriation. Based in part on ACWA’s advocacy last year, the Senate Appropriations Committee had the bill amended to

provide that operation of the chapter would be contingent on an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute. The Newsom Administration has indicated that there needs to be a funding source. Please note that funding for low-income rate assistance will be a topic of discussion that can continue in the budget process until the Legislature adjourns at the end of August.

4. Positive Changes in June 23, 2022 Version

The new version does include positive changes. The new version deletes the proposed authorities for “crisis assistance” and renter’s credit components of the bill. The new version also deletes the Fund Expenditure Plan (FEP) proposal that was based on, and more suited to, the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund program. It also deletes the proposal to have the total number of water shutoffs for inability to pay be a performance metric for this program.

5. Significant Concerns Raised by June 23, 2022 Version and Concepts for ACWA-Suggested Amendments

This bill is at the Assembly Floor, and since ACWA had a “Watch” position on the prior version, ACWA’s focus should be on the parts of the June 23 amendments that raise significant concerns. With that in mind, following is an overview of the concerns for which ACWA should seek amendments. The overview is based on staff’s review of the bill and input from the State Legislative Committee’s COVID-19 Relief Funding and LIRA Working Group meeting on June 29, 2022.

A. Implementing Agency and Key Program Components [Throughout the Bill]

The introduced (January 14, 2021) version of SB 222 proposed the State Water Board as the implementing agency. ACWA and the California Municipal Utilities Association urged that the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) be the implementing agency. Senator Dodd made that change in the April 5, 2021 version. The new version of the bill would switch the implementing agency back to the State Water Board. ACWA’s **strong preference** is that CSD implement the program. There are multiple reasons for this, but one example is that CSD is experienced in implementing low-income assistance programs. CSD has relationships with Local Service Providers that are currently handling program eligibility verification for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance (LIHWAP) Program. That approach avoids public water agencies getting into customer income information.

ACWA should advocate for the program to be at CSD. However, at a minimum, it will be important that key program components are clear (e.g., appropriate system role and an efficient means of eligibility verification, such as the approach that CSD uses with local service providers).

B. CWS and Sewer System Role (Proposed “Program” Requirement) (Throughout the Bill)

The new version would have **each eligible system** establish a LIRA **program** consistent with the minimum requirements for the guidelines within 365 days of the effective date of appropriation in the Budget Act or another statute. This is a fundamental problem with the new version. ACWA should seek amendments that make it clear that the State is developing the LIRA

program and eligible systems play their role (which needs to be clear) in the local administration of the State's LIRA program. Under the California Constitution (Proposition 218), public water agencies cannot implement LIRA programs with the use of ratepayer dollars. The bill does not reference ratepayer funding, but the language needs to be clear on the system role.

C. System Administrative Costs [P. 4/L. 13 and P. 5/L. 18]

The prior version of the bill and the new version include language that would authorize (not require) the State's implementing agency to:

- A) Expend funds not to exceed 10 percent of the annual deposits into the Fund for reasonable state costs associated with administration of the chapter; and
- B) Reimburse eligible systems for reasonable costs associated with administration.

The local reimbursement would not count toward the State's 10 percent limit, and the bill would require that 80 percent of total funds be directly applied to customer assistance.

The new version of the bill would add a new proposed **requirement** that the State Water Board "provide funds to eligible systems for administration of the program, not to exceed the greater of **3 percent** of the total subsidy or two thousand dollars." While this is a positive addition in the sense that it would be required, ACWA members have already shared with ACWA staff that the 3 percent number would not cover reasonable administrative expenses. ACWA should seek an amendment that improves the bill's proposal for system administrative cost reimbursement.

D. Frequency of Benefit Distribution [Not Addressed]

Ideally, the bill would address the frequency of benefit distribution (e.g., annual, quarterly, every two months or once per month) either with specificity or flexibility. Clarity on this would help determine what is appropriate for reimbursement of system administrative costs. ACWA should seek an amendment on this issue.

E. Additional Action Authority [P. 4/L. 30.]

The new version of the bill would authorize the State Water Board to "take additional action as may be appropriate for adequate administration and operation of the fund and provision of direct water bill assistance." ACWA should suggest an amendment deleting this language based on a concern that it is unclear what the scope of the actions would be. (The proponents will note that this language is in statute for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund.)

F. Audit of Systems Receiving Program Funding [P. 7/L. 1]

Under the new version of the bill, the State Water Board would be required to include in the guidelines a provision regarding the audit of eligible systems receiving funds under the chapter. ACWA should seek an amendment to clarify that the scope of this audit would be limited to the system's administration of this LIRA program.

G. Affordability Evaluation [P. 7/L. 25]

ACWA should seek an amendment to limit the proposed evaluation of affordability (see summary) to water affordability and relevant (as opposed to all available) information.

H. Administrative Procedure Act (APA) [P. 10/L. 4 and L. 10]

The prior version of the bill proposed the development of guidelines but also would have authorized the adoption of emergency regulations. The new version would exempt this program from APA and delete the proposed emergency regulation authority. It would rely solely on the adoption of guidelines by the State Water Board. ACWA should seek amendments to require that the State Water Board adopt the program through emergency regulations. **It is critical that appropriate public process steps are included in this bill.**

I. Affordability Pilot Projects [P. 10/L. 28]

The affordability pilot projects proposal should be deleted. This bill should be focused on LIRA. (It should be noted that the proposal is not limited to water affordability.)

J. Compliance Deadline [P. 11/L. 36]

The new version would require all eligible water systems to “offer rate assistance that complies with the minimum requirements pursuant to subdivision (d) of proposed Section 116931 within 365 days of when the funding was appropriated by the Budget Act or other statute.” There is no subdivision (d) in that section, and the reference should be to subdivision (c). More important, in addition to seeking amendments to clarify the system role, ACWA should seek an amendment that ties the deadline to the timing of the adoption of the program requirements (i.e., in case the State is late on adoption).

K. Discontinuation of Service Provision [P. 12/L. 1]

Existing law (created by the enactment of SB 998 in 2018) sets requirements on the discontinuation of service by public water systems that supply water to **more than 200 connections**. For example:

(a)(1)(A) An urban and community water system shall not discontinue residential service for nonpayment until a payment by a customer has been delinquent for at least 60 days. No less than **seven business days** before discontinuation of residential service for nonpayment, an urban and community water system shall contact the customer named (...) on the account by telephone or written notice. (...) [Ca. Health and Safety Code Section 116909, emphasis added.]

Under existing law, that contact must include an offer to discuss options, including an alternative payment schedule.

In 2021, the enactment of a budget trailer bill (AB 148) created the State Water Board’s COVID-19 water arrearages program. AB 148 required CWSs **with any number of connections** to provide customers with arrearages a notice that they may enter into a payment plan and have 30 days from the date of the notice to enroll in a payment plan. AB 148 specified that a CWS could not discontinue water service to a customer that remained current on the payment plan.

The new version of SB 222 proposes to carry on the AB 148 approach by proposing for all sizes of systems that a **thirty-day** notice of the ability to enroll in a payment plan would be required before disconnection could occur. As in AB 148, a CWS would be prohibited from discontinuing service while the customer remained current on a payment plan. Compared with the SB 998 provisions, the SB 222 proposal could somewhat delay an agency's ability to disconnect a customer if the agency waited to provide notice until the customer had been delinquent for 60 days.

Expanding the SB 998 requirements to cover systems of 200 or fewer connections is not an issue for ACWA members. Some ACWA members have expressed that the timing on the notice provision should be left at seven business days given that SB 998 has not been implemented yet because of COVID. ACWA could seek an amendment to delete the thirty-day proposal or propose a timeframe in between (e.g., no less than 15 business days).

L. Enforcement [P. 12/L. 1]

The new version adds proposed enforcement provisions as summarized in this analysis. ACWA should seek amendments that:

- 1) Delete the proposal to give the Attorney General authority to enforce under this program, as enforcement by the implementing state agency should be sufficient for a financial assistance program;
- 2) Delete the proposal to have a system that did not establish or maintain a compliant LIRA program be deemed an at-risk system for purposes of the mandatory consolidation authority in existing law. Compliance with a LIRA law is important, but forcing consolidation for a sustainable system that is providing safe drinking water is not an appropriate remedy for noncompliance with LIRA requirements.
- 3) Delete the proposal to authorize the State Water Board to "qualify awards of financial assistance on the establishment of" a LIRA program that is consistent with the minimum requirements.

At this writing, ACWA staff and members are looking at what existing State Water Board enforcement authorities would apply. If the Author changes the implementing agency back to CSD, appropriate enforcement provisions may need to be added for CSD.

6. Other Issues that ACWA Can Raise

ACWA should focus on significant issues with the new language as opposed to raising issues that we did not raise last year. That said, ACWA could make the following suggestions:

- 1) Protection of customer low-income status gained from eligibility verification;
- 2) Specification that the CWS representation on the advisory group should include small, medium and large systems.

Recommended Position: Oppose Unless Amended

ACWA should: 1) develop suggested amendment as discussed in Sections 5 and 6; 2) negotiate the inclusion of amendments with the Author and the sponsors (and the Newsom Administration as appropriate); and 3) oppose the bill until it is appropriately amended.

Support: N/A

Opposition: N/A

Association of California Water Agencies
SB 222 (Dodd) – Water Rate Assistance Program
ACWA Members - Summary and List of Concerns
June 23, 2022 Version

Introduction

SB 222 (Dodd) would create a Water Rate Assistance Program to provide water affordability assistance for both drinking water and wastewater services to low-income residential ratepayers. ACWA had an “Oppose-Unless-Position” on the bill in 2021, advocated for amendments and was able to move to a “Watch” position in 2021 based on incorporated amendments. The June 23, 2022 amendments raise significant concerns, and ACWA’s State Legislative Committee took an Oppose-Unless-Amended position on this new version of the bill on July 6, 2022. Following are a summary of the bill, and an overview of the concerns that triggered the position and concepts for needed amendments. ACWA is preparing a bill mockup with the needed amendments at this writing.

Bill Summary

1. Water Rate Assistance Program and Fund - Overview

SB 222 would direct the **State Water Resources Control Board** (State Water Board) to develop and administer the Water Rate Assistance Program. The bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Fund (Fund) in the State Treasury. The Fund would provide water affordability assistance for both drinking water and wastewater services to low-income residential ratepayers. Money in the Fund would be made available upon appropriation by the Legislature to the State Water Board to provide, in consultation with relevant agencies, direct water bill assistance to residential ratepayers served by eligible systems and by tribal water systems that choose to participate.

2. Definitions

SB 222 would define the following terms:

- A) “Effective Date” as the **date of appropriation of funding** in the annual Budget Act or another statute for purposes of this chapter;
- B) “Eligible system” as a community water system (CWS) or sewer system;
- C) “Low-income” as an annual household income that is equal to or no greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline level and consistent with the guidelines established for the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program;
- D) “Relevant agencies” as those agencies that have a role, through data collection; regulation, or enforcement, in providing services, oversight, and assistance to public water systems and low-income ratepayers; and
- E) “Residential ratepayer” as a resident of a single-family or multifamily resident who **receives a bill** for water or wastewater.

3. Administrative Costs

SB 222 would authorize the State Water Board, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to expend Fund moneys for reasonable administration costs. Commencing 365 days after the effective date, the bill would require that reasonable administration costs of the State Water Board and the relevant agencies not exceed 10 percent of the annual deposits into the Fund.

The bill would authorize (not require) the State Water Board to reimburse eligible systems for reasonable administration costs, which would not count to the 10 percent limitation. The bill would require, commencing 365 days after the effective date, that eighty percent of the total funds would be applied directly to customer assistance. Additionally, the bill would require the State Water Board to provide eligible systems funds for administration of the program, not to exceed the greater of 3 percent of the total subsidy or two thousand dollars.

4. Fund Administration

SB 222 would authorize the State Water Board to:

- A) Deposit moneys into the Fund from federal or state funding, voluntary contributions, and funding agreements;
- B) Develop and implement a process for disbursing program funds to eligible systems, tribal water systems, or third-party providers, including controls to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse;
- C) Expend, upon appropriation by the Legislature, moneys in the Fund for grants, contracts, or services to assist eligible recipients;
- D) Provide technical assistance to eligible systems, serving fewer than 3,300 connections to administer the application of funds to low-income households;
- E) Identify and contract with a **third-party fund administrator** for work such as, but not limited to, eligibility determination, call center services, internet-based enrollments, and document intake and processing;
- F) Establish a process to regularly confirm the eligibility of recipients.

5. Program Implementation

A. Guidelines and Stakeholder Advisory Group

The State Water Board, in consultation with relevant agencies, would be required to adopt **guidelines** for implementation of this program within 270 days of the effective date. SB 222 would require the State Water Board to consult with an advisory group that would include representatives of the following:

- 1) Community water systems;
- 2) Sewer systems;
- 3) Technical assistance providers, including those that support the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program;
- 4) Local agencies, including those that manage multi-family housing for low-income residents;
- 5) NGOs that work with residents of disadvantaged communities (DACs);

- 6) Representatives from the public, including, but not limited to, low-income residents and residents served by tribal water systems.

The guidelines would include:

- 1) Direction to eligible systems to automatically enroll households in which:
 - a) any member of the customer's household is currently enrolled, or a recipient of, CalWORKs, CalFresh, general assistance, Medi-Cal, Supplemental Security Income, State Supplementary Payment Program, or the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; or
 - b) the household is a utility customer enrolled in the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program or the Family Electric Rate assistance program;
- 2) Minimum requirements for eligible systems, including the establishment of system wide low-income rate assistance "programs," the ability to confirm eligibility for enrollment, and a process for expanding the assistance program if funding increases;
- 3) A system to **audit** eligible systems receiving funds.

B. Annual Report

SB 222 would require the State Water Board, following a public hearing, and in consultation with relevant agencies and the advisory group, to adopt an annual report to be posted on the State Water Board's website identifying how the Fund has performed. The bill would require that the annual report contain:

- 1) A report of expenditures from the Fund for the prior fiscal year, including how many households were served, and estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year;
- 2) An estimate of the number of households eligible for assistance. The estimate could not be based on a household-by-household evaluation;
- 3) An evaluation of available information regarding any **household-level affordability** issues that remain after application of bill assistance;
- 4) Methods to ensure timely and meaningful public participation and encourage enrollment in the program;
- 5) An estimate of the funding needed for the next fiscal year based on the amount available in the fund, anticipated funding needs, other existing funding sources, and other relevant data and information.

C. Electrical and Gas Customer Data

SB 222 would require, within 270 days of the effective date, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish a mechanism for electrical and gas corporations to share data with the State Water Board regarding customers enrolled in, or eligible to be enrolled in, the CARE program. SB 222 would also allow the State Water Board to enter into agreements with local publicly owned electric utilities and local publicly owned gas utilities, including but not limited to, municipal utility districts and irrigation districts, to regularly share data regarding utility customers enrolled in, or eligible to be enrolled in, affordability programs benefiting low-income customers. The agreements could authorize the State Water Board to provide data to eligible systems to assist with the administration of the program. This data sharing would be subject to the confidentiality provisions of California Government Code Section 6254.16.

6. Fund Expenditures

A. Advance Payments

SB 222 would allow the State Water Board to make advance payments from the Fund, as necessary. Before distribution of an advance payment, eligible systems would be required to provide an estimate of the number of households enrolled in the program and their expected bill discounts. The State Water Board would have discretion regarding whether to offer advance payments and what terms and conditions would apply.

B. Affordability Pilot Projects

The bill would authorize the State Water Board to include the guidelines authorization for pilot projects that include expenditures that improve affordability for residential households through the installation of water efficiency measures or programs that otherwise improve residential **household affordability** in mobilehome parks, multifamily housing, or other households that do not directly pay a water or wastewater bill.

7. Program Administration

The bill would require that the State Water Board:

- A) Provide guidance, oversight, and funding for low-income rate assistance for customers of eligible systems;
- B) For an eligible system that is not regulated by the CPUC, provide oversight of eligible systems' implementation of the program to ensure effectiveness and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse; and
- C) Consider identifying alternative entities to distribute and track benefits if the State Water Board has determined an eligible system is incapable of administering the program.

8. Existing LIRA Programs

The bill would require the State Water Board to coordinate with the CPUC to cease existing duplicative rate assistance programs offered by the investor-owned water utilities and transition the customers to this program. Any eligible system would be allowed to offer assistance in addition to, or on top of, the assistance provided through this program.

9. Compliance, Service Discontinuation and Enforcement

SB 222 would require all eligible systems, within 365 days of the effective date, to offer water rate assistance that complies with the minimum requirements for the guidelines.

The bill would require, prior to disconnection of service, a CWS to provide customers with arrearages a notice that they may enter into a payment plan and after 30 days of the notice (instead of after 7 business days of the notice under existing law) disconnection may occur. A CWS would be prohibited from discontinuing water service to a customer that remains current on a payment plan. The payment plan and its associated rules would have to comply with existing law (SB 998), except that this applicability would be to systems of all sizes.

The bill would give enforcement authority to the Attorney General as specified. Any eligible system that did not establish and maintain a program consistent with the minimum requirements would be deemed an “at-risk” water system for purpose of the mandatory consolidation authority under existing law. Finally, the bill would authorize the State Water Board to qualify awards of financial assistance upon the establishment of a LIRA program consistent with the minimum requirements.

Concerns and Overview of Amendments for Which ACWA and the SB 222 Oppose-Unless-Amended Coalition Will Advocate

Following is an overview of amendments for which ACWA and the ACWA-led SB 222 Oppose-Unless amended Coalition will advocate. ACWA is developing a developing a mockup at this writing.

A. Implementing Agency and Key Program Components [Throughout the Bill]

The introduced (January 14, 2021) version of SB 222 proposed the State Water Board as the implementing agency. ACWA and the California Municipal Utilities Association urged that the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) be the implementing agency. Senator Dodd made that change in the April 5, 2021 version. The new version of the bill would switch the implementing agency back to the State Water Board. ACWA’s **strong preference** is that CSD implement the program. There are multiple reasons for this, but one example is that CSD is experienced in implementing low-income assistance programs. That approach avoids public water agencies getting into customer income information. ACWA will advocate for the program to be at CSD. However, at a minimum, it will be important that key program components are clear (e.g., appropriate system role and an efficient means of eligibility verification, such as the approach that CSD uses with local service providers).

B. CWS and Sewer System Role (Proposed “Program” Requirement) (Throughout the Bill)

The new version would have **each eligible system** establish a LIRA **program** consistent with the minimum requirements for the guidelines within 365 days of the effective date of appropriation in the Budget Act or another statute. This is a fundamental problem with the new version. ACWA will seek amendments that make it clear that the State is developing the LIRA program and eligible systems play their role (which needs to be clear) in the local administration of the State’s LIRA program.

C. System Administrative Costs [P. 4/L. 13 and P. 5/L. 18]

The new version of the bill would add a new proposed **requirement** that the State Water Board “provide funds to eligible systems for administration of the program, not to exceed the greater of **3 percent** of the total subsidy or two thousand dollars.” While this is a positive addition in the sense that it would be required, ACWA members have already shared with ACWA staff that

the 3 percent number would not cover reasonable administrative expenses. ACWA will seek an amendment that improves the bill's proposal for system administrative cost reimbursement.

D. Frequency of Benefit Distribution [Not Addressed]

Ideally, the bill would address the frequency of benefit distribution (e.g., annual, quarterly, every two months or once per month) either with specificity or flexibility. Clarity on this would help determine what is appropriate for reimbursement of system administrative costs. ACWA will seek an amendment on this issue.

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G. Affordability Evaluation [P. 7/L. 25]

ACWA will seek an amendment to limit the proposed evaluation of affordability (see summary) to water affordability and relevant (as opposed to all available) information.

H. Administrative Procedure Act (APA) [P. 10/L. 4 and L. 10]

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that ties the deadline to the timing of the adoption of the program requirements (i.e., in case the State is late on adoption).

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L. Enforcement [P. 12/L. 1]

The new version adds proposed enforcement provisions as summarized. ACWA will seek amendments that:

- 1) Delete the proposal to give the Attorney General authority to enforce under this program, as enforcement by the implementing state agency should be sufficient for a financial assistance program;

- 2) Delete the proposal to have a system that did not establish or maintain a compliant LIRA program be deemed an at-risk system for purposes of the mandatory consolidation authority in existing law. Compliance with a LIRA law is important, but forcing consolidation for a sustainable system that is providing safe drinking water is not an appropriate remedy for noncompliance with LIRA requirements.
- 3) Delete the proposal to authorize the State Water Board to “qualify awards of financial assistance on the establishment of” a LIRA program that is consistent with the minimum requirements.

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Kylie Wright, State Relations Assistant, ACWA

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 23, 2022
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 30, 2021
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 15, 2021
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 5, 2021
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 17, 2021
AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 20, 2021
AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 3, 2021
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 20, 2021
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 5, 2021

SENATE BILL

No. 222

Introduced by Senator Dodd

(Coauthors: Senators Gonzalez, Hurtado, and Wiener)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members *Arambula*, Bloom, Lorena Gonzalez,
Mathis, and Robert Rivas)

January 14, 2021

An act to add ~~Section 12087.8 to the Government Code, and to add~~ Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 116930) to Part 12 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 222, as amended, Dodd. Water Rate Assistance Program.

Existing law, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, requires the State Water Resources Control Board to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health. Existing law declares it to be the established policy of the state that every human

being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.

Existing law requires the state board, by January 1, 2018, to develop a plan for the funding and implementation of the Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program, as prescribed. Existing law requires the state board, by February 1, 2018, to report to the Legislature on its findings regarding the feasibility, financial stability, and desired structure of the program, including any recommendations for legislative action that may need to be taken.

This bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Fund in the State Treasury to help provide water affordability assistance, for both drinking water and wastewater services, to low-income ~~ratepayers and ratepayers~~ experiencing economic hardship in California. ~~The bill would require the Department of Community Services and Development to develop and administer the Water Rate Assistance Program established by the bill.~~ *residential ratepayers.* The bill would make moneys in the fund available upon appropriation by the Legislature to the ~~department~~ *state board* to provide, in consultation with ~~the state board,~~ *relevant agencies,* direct water bill assistance, water bill credits, and water crisis assistance; *assistance to residential ratepayers served by eligible systems, as defined, and by tribal water systems that choose to participate* and would require 80% of total funds to be directly applied to customer assistance. The bill would authorize the ~~department~~ *state board* to identify and contract with a third-party fund administrator. The bill would impose requirements on ~~the department, in consultation with the state board,~~ *the state board* in connection with the program, including, among others, ~~developing guidelines and fund oversight procedures within 270 days of the effective date, as defined, adopting guidelines in consultation with relevant agencies and an advisory group for implementation of the program by January 1, 2023, consulting with an advisory group, and adopting an annual fund expenditure plan.~~ *and preparing a report to be posted on state board's internet website identifying how the fund has performed.*

The bill would require, ~~by July 1, 2022, within 270 days of the effective date,~~ the Public Utilities Commission to establish a mechanism for electrical corporations and gas corporations to, and would authorize the ~~department~~ *state board* to enter into agreements with local publicly owned electric utilities and local publicly owned gas utilities to, regularly share specified customer data with the ~~department,~~ *state board,* subject to certain protections. The bill would require the ~~department~~

state board to, among other things, coordinate with the commission to cease existing rate assistance programs offered by investor-owned water utilities and transition the customers to the program through a process established by the commission.

The bill would make the operation of these provisions contingent on an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute for these purposes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 12087.8 is added to the Government~~
2 ~~Code, to read:~~
3 ~~12087.8. Subject to Section 116931.3 of the Health and Safety~~
4 ~~Code, the department shall develop and administer the Water Rate~~
5 ~~Assistance Program established pursuant to Chapter 6.5~~
6 ~~(commencing with Section 116930) of Part 12 of Division 104 of~~
7 ~~the Health and Safety Code and expend moneys appropriated by~~
8 ~~the Legislature for the purposes of the program.~~

9 ~~SEC. 2.~~
10 ~~SECTION 1. Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 116930)~~
11 ~~is added to Part 12 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code,~~
12 ~~to read:~~

13
14 CHAPTER 6.5. WATER RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

15
16 Article 1. Water Rate Assistance Fund

17
18 116930. (a) The Water Rate Assistance Fund is hereby
19 established in the State Treasury to provide water affordability
20 assistance, for both drinking water and wastewater services, to
21 ~~low-income ratepayers and ratepayers experiencing economic~~
22 ~~hardship in California: residential ratepayers.~~ Moneys in the fund
23 shall be available upon appropriation by the Legislature to the
24 ~~department~~ *state board* to provide, in consultation with the ~~state~~
25 ~~board, all of the following: relevant agencies, direct water bill~~
26 ~~assistance to residential ratepayers served by eligible systems and~~
27 ~~by tribal water systems that choose to participate.~~

28 ~~(1) Direct water bill assistance.~~

1 ~~(2) Water bill credits to renters and individuals or households~~
 2 ~~that pay other amounts, fees, or charges related to residential water~~
 3 ~~or wastewater service.~~

4 ~~(3) Water crisis assistance.~~

5 (b) (1) The ~~department~~ *state board* may, upon appropriation
 6 by the Legislature, expend moneys from the fund for reasonable
 7 costs associated with the administration of this ~~chapter,~~ *chapter.*
 8 *Commencing 365 days after the effective date, funds for the*
 9 *reasonable costs associated with the administration of this chapter*
 10 *shall not to exceed 10 percent of the annual deposits into the fund.*

11 “Reasonable costs associated with the administration of this
 12 chapter” includes ~~state board~~ *relevant agencies’* administrative
 13 costs associated with this chapter. The ~~department~~ *state board* may
 14 reimburse ~~public water systems and sewer~~ *eligible* systems for
 15 reasonable costs associated with the administration of this chapter,
 16 which shall not count ~~towards~~ *toward* the 10-percent limitation.

17 (2) ~~A~~ *Commencing 365 days after the effective date, a minimum*
 18 *of 80 percent of total funds shall be directly applied to customer*
 19 *assistance, which shall be reflected in the annual fund expenditure*
 20 *plan described in Section 116931.1: assistance.*

21 (c) *The state board may undertake any of the following actions*
 22 *to implement this chapter:*

23 (1) *Provide for the deposit of any of the following moneys into*
 24 *the fund:*

25 (A) *Federal or state funding.*

26 (B) *Voluntary contributions, gifts, grants, or bequests.*

27 (2) *Enter into funding agreements with the federal government,*
 28 *local or state agencies, private corporations, or nonprofit*
 29 *organizations.*

30 (3) *Take additional action as may be appropriate for adequate*
 31 *administration and operation of the fund and provision of direct*
 32 *water bill assistance.*

33 116930.1. The ~~department~~ *state board* shall do all of the
 34 following in administering the fund:

35 (a) Track and manage revenue in the fund separately from all
 36 other revenue.

37 (b) Develop and implement a process for the ~~department~~ *state*
 38 *board* to disburse program funds to ~~public water systems, sewer~~
 39 *eligible* systems, *tribal water systems,* or third-party providers for

1 direct application to ~~households~~, *the system’s low-income customer*
2 *accounts*, including controls to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.

3 (c) Manage and maintain fund balances in conjunction with the
4 Controller, the Treasurer, the California State Auditor’s Office,
5 and the Department of Finance, as appropriate.

6 (d) (1) Expend, upon appropriation by the Legislature, moneys
7 in the fund for grants, contracts, ~~direct monetary assistance~~, or
8 services to assist eligible recipients.

9 (2) Services may include technical assistance to ~~public water~~
10 ~~systems, or sewer~~ *eligible* systems, serving fewer than 3,300
11 connections to administer the application of funds to low-income
12 households, including initial startup costs.

13 (3) The ~~department~~ *state board* may identify and contract with
14 a third-party fund administrator. The scope of work for the fund
15 administrator may include, but is not limited to, eligibility
16 determination, call center services, internet-based enrollments,
17 and document intake and processing.

18 (4) *Provide funds to eligible systems for administration of the*
19 *program, not to exceed the greater of 3 percent of the total subsidy*
20 *or two thousand dollars (\$2,000).*

21 (e) (1) ~~Verify the eligibility of each recipient, based upon~~
22 ~~eligibility pursuant to Section 116931.1.~~

23 (2) ~~Establish~~
24 *Establish* a process to regularly confirm the eligibility of
25 recipients, based upon eligibility pursuant to Section ~~116931.1.~~
26 *116931.*

27 (3)
28 (5) The verification requirements in ~~paragraphs (1) and (2)~~
29 *paragraph (1)* may be carried out by the third-party fund
30 administrator described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (d).

31
32 Article 2. Program Implementation

33
34 116931. (a) ~~The department, Within 270 days of the effective~~
35 ~~date, the state board, in consultation with the state board, shall,~~
36 ~~by January 1, 2023, develop relevant agencies, shall adopt~~
37 ~~guidelines and fund oversight procedures for implementation of~~
38 ~~the program.~~

1 (b) In developing the guidelines, the ~~department~~ *state board*
2 shall consult with an advisory group that includes representatives
3 of all of the following:

- 4 (1) ~~Public-Community~~ water systems.
- 5 (2) Sewer systems.
- 6 (3) Technical assistance providers, including organizations that
7 support the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
- 8 (4) Local agencies, including agencies that manage multifamily
9 housing serving low-income residents.
- 10 (5) Nongovernmental organizations that work with residents of
11 disadvantaged communities.
- 12 (6) Representatives from the public, including, but not limited
13 to, ~~low-income residents, low-income residents who live in~~
14 ~~multifamily housing,~~ *residents* and residents served by tribal water
15 systems.

16 (c) *The guidelines shall include, at minimum, all of the*
17 *following:*

18 (1) *Direction to eligible systems to automatically enroll*
19 *households in the program under both of the following*
20 *circumstances:*

21 (A) *Available information shows that any member of the*
22 *customer's household is a current enrollee in, or recipient of,*
23 *CalWORKs, CalFresh, general assistance, Medi-Cal, Supplemental*
24 *Security Income or the State Supplementary Payment Program,*
25 *or California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women,*
26 *Infants, and Children.*

27 (B) *The household is a utility customer enrolled in the California*
28 *Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program established pursuant*
29 *to Section 739.1 of the Public Utilities Code or in the Family*
30 *Electric Rate Assistance program established pursuant to Section*
31 *739.12 of the Public Utilities Code.*

32 (2) *Minimum requirements for eligible systems, including all*
33 *of the following:*

34 (A) *The establishment of systemwide low-income rate assistance*
35 *programs.*

36 (B) *The ability to confirm eligibility for enrollment through a*
37 *request for self-certification of eligibility under penalty of perjury.*

38 (C) *A process for expanding the assistance program if funding*
39 *increases.*

1 (3) *A provision to audit eligible systems receiving funds under*
2 *this chapter.*

3 116931.1. (a) ~~The department~~ *state board* shall, in consultation
4 ~~with the state board~~ *relevant agencies* and *the* advisory group
5 described in subdivision (b) of Section 116931 and after a public
6 hearing, adopt an annual ~~fund expenditure plan~~. *report to be posted*
7 *on the state board's internet website identifying how the fund has*
8 *performed.*

9 (b) The annual ~~fund expenditure plan~~ *report* shall contain all of
10 the following:

11 (1) ~~Identification of key terms, criteria, and metrics, and their~~
12 ~~definitions related to implementation of this section.~~

13 (2) ~~A description of how proposed remedies related to this~~
14 ~~section will be estimated, evaluated, prioritized, and included in~~
15 ~~the annual fund expenditure plan.~~

16 (3)

17 (1) A report of expenditures from the fund for the prior fiscal
18 year, including how many households were served, and ~~planned~~
19 *estimated* expenditures for the current fiscal year.

20 (4) (A)

21 (2) An estimate of the number of households eligible for
22 assistance, including those that do not receive a direct bill for water
23 ~~or wastewater~~. *assistance*. The estimate shall not be based on a
24 ~~household-by-household~~ *household-by-household* evaluation.

25 (3) *An evaluation of available information regarding any*
26 *household-level affordability issues that remain after application*
27 *of bill assistance.*

28 (B) ~~In identifying household eligibility, the department shall~~
29 ~~consider both of the following:~~

30 (i) ~~If any member of the customer's household is a current~~
31 ~~enrollee in, or recipient of, CalWORKs, CalFresh, general~~
32 ~~assistance, Medi-Cal, Supplemental Security Income or State~~
33 ~~Supplementary Payment Program, or California Special~~
34 ~~Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.~~

35 (ii) ~~Utility customers enrolled in the California Alternate Rates~~
36 ~~for Energy (CARE) program established pursuant to Section 739.1~~
37 ~~of the Public Utilities Code and the Family Electric Rate Assistance~~
38 ~~program established pursuant to Section 739.12 of the Public~~
39 ~~Utilities Code.~~

1 ~~(5) A section that discusses water and wastewater affordability~~
 2 ~~challenges and proposed solutions for reducing water debt for~~
 3 ~~eligible Californians served by public water systems, sewer~~
 4 ~~systems, state small water systems, local small water systems, and~~
 5 ~~domestic wells. An evaluation of solutions shall include, but not~~
 6 ~~be limited to, all of the following:~~
 7 ~~(A) Amortization of an unpaid balance.~~
 8 ~~(B) Participation in an alternative payment schedule.~~
 9 ~~(C) Partial or full reduction of the unpaid balance financed~~
 10 ~~without additional charges to other ratepayers.~~
 11 ~~(D) Temporary deferral of payment.~~
 12 ~~(E) An arrearage management plan.~~
 13 ~~(F) Percentage of income payment plan.~~
 14 ~~(6)~~
 15 (4) Methods to ensure timely and meaningful public participation
 16 and encourage enrollment in the program.
 17 (7)
 18 (5) An estimate of the funding available for the next fiscal year
 19 based on the amount available in the fund, anticipated funding
 20 needs, other existing funding sources, and other relevant data and
 21 information.
 22 ~~(e) The annual fund expenditure plan shall identify the funding~~
 23 ~~need of disadvantaged communities and low-income households~~
 24 ~~whose water and wastewater bill charges pose affordability~~
 25 ~~challenges based on metrics developed by the department in~~
 26 ~~consultation with the state board and Public Utilities Commission.~~
 27 ~~(d) The annual fund expenditure plan shall include analysis with~~
 28 ~~metrics to evaluate how expenditures from prior fiscal years~~
 29 ~~improved affordability.~~
 30 ~~(e) Within one year of an appropriation in the annual Budget~~
 31 ~~Act or another statute for purposes of this chapter, and every March~~
 32 ~~1 thereafter, the department shall provide to the Joint Legislative~~
 33 ~~Budget Committee and the chairpersons of the fiscal committees~~
 34 ~~in each house of the Legislature the most recently adopted fund~~
 35 ~~expenditure plan. The department may submit the fund expenditure~~
 36 ~~plan as required by this subdivision either in the Governor's Budget~~
 37 ~~or as a separate report.~~
 38 116931.2. (a) *By July 1, 2022, Within 270 days of the effective*
 39 *date, the Public Utilities Commission shall establish a mechanism*
 40 *for electrical corporations and gas corporations to regularly share*

1 data with the ~~department~~ *state board* regarding the utility customers
 2 enrolled in, or eligible to be enrolled in, the California Alternate
 3 Rates for Energy (CARE) program established pursuant to Section
 4 739.1 of the Public Utilities Code and the Family Electric Rate
 5 Assistance program established pursuant to Section 739.12 of the
 6 Public Utilities Code. Electrical corporations and gas corporations
 7 shall regularly share that data with the ~~department~~ *state board*
 8 through the mechanism.

9 (b) (1) The ~~department~~ *state board* may enter into agreements
 10 with local publicly owned electric utilities and local publicly owned
 11 gas utilities, including, but not limited to, municipal utility districts
 12 and irrigation districts, for the purpose of regularly sharing data
 13 with the department regarding utility customers enrolled in, or
 14 eligible to be enrolled in, affordability programs benefiting
 15 low-income customers.

16 (2) The agreements may authorize the ~~department~~ *state board*
 17 to provide data pursuant to this subdivision to ~~local water agencies~~
 18 *eligible systems* for the sole purpose of assisting with the
 19 administration of the program.

20 (c) Data shared pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b) is subject to
 21 Section 6254.16 of the Government Code and the Information
 22 Practices Act of 1977 (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 1798)
 23 of Title 1.8 of Part 4 of Division 3 of the Civil Code).

24 116931.3. The operation of this chapter is contingent on an
 25 appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute for
 26 purposes of this chapter.

27
 28 Article 3. Fund Expenditures
 29

30 ~~116932. (a) If moneys are deposited into the fund before the~~
 31 ~~adoption of an annual fund expenditure plan, the department, in~~
 32 ~~consultation with the state board, shall, upon appropriation by the~~
 33 ~~Legislature, expend those moneys from the fund to provide water~~
 34 ~~crisis assistance to low-income households through direct~~
 35 ~~assistance to the low-income households, payment of delinquent~~
 36 ~~amounts to the public water system or sewer system, or some other~~
 37 ~~disbursement mechanism. A public water system or sewer system~~
 38 ~~shall apply a credit to a customer account for funds received from~~
 39 ~~the department that are intended to address the customer's~~
 40 ~~delinquency. The department may use up to 10 percent of those~~

1 moneys for administrative purposes. “Administrative purposes”
2 includes state board administrative costs associated with this
3 chapter.

4 (b) The department may adopt emergency regulations pursuant
5 to the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing
6 with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the
7 Government Code) to implement this section.

8 (c) (1) Small water systems may request prepayment of program
9 funds on a semiannual basis.

10 116932. (a) Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of
11 Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code does not
12 apply to any guidelines developed by the state board pursuant to
13 this chapter.

14 (b) (1) Notwithstanding Section 11019 of the Government Code,
15 the state board may make advance payments, as necessary, to
16 implement the purposes of this chapter.

17 (2) Before distribution of ~~prepayment funding~~, an advance
18 payment, eligible systems shall provide an estimate of the number
19 of households enrolled in the program and their expected bill
20 discounts.

21 (3) The state board shall have discretion regarding whether to
22 provide advance payment and the terms and conditions that apply
23 to advance payment.

24 (3)
25 (c) To qualify for funding after the first year of the receipt of
26 funding, eligible systems shall provide a full accounting of program
27 expenditures.

28 (d) The state board, in its funding guidelines, may authorize
29 pilot projects that include expenditures that improve affordability
30 for residential households through installation of water efficiency
31 measures or programs that otherwise improve residential
32 household affordability in mobilehome parks, multifamily housing,
33 or other households that do not directly pay a water or wastewater
34 bill.

35
36 Article 4. Program Administration
37

38 116933. (a) The ~~department~~ state board shall do all of the
39 following in administering the program:

1 ~~(1) Once an annual funding expenditure plan is adopted and~~
2 ~~includes funding for a low-income rate assistance program, provide~~
3 *Provide guidance, oversight, and funding for* low-income rate
4 assistance for customers of public water systems and sewer systems
5 and eligible households that do not receive a direct bill for water.
6 *eligible systems.*

7 (2) Coordinate with the Public Utilities Commission to cease
8 existing *duplicative* rate assistance programs offered by
9 investor-owned water utilities and transition the customers to the
10 program through a process established by the commission.

11 ~~(3) For a public water system or sewer~~ *an eligible* system that
12 is not regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, consult with
13 ~~the state board~~ *relevant agencies* on options to provide oversight
14 of the public water system's or sewer *eligible* system's application
15 of program funds to ~~customers of the system~~ *the system's*
16 *low-income customer accounts* pursuant to Section 116930.1 to
17 ensure effectiveness and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.

18 ~~(4) In consultation with the state board and the Public Utilities~~
19 ~~Commission, develop and publish performance metrics for the~~
20 ~~program, including, but not limited to, enrollment levels, total~~
21 ~~water shutoffs for inability to pay, and on-time payment levels.~~

22 ~~(5)~~

23 (4) Coordinate with other state agencies and resolve disputes
24 as necessary.

25 ~~(6) Identify~~

26 (5) *Consider identifying* alternative entities to distribute and
27 track benefits if a public water system or sewer system is unwilling
28 to do so or if *if* the department, in consultation with the state board,
29 ~~has determined a public water system or sewer~~ *state board*
30 *determines that an eligible* system is incapable of applying program
31 funds to customers of the system pursuant to Section 116930.1.

32 (b) This chapter does not prohibit a public water system or sewer
33 ~~system not regulated by the Public Utilities Commission~~ *an eligible*
34 *system* from offering assistance to ratepayers that is in addition to,
35 or on top of, the assistance provided through the program.

36 *116933.1. (a) Within 365 days of the effective date, all eligible*
37 *systems shall offer water rate assistance that complies with the*
38 *minimum requirements pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section*
39 *116931. A tribal water system may offer water rate assistance.*

1 (b) Prior to disconnection of service, a community water system
 2 shall provide customers with arrearages a notice that they may
 3 enter into a payment plan within 30 days from the date of the
 4 notice, and that after that time, disconnection may occur. A
 5 payment plan and its associated rules offered by a community
 6 water system of any size shall conform to Chapter 6 (commencing
 7 with Section 116900), notwithstanding limitations relating to a
 8 community water system’s size. A community water system shall
 9 not discontinue water service to a customer that remains current
 10 on a payment plan.

11 116933.2. (a) The Attorney General, at the request of the state
 12 board or upon the Attorney General’s own motion, may bring an
 13 action in state court to restrain, by temporary or permanent
 14 injunction, the use of any method, act, or practice declared in this
 15 chapter to be unlawful, including nonparticipation by a public
 16 water system within the program.

17 (b) Any eligible system that does not establish and maintain a
 18 low-income rate assistance program consistent with the
 19 requirements of Section 116931 shall be deemed an at-risk water
 20 system for purposes of Section 116682.

21 (c) The state board may qualify awards of financial assistance
 22 upon the establishment of a low-income rate assistance program
 23 consistent with the requirements of Section 116931.

24
 25

Article 5. Definitions

26
 27
 28

116934. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions
 apply:

29 (a) ~~“Department” means the Department of Community Services~~
 30 ~~and Development.~~

31 (a) “Community water system” has the same meaning as defined
 32 in Section 116275.

33 (b) “Effective date” means the date of appropriation of funding
 34 in the annual Budget Act or another statute for purposes of this
 35 chapter.

36 (c) “Eligible system” means a community water system or sewer
 37 system.

38 ~~(b)~~

39 (d) “Fund” means the Water Rate Assistance Fund created
 40 pursuant to Section 116930.

1 ~~(e)~~
 2 (e) “Low income” means an annual household income that is
 3 no greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline level
 4 and consistent with the guidelines established for the California
 5 Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program pursuant to
 6 subdivision (a) of Section 739.1 of the Public Utilities Code.

7 ~~(f)~~
 8 (f) “Program” means the Water Rate Assistance Program
 9 established pursuant to this chapter.

10 ~~(e) “Public water system” has the same meaning as defined in~~
 11 ~~Section 116275.~~

12 (g) “Relevant agencies” means those agencies that have a role,
 13 through data collection, regulation, or enforcement, in providing
 14 services, oversight, and assistance to public water systems and
 15 low-income ratepayers.

16 (h) “Residential ratepayer” means a resident of a single-family
 17 or multifamily residence who receives a bill for water or
 18 wastewater.

19 ~~(f)~~
 20 (i) “Sewer system” means a city, county, special district, or
 21 investor owned utility that provides sanitary sewer service,
 22 including the collection or treatment of sewage.

23 ~~(g) “Small water system” means a community water system or~~
 24 ~~sewer system that provides service to fewer than 1,000 connections.~~

25 ~~(h)~~
 26 (j) “State board” means the State Water Resources Control
 27 Board.

28 ~~(i)~~
 29 (k) “State small water system” has the same meaning as defined
 30 in Section 116275.

31 ~~(j) “Water crisis assistance” means emergency assistance~~
 32 ~~provided to public water or sewer systems on behalf of eligible~~
 33 ~~individuals or households who provide evidence that they meet~~
 34 ~~one or more of the following conditions:~~

- 35 ~~(1) Receipt of a utility shutoff notice.~~
- 36 ~~(2) Insufficient funds to pay a delinquent utility bill.~~
- 37 ~~(3) Other conditions that may be included in the annual fund~~
 38 ~~expenditure plan.~~

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Writer's email: hbraly@pooleshaffery.com

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MEMORANDUM

TO: STEVE COLE, SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY

FROM: HUNT BRALY

RE: June 2022 Report

DATE: 7-11-2022

I have provided a synopsis of activities performed on behalf of the Agency in June.

RECURRING ACTIVITIES/MEETING ATTENDANCE:

1. Safe, Clean Water Program (Measure W) Watershed Area Steering Committee Santa Clara River Meeting in June was cancelled again. There will be a meeting on July 7 and it will continue to be a virtual meeting for now.
2. Monitored June 30 meeting of the SCV GSA
3. Attended City Council Meeting on June 14

There was several Proclamations by the Council recognizing Juneteenth and Pride Month.

The Council announced from closed session that there was a dispute between the General Contractor for the current Central Park project and some of its subcontractors so the City was going to interplead the funds still owed to the General Contractor to be used to resolve the claims by the subcontractors to the General Contractor.

Public comment continued to be extensive. Comments again focused on the Human Relations Roundtable and support for the Gascon Recall and support for the City's suit on Camp Scott and Scudder. There was a comment that the recently passed Housing Element was deficient. There was continued comment on providing some recognition for former Planning Commissioner Louis Braithwaite. City Manager Ken Striplin once again addressed the Human Relations Round Table. He reiterated that the group advises City Staff on issues and has no power to direct any action or approve any funding.

McLean, Gibbs and Weste mentioned concerns with proposal to get rid of School Resource Officers in our local schools and Mayor Weste read a support statement from Supervisor Barger. Mclean also expressed continued concern regarding Camp Scudder. Mayor Weste continued

comments regarding the recall of District Attorney Gascon making a push for the Gascon recall petitions be submitted by the deadline at the end of June. She also asked for a letter sent to the Attorney General and the legislators. Councilman Smyth suggested a more limited distribution list. Mayor can send a letter, but to be from the council needs to be ajenized. She will send a letter

The first Public Hearing was the first reading of the 2022-23 City Budget. The City Budget will be \$299.3 million, an almost 20% increase and the Capital Improvement Projects will be \$84.7 million. A separate memo with highlights will be provided prior to the July Committee Meeting.

The Second Public Hearing was on the annual fee adjustments with no public speakers.

The Third Public Hearing was on the Awarding of a new Solid Waste Contract in response to the City's RFP. The responses were evaluated by City Staff and its consultant and the results gave Burrtec Waste, the current commercial hauler, the highest rating for both residential and commercial over the current residential hauler, Waster Management and Athens Waste. In spite of significant new state regulations, especially the requirement to recycle food waste by residential and commercial customers, the residential rate in particular will only increase slightly when it begins on July 1, 2023 and there are protections for further increases for the 15 year contract.

Attended the City Council meeting on June 28, 2022:

There was a Presentation on the City's annual Public Opinion Poll. The complete survey results can be found on the City's website. The highlights presented to the City Council were:

- 1203 responses with an accuracy of +/- 2.8 percent.

- Results were positive with 88% stating that the City was a good place to live and raise a family.

- City has confidence of 80% compared to 45% for the County, 40% for the State and 46% for the Federal government

- City staff is well thought of. 86% are helpful, 95% professional

- The key issues are Public Safety 23%, Growth 20%, Traffic 19%, Homelessness 16%,

- For the first time the respondents indicated that it received communications from the City through Social Media (29%) the Signal 25%, Internet 13% and KHTS 10%.

-In response to an open ended question about businesses respondents wanted, 64% indicated they shop outside of the City. Among what they would like to see here are small business a cafes (26%) ethnic restaurants and markets, 14% fast food, 10% upscale stores.

Public comment continued to be robust. A speaker spoke for the second consecutive meeting regarding his concerns about white supremacy. There continued to be a preponderance in comments on the Human Relations Roundtable and some attacks on the City Manager and the failure to respond to the citizen complaints and inquiries. Finally, there was a disturbing speaker who was self identified as a Syrian Christian who was complaining about numerous issues with government. He was very emotional and seemed somewhat unhinged. Mayor Weste allowed him to speak extra time to apparently help calm him down. It seemed to raise some safety concerns even though there is always a sheriff's deputy present at the Council meetings.

Public Hearing was held on the Annual Special District Assessments. Staff indicated that it is the 4th year that most of the assessments are less than the maximum which could be imposed by 30%. Public Hearing was also held on the Open Space District which stated that in its 14 years these funds had acquired 3482 acres of open space and have a total of 12,000 acres it manages. There were no public speakers on these hearings.

The 6 resolutions needed to enact the 2022-23 Budget were presented. There were no changes to the budget since the public hearing on June 14. Several public speakers requested that there be summaries of major items in the budget put on the City's website. Budget resolutions passed unanimously.

The Consent Calendar again generated significant public comments and included

- Adopted the Resolution for the November 8, 2022 Council Election.
- Awarded construction contracts for the McBean Parkway Bridge Environmental Mitigation, and the Newhall Ranch Bridge for total contract amount not to exceed \$946,505 and \$1,181,451, respectively to remove invasive species. Councilwoman McLean asked if the City had the necessary permits and the City Manager responded that any permits from Army Corp or California Wildlife were obtained. These funds will be used to remove Arundo and Tamarix.
- Acquired 200 +/- acres in Los Angeles County, adjacent to Haskell Canyon Open Space for \$1,635,500.
- Dedicated an easement to the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency for the Castaic Conduit Bypass Pipeline Project.

4. Participate in Virtual Public Outreach and Legislation Committee on June 16.
5. Monitored and reviewed Agency Board Agendas.
6. Reviewed weekly emails regarding articles of interest from Agency.



COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 21, 2022
TO: Public Outreach and Legislation Committee
FROM: Steve Cole
Assistant General Manager *SC*
SUBJECT: Discussion of Draft Board Resolution and Initial Implementation Action from the Engagement Gap Analysis

SUMMARY

SCV Water has retained Kearns & West to help identify potential gaps in SCV Water's communication and engagement efforts with customers in its service area and identify additional communication strategies where needed. The project was introduced to the Committee in September 2021. An update in November 2021 provided draft reports on research of existing guidance and best practices, as well as a Community Characteristics Assessment. In February 2022 we shared preliminary results from interviews with community leaders. Finally, in April, we presented a draft Board Resolution on Inclusive Communication and Engagement, and a list of Initial Implementation Actions to take to advance inclusive communication and engagement.

DISCUSSION

Based on feedback at the April 21, 2022, meeting, staff is presenting the following:

- Revised draft resolution
- Revised draft Initial Implementation Actions
- Draft Water Managers Summary Memo (has not been previously provided)

As described during the previous discussion, the Board Resolution and Initial Implementation Actions were informed by insights from the community characteristics and existing communication and engagement guidance research conducted in November 2021 and insights from the community leader and SCV Water program manager interviews conducted in January and February 2022. For this version of the Implementation Actions, footnotes have been added to indicate the sources from which ideas were pulled. The memo has still been kept at a high-level, so as not to exclude any populations or communities we may not have been able to include in this initial research and preparation. It will be a living document that evolves to accommodate additional learning and expanded outreach.

Both the draft Board Resolution and Initial Implementation Actions aim to align with the Five-Year Strategic Plan and build upon ongoing work led by the Communications team and other agency programs. Additionally, the Initial Implementation Actions were developed and selected based on their ability to align with the goals and vision set forth in the draft Board Resolution.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None currently

RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Outreach and Legislation Committee provide feedback on the draft Board Resolution and Initial Implementation Actions.

Attachments

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY IN SUPPORT OF INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency is an integrated regional water agency which demonstrates excellent communication and engagement with water customers or users in the Santa Clarita Valley, and

WHEREAS, it is crucial for SCV Water to understand the needs, priorities, and goals of diverse communities in the service area, inform customers of issues and opportunities that may affect their service, especially service disruptions, and meaningfully engage customers and water users in agency decision-making processes in order to achieve its mission of providing responsible water stewardship to ensure the Santa Clarita Valley has reliable supplies of high-quality water at a reasonable cost, and

WHEREAS, the shared values identified in the 5-Year Strategic Plan directly inform communication and engagement efforts, including *Innovation* to continually learn and grow, *Excellence* to exceed customer expectations, *Trust* to partner with community stakeholders, *Integrity* to have the highest ethical standards, exhibiting honesty, transparency, and respect for customers within the community, and

WHEREAS, the communities, households, and individuals served by the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency have diverse backgrounds – related to their race and ethnicity, spoken languages, socio-economic status, and/or identities mentioned in the Board Policy on Fair Treatment and the Use of Authority ([Government Code §12940](#)). These qualities shape customer's unique needs and priorities as well as how they experience and interact with their water service and the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, and

WHEREAS, the California State Water Resources Control Board¹ and the Department of Water Resources² have undertaken efforts to better communicate with and engage diverse California communities, especially those which are communities of color, socio-economically disadvantaged, or environmentally burdened in order to address inequities and injustices related to water quality, access, delivery, and involvement, and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency will endeavor to:

1. Provide “best in class” service by learning more about the experiences, needs, and priorities of diverse communities, households, and individuals which rely on the water provided by the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
2. Foster trust and ongoing partnerships by deepening or forming new relationships with these communities, households, individuals, and the organizations which serve them
3. Develop ways to reach and inform *all* water users about issues of interest or that may be relevant to them — such as emergencies involving water quality or supply disruptions
4. Strengthen engagement opportunities for all communities, households, or individuals to assure meaningful involvement in the decisions which could affect them in a regular, accessible, and inclusive manner
5. Innovate and continually learn by evaluating communication and engagement efforts in an ongoing way based on water customer or user feedback and priorities

¹ California State Water Resources Control Board, [Racial Equity Resolution](#), 2021

² CA Department of Water Resources, [DAC Involvement Program](#), 2021; DWR [Stakeholder Communication and Engagement](#), 2018

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency will seek to reach and involve all water users and develop policies and efforts which strive to achieve tangible progress towards the objectives listed above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the SCV Water Board of Directors, hereby adopts this Resolution to strengthen inclusive communication and engagement.

DRAFT

DRAFT POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

SCV Water Communication and Engagement Gap Analysis

The potential implementation actions shared below are designed to address the unique needs, priorities, and interests of community leaders and SCV Water program managers while directly contributing to SCV Water’s overall mission and reflecting the guidance of regulatory agencies and water industry groups.

The draft board resolution guides the agency in strengthening communication and engagement across the diverse communities of SCV Water’s service area, especially in communities of color, socio-economically disadvantaged communities, or environmentally burdened communities. The actions offer an avenue to demonstrate SCV Water’s continued commitment to excellence.

Below are five potential implementation actions. The actions were selected based on how they address identified gaps and contribute meaningfully to the Board resolution points, as identified in the table below. We look forward to discussing these actions with you to ensure their appropriateness, authenticity, and feasibility.

Table 1: Matrix displaying what Board resolution points the potential implementation actions address.

| Points from the draft board resolution on inclusive communication & engagement | Potential Actions | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. Learn more about the experiences, needs, and priorities of diverse communities, households, and individuals that rely on the water provided by the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency to provide “best in class” service | | X | X | | |
| 2. Deepen and form new relationships with these communities, households, and individuals as well as the organizations that serve them to foster trust and ongoing partnership | | X | X | | X |
| 3. Develop ways to reach and inform <i>all</i> water users about issues that are of interest and relevant to them – such as emergencies involving water supply and quality disruptions | X | X | X | X | X |
| 4. Strengthen engagement opportunities for all communities, households, and individuals to be meaningfully involved in the decisions that could affect them in a regular, accessible, and inclusive manner | X | X | X | X | X |
| 5. Evaluate communication and engagement efforts based on feedback and priorities in an ongoing way to better innovate and continually learn and grow | | X | X | X | |

1. Establish communication and engagement in languages other than English, especially in Spanish.

- For urgent communications, provide information in English, Spanish, and in the language spoken by any non-English-speaking group that exceeds 10 percent of persons in the service area. For each non-English-speaking group that speaks a language other than Spanish and that exceeds 1,000 residents but is less than 10 percent of the persons in the service area, provide information regarding the importance of the communication and a telephone number or address where the public water system will provide either a translated copy of the material or assistance in the appropriate language. SCV Water can explore if there are service providers who could help with

translations. This proposal is based upon a broader application current public notice requirements for public water systems in the [California Code](#) related to elevated contaminant levels.¹

- For non-urgent communication and engagement, conduct a basic analysis to determine what translation and/or interpretation services might be valuable for outreach for a program, service, or activity and if underserved communities may be impacted. When underserved water users or customers could be impacted, or when the program, service, or activity involves addressing a specific equity issue, then a more targeted effort to offer translation and/or interpretation should be pursued. The following metrics can be used as a basic analysis to assess if additional translation and/or interpretation services may be valuable to pursue:
 - The number or proportion of people with limited English proficiency to be affected (e.g., if this is greater than 10 percent of people in the service area that are likely to be affected).
 - The frequency with which people with limited English proficiency come in contact with or are affected by the program or activity.
 - The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided.
 - The resources available and the costs of interpretation/translation services.

This proposal for non-urgent communications draws upon translation guidance from the [Department of Health and Human Services](#).

- Translate resources that are both digital (e.g., PDFs, embedded flyers, meeting information) and hard copy (e.g., brochures, flyers, handouts).
 - Deepen outreach on public television channels and radio stations on Spanish-speaking stations like Telemundo (Channel 52), Univision (Channel 34), Azteca (Channel 54), and TeleFutura (46).²
 - Continue with the plan to offer language translation in a widget on SCV Water's redesigned website so people can translate resources into their preferred language.
 - Continue offering call-in customer care support in other languages.
- 2. Make additional connections with community partners to better understand other diverse communities and potential communication and engagement needs and opportunities.**
- Consider hosting (2-5) more one-on-one interviews with community leaders that support, represent, and/or work with individuals that have identities or statuses listed in the SCV Water Board Policy on Fair Treatment and the Use of Authority, prioritizing those identities and statuses not represented in the interviews already conducted. Use the interviews to better understand how identities and statuses affect experiences and interactions with water service and SCV Water. These conversations could build on the interviews already conducted, using the same interview guide and questions.
 - Collect and memorialize information including:
 - Avenues to learn from and listen to community partners, such as by attending community-based organization meetings to better understand their priorities and concerns.³

¹ See the *Community Characteristics Assessment Memo*, "Languages Spoken" section for more information. A data set of U.S. Census American Community Survey language data can be built to support translation/interpretation decision-making.

² See the *Community Characteristics Assessment Memo*, "Reaching and informing customers and their communities about water-related issues and opportunities" section for more potential media outlets.

³ See *Community Leader Interview Summary Memo*, "Connecting with diverse communities and understanding their needs, priorities, and goals" section for example organizations.

- Avenues to answer questions and listen to the water service interests, priorities, and concerns of community partners, such as through hosting coffee hours or informal conversations with SCV Water staff and/or Board members to hear information and ask questions related to SCV Water.
 - Methods for SCV Water to distribute information about updates, service disruptions, programs, and opportunities for customers to provide feedback and get involved.⁴
 - Work with SCV Water program managers and staff to incorporate findings and new understanding from community partners into their work.
- 3. Advance and refine outreach and engagement with community partners, especially those that serve and work with underserved or vulnerable communities, households, and individuals.**
- Identify community partners to work with, including service providers (NGOs and City/County agencies) that work with individuals and households that are vulnerable, such as those experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, and the elderly.⁵
 - Review SCV Water’s existing engagement and communication efforts internally and with partners and identify best engagement and communication channels for community members. Conversations with partners could take place through via one-on-one talks, focus groups, stakeholder advisory groups, or other means that are convenient for SCV Water and its partners. In conversation, and based on partner feedback:
 - Identify opportunities to adjust content, language, rhetoric, and overall outreach techniques so all water users can engage with and benefit from SCV Water’s programs.
 - Check in with service providers and, as relevant, cross-share content to ensure individuals and households through Santa Clarita Valley have equitable access to the resources that could support them (e.g., with rebates and bill support).
 - Assess opportunities to do in-person outreach at events (e.g., church events, neighborhood and cultural celebrations, parades, etc.) in and for communities that are especially harder-to-reach (e.g., those that speak Spanish, are older, have limited internet access).⁶
 - Promote connections with family and youth through participation in family-friendly events and outreach with and for school communities.
 - Identify modes of communication that work best for immediate attention and emergency outreach for different water users and customers as specific populations may use different modes. Develop an approach for how to use these modes of communication during an emergency and ensure they are used only when needed.⁷

⁴ See *Community Leader Interview Summary Memo*, for numerous examples of suggested methods from organizations interviewed. These form an initial base of ideas. This action will help build that database by reaching more organizations that serve different populations and communities.

⁵ See *Community Characteristics Assessment Memo*, “Reaching and informing customers and their communities about water-related issues and opportunities” section for specific service providers.

⁶ The *Community Leader Interview Summary Memo* contains numerous potential places for in-person events that will be utilized.

⁷ See *Community Characteristics Assessment Memo*, “Reaching and informing customers and their communities about water-related issues and opportunities” section for specific modes of communications.

4. **Create a SCV Water guide and provide internal training for public engagement to be used across SCV Water programs and engagement efforts.**
 - Develop a consistent process for how SCV Water staff can assess, design, and conduct engagement with water users and customers. A brief guide can include prompts like the following:
 - Outline how input from engagement will be used and how this input will inform SCV Water decisions.
 - Set clear goals for engagement that could be shared internally and with engagement participants.
 - Identify how engagement can be made relevant to the unique needs, interests, and priorities of communities in the service area.
 - Identify appropriate avenues for feedback – including less burdensome methods like surveys or questionnaires by phone, text, or email that would be especially beneficial for audiences with limited time or resources to attend meetings.
 - Assess how the chosen engagement effort would be relevant to underserved communities. Refine as necessary to make sure it is accessible and relevant for communities that have historically been marginalized from decision-making.
 - Offer internal staff training on inclusive communication and engagement to help them effectively and respectfully engage with water users and customers and communicate in effective, accessible terms.

5. **Proactively engage new customers to help them understand SCV Water, their water bills, and water conservation opportunities.**⁸
 - Identify opportunities to inform new water customers and users and the groups that support them so they can better understand 1) components of their bills and what they mean, 2) how to better manage costs through water conservation practices, and 3) where their water comes from. Potential avenues to inform customers could be through tabling, partnering at events, holding trainings, and providing written info materials to service providers and other organizations.
 - Create new written and online outreach materials to share with new water customers/users about how to understand and manage their bills and reduce costs through water conservation.
 - Identify opportunities to share these materials with first-time homeowners and renters, new water customers, and the organizations that support them (including rental property managers and organizations that help house people).

⁸ See Community Leader Interview Summary Memo, “Connecting with diverse communities and understanding their needs, priorities, and goals” section for more information and suggestions. Some organizations interviewed are potential partners for this action.

MEMORANDUM

To: Kathie Martin, SCV Water

From: Joan Isaacson, Principal
Jack Hughes, Project Manager
Maria Doerr, Community Engagement Specialist

Re: SCV Water Communication and Engagement Gap Analysis – SCV Managers Interview Summary

Date: February 25, 2022

SCV Water has retained Kearns & West to help identify potential gaps in SCV Water’s communication and engagement efforts with customers in its service area and identify additional communication strategies where needed.

This memo synthesizes ideas and feedback shared in the SCV Water Program Manager interviews. The feedback has not been vetted for feasibility or appropriateness for SCV Water to take on. Rather, the memo aims to reflect the ideas, sentiments, and reflections of the Program Managers. Insights from these interviews, along with the community leader interviews, previous research on guidance, and the community characteristics analysis, will be used to inform a draft SCV Water Board Resolution and initial implementation actions.

Approach

Kathie Martin, Communications Manager at SCV Water, conducted interviews with SCV Program Managers to understand their unique experiences, needs, and opportunities in engagement and communication.

The interviews were scheduled as 60-minute virtual sessions over Zoom. The conversations began with brief opening remarks introducing the Engagement and Communication Gap Analysis. A standardized list of questions helped guide the conversations. Questions focused on understanding the experiences of managers in SCV Water engagement and communication efforts, identifying any gaps as seen and felt by SCV Water, and gathering insights on opportunities to strengthen communication and engagement. A full list of conversation questions is available in the Appendix.

Kathie Martin spoke with four SCV Water Managers:

- Sarah Fleury, Water Resources Planner
- Ryan Bye, Water Quality Supervisor
- Matt Dickens, Sustainability Manager
- Kathleen Willson, Customer Service Manager

Interview Summary

Former and Current Communication and Engagement Efforts by SCV Water

Communication and engagement are a part of many SCV Water programs and projects. Interviewees shared what SCV Water currently does to reach customers and their communities. These insights are useful background for the suggestions and ideas for how to further expand communication and engagement. Techniques and approaches differ by program needs. Below are a handful of current efforts reported by interviewees:

- Consistent customer outreach is achieved through monthly billing efforts. SCV Water uses bill inserts, envelope snipes, bill messages, robo-calls, letters, door hang tags, direct mailers, social media, and public

relations to reach ratepayers.

- Customers calling SCV Water have the option to use a 3rd-party translation service in the language of their choice.
- Drought and water conservation outreach is conducted with water customers, agencies, city entities, and local organizations using varied avenues for each respective group, such as public meetings, social media, ads, press releases, and emails
- SCV Water engages green industry, property owners, and HOA management firms about sustainability issues and opportunities to help water users reduce costs and conserve water.
- A team led outreach to Spanish-speaking landscapers about water conservation in their projects in Santa Clarita Valley (former Valencia Water Company project).
- For the Lawn Replacement Incentive Program, past and potential participants were brought together to help determine potential barriers to participation and identify what wording of benefits was most effective in outreach.
- Direct hard-copy outreach on water quality is sometimes sent to specific communities (e.g., direct letters on flushing pipes after COVID closures were sent to schools) or about specific issues (e.g., mailings on PFAs).

“We have an elevated responsibility to the public because of the critical nature of our resource. They depend on us to deliver water, be available to answer their questions, and address their issues.”

- Paraphrased quote

At the same time, Program Managers shared that there are existing challenges and barriers that communication and engagement efforts could help address. In particular, they shared that:

- **There are misunderstandings and negative impressions about SCV Water that foster distrust and inhibit productive work.** Interviewees shared that negative perceptions that some members of the public have about SCV Water – that they are the “big, bad utility,” that the water is unsafe to drink, and that SCV Water tries to hide information from water users. A lack of understanding, or an unwillingness to change their opinions, around the drought, water conservation efforts, and agency transparency measures also inhibit collaboration and make communication and engagement more difficult. An interviewee also noted that they fear that those who don’t understand may also not be asking for support and clarification. Managers advised that more trust building, closer relationships with groups and individuals, and educational opportunities could help address these misunderstandings and negative impressions. These opportunities are shared below.
- **There are users, customers, and communities that are not being reached or understood.** Program Managers have a sense of duty and responsibility to reach all water users and to serve their unique needs, but they know they aren’t reaching and supporting everyone. Some interviewees shared that they found it difficult to communicate with and engage diverse communities including renters and residents in multi-family units, those who speak other languages, lower-income communities, and those who live in disadvantaged communities. Some interviewees highlighted the importance of understanding what these groups want and need and finding the right ways to reach them.

Feedback and Opportunities for Communication and Engagement

Program Managers suggested useful feedback on how to improve communication and engagement and address the existing challenges and barriers mentioned above. They offered reflections on how communication and engagement could make their programmatic work more successful and sustainable.

Feedback from interviewees is organized into three communication and engagement categories: connecting with and understanding diverse water users and their communities; reaching and informing water users and their communities about relevant issues and opportunities; and engaging water users in decision-making and planning.

Connecting with and understanding diverse water users and their communities

Program Managers shared that they want to better understand all water users and their communities to improve their programs. Communication and engagement efforts can help. Interviewees offered ideas for how SCV Water can better connect with and understand diverse communities through relationship building, education and capacity building efforts, and rigorous data use.

- **Direct ties and relationships with local organizations and communities would aid understanding and connections to water users.** SCV Water managers emphasized the importance of going out into the field, meeting representatives and residents one-on-one, and going to community events. Building ties to local organizations that work with diverse water users that are currently hard to reach was also called out as an important area to explore. Learning more about these groups would allow SCV Water to better understand all the communities they serve and expand away from status quo outreach. To do this, an interviewee suggested SCV Water hold one-on-one conversations with open-ended questions (“What are your goals? What do you hope to accomplish?”) to better understand the experiences and goals of local groups and water users. Another interviewee advised going directly to community events and gathering spaces to meet and learn about diverse community members. Interviewees are especially interested in reaching water users who speak Spanish, are lower-income, and live in disadvantaged communities.
- **The SCV Water Board can help build stronger community ties.** An interviewee stressed the importance of the SCV Water Board being continuously and deeply involved in SCV Water’s communication and engagement efforts with the public, especially under-represented and harder-to-reach communities. They suggested that the SCV Water Board could adopt a resolution that includes listening to and learning from diverse communities in Santa Clarita Valley, especially those outside their direct base and districts.
- **Deeper coordination and proactive relationship building with other regional agencies would help SCV Water better understand and connect with water users.** Some interviewees highlighted the importance of getting more involved with other agencies and organizations at the neighborhood, city, and county level. For example, an interviewee advised that outreach to agencies may presently consist of requesting they read and comment on long draft documents such as the Urban Water Management Program. Instead, SCV Water can go beyond this to do more proactive outreach on issues of shared interest and build ongoing relationships and communication with these agencies.
- **More agency-led education and capacity-building efforts for water users, staff, and SCV Water Board members would be valued.** Interviewees identified unique education opportunities by specific community:
 - o For water users, interviewees suggested more education could help dispel misinformation and negative impressions while empowering users to know more about their water. Existing outreach, such as bill outreach and water quality report sharing, could be better harnessed to further educate water users. In addition, SCV Water could explore new opportunities to educate by going directly to the places and meetings communities (such as disadvantaged communities) attend to provide “learning days” to educate and listen to water users. In advance of such events, staff could ask community leaders for insight into questions that residents and members may have.
 - o For the SCV Water Board, more staff-led training on programmatic and technical aspects of SCV

Water’s work could help inform them and allow them to provide even more detailed feedback to staff. In addition, interviewees suggested that such training would aid SCV Water Board members in their outreach to the public.

- For staff, cross-program education opportunities could help them better understand all of SCV Water’s diverse work and more clearly articulate this in accessible ways to water users.
- **Robust user databases and more water data would support SCV Water outreach.** Advancements from the bifurcated Customer Information System (CIS) to a tool that is deeper and more holistic would help SCV Water to better understand its users, track water use, and develop targeted communication and engagement efforts for specific user groups. For example, an advanced database would be able to identify which users are renters, who prefers to speak a language other than English, who has especially high bills and water use, etc. Using this information, SCV Water teams would be able to reach out to address issues and opportunities with specific groups (e.g., sending out High Consumption Letters to advise on water conservation or audits). In addition, the ability to directly track live water use using GIS 3D mapping would allow staff to better manage and measure use across users, which could inform communication and engagement efforts.

Reaching and informing water users and their communities about relevant issues and opportunities

Program Managers also shared insights on how to reach water users and inform them about important water issues that affect them and their water service, such as the drought, rate changes, and financial support programs.

- **Strengthened, proactive drought messaging could improve user awareness and receptiveness.** Several interviewees brought up the drought and/or the need to strengthen drought communications. Messages ought to be realistic, direct, and help users understand what is happening and current conditions. Increased awareness could promote preparedness and buy-in for water conservation measures while also addressing any misconceptions about the need for water conservation. In addition to more targeted messaging, proactive outreach to other regional and local agencies and to disadvantaged communities and local community groups (such as environmental groups) could help address questions, increase awareness, and improve preparedness.
- **Meetings are an important venue to communicate and engage with residents meaningfully.** Interviewees highlighted the importance of meetings to inform and reach customers. Other channels of outreach are useful, but some felt the best way to create a connection and deeply share information (rather than just get customer’s attention) is through meetings. Face-to-face time also allows residents and SCV Water staff to build valuable relationships with one another. The ability to have virtual meetings helps reach more customers who would otherwise be burdened by attending or unable to join. An interviewee encouraged SCV Water to continue hosting meetings in a hybrid fashion even as the pandemic restrictions lighten so participants can join in the format they prefer (i.e., in-person or virtually).
- **Targeted outreach and more local partnerships could help SCV Water get in touch with harder-to-reach water users.** Interviewees proposed outreach opportunities for the specific groups below:
 - To reach renters and residents in multi-family units (i.e., water users who are not customers), interviewees suggested it would help to build more relationships with rental companies and property managers. Outreach on water quality and conservation efforts may be especially useful with these water users.
 - To reach Spanish-speakers, creating resources in Spanish and going directly to Spanish-speaking communities would help. SCV Water could build on how it makes translation services available

for callers to also offer translation of written materials. One interviewee shared that their team took part in a Rotary Club outreach at a Halloween event hosted by the City at the Newhall Community Center and it was quite successful at engaging Hispanic families.

- To reach lower-income disadvantaged communities, an interviewee advised going straight to community leaders and organizations who work with these communities. Targeted outreach could focus on valuable opportunities like arrearages support.
- **Marketing works best when it is focused and targeted on individual programs.** An interviewee shared that individual program marketing works better than marketing a fleet of programs. For example, when the Smart Water Workshop was shared individually, more people signed up to participate than when it was one of many shared with users. Having different marketing efforts for each program can help bolster interest and reduce overwhelm with water users.

Engaging water users in decision-making and planning efforts

Program Managers emphasized the importance of engaging with and hearing feedback from stakeholders. “That’s why we are here: to serve the public,” shared one interviewee. More ongoing engagement with water users and their communities would be valued, and interviewees provided a myriad of ways to increase opportunities for feedback.

- **A community leader focus group could help build trust and create a structured channel for feedback** from underserved communities and community groups currently not involved with SCV Water. Several interviewees highlighted the value of garnering more frequent and organized feedback with local leaders.
- **Targeted requests for input and engagement could enrich SCV Water programming.** An interviewee advised SCV Water to go directly to community leaders and organizations for input (e.g., go to their community meetings) to make it easier for them to be involved. Another interviewee advised SCV Water to have this sort of process especially with disadvantaged communities and groups that serve them.
- **An established system for public comment would improve meetings and the usefulness of feedback.** An interviewee shared that stakeholder engagement at SCV Water public hearings and workshops would be aided by a more rigorously followed system for how to solicit, organize, and manage public feedback. For example, adherence to dated deadlines on when comments must be shared in advance of a meeting can help ensure feedback is captured, processed, and reflected by SCV Water staff. Different SCV Water efforts use different public meeting processes (e.g., multiple meetings for feedback, review, and adoption, or just a single meeting) and each requires a different structured system for public comment. Laying out this process, and how it differs for each effort, far in advance would benefit staff, SCV Water Board, and the public. Making sure expectations and requirements for feedback are widely shared would help mitigate public frustration with these rules.
- **It is valuable to solicit a wide array of feedback, both positive and constructive.** Some interviewees shared that public hearings often focus on complaints and negative feedback, while other voices and experiences of SCV Water are not well represented. Structuring meetings to require more holistic feedback (i.e., what is going well *as well as* what could be done better) and getting more varied input from the public outside of meetings would provide a bigger picture of how water users experience SCV Water and its programs. More holistic feedback would benefit SCV Water staff as well as SCV Water Board members.
- **More meeting opportunities for SCV Water staff to engage with stakeholders, apart from SCV Water Board meetings, would be beneficial.** Presently, many existing engagement processes center on involvement with the SCV Water Board. Interviewees suggested it would help to have more engagement and dialogues directly between stakeholders and SCV Water staff and managers so they

can understand and act on the public’s input in their programs.

- **A community-wide survey could help identify overall trends, needs, and opportunities for SCV Water.** Interviewees advised that SCV Water could get more representative feedback from water users and their communities using a survey that looks at what users think is going well and what could be different. Bringing a lot more voices into the mix through a survey would also help identify widespread concerns that may not be heard in very specific comments and opinions shared by invested parties at meetings.
- **Early stakeholder identification and outreach can improve engagement efforts.** An interviewee recommended that programs identify stakeholders early so they can be reached far in advance of engagement efforts. Another interviewee shared that without advanced notice, it can be hard for water users and customers to participate in meetings, as was the case with one workshop with ratepayers and ratepayer advocates. Programs can ensure ample time between notice and workshop timing so more participants can join.
- **Programs can build more confidence and trust with the public if engagements begin with more background and clear expectations upfront.** An interviewee shared how schools and HOAs felt “steam-rolled” and not part of the planning process when they were engaged in the recycled water program. These stakeholders didn’t understand how the program worked or that the required pipes were already there. To address the feeling of something being pushed on them, interviewees proposed that SCV Water could provide more background support to help stakeholders better understand the process and understand what feedback they can provide. Clear expectations can help mitigate miscommunication and frustration.
- **There are specific new engagement needs for SCV Water programs that could allow SCV Water to test and build out engagement efforts.** In particular, the following opportunities were identified:
 - o *Copper and lead service line inventory:* a new EPA regulation (with CA subset from DDW) will require SCV Water to develop a database of pipe materials on the other side of water meters for all structures built before 1985. This information will have to be made public on SCV Water’s website and searchable by address by 2024.
 - o *Public comment and engagement for Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) treatment permit process:* SCV Water’s Well-V201 in Valencia is going to install a GAC treatment system to treat perchlorate and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The permitting process requires public input. Similarly, engagement around several PFAS well-head treatment facilities will also be needed.
 - o *Managing water source taste changes:* As SCV Water begins using different sources of water, this will affect the taste and aesthetics of water (i.e., hard or soft). It may be of use to proactively prepare users for this change as it comes.
 - o *Ratepayer involvement on rates decisions:* Interviewees suggested SCV Water could get input from ratepayers on the right mix of payment options and plans to offer customers. New opportunities for discussion with ratepayers would benefit SCV Water’s customer service work. As part of this, more advance notice and outreach to ratepayers about engagement opportunities and decisions would benefit them.
 - o *Outreach around Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs):* Some potential regulations from the Division of Drinking Water may require that CCRs be shared more frequently with water users in the future (i.e., sharing the same report twice in a year or updating tables and issuing new reports). SCV Water could consider opportunities to streamline outreach around CCRs. One opportunity could be creating an interactive online version that lets users click and find relevant information.

Appendix

Below is the conversation guide used in the SCV Water Program Manager interviews.

Conversation Guide

Introduction

- Please describe your role at SCV Water and the programs you manage
- To you, why is it important to communicate and engage with customers, stakeholders, and/or communities?
- What kinds of customers, stakeholders, and/or communities do you ultimately aim to reach through your work? *(This can be aspirational and different than who you currently interact with)*

Communication

Reflecting on communication efforts in your program(s) at SCV Water (billing and customer service, water supply and quality, water conservation, drought response, emergency disruptions, etc.)

- Please describe how your program(s) have employed or used communications to date
- What has been most successful in communication with customers and/or the public on your program(s)?
- If resources and time were limitless, what would you do differently in how your program(s) does communication?
- Are there customers, stakeholders, and/or communities that you aren't currently reaching through your program(s) communication, that you wish you were? What would help you reach them?
- What do you think are primary challenges for engagement and communication with vulnerable and/or disadvantaged customers in your program(s)? What are opportunities to address these gaps?

Engagement

Reflecting on engagement efforts in planning and environmental processes (such as in Groundwater Sustainability Planning, Rate Case Planning, Water Shortage Contingency Planning, Recycled Water Planning, etc.)

- Please briefly describe the planning and environmental processes you've been most closely involved with, if any
- Overall, at SCV Water, what do you think is 1) done well and 2) could be done better in how customers, stakeholders, and/or communities are engaged in planning and environmental processes? Regarding both:
 - Outreach: How they are *informed* about opportunities to engage with SCV Water (e.g., how and where opportunities to be involved are advertised and shared)
 - Participation: How they *contribute to and engage in* SCV Water planning efforts (e.g., what feedback is solicited and how this input is used)

If the Manager's program(s) does not lead any planning, proceed to "Next Steps"

If the Manager's program(s) does lead planning, ask these questions:

- Does your program(s) currently engage customers, stakeholders, and/or communities in its planning and environmental processes?
- ***If yes:***
 - What do you hope to achieve by engaging customers, stakeholders, and/or communities in planning processes?
 - What has been most successful in your engagement efforts?
 - What has been the most challenging?
 - If resources or time weren't a question, what would you do differently (add, change, remove) in how you do engagement?
- ***If no:***
 - Do you have any plans to use customer, stakeholder, and/or community engagement in your planning and environmental processes moving forward?

- What would you hope to achieve through engagement?
- Have there been any barriers to engaging customers, stakeholders, and/or communities previously?
- What would need to be true for your new engagement efforts to be successful?

Next steps

- We are concurrently having interviews with community leaders to hear about their experiences of SCV Water and our engagement and communication efforts. What are you most curious to get insights into from these interviews?
- Do you have any other feedback or ideas you'd like to share?

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM

To: Kathie Martin, SCV Water
From: Kearns & West
Re: SCV Water Communication and Engagement Gap Analysis – Research on Existing Guidance and Practices for Water Agency Communication and Engagement
Date: November 16, 2021

Introduction

Kearns & West is conducting an assessment to identify potential gaps in SCV Water’s communication and engagement efforts with customers in the Santa Clarita Valley and identify additional communication strategies where needed. The results of this research will inform conversations with SCV Water staff members and local community leaders to identify potential gaps in communication and engagement and community needs, priorities, and interests. This memo documents the results of one of the initial assessment steps: conducting desk research to document examples of guidance and practices employed by other water agencies.

The research included reviewing:

- *Guidance from regulatory agencies, water agency member organizations, and planning documents*, on communication, engagement, equitable service delivery, and the designation of specific communities. This included sources such as Department of Water Resources (DWR) guidance for involving disadvantaged communities, State Water Resources Control Board (California Water Board) resolutions, Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) plans, and American Water Works Association (AWWA) documents on community stewardship.
- *Implementation examples and practices from other water agencies* for how they’ve approached communication, engagement, equitable service delivery, and work with their diverse communities. Research initially focused on Southern California water districts of similar size and demographic compositions as SCV Water. Some examples were found, but in order to find more illustrative and varied examples, the search was widened to examine other water agency practices outside of Southern California.

The guidance and examples presented in this memo should not be read as recommendations: they were taken from many different contexts, and all may not be appropriate for SCV Water. The next steps of the assessment are designed to learn more about the communities in SCV Water’s service area and SCV Water’s communication and engagement needs. Identifying areas of convergence between the local context the broader snapshot presented in this memo will be an important part of determining appropriate and feasible initial recommendations for communication and engagement actions.

Examples of guidance are organized around three categories of effective communication practices across diverse service areas:

1. **Understand the needs, priorities, and goals of diverse communities in the service area.**
2. **Increase community awareness of issues and opportunities that may affect their service**, especially with those communities that are more vulnerable and harder to reach.
3. **Meaningfully involve residents in agency decision-making around planning, management, and operations.**

1. Understanding the needs, priorities, and goals of diverse communities in the service area.

Communication and engagement efforts can help an agency better understand the needs, priorities, and interests of diverse communities in their service area.¹ By hearing from businesses and residential customers through direct feedback, surveys, in-person events, social media, relationships with community groups, and other mediums, an agency can learn more about its customers. Understanding more about residents will help an agency assess 1) factors that contribute to customer satisfaction, 2) potential co-benefits that new projects could provide, 3) negative project impacts that could be mitigated, and 4) any potential barriers to equitable service delivery.

It is especially valuable for agencies to understand the experiences of residents in communities of color, communities that speak languages other than English, low-income communities, Tribal Nations, and otherwise disadvantaged communities. According to [AWWA](#), these kinds of communities are more likely to be underrepresented in traditional agency outreach and are more likely to face barriers to equitable service delivery — all while bearing the brunt of historic discriminatory land use and zoning practices.² Across the state, the access and quality of water services residents receive are greatly predicted by their race, socioeconomic status, existing pollution burdens, and other compounding factors. Indeed, the [California Water Board](#) found that race is the strongest predictor of water and sanitation access; they call on water agencies to better understand the experiences of communities of color in their service area.³ More on how these communities are designated and defined is provided under guidance and in the Appendix.

SCV Water knows that the distinct voices, interests, and knowledge of its residents are important, and has employed methods of learning through stakeholder assessments and listening sessions about recycled water planning. Guidance further supports deepening communication and engagement so agencies can better understand and support diverse communities in their service area.

Guidance:

- **Understand community socio-demographics to better identify disadvantaged communities that may face service issues.** The [Department of Water Resources](#) (DWR) and [CalEPA](#) provide specific guidance on how to identify and define priority communities to work with. The term “disadvantaged community” is often used. These definitions are provided in the Appendix. DWR provides guidance on how to identify disadvantaged communities within IRWM Plans and work alongside representatives from these communities through the [Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program](#).⁴
- **Uncover racial inequities in service areas and then work to address these inequities.** The California Water Board’s [Racial Equity Resolution](#) specifically highlights the need to understand racial inequities in service

¹ American Water Works Association, “[A Water Utility Manager’s Guide to Community Stewardship](#),” 2019

² American Water Works Association, “[A Water Utility Manager’s Guide to Community Stewardship](#),” 2019

³ California Water Board, [Racial Equity Resolution](#), 2020

⁴ California DWR, [DAC Involvement Program](#), 2021; 2019 IRWM Grant Program Guidelines, 2019

delivery. The Board outlines actions it will take through funding and programmatic design to support efforts that address racial inequities in service delivery, it also calls on local water agencies to follow suit by identifying opportunities in their service areas to address inequitable service delivery with their residents.⁵

- **Conduct stakeholder assessments, invest in local relationships, and create more touch points to learn about customer needs in an ongoing way.** [AWWA](#) provides useful Assessment Checklists to help agencies account for the needs of communities, especially those that may be left out or left behind in traditional outreach, or in ongoing planning. These checklists can serve as guideposts to identify gaps in communication and engagement.⁶

Water Agency and District Examples:

- **Prioritize understanding, reaching, and engaging disadvantaged and otherwise underserved communities.** The Santa Clara Valley Water District developed an [Office of Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) to specifically support outreach and engagement with communities of color, disadvantaged communities, and others.⁷ This office has helped improve community relations and help the district better understand gaps experienced by residents in an ongoing, focused way.
- **Use engagement and relationships with local organizations to better understand resident experiences.** The Parajo Valley Water Management Agency [built a relationship](#) with the local stakeholder group, Community Water Dialogue, that later allowed them a critical access point to customers that had been hard to reach. Community Water Dialogue let the Agency participate in their regularly hosted community meetings, where they were able to learn about resident experiences directly, without an inconvenience to the residents (e.g., ask more of their time by asking them to share their experiences at a separately organized forum).⁸
- **Finding opportunities to work specifically with disadvantaged communities can unlock new funding opportunities.** New projects that specifically identify and address needs with disadvantaged communities may be eligible for funding support from the state and federal funding allocations, like the [Eastern Municipal Water District](#) that received \$3.5M in July 2021.⁹
- **Invest internally as an agency in culturally responsive, Diversity Equity and Inclusion staff training.** [East Bay Municipal Utility District](#) realized that understanding the needs of their customers also required that their staff had better empathy tools to engage with, and understand, equity and the discrimination that may affect their customers. Through their Racial Equity and Justice Project and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Strategic Plan, they are leading a training program and values alignment project with district managers and supervisors.¹⁰ Seattle Public Utilities has done similarly through their [Social Equity Program](#), where they provide ongoing training that help employees assess how utility policies that may create challenges for some residents and make community outreach more inclusive.¹¹

2. Increase community awareness of issues and opportunities that may affect their service

Agency communication can help residents be better prepared, informed, and satisfied water customers. Using

⁵ California Water Board, [Racial Equity Resolution](#), 2020

⁶ American Water Works Association, "[A Water Utility Manager's Guide to Community Stewardship](#)," 2019

⁷ Santa Clara Valley Water District, [Office of Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#), 2021

⁸ Community Water Center, "[SGMA Stakeholder Engagement](#)," 2015

⁹ Eastern Municipal Water District, "[Projects Receive Federal Funding](#)," 2021

¹⁰ East Bay MUD, "[Racial Equity and Justice Project and DEI Strategic Update](#)," 2021

¹¹ Seattle Public Utilities, [Service Equity Program](#), 2021 (and referenced in American Water Works Association, "[A Water Utility Manager's Guide to Community Stewardship](#)," 2019)

community meetings, PSAs, informational resources available online and mailed to households, trainings, and other means, an agency can share critical information to residents. Increasing community awareness through agency communications can help inform residents of 1) quality or supply disruptions, 2) assistance and customer programs that may benefit them, 3) water conservation efforts that may help them and their fellow water users, and 4) opportunities to reach the agency if they have concerns or questions.

Increasing community awareness is especially important for residents that are more vulnerable to service disruptions, are most likely to need customer programs, and are presently harder to reach. Outreach to harder-to-reach residents may require new modes of communication in order to meet them where they are (e.g., reaching elderly residents without internet access through in-person meetings at senior centers).

SCV Water is prioritizing opportunities to increase public awareness through its 5-Year Strategic Plan and is exploring ways to ensure customers are aware of its programs, up-to-date about water issues, and able to access materials in the languages they speak. Guidance from regulatory and planning bodies, as well as examples from other agencies, align with SCV Water’s existing work and offer new avenues that can deepen inclusive outreach.

Guidance:

- **Understand and identify hard-to-reach customers and develop reliable communication channels to them.** [California Public Utilities Commission](#) provides guidance on how to define hard-to-reach customers as those who do not have easy access to program information or generally do not participate in programs due to a combination of language, geography, income levels, housing types, and are designated by CalEPA as “disadvantaged.” Once these customers are identified, the Commission advises agencies to make additional efforts to reach these customers.
- **Develop quickly deployable public notification procedures in the languages used by residents.** The California Water Board developed the [Unsafe Water Notification Guidance](#), requiring that each public notice to residents in case of quality concerns must be available “in Spanish and in any language for each non-English speaking group that exceeds 1,000 residents or 10 percent of the residents in the community served, whichever is less.” Having resources available in languages that residents feel comfortable with, and sharing these far and wide, can help reduce language isolation and ensure more residents are aware of service disruptions.
- **Partner with social services and other utilities to reach more vulnerable residents.** The California Public Utilities Commission outlines action steps utilities can take to increase outreach and maximize the impact of customer programs in its updated [Environmental & Social Justice Action Plan](#). One action they advise utilities to take is to develop a Universal Application System to align on customer eligibility, streamline outreach, and increase program enrollment.¹² [AWWA](#) echoes this encouragement to water agencies, advising that they coordinate customer service programs with existing networks (e.g., social services) to help reduce confusion and better support communities that would benefit from these programs.¹³

Water Agency and District Examples:

- **Use communication forms that residents are most comfortable with; utilize existing networks into the community.** After residents, especially seniors and Spanish speakers, in the Turlock Irrigation District [received fake utility scam calls](#), the district sprang into action through a bilingual, multi-modal outreach program to notify residents of the issue. They reached out to senior organizations and the local Latino

¹² California Public Utilities Commission, “[Environmental & Social Justice Action Plan](#),” 2021

¹³ American Water Works Association, “[A Water Utility Manager’s Guide to Community Stewardship](#),” 2019

Community Roundtable that hold vested, face-to-face relationships with residents to help with outreach. They also physically went to places where residents pay their bills like supermarkets and pharmacies to spread awareness. By going directly to residents, along with using traditional online communication tools (e.g., email, website notification, social media), the scam calls were quickly brought under control.¹⁴

- **Remove barriers for residents to access the agency and information the agency shares.** The Ramona Municipal Water District is [revising internal policies](#) to reach and inform residents with ease. They recently 1) moved meetings to after 6pm so working residents can attend to hear important updates and 2) delegated staff to build direct relationships with stakeholder groups that represent residents so information can be more easily shared (e.g., the school district, community planning group, chamber of commerce, and estates associate).¹⁵
- **Develop clear monitoring and evaluation metrics to track the effectiveness of outreach.** Santa Clara Valley Water District is [developing equitable engagement](#) strategies and has been asked by stakeholders to simultaneously develop clear metrics for how success will be monitored.¹⁶ The importance of ongoing monitoring is highlighted by [AWWA](#); one avenue to evaluate communication success is by disaggregating demographic and agency enrollment data to look for changes over time (e.g., to see how many residents in a given neighborhood are now enrolled in an assistance program after targeted communications on said program).¹⁷

3. Meaningfully engage residents in agency decision-making processes

[AWWA](#) defines community engagement as “the process of involving residents, businesses, and other stakeholders in decisions that have the potential to impact them.”¹⁸ Agencies can use communication and engagement to bring in voices that have been historically excluded from decision-making processes.

Meaningful involvement necessarily builds upon the first two goals of communication and engagement: an agency that 1) understands community needs, priorities, and interests and then 2) develops better pathways to communicate with communities will be better prepared to effectively engage communities in decision-making.

When residents are thoughtfully brought into agency decision-making it can help make service delivery more equitable. [AWWA](#) notes that when disadvantaged communities are closely involved in new projects, these projects are more likely to address persistent needs in this community and mitigate potential negative impacts that could affect them.¹⁹ While meaningful engagement often requires greater initial inputs of time and resources, this is paid back in long-term benefits to the agency and communities. Thoughtful community involvement can help 1) improve an agency’s planning, management, and operations, 2) build broader goodwill and support from community, and 3) reduce delays and costs caused by conflict.

More agencies are beginning to develop plans for *how* residents, especially those from disadvantaged and otherwise underserved communities, can be meaningfully involved in agency decision-making. This is led, in part, by [DWR](#) and the [California Water Board](#) calling on agencies to maximize the impact of stakeholder engagement.²⁰

SCV Water understands that meaningful community engagement can help shape programmatic work, like how the

¹⁴ Community Water Center, “[SGMA Stakeholder Engagement](#),” 2015

¹⁵ Ramona Municipal Water District, “[Improve transparency and community relations](#),” 2021

¹⁶ Santa Clara Valley Water District, [Public Meeting Notes](#), 2021

¹⁷ American Water Works Association, “[A Water Utility Manager’s Guide to Community Stewardship](#),” 2019

¹⁸ American Water Works Association, “[A Water Utility Manager’s Guide to Community Stewardship](#),” 2019

¹⁹ American Water Works Association, “[A Water Utility Manager’s Guide to Community Stewardship](#),” 2019

²⁰ California DWR, “[Guidance Document on GSP Stakeholder Communication and Engagement](#),” 2018; Community Water Center, “[2015SGMA Stakeholder Engagement](#),” 2015

Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program helped shape the [Upper Santa Clara River Watershed IRWM](#)²¹ and how disadvantaged communities were consulted in the [Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan](#). SCV Water has similarly seen the impact of community engagement as it prepared its Urban Water Master Plan, Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and Rate Case Planning. Guidance and examples below highlight opportunities to center designated communities in agency decision-making.

Guidance:

- **Develop relationships/partnerships with local groups and leaders to build trust and create inroads for communities to be involved in decision-making in an ongoing way.** [AWWA](#) highlights the importance of forming long-term, trusted relationships with local groups and leaders (e.g., social service agencies, environmental justice advocates, civic groups, etc.). Consistency is invaluable with such groups as this creates space for ongoing dialogue, deepens goodwill and trust, and can support better collaborative decision-making.²² When there are opportunities for local groups and leaders to be involved in decision-making, they will already be in the know and able to quickly and collectively jump in.
- **Create clear expectations for how decisions can be influenced by residents and the goals of engagement.** DWR, in its [Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Guidance](#), stresses that stakeholders must understand the role they are invested to play in an engagement well in advance.²³ Without this clarity, unmet expectations and misunderstandings could cause further tension. It encourages water agencies to reflect on the goals of engagement (i.e., to inform, consult, involve, collaborate, or empower residents), communicate this clearly, and use appropriate techniques to help achieve these engagement goals.
- **Involve residents where it is the most mutually beneficial in agency functions.** There are targeted opportunities within each agency function where communities can be brought into decision-making. [AWWA](#) outlines community stewardship considerations for each agency function that could be starting places to involve communities in agency functions like “Project design” and “Construction and maintenance.”²⁴ See Table 1 in the Appendix for a complete list of these high-level opportunities.

Water Agency and District Examples:

- **Especially involve disadvantaged communities in new projects and capital improvement opportunities.** The [East Bay Municipal Utility District](#), through their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan, is working to understand equity issues in capital improvement projects and involve potentially impacted communities in new projects.²⁵ This work is helping ensure new projects specifically benefit, and do not negatively impact, already vulnerable communities.
- **Center leadership from disadvantaged communities in planning that will impact them and remove other barriers to access decision-making.** The County of Tulare [led a study](#) on the Tulare Lake Basin to inform a water quality and wastewater treatment program that would address ongoing needs of local disadvantaged communities. A 21-person Stakeholder Advisory Committee was formed with a provision that at least 8 of these members be from the affected, disadvantaged communities. To ensure more equitable participation on this Committee, outreach materials and meetings were offered in both English and Spanish and resources were shared online, in-person, and by phone. Members of the public can also attend the Committee meetings, creating greater decision-making accessibility.²⁶

²¹ USCR Watershed, [IRWM Plan](#), 2021

²² American Water Works Association, “[A Water Utility Manager’s Guide to Community Stewardship](#),” 2019

²³ California DWR, “[Guidance Document for GSP Stakeholder Communication and Engagement](#),” 2018

²⁴ American Water Works Association, “[A Water Utility Manager’s Guide to Community Stewardship](#),” 2019

²⁵ East Bay MUD, [Board of Directors Meeting](#), 2021

²⁶ Community Water Center, “[SGMA Stakeholder Engagement](#),” 2015

- **Some agencies choose to formalize commitments to improving engagement, especially with disadvantaged communities.** The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region developed a [Community Outreach Strategy](#) in in 2016 with provisions specifically for working with disadvantaged communities. It provides guidance for the Board as they deepen community engagement through all aspects of their work.²⁷ Similar principles on environmental justice were brought into Santa Clara Valley Water District’s planning and resident engagement efforts through new [Environmental Justice policies](#).²⁸ Such strategies and principles can be helpful organizing tools, foster new conversation with residents and local organizations, and help affirm a water agency’s commitment to listening and improvement.
- **Compensate stakeholders for their involvement in decision-making processes.** In the development of OurCounty, Los Angeles’ [Countywide Sustainability Plan](#), they compensated lead community-based organizations that served as anchors in each county district (\$20,000 each) as well as participation stipend for NGOs who were actively involved in the workshops. This compensation was offered with an understanding that asking stakeholders to review and provide feedback is time intensive and creates strain for already understaffed and under-resourced civil society groups.²⁹

²⁷ San Diego Water Board, “[Community Outreach Strategy](#),” 2016

²⁸ Santa Clara Valley Water District, “[Environmental Justice Policies](#),” 2018

²⁹ Los Angeles County, [OurCounty Stakeholder Engagement Summary](#), 2019

Terms

Terms below are often used by regulatory bodies when describing their communication and engagement work. These definitions helped inform what factors were examined in the Community Characteristics memo.

- Disadvantaged communities

- DWR, in the 2019 [Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines](#),³⁰ *a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the Statewide annual median household income.*
- CalEPA has a separate definition for disadvantaged communities around climate adaptation that is more expansive than income. We include it here as well because other socioeconomic factors that CalEPA tracts through the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 can shape how equitable/inequitable service delivery is experienced by residents. Disadvantaged communities are defined by CalEPA to be those census tracts throughout California that:³¹
 1. *Score in the highest 25% from CalEnviroScreen 4.0*³²
 2. *Score in the top 5% of the Pollution Burden indicator but lack an overall CalEnviroScreen score due to unavailable or unreliable Population Characteristics indicator data*
 3. *Were identified as disadvantaged in CalEnviroScreen 3.0 but not in the highest scoring 25% census tracts in CalEnviroScreen 4.0*
 4. *Include areas within federally recognized Tribal boundaries in California*

- Underserved communities

- The California Public Utilities Commission in the [Environmental & Social Justice Action Plan](#) defines underserved communities in California as community that meets one of the following criteria:³³
 1. *Is a “disadvantaged community” as defined by subdivision (g) of Section 75005 of the Public Resources Code.*
 2. *Is included within the definition of “low-income communities” as defined by paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 39713 of Health and Safety Code.*
 3. *Is within an area identified as among the most disadvantaged 25% in the state according to CalEPA’s most recent CalEnviroScreen.*
 4. *Is a community in which at least 75 percent of public school students in the project area are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program.*
 5. *Is a community located on lands belonging to a federally recognized California Indian tribe.*

- Service equity / Equitable service

- AWWA in the [Guide to Community Stewardship](#) describes service equity as: *providing inclusive and equitable service to all customers, so that all customers have equitable opportunities, access and results. Some individuals or communities may need different levels of support to gain equitable service. Equitable service means applying a social equity lens to the utility’s services and programs to ensure that all customer needs are met. Equity (and equitable) is different than equality. Equality provides the same opportunities to everyone. Equity is focused on providing opportunity based on need.*

³⁰ DWR, [Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines](#), 2019

³¹ CalEPA, [Preliminary Designation of Disadvantaged Communities](#), 2021

³² CalEnviroScreen 4.0 develops a composite score based on both pollution burden (exposures and environmental effects) and population characteristics (sensitive populations, socioeconomic factors)

³³ CPUC, [Environmental & Social Justice Action Plan](#), 2021

Appendix

Table 1: A Menu for Integrating Community Stewardship into System Planning, Management, and Operations

This table from AWWA shows the kinds of stewardship opportunities available within each aspect of a water utility’s work.³⁴ Many of the considerations and opportunities can be aided through communications and engagement with residents.

| Utility Functions | Community Stewardship Considerations | Opportunities |
|---|--|--|
| A. Capital Planning | Evaluate how to eliminate disparities in access to service and service quality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure access • Water quality • Disaster preparedness |
| B. Project Design | Consider how to reduce impacts of the project design on adjacent communities. Consider what positive co-benefits to integrate into the design. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community benefits • Impact mitigation • Small business opportunities |
| C. Construction & Preventative Maintenance | Consider how to reduce construction impacts on adjacent communities. Consider what positive co-benefits to integrate into the construction process. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact mitigation • Small business opportunities |
| D. Finance | Consider how to make services affordable to all residents. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer assistance programs • Implement water use efficiency programs |
| E. Contracting & Procurement | Consider how to increase contracting and procurement services with local, small, minority- and woman-owned businesses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce development • Small business opportunities • Social impact bidding |
| F. Customer Service & Communications | Consider how to increase access to information and assistance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally relevant and accessible communications • Community engagement on utility services and conservation • Community liaisons |
| G. Environmental Stewardship | Consider how to increase opportunities for environmental stewardship and access to utility open space areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community benefits • Community education |
| H. Human Resources | Consider how the utility can promote a welcoming culture and increase diversity, equity and inclusion in hiring, promotion and tenure. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive organizational culture • Organizational diversity, equity and inclusion • Workforce development |

³⁴ American Water Works Association, “[A Water Utility Manager’s Guide to Community Stewardship](#),” 2019

Resources

- AWWA, "[A Water Utility Manager's Guide to Community Stewardship](#)," 2019
- CalEPA, "[Preliminary Designation of Disadvantaged Communities](#)," 2021
- California DWR, "[DAC Involvement Program](#)," 2021; 2019 IRWM Grant Program Guidelines, 2019
- California DWR, "[Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines](#)," 2019
- California DWR, "[Guidance Document for GSP Stakeholder Communication and Engagement](#)," 2018
- California Public Utilities Commission, "[Environmental & Social Justice Action Plan](#)," 2021
- California Water Board, "[Racial Equity Resolution](#)," 2020
- Community Water Center, "[SGMA Stakeholder Engagement](#)," 2015
- Eastern Municipal Water District, "[Projects Receive Federal Funding](#)," 2021
- East Bay MUD, "[Racial Equity and Justice Project and DEI Strategic Update](#)," 2021
- East Bay MUD, "[Board of Directors Meeting](#)," 2021
- Los Angeles County, "[OurCounty Stakeholder Engagement Summary](#)," 2019
- Ramona Municipal Water District, "[Improve transparency and community relations](#)," 2021
- San Diego Water Board, "[Community Outreach Strategy](#)," 2016
- Santa Clara Valley Water District, "[Environmental Justice Policies](#)," 2018
- Santa Clara Valley Water District, "[Public Meeting Notes](#)," 2021
- Santa Clara Valley Water District, "[Office of Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#)," 2021
- Seattle Public Utilities, "[Service Equity Program](#)," 2021
- USCR Watershed, "[IRWM Plan](#)," 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Kathie Martin, SCV Water
From: Kearns & West
Re: SCV Water Communication and Engagement Gap Analysis
Research on Community Characteristics Assessment
Date: November 23, 2021

Introduction

SCV Water plays an essential role: providing water services to a population of 273,000 in the Santa Clarita Valley through 75,000 water service connections. By surveying the demographics and context of communities across the Service Area, the agency can continue to improve outreach and service to all customers.

This memo presents key findings from our community characteristic assessment as part of the Engagement and Communication Gap Analysis. This assessment is an important step in understanding potential barriers in, as well as opportunities to strengthen, communication and engagement between SCV Water and the residents of Santa Clarita Valley. Guidance from sources such as the American Water Works Association's *A Water Utility Manager's Guide to Community Stewardship* handbook and state agency guidance detailed in the "Existing Guidance and Practices" memo helped define what characteristics should be examined. As the AWWA handbook notes, "because communities are often organized around socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, and language, understanding the locations of different groups of people can help a utility match communication and customer service resources to the right customers." The research summarized in this memo focuses on those characteristics, as well as age and access to the internet.

SCV Water knows that details matter. The research offered in this memo includes both 1) dispersed characteristics of all customers across the SCV Water Service Area as well as 2) concentrated characteristics visible on a smaller scale that could influence how individual neighborhoods, blocks, and households may access and engage with SCV Water. Data was reviewed and compiled from a wide array of scales, from county-wide (Los Angeles), to Census Tracts (each representing 1,000-8,000 people), down to Census Tract Block Groups (each representing 600-3,000 people).

This assessment aids the Communication and Engagement Gap Analysis by helping us 1) identify the information important in structuring community interviews, 2) highlight issues and opportunities to explore in conversation with community leaders, and 3) inform needs-finding conversations with SCV Water program managers. The findings described here, alongside insights from interviews, and research on the larger context of communication and engagement guidance and examples, will go on to inform the draft Board Resolution and outreach recommendations.

We focused on five main characteristics to better understand those served by SCV Water: Race and Ethnicity; Languages Spoken; Internet Access; Age; Disadvantaged Community Designation; Housing, and Socioeconomic Factors. These categories could influence the flow of communication between SCV Water and residents and are described in greater detail below.

Key Findings from the Assessment

Race and Ethnicity

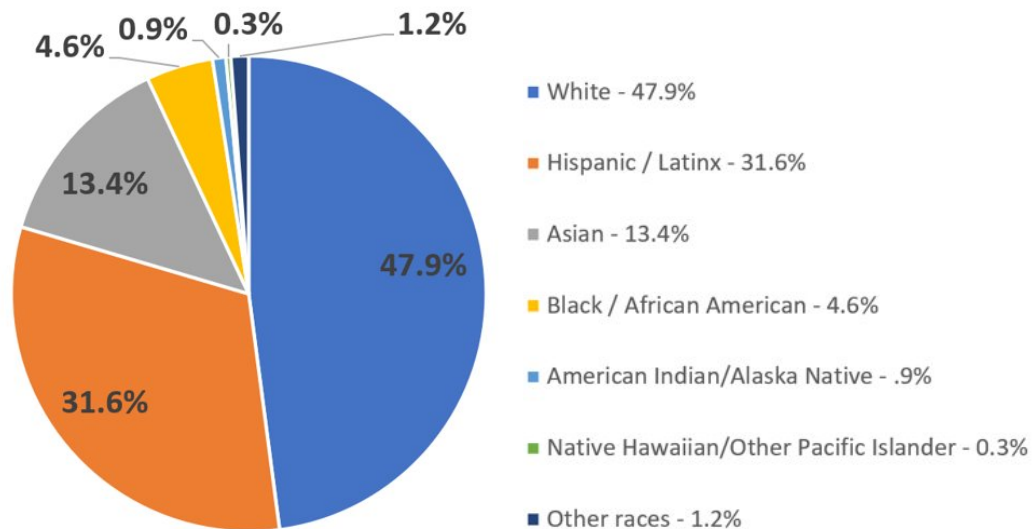
Over half of residents do not identify as white, signaling that there is a fair amount of diversity throughout the SCV Water Service Area.

The [California Water Board](#) found that race is the strongest predictor of water and sanitation access. Understanding the racial and ethnic make-up of the SCV Water Service Area is an important step in learning about the experiences of diverse customers.

The population in the SCV Water Service Area are racially diverse, even while being somewhat less diverse than surrounding areas. Customers come from a multitude of racial and ethnic backgrounds. The largest racial and ethnic group is white, reflecting about 47.9% of the population. This percentage of white to non-white residents in SCV Water is greater than the [California state average](#) (36%) and the Los Angeles County average (26%).

The second largest racial and ethnic group in SCV Water is Hispanic/Latinx, representing 31.6% of the population (compared to 39% for all of California and 49% for Los Angeles County). The third largest group is Asian, representing 13.4% of the population (compared to about 15% for both California and Los Angeles County). Details on other racial and ethnic groups are provided in the graph below.

Graph 1: SCV Residents by Race and Ethnicity



Racially diverse residents are found throughout the SCV Service Area, but some census tracts show that racial and ethnic groups are more concentrated. Indeed, there are seven census tracts in the Service Area where residents identifying as Hispanic and/or Latinx represent more than 50% of the total population. There are nine census tracts where residents identifying as Asian represent 20% or more of the population and there are eight census tracts where residents identifying as Black represent 7% or more of the population.

In the appendix are maps that show the racial and ethnic distribution of residents within each US Census Tract within the SCV Water Service Area.

Languages Spoken

A significant number of customers in the SCV Water Service Area speak Spanish and Asian / Pacific Islander languages.

According to [CalEPA](#) and the US Census Bureau, linguistic isolation (having at least some difficulty speaking English) among members of a community can limit access to information and public services and effective engagement in public processes. Understanding potential language barriers is an important factor for better understanding a community.

33% of all residents in the SCV Water Service Area speak languages other than, or in addition to, English. 5.5% of all 18+ residents do not speak English well or at all.

Spanish is the most widely spoken language, after English, in the SCV Water Service Area. 20% of all residents speak Spanish, making it a potential priority for increasing language access at SCV Water. About 20% of these Spanish speakers don't speak English well or at all.

After Spanish, Asian and Pacific Islander languages are the most widely spoken. 8% of all residents speak Asian and Pacific Islander languages. While this is a smaller percentage, it still represents a significant number of residents who may have more difficulty understanding materials in English. About 13% of these Asian and Pacific Islander language speakers don't speak English well or at all. The data available from the American Community Survey (Census Bureau) does not specify what these languages are; further community interviews will help identify what Asian and Pacific Islander languages are most prevalent.

5% of residents in the SCV Service Area speak Indo-European and other languages.

Internet Access

A fair number of SCV Water users do not have access to internet subscriptions, which could make online, web-based outreach more difficult and less accessible.

An estimated 5% of households do not have the internet at home (about 4,500 households), meaning that they have no access to an internet subscription (broadband or satellite) or a cell phone data plan. This severely limits how they may be able to access information about their water service and how they can engage with SCV Water.

An additional 6% of households only have access to the internet through their cellular data plans (about 4,900 households), which can put significant limits on how much residents of these households can view, download, stream, or otherwise access information online. Furthermore, an estimated 1% of households have access to the internet at home but not through a subscription, which may also pose limits to online access.

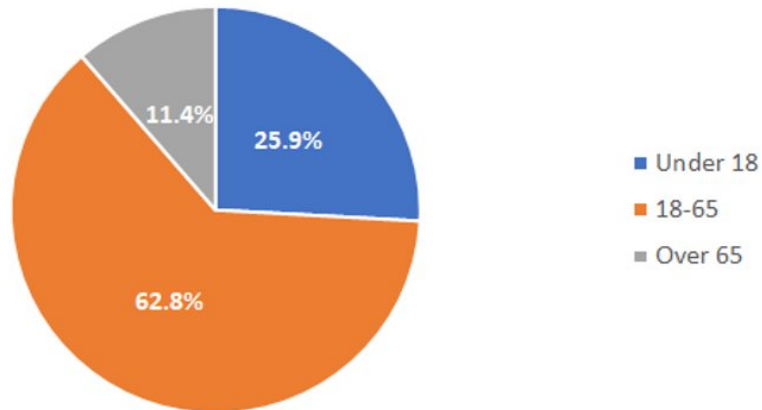
Age

There is a significant youth population in the SCV Water Service Area and a smaller elderly population.

Age is another factor that can shape a resident's potential vulnerability and that can influence what modes of communication are most effective in outreach. [The Center for Vulnerable Population Protection](#) identifies children and elders as more vulnerable due to their relative dependence on others for their care and services. Understanding the size of these populations can inform outreach.

About 63% of all residents in the SCV Water Service Area are between the ages of 18-65 years of age. About 26% of all residents are minors under 18. About 11% of all residents are over 65.

Graph 2: SCV Residents by Age



Some areas have a significant concentration of residents over 65 years of age, which may indicate that these are places to investigate further, particularly:

- Along the southern section of Highway 5 (34% of residents)
- Along Antelope Valley Freeway (33% of residents)
- Along Vasquez Canyon (20% of residents)
- Next to Central Park in Santa Clarita (20% of residents)

Disadvantaged community designation

Concentrated communities that meet the “Disadvantaged Community” designation are found in the SCV Water Service Area.

When looking at individual Census Block Groups, and the [DWR Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool](#), the SCV Water Service Area includes designated Disadvantaged Communities (Median Household Income between \$42,737 and \$56,982) and Severely Disadvantaged Communities (Median Household Income less than \$42,737). While the 2014 IRWMP update, [did not identify disadvantaged communities](#) in the Upper Santa Clara River IRWM, the latest iteration of the DWR Mapping Tool suggest that disadvantaged communities are indeed present in the SCV Water Service Area.

In the appendix is a map showing where these communities are located in the SCV Water Service Area. As one can note, there is significant overlap between these communities and those described above experiencing socioeconomic stressors.

Housing

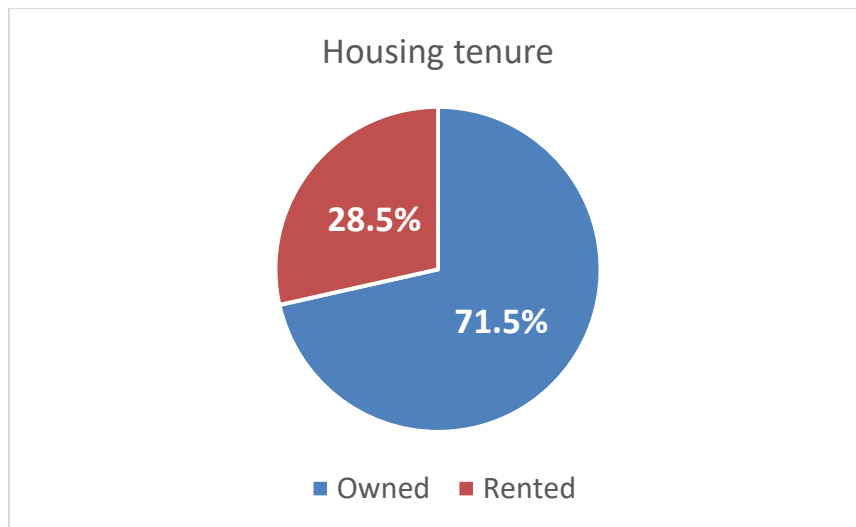
A majority of residents in the SCV Water Service Area live in owned, single-unit homes.

Understanding the housing experiences of residents provides a window into their lived realities and interactions with their water service delivery.

About 72% of households are owner-occupied in the SCV Water Service Area, while 21% of households are renter-occupied. Renters are more likely to be more distanced from their water service, as often their landlords are the direct water customers. Renter-occupied households make up 40% or more of all

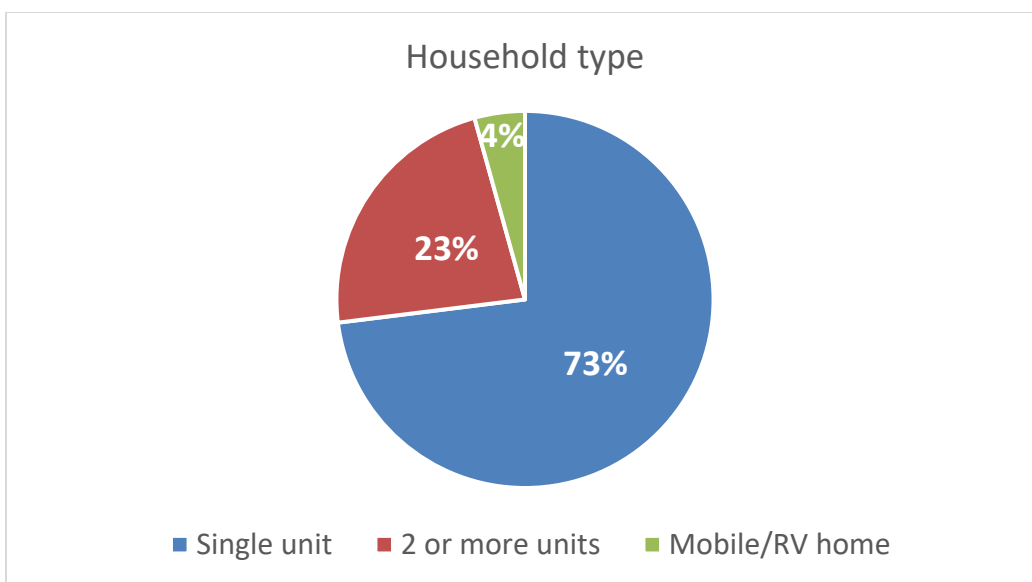
households in 14 census tracts, representing about 14,000 households. Renter-occupied households are especially concentrated around the following geographic areas:

- By Mint Canyon (73% of households)
- By downtown Newhall (72% of households)
- Between Soledad Canyon Rd, Sierra Hwy and Antelope Valley Fwy (69% of households)



73% of households are in single-unit homes, 23% are in homes within multi-unit structures (such as apartments, condos, or townhouses), and 4% are in mobile homes and other types of housing. In eleven census tracts, households in multi-unit structures make up 40% of all households. Households in multi-unit structures are especially prominent in some areas:

- Between Soledad Canyon Rd, Sierra Hwy and Antelope Valley Fwy (82% of households)
- By Mint Canyon (64% of households)
- By downtown Newhall (63% of households)
- By Valencia (56% of households)



Household size can greatly affect water bills. 34% of households in the SCV Water Service Area consist of four or more individuals living together. In some census tracts, this is as high as 57% of households:

- By Copper Hill and Entrada Norte (57% of households)
- By Val Verde (54% of households)
- By downtown Newhall (53% of households)

Overall, 8% of householders are over the age of 65 that live alone. Older individuals that live alone are often considered more vulnerable and harder-to-reach. In three census tracts, the percentage of householders over 65 living alone is greater than 20%:

- Between Golden Valley Rd and Sierra Hwy (34% of households)
- By Valencia and College of the Canyons (29% of households)
- Between Hwy 5 and Newhall Ave (20% of households)

Socioeconomic Factors

Residents in the SCV Water Service Area come from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

The [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#) from the CalEPA provides valuable data on socioeconomic factors across the state, such as poverty and unemployment, that greatly shape the experiences of communities, households, and individuals. Understanding these factors can help pinpoint opportunities to support these underserved residents through deeper outreach and help prioritize where and how outreach is conducted.

Poverty

About 18% of all residents in the SCV Water Service Area are impoverished, according to findings from the CalEnviroScreen 4.0. Impoverished is defined as those who live below two times (200%) the federal poverty level.¹ The 2021 [federal poverty level](#) is \$12,880 for an individual and \$26,500 for a family of four.

Residents experiencing poverty are particularly concentrated in some areas of the Service Area, especially:

- In downtown Newhall (57% of residents are experiencing poverty)
- Along Vasquez Canyon (50% of residents)
- Along Sierra Highway and Soledad Canyon Road (43% of residents)
- Along Newhall Creek (40% of residents)

Areas with a higher poverty concentration are notably also where residents are more likely to be non-white and Hispanic/Latino.

Housing burden

About 15% of households in the SCV Water Service Area are experiencing a housing burden. Housing burden is an important factor of community well-being as it indicates who may be more vulnerable to unanticipated changes such as utility cost increases and/or service disruptions. The number of households experiencing a housing burden is defined as the number of households making less than 80% of the Area Median Family Income and who pay more than 50% of their monthly income on housing costs.

Residents experiencing a housing burden, like those experiencing poverty, are particularly concentrated in some areas of the Service Area:

- Along Newhall Creek (30% of households)

¹ As a note: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 uses two times the federal poverty level as the threshold for their Poverty score given that 1) California's costs of living are higher than other parts of the county and 2) methods used to determine federal poverty thresholds are outdated.

- In downtown Newhall (29% of residents are experiencing poverty)
- Along Soledad Canyon Road (27% of residents)
- Along the northern section of the Sierra Highway (26% of residents)

Educational attainment

Overall, about 9% of residents over 25 years old have less than a high school education in the SCV Water Service Area. Educational attainment is an indicator of future earning potential and is associated with lower exposures to environmental pollutants, which can impact overall health and well-being.

In some areas of the Service Area, the percentage of residents with a lower educational attainment is much higher, particularly:

- In downtown Newhall (41% of qualifying residents)
- Along Newhall Creek (34% of qualifying residents)

Unemployment

About 5% of residents who are over 16 years old and are eligible to work are unemployed in the Service Area. This matches the California average for unemployment, which is also 5% of qualifying residents. The unemployment percentage does not include retirees, students, homemakers, institutionalized persons except prisoners, those not looking for work, and military personnel on active duty.

However, in some areas of the Service Area, residents are experiencing unemployment at very high rates compared to the rest of the state, particularly:

- Along the northern section of the Sierra Highway (14% of qualifying residents, which reflects a higher unemployment than 95% of all census tracts in California)
- Along the Santa Clara River and Soledad Canyon Road (6-12% of qualifying residents)
- Around downtown Newhall (6-8% of qualifying residents)

Next steps

The Community Characteristics Assessment outlines some of the potential factors that shape the lives and experiences of residents in the SCV Water Service Area. This information provides useful direction on potential geographic areas and relevant topics where we can focus during initial outreach and conversations. Kearns & West will next develop an interview guide to structure these conversations and compile a list of potential community leaders to speak with.

It will be important to speak with community leaders who can contextualize and “ground-truth” these characteristics, and others, to offer a more detailed window into community and resident experiences in SCV Water’s Service Area. These discussions help us better understand community needs, priorities, and interests and opportunities to strengthen communication and engagement between SCV Water and its customers.

Sources

Data Sources

We brought together an array of data sources to complete the community characteristic research. These resources are listed below by each Community Characteristic profiled in this assessment.

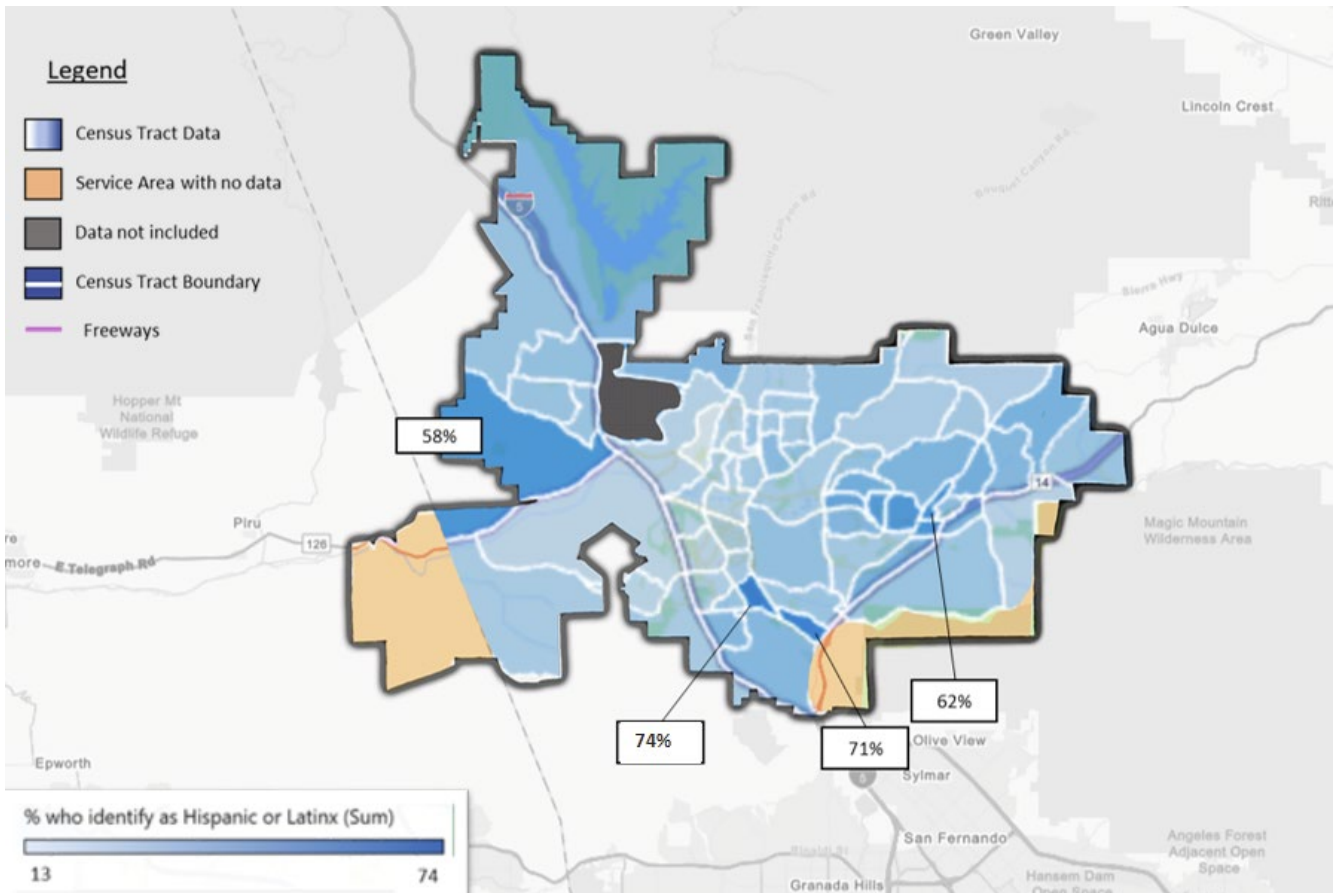
- *Race and Ethnicity*
 - [Hispanic or Latinx Data](#) – American Community Survey, US Census
 - [Race and Ethnicity Data](#) – American Community Survey, US Census
 - [Drinking Water Tool](#), Community Water Center
- Languages Spoken
 - [Languages Spoken at Home Data](#) – American Community Survey, US Census
- Internet and Computer Access
 - [Presence and Types of Internet Subscriptions in Household](#) – American Community Survey, US Census
 - [Internet and other stats report](#) by William Hart Unified School District
- Age
 - [Age and Sex](#) – American Community Survey, US Census
 - [Santa Clarita Data Assessment Report](#), SCAG
- Disadvantaged Community Status
 - [Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool](#) - DWR
- Housing Data
 - [Occupancy Characteristics](#) – American Community Survey, US Census
 - [Households and Families](#) – American Community Survey, US Census
- Socioeconomic Factors
 - [Map Tool; Report](#) – CalEnviroScreen 4.0, OEHHA CalEPA
 - [Drinking Water Tool](#), Community Water Center
 - [2021 Poverty Guidelines](#) - ASPE
 - *Weighted averages were used to calculate the overall percentage of residents/households experiencing each socioeconomic factor in the SCV Water Service Area*
- Additional references
 - [Santa Clarita General Plan](#)
 - [Santa Clarita Housing Element Update 2021-2029](#)
 - [Los Angeles County General Plan](#)
 - [Los Angeles County Community Action Plan](#)
 - [A Water Utility Manager’s Guide to Community Stewardship](#)

Methodology

Overarching percentages for the SCV Water Service Area were developed using weighted averages by population from each Census Tract or Census Block Group.

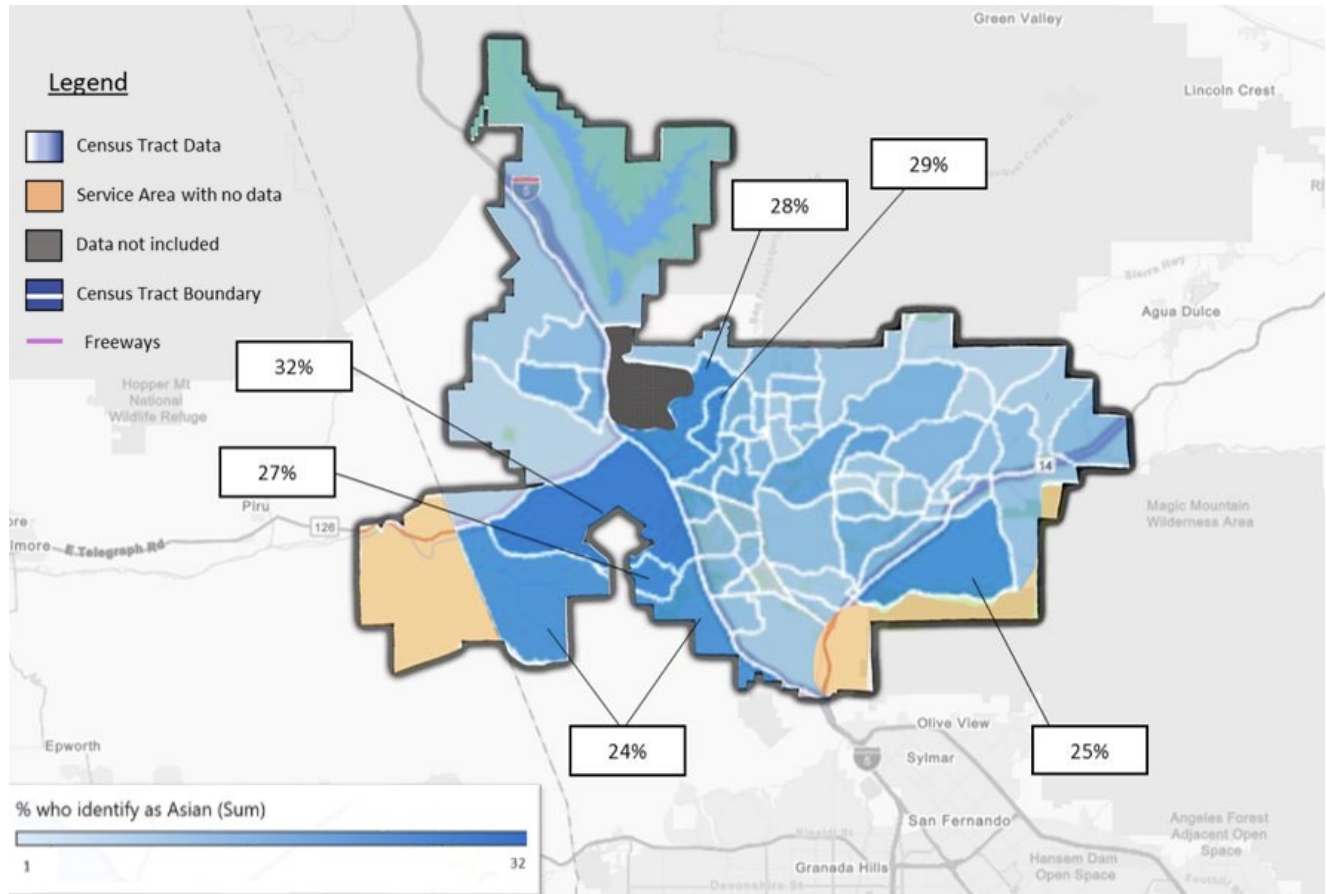
Appendix

RACE & ETHNICITY – HISPANIC/LATINX IDENTIFYING



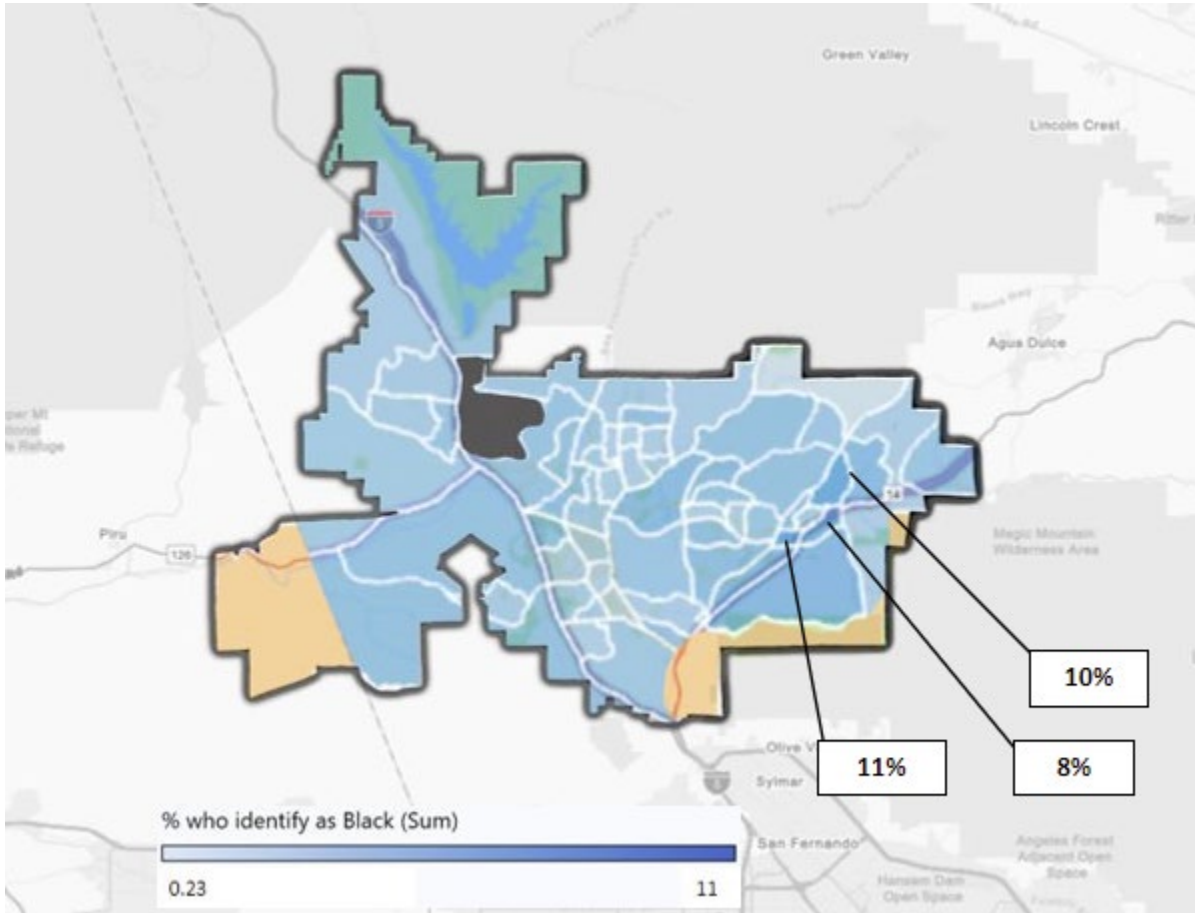
| Census Tract | % of residents who identify as Hispanic/Latinx |
|--------------|--|
| 920336 | 74% |
| 920337 | 71% |
| 920038 | 62% |
| 920106 | 58% |
| 920037 | 57% |

RACE & ETHNICITY – ASIAN IDENTIFYING



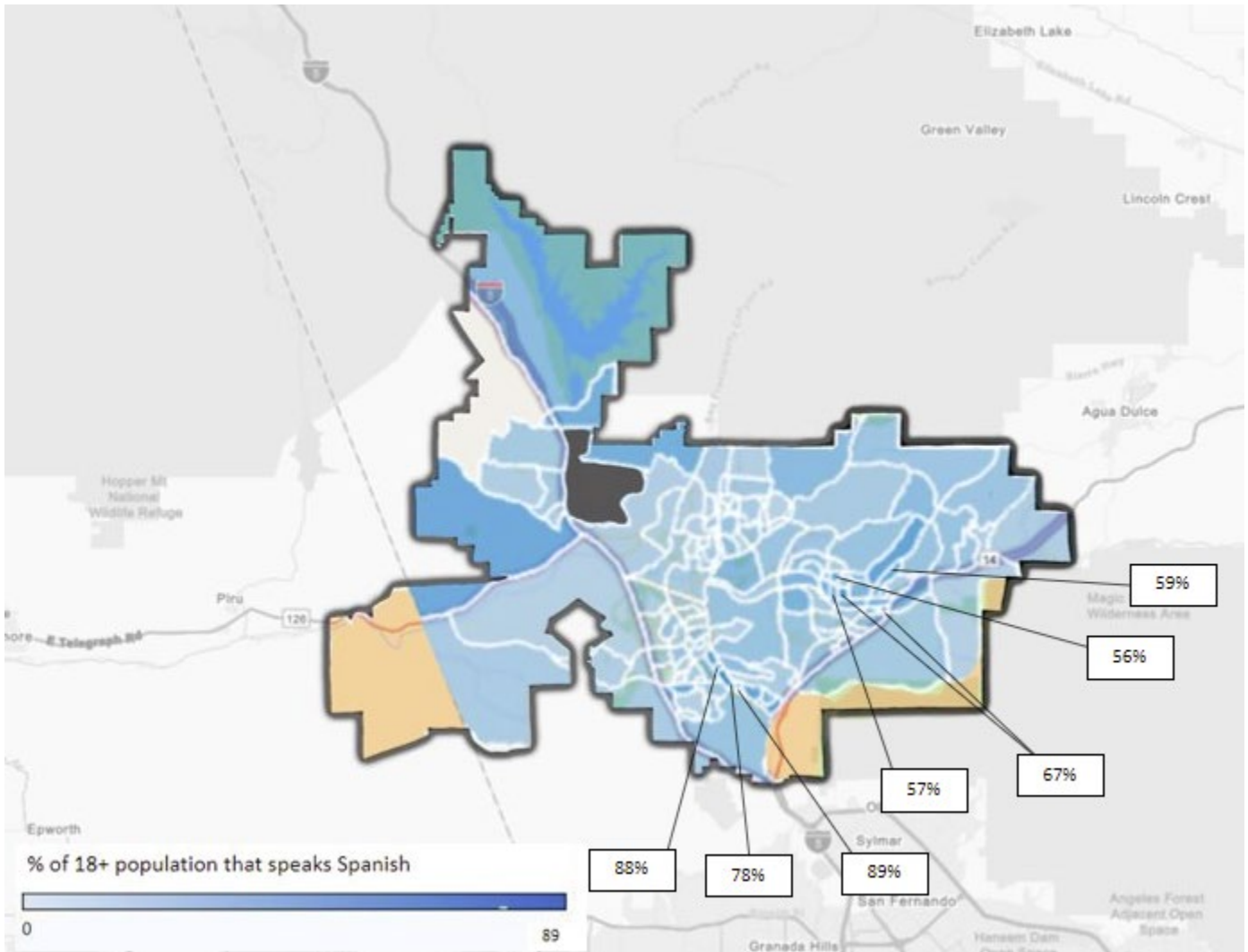
| Census Tract | % of residents who identify as Asian |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 920339 | 32% |
| 920108 | 29% |
| 920107 | 27% |
| 920338 | 27% |
| 920043 | 25% |

RACE & ETHNICITY – AFRICAN AMERICAN / BLACK IDENTIFYING



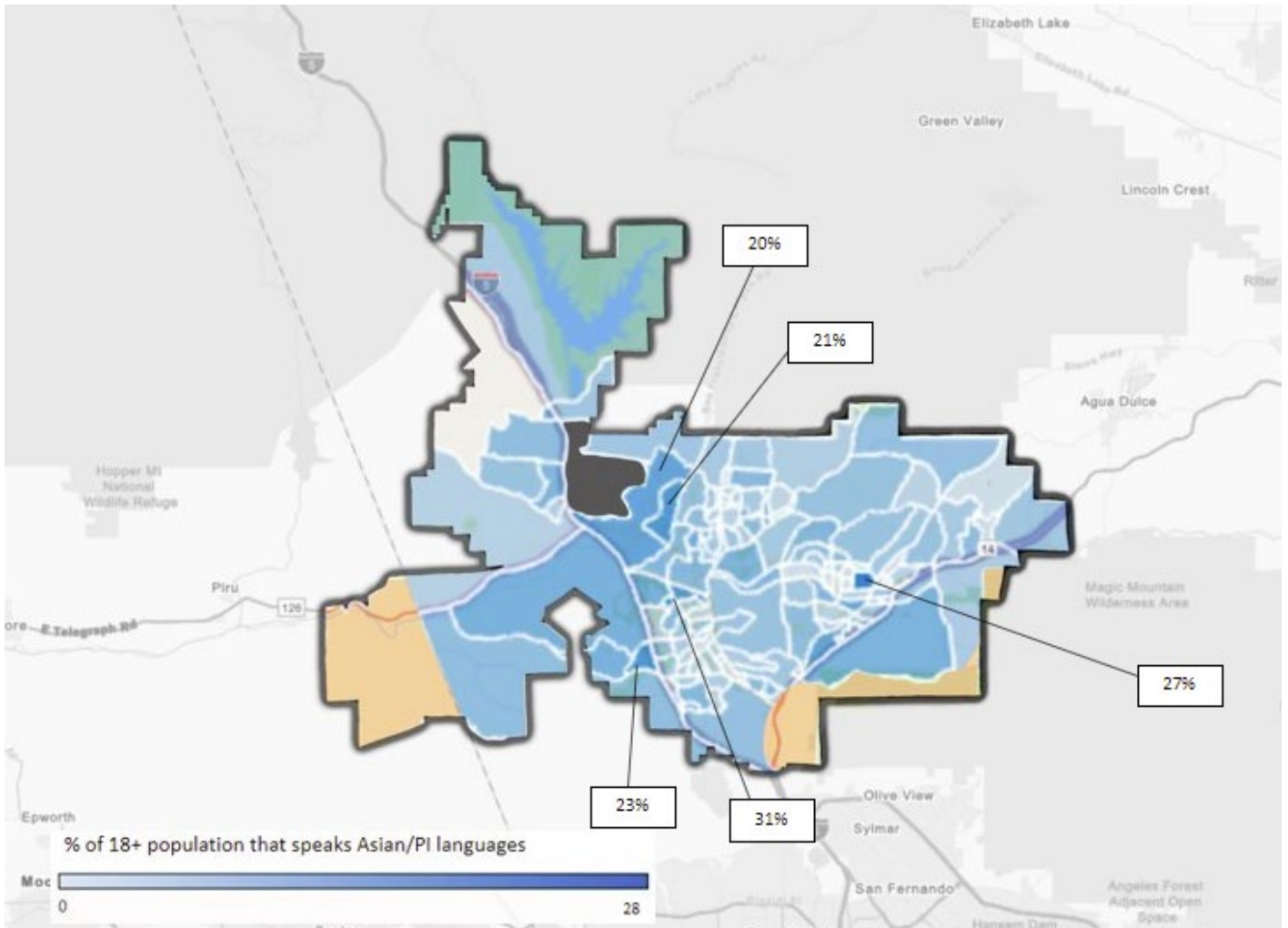
| Census Tract | % of residents who identify as African American / Black |
|--------------|---|
| 920037 | 11% |
| 920040 | 10% |
| 920041 | 8% |
| 920042 | 7% |
| 920043 | 7% |

LANGUAGES SPOKEN – SPANISH SPEAKERS



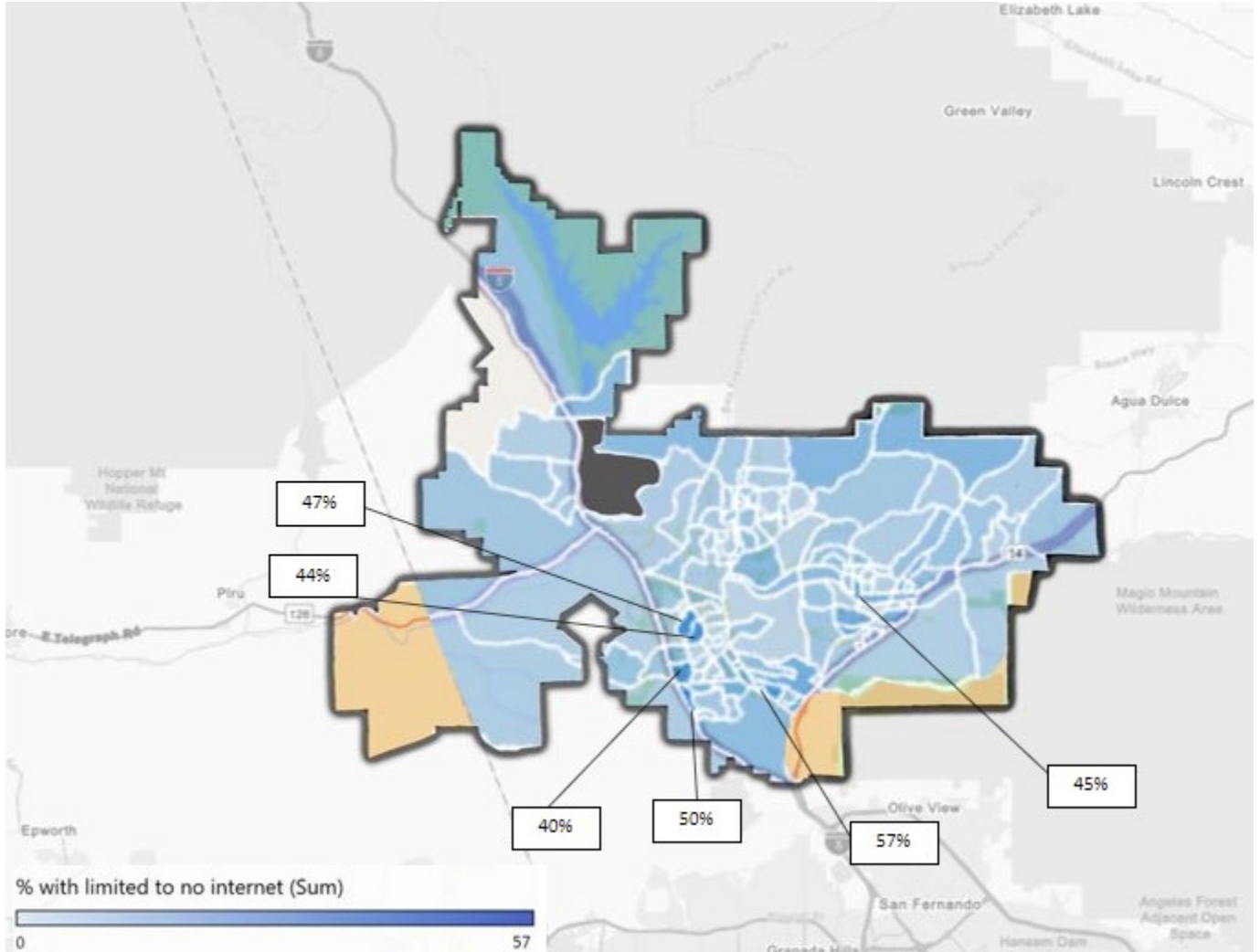
| Block Groups | % of 18+ population that speaks Spanish |
|--------------|---|
| 9203374 | 89% |
| 9203363 | 88% |
| 9203364 | 78% |
| 9200372 | 67% |
| 9200352 | 66% |

LANGUAGES SPOKEN – ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER LANGUAGE SPEAKERS



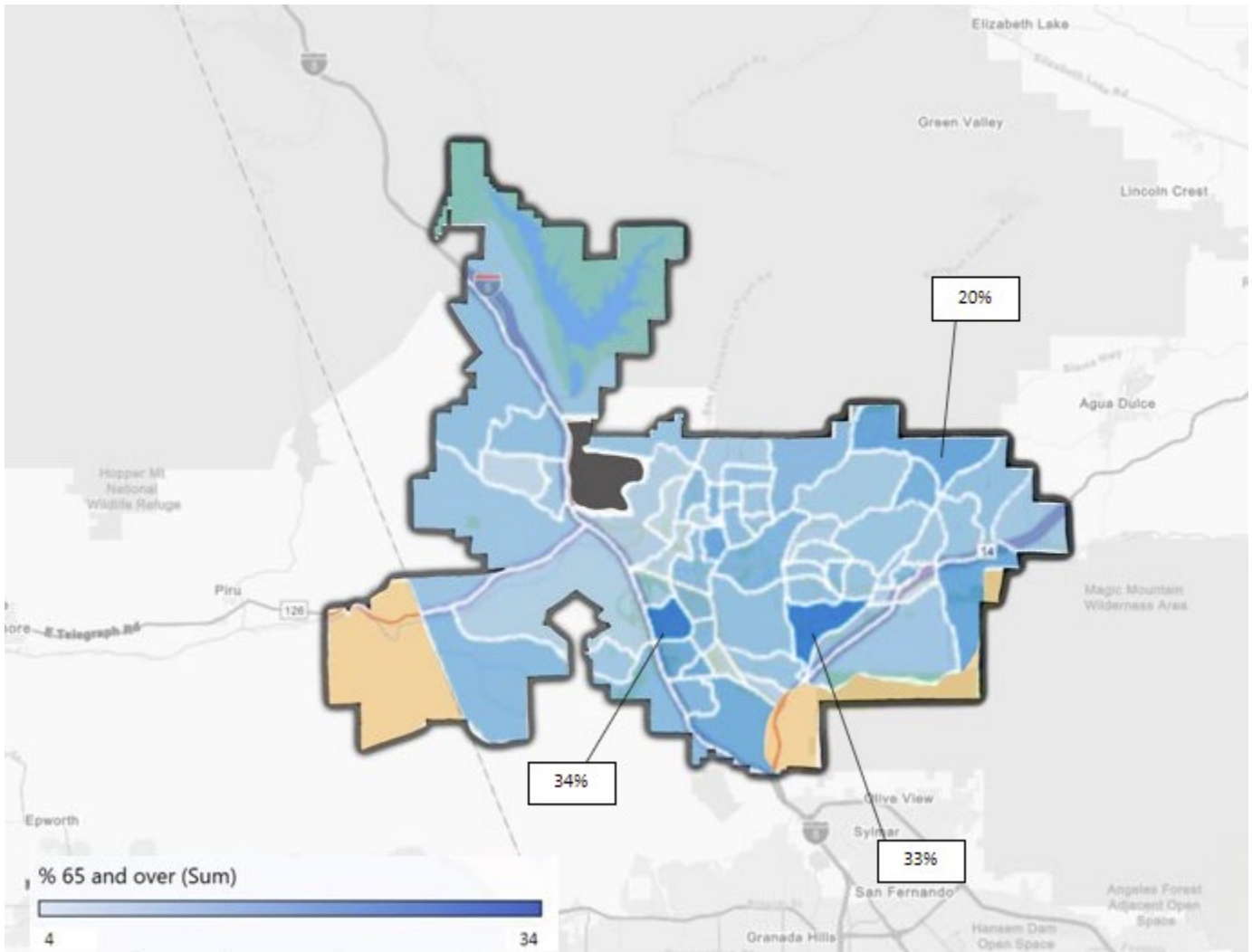
| Census Block Groups | % of 18+ population that speaks Asian/PI Languages |
|---------------------|--|
| 9203301 | 38% |
| 9200355 | 31% |
| 9203261 | 23% |
| 9201081 | 21% |
| 9201071 | 20% |

INTERNET ACCESS – LIMITED TO NO ACCESS



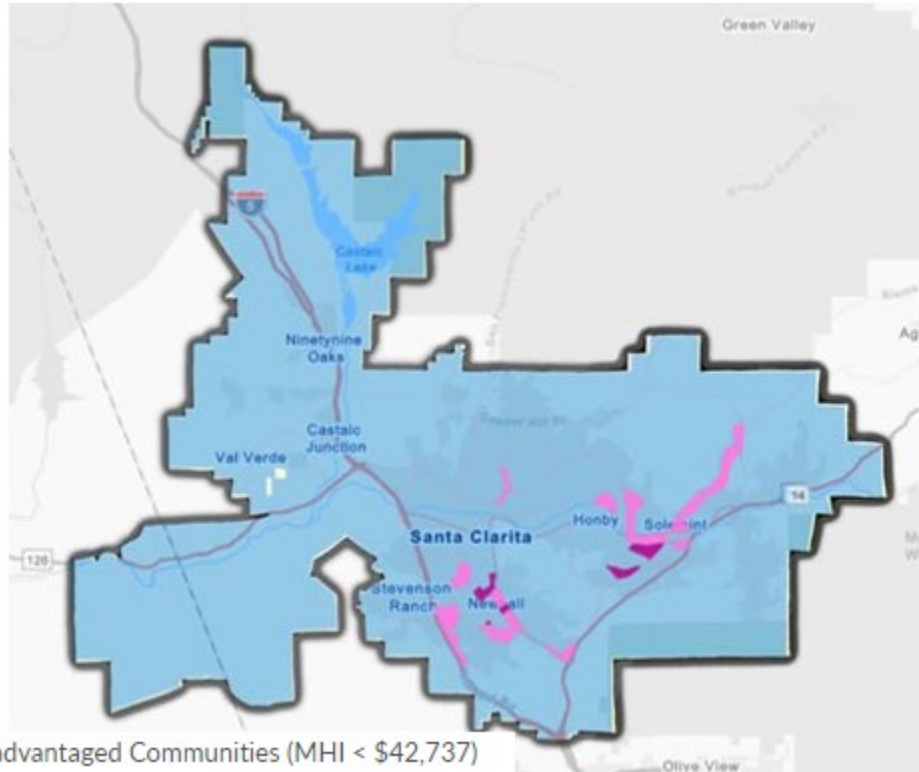
| Census Block Groups | % households with limited subscriptions (no internet, limited, or just cell data) |
|---------------------|---|
| 9203374 | 57% |
| 9203132 | 51% |
| 9203303 | 47% |
| 9200362 | 46% |
| 9203304 | 44% |

AGE – 65 AND OLDER



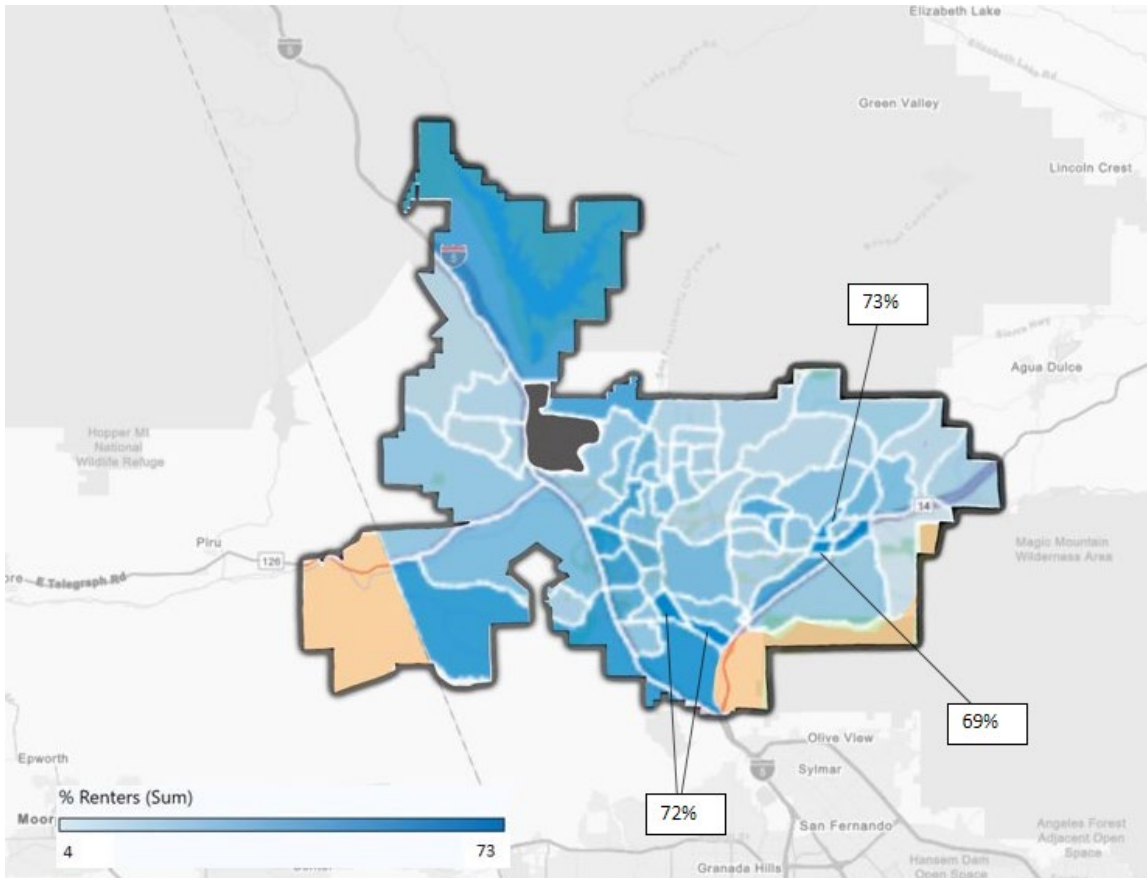
| Census Tracts | % residents 65 and older |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 920330 | 34% |
| 920031 | 33% |
| 920026 | 20% |
| 920112 | 20% |
| 910809 | 19% |

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY DESIGNATION



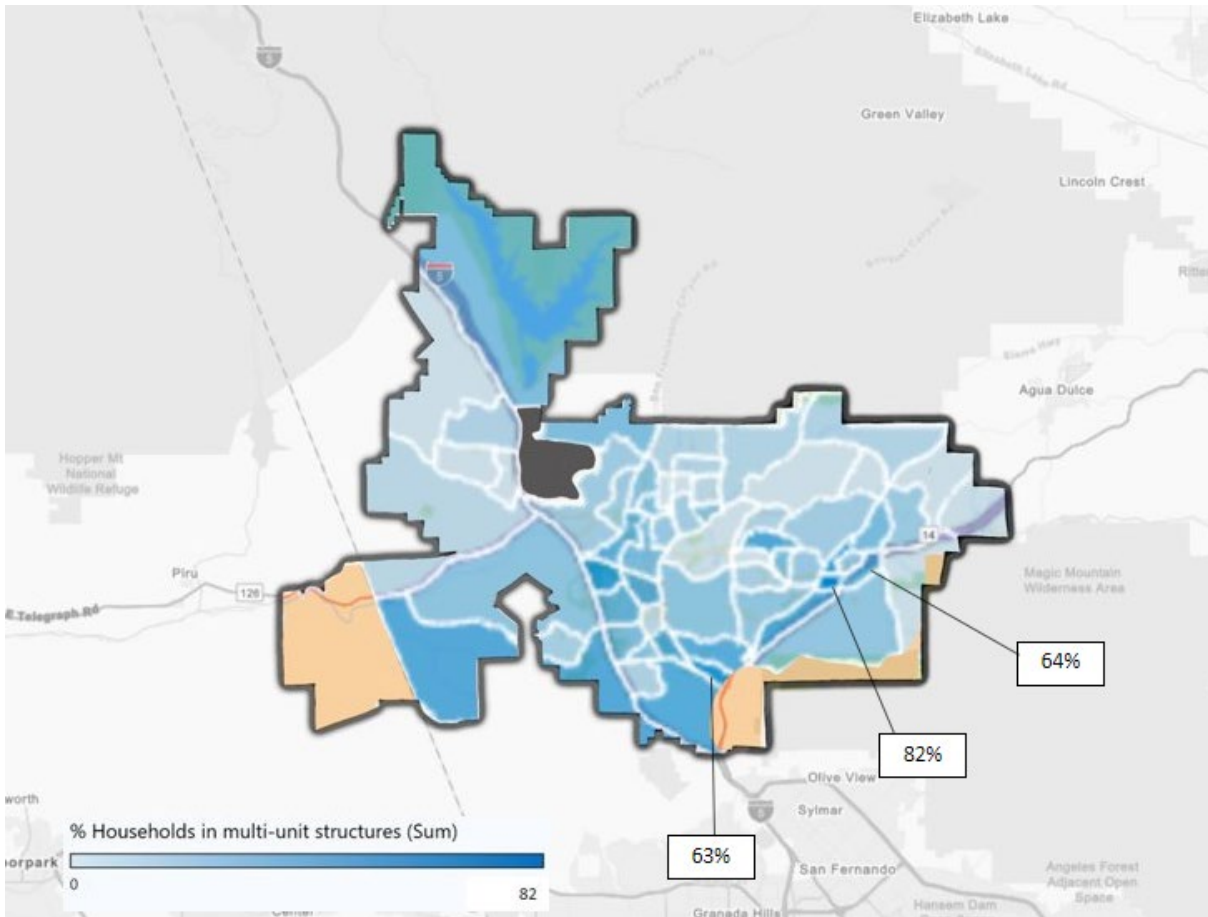
- Severely Disadvantaged Communities (MHI < \$42,737)
- Disadvantaged Communities ($\$42,737 \leq \text{MHI} < \$56,982$)

HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENTED



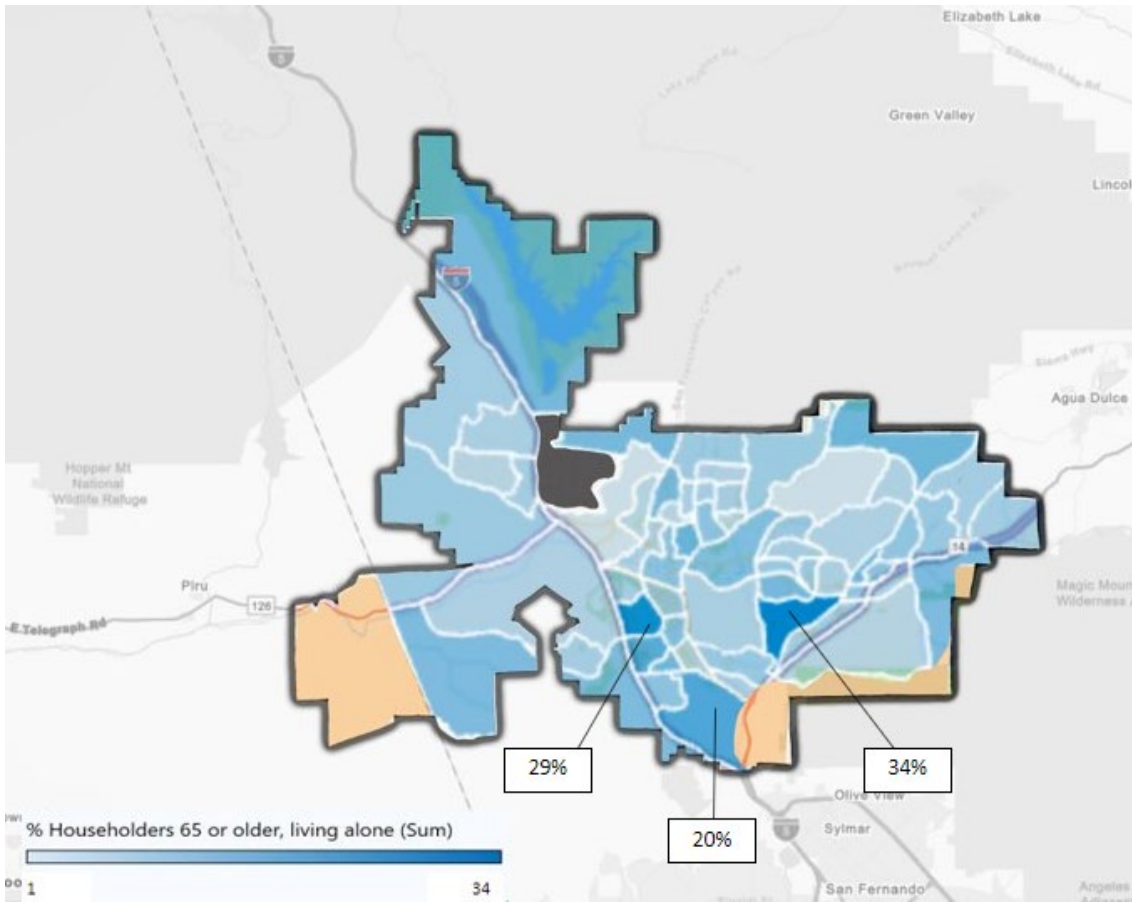
| Census Tract | % of households that are rented |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 920038 | 73% |
| 920337 | 72% |
| 920336 | 72% |
| 920037 | 69% |
| 920041 | 60% |

HOUSEHOLDS IN MULTI-UNIT STRUCTURES



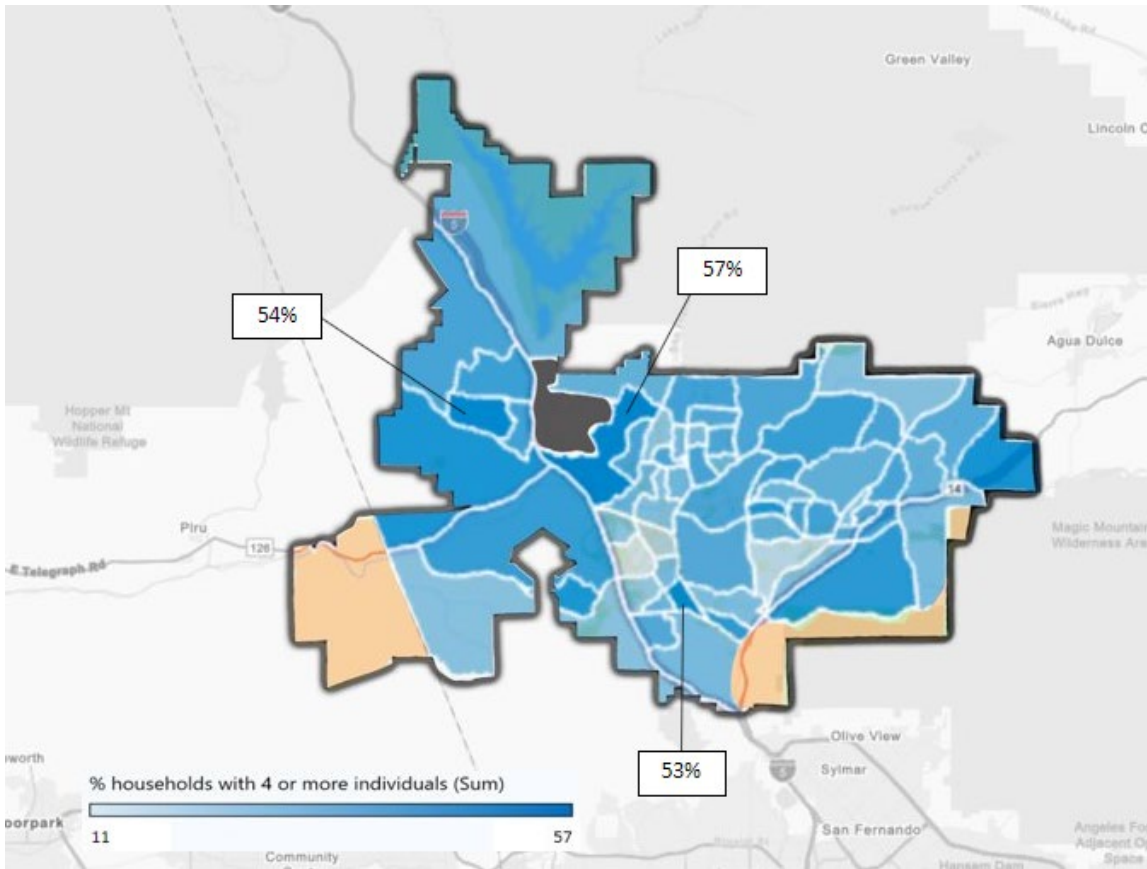
| Census Tract | % of households in multi-unit structures |
|--------------|--|
| 920037 | 82% |
| 920038 | 64% |
| 920337 | 63% |
| 920328 | 56% |
| 920042 | 48% |

HOUSEHOLDERS 65 AND OLDER LIVING ALONE



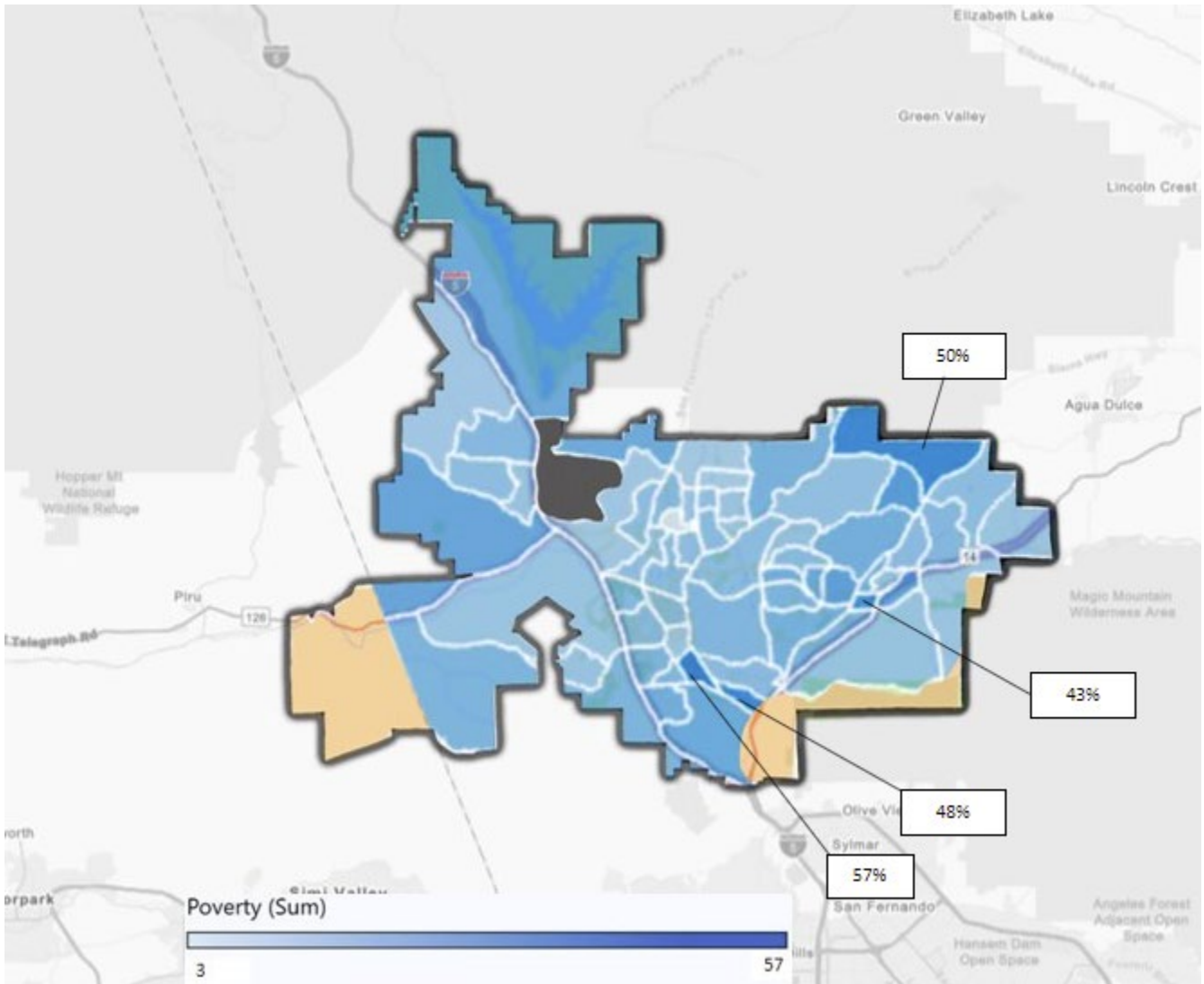
| Census Tract | % of householders who are 65 and older living alone |
|--------------|---|
| 920031 | 34% |
| 920330 | 29% |
| 920312 | 20% |
| 920334 | 18% |
| 920038 | 15% |

HOUSEHOLDS WITH 4 OR MORE INDIVIDUALS



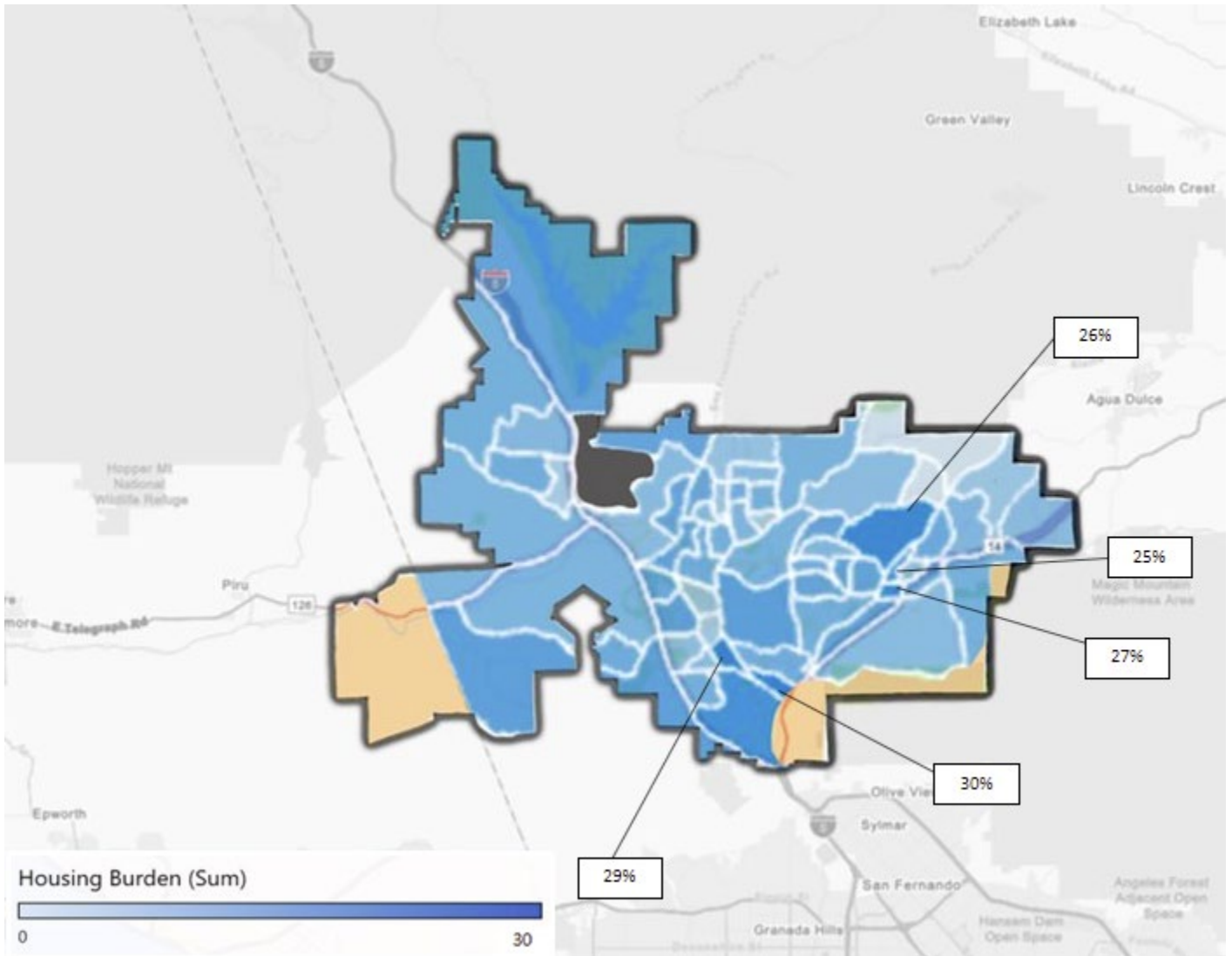
| Census Tract | % of households with 4 or more individuals |
|--------------|--|
| 920107 | 57% |
| 920119 | 54% |
| 920336 | 53% |
| 910810 | 48% |
| 920023 | 47% |

SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS: POVERTY



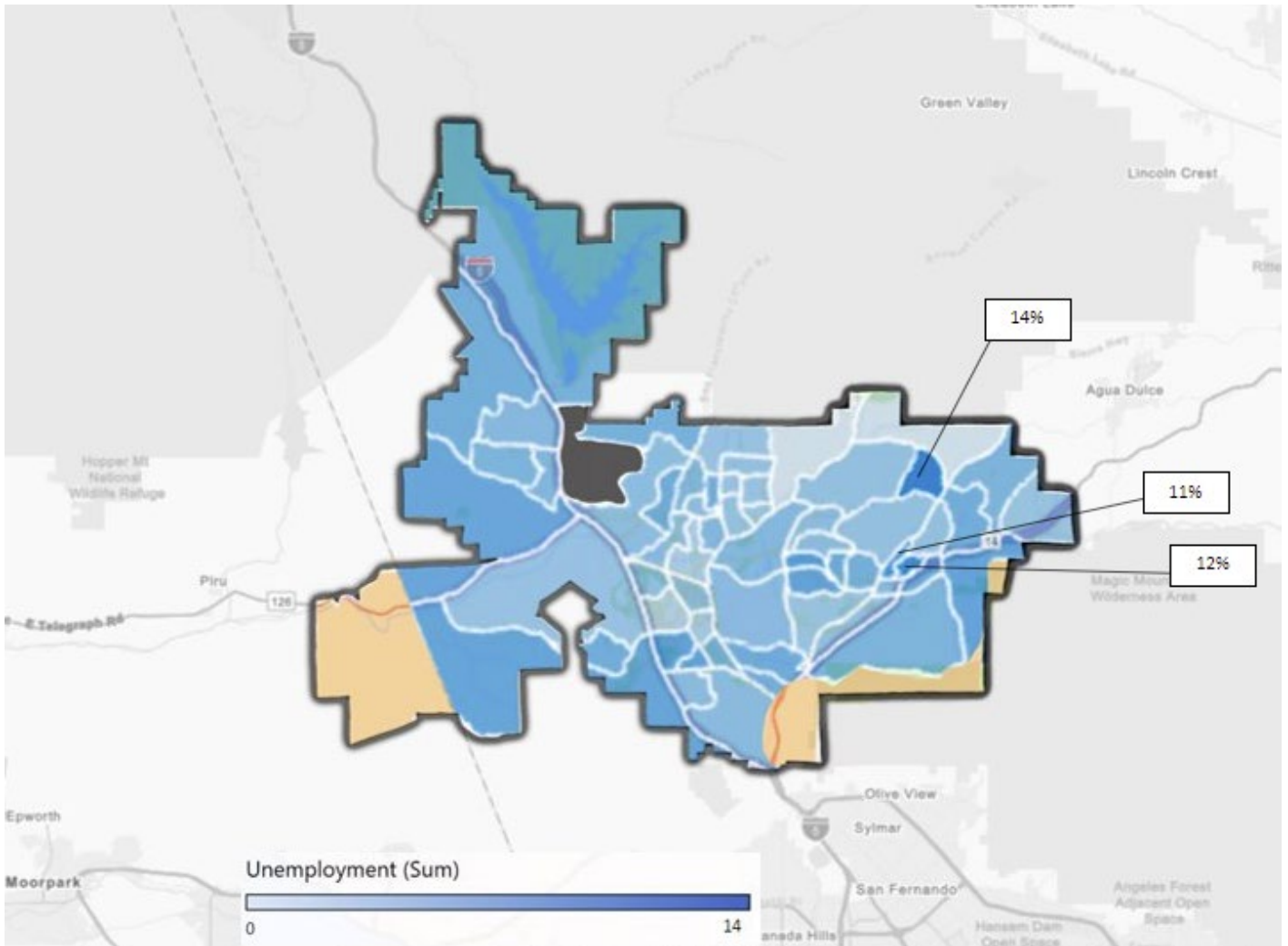
| Census Tract | % of residents experiencing poverty |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 920336 | 57% |
| 920026 | 50% |
| 920337 | 48% |
| 920037 | 43% |
| 920033 | 35% |

SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS: HOUSING BURDEN



| Census Tract | % of residents experiencing a housing burden |
|--------------|--|
| 920337 | 30% |
| 920336 | 29% |
| 920037 | 27% |
| 920034 | 26% |
| 920038 | 25% |

SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS: UNEMPLOYMENT



| Census Tract | % of residents experiencing unemployment |
|--------------|--|
| 920033 | 14% |
| 920039 | 12% |
| 920038 | 11% |
| 920023 | 9% |

MEMORANDUM

To: Kathie Martin, Communications Manager, SCV Water

From: Joan Isaacson, Principal
Jack Hughes, Project Manager
Maria Doerr, Community Engagement Specialist

Re: SCV Water Communication and Engagement Gap Analysis – Community Leader Interview Summary

Date: February 9, 2022

SCV Water has retained Kearns & West to help identify potential gaps in SCV Water’s communication and engagement efforts with customers in its service area and identify additional communication strategies where needed. At this stage in the study, the team has conducted interviews with community leaders, building on the demographic analysis and research on inclusive communication and guidance for water utilities (see memo dated November 16th). Kathie Martin, Communications Manager at SCV Water, is conducting similar interviews with SCV Program Managers to understand their unique experiences, needs, and opportunities in engagement and communication.

This memo synthesizes ideas and feedback shared in the community leader interviews. The feedback has not been vetted for feasibility or appropriateness for SCV Water to adopt. Rather, the memo aims to reflect the ideas, sentiments, and reflections of the community leaders that the team spoke with. Insights from the community leader and the SCV Program Manager interviews, along with previous research and the community characteristics analysis, will be used to inform a draft Board Resolution and initial implementation actions.

Feedback presented in the memo is organized into three communication and engagement categories: ways to connect with diverse communities and understand their needs, priorities, and goals; ways to reach and inform customers and their communities about relevant issues and opportunities; and ways to engage customers in decision-making that could affect their communities.

Approach

Through the community leader interviews, Kathie Martin, SCV Water Communication Manager and Kearns & West staff spoke with representatives of seven organizations serving communities in SCV Water’s service area. The interviews were scheduled as 60-minute virtual sessions over Zoom. The conversations began with brief opening remarks introducing SCV Water and the Engagement and Communication Gap Analysis. Most of the conversation was devoted to listening and learning from the community leaders, using a standardized list of questions as a starting place.

Questions focused on understanding more about their communities, best practices they had developed for communication and engagement that may be relevant for SCV Water to consider, and their experiences of SCV Water’s communication and engagement efforts. A full list of conversation questions is available in the Appendix.

Interview Participants

We identified the community leaders we interviewed based on their leadership and connection to Santa Clarita Valley communities that are diverse in terms of race/ethnicity, languages spoken, age, socioeconomic

background, housing experiences, and access to the internet. These are community characteristics identified in the [Community Characteristics Analysis Memo](#). We also sought out leaders whose work entails frequent and deep communication and engagement with residents and communities throughout the SCV Water service area.

The table below identifies each community leader, their organization, and the community characteristics that they spoke to in our interviews.

| Organization | Community Characteristics | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Race & ethnicity | Languages spoken | Socio-economic Background | Age | Diverse Housing Experiences | Limited internet access |
| Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Filipino Ministry | X | X | | X | | |
| Santa Clarita Veteran Services Collaborative | | | X | X | X | X |
| Santa Clarita NAACP | X | | X | | X | |
| SCV's Latino Business Alliance | X | X | | | | |
| William S. Hart Union High School District | X | X | X | X | | X |
| Ciudad en lo Alto Iglesia | X | X | X | | X | |
| Bridge to Home | X | | X | X | X | X |

Interview Summary

Connecting with diverse communities and understanding their needs, priorities, and goals

Interviewees offered best practices and recommendations on how to strengthen connections with the communities they serve in the Santa Clarita Valley. Some of these centered on specific opportunities to jointly understand harder-to-reach demographics and communities. For SCV Water, these suggestions can help make communication and engagement more effective by better reflecting the needs, priorities, and goals of customers and communities.

- **Direct partnerships with and networks between organizations that serve the community can improve shared understanding.** Many interviewees highlighted that community organizations, agencies, and social services in Santa Clarita Valley can be critical conduits for one another. Everyone makes up “One SCV.” They welcomed working more closely and partnering with SCV Water directly. Active involvement and strong relationships with community organizations are also an asset for ongoing engagement and for building a productive reputation in the community. Several interviewees shared gratitude that SCV Water was hosting these interviews with them and other service providers to continue building relationships and learning about the needs, priorities, and goals of the communities they serve.

Examples from interviews:

One group partners with other organizations to share resources, gather support, and learn about needs and opportunities for their community. They frequently work with schools and districts, the Santa Clarita Senior Center, assisted living facilities, and clergies at local churches. They also receive resources and partner with social and community groups like the Rotary Club, Elks Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, College of the Canyons, and others that provide services to residents.

One organization invests in relationships by showing up at events to listen and understand community priorities. Their leadership attends meetings with Hispanic and Native American community groups in Santa Clarita Valley, partners with College of the Canyons, and does outreach to the City of Santa Clarita and the Mayor’s Office to build a stronger network and understand the priorities, needs, and experiences of communities of color.

One organization meets regularly (weekly or monthly) with other service providers in the region to coordinate and share challenges and best practices. These meetings help the groups support one another and strengthen a collegial network among groups providing similar services throughout the region.

- **Residents could benefit from education and capacity building to understand their water and water service.** An interviewee stressed that a big initial barrier for communication and engagement is a lack of awareness and understanding about their water. Many residents don’t know where their water comes from, what SCV Water is, and how planning efforts will affect their water service. Other interviewees emphasized that they and their communities know very little about SCV Water because they don’t receive bills directly (renters or those in housing communities) or don’t experience any issues with their water service. An opportunity identified for SCV Water was to use communications to build community capacity to understand their water. One interviewee advised that individuals new to managing water bills would especially benefit from training about SCV Water, how to interpret water bills, and conservation measures to cut down on overuse.

Example from an interview:

An organization provides relevant and ongoing training for their Board, their volunteers, local schools, and their target community audience. These trainings and educational programming are ongoing and conducted live with staff leadership. Board training and updates help them be more effective liaisons into the community. Volunteer and school training helps the public better understand and support the organization’s work. Educational support to their target community audience helps these individuals better understand and access resources.

- **Family, including youth, are important to understand and connect with.** Several interviewees advised that family is central to outreach. Partnerships with the Hart District, local schools, and groups like the Boys & Girls Club and Bridge to Home were mentioned as valuable ways to make outreach relevant for families. Newhall and Canyon Country are neighborhoods that are racially and ethnically diverse where family is an especially important consideration. Furthermore, youth engagement can help build buy-in and community awareness. An interviewee suggested that youth are outspoken and an extremely dynamic force in the community. Learning and extracurricular volunteering opportunities for youth can help them and their families engage in issues relevant to their community, such as water.

Examples from interviews:

An organization hosts family-friendly events directly in Newhall and Canyon Country to ensure they were reaching more of the Hispanic community. Activities that create space and engage adults and children are more successful and more likely to garner support and attendance.

One organization invests in youth engagement. They saw that few people understood the experiences and needs of veterans and their families. They began working with youth at local schools and through volunteer activities and now, more and more are learning about at-risk residents and their experiences. In addition, more youth are now running fundraisers to support the work of the organization.

One group offers direct programming with youth in Santa Clarita, including a scholarship program to elevate young leaders and their interests in social and racial justice.

- **To better learn about and reach Spanish-speaking and Hispanic/Latinx communities, SCV Water could directly partner with cultural centers like churches.** Direct outreach in Newhall and Canyon Country as well as outreach to prominent Hispanic churches in Santa Clarita could help improve understanding and connection points. The largest Hispanic churches in Santa Clarita are El Buen Samaritano, Ciudad en lo Alto, and CrossPoint in Valencia.
- **Strong avenues to understand the Filipino community are through Filipino Ministries in Santa Clarita and the Fil-Am Association of Santa Clarita.** There are three Filipino Ministries in Santa Clarita at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Saint Clare, and Saint Kateri. Filipino is the largest Asian-identifying population in Santa Clarita. Outreach to members of this population can be in English, as this is the language used professionally and at church and many residents speak different Filipino dialects, not just Tagalog.
- **To understand the experiences of disadvantaged, low-income, and otherwise vulnerable communities, outreach and partnership with direct service providers can help.** Nonprofit groups in Santa Clarita Valley as well as municipal and county government offices all provide services and support to these communities and have developed rigorous methods of outreach and trusting relationships with community members. Rather than recreating the wheel, an interviewee suggested leaning into the relationships providers have built with these communities to understand and reach them.

Reaching and informing customers and their communities about water-related issues and opportunities

All interviewees shared feedback on how to best inform and communicate with the communities they serve. Some offered specific modes of communication that they use in their organizations, while others shared insights on communication tone and style choices that are most effective. Some interviewees gave specific recommendations for how SCV Water could better reach out to customers. These insights may be most relevant for SCV Water’s efforts to inform customers about things like emergencies, water service cutoffs, rate changes, drought measures, rebate opportunities, among others.

- **Direct and personalized communication can help strengthen interest, trust, and ongoing communication.** Personal outreach helps increase the likelihood that residents will read, respond, and engage in communications. For example, emails sent from a known member of the community on staff would be more effective than an email sent from ‘the agency’ as a whole. Institutional outreach is more likely to be overlooked. Several interviewees noted that they don’t know anyone on the Board or who works at SCV Water.

Examples from interviews:

One group sends emails directly from its leader. An email that sounds and feels more personal from someone they know, rather than something that is more institutional, will be more likely to be read and shared. The interviewee suggested that SCV Water could explore doing something similar and offered that a note from “Kathie at SCV Water” would get more readership than a note from “SCV Water” as an institution.

Leadership at one organization seeks to be visible, engaged, and accessible by sharing contact information openly and connecting on a personal basis. The interviewee shares their phone number and email publicly, often taking individual calls with concerned parents. In addition, they contribute articles to Santa Clarita Magazine and frequently participate in in-person events. They do this to ‘help people know who they are and that they are there to support them.’

- **Emergency response can be aided by local partnerships and by judicious use of communication channels.** An interviewee shared that the County of Los Angeles, the County Public Information Officers (PIO) Group, the City of Santa Clarita, the Hart District, sheriff, service providers for vulnerable communities, and local churches are valued partners that can help ensure urgent notice can be shared widely and quickly to all residents. An interviewee stressed that the strong network between service providers can help ensure important messages reach vulnerable communities. Furthermore, reserving one communication channel for emergency outreach can help to denote and preserve its importance. Repeated use can wear off effectiveness so it should be used sparingly.

Examples from interviews:

The Los Angeles County Supervisor partners with a local group to share important notices to in-need residents. The County Office sends them text messages to share with in-need residents, in addition to doing their own outreach. The notes share when and where food drives are happening. When they partner, food drive turn-out goes way up as more residents hear about it via text.

An organization reserves the use of text messages for emergency-only situations. This helps preserve buy-in with residents and ensure high read rates. They try to use it sparingly, as residents are likely to opt-out and unsubscribe if there are too many text messages.

- **In-person and live outreach is effective and valued.** Many interviewees noted that the best way to engage communities is through in-person events and activities that take place directly in their neighborhoods, communities, and existing gathering places (such as church). Some interviewees shared that in-person outreach is especially valuable for Hispanic/Latinx communities.

As the COVID pandemic stretches on, several interviewees noted that virtual meetings are still very valuable, especially for those who are unable to be in-person.

Examples from interviews:

One group offers regular open office hours at their facilities for the communities they serve. These hours are advertised on their website and social media. Community members can come to get support, talk to a volunteer, or just get a coffee. People especially appreciate in-person opportunities to meet and build a relationship with organization personnel.

Through the pandemic, one group has found that the most successful way to reach residents is through in-person outreach, especially with Hispanic communities in Newhall and Canyon Country. In-person activities are likely to be more effective and engaging but the group still recognizes the need to provide alternatives for those households that need an alternative.

The board of one organization leads active outreach throughout Santa Clarita Valley by regularly attending meetings and partnering with community groups, the City, and other entities. This networking and visible presence build trust in the organization, interest in their work, and financial and volunteer support.

- **Local media are valuable channels to reach diverse communities.** Using local media adds credibility and can help reach new stakeholders and residents that do not receive communication through other channels. A list of all modes of communication shared by interviewees is in the Appendix.

Examples from interviews:

Announcements via Spanish-speaking TV channels is a good way to reach the Hispanic community of Santa Clarita. An interviewee shared that Spanish-speakers often watch

Telemundo (Channel 52 in Santa Clarita), Univision (Channel 34), Azteca (Channel 54), and TeleFutura (46). Most, if not all, have local Santa Clarita / Los Angeles segments.

One organization regularly reaches out to involve local media including Santa Clarita Magazine, the Signal, Spectrum News 1, and local radio stations to share updates, events, and news. This is all in addition to a monthly newsletter, social media posts, and website updates.

- **Some Spanish speakers would prefer outreach in Spanish, as well as outreach that is phone-based or hard-copy.** Several interviewees shared that offering resources and the website in Spanish would be helpful. A group affirmed that many people, especially first-generation residents, prefer speaking and reading in Spanish and the same may be true for other Hispanic/Latinx residents. An interviewee advised that translation can be low effort through automatic translation services online that can then quickly be read over and revised by a bilingual team member.

Examples from interviews:

One group asked what language residents want to receive materials in, and 10% asked for Spanish. They provide resources in Spanish through a platform that translates text automatically for them (with about 95% accuracy). A bilingual team member then does a quick read-through to make corrections before resources are sent out.

Another group advised that the best way to share information is via hard-copy resources shared at church or mailed directly to homes for their majority-Hispanic/Latinx community.

One organization found it is better to reach Hispanic/Latinx families via phone-based text or voicemail rather than email. They use texts to send non-emergency updates with areas that have 50% or higher Hispanic/Latinx demographics; this has helped increase participation in public events. Texts work best when they are short, infrequent, and can direct recipients to an email with more content.

- **To reach older residents, in-person outreach at senior-oriented organizations and hard-copy resources are the most effective.** Interviewees shared that the older residents they serve, those above 60, don't engage as much with electronic-based outreach. Instead, they prefer to be reached out to in-person, via phone, or with hard-copy information (i.e., bulletins and flyers).

Examples from interviews:

To reach older residents, one organization does direct outreach to the Senior Center, assisted living facilities, and retirement communities through presentations, tables, and informal coffee hours. They also create hard copy resources to hand out to older residents and leave with other organizations (through the city government, at the Senior Center, at churches, etc.) that share information available on their website. These hard copy resources are regularly updated, and new editions are shared with partners as needed.

Hard-copy bulletins and flyers are especially preferred by older parishioners at a local church. Older parishioners also prefer phone calls over text messages.

- **Residents may be more eager to receive outreach that helps their families save on bills.** Several interviewees shared that the major way they and their communities interact with SCV Water is through their water bills. An interviewee stressed that bills and rate hikes are a concern for their communities, especially lower-income residents.

SCV Water mailings that provide residents with beneficial programs and opportunities to take care of their families or save money on their bills would be valued. An interviewee suggested, for example, that

this could look like providing opportunities through mailed handouts for residents to ‘reduce their water bill 10% by doing X water conservation measure or by having a water audit.’ Other interviewees suggested that a stronger and widely communicated local program for vulnerable and low-income residents would be an asset. While members of the community do receive “more negatively framed” notices about drought and cut-back measures from SCV Water, the interviewee advised that more positively framed notices on how to save money would help residents and would help signal that SCV Water does care about resident well-being.

Engaging customers in decision-making that could affect them and their communities

Many interviewees also shared perspectives on how to strengthen public involvement and engagement on decisions that affect them and their communities. Those that shared on engagement stressed the importance of having both light- and high-touch ways to be involved in decision-making and offered some specific ideas for how SCV Water could improve community engagement on water-related decisions and planning.

- **Residents appreciate easy opportunities to share actionable feedback independently and not through meetings.** An interviewee noted that stakeholders may not be showing up to public meetings because they are stretched too thin and feel ‘Zoom fatigue.’ They advised finding lower stakes ways for people to engage in decisions that affect them. Another interviewee shared that one opportunity could be asking customers directly what they want in a simple poll imbedded in an email or text. This opportunity for feedback is empowering to customers, low effort, and can garner useful feedback.

Example from an interview:

One group asks their largest community partners when a change would be most convenient for them, such when they need to do regular maintenance. They try to get in touch to see when would be less disruptive between a set of options and to create an ongoing avenue for engagement with their community. Communities appreciate the notice and opportunity to offer quick and easy feedback.

- **There is concern about the relationship of new development in the Santa Clarita Valley and rate increases and water scarcity.** Several interviewees shared that they hear questions and concerns about how growth and development will impact water users and SCV Water’s role in new development review and approval process. There is concern that the water requirements for new development, coupled with ongoing drought, may cause existing customers to face higher water rates and greater water shortages. Incidentally, an interviewee questioned if drought and water scarcity is actually a serious issue for Santa Clarita Valley, given that new developments are being approved. Interviewees shared that more clarity on new developments and SCV Water’s role, water rates, drought, and the future of water in the Santa Clarita Valley would help.
- **Deeper community engagement at SCV Water could be achieved through an ongoing community-based advisory group** that would provide input on SCV Water Board and Committee decisions. An interviewee advised that, while public involvement in individual planning processes is helpful, an advisory group consisting of local community representatives would be a more comprehensive way to get community insight and feedback. Such a group would be better able to share feedback on planning efforts because they have more context for other SCV Water efforts that have taken place. They would be able to offer more community-based perspectives that could enrich SCV Water dialogues. Other interviewees shared how ongoing community feedback has helped them improve and expand their programs and build community trust.

Example from an interview:

One organization regularly invites their community clients to provide feedback and

reflections on their services. Each month, they gather in-person to give their community the floor to share what is going well and what could be different to better meet their needs. The space also allows community members to ask any questions or get clarification on things they are confused about. The organization has found that community members greatly prefer speaking rather than writing their feedback out.

- **More stakeholders may attend public meetings if it was easier to find meeting information on SCV Water’s website.** An interviewee shared that it was difficult to find information about engagement opportunities and public meetings on the SCV Water website, even after several attempts and searches. They offered that a slight redesign, such as adjusting the organization of the menu bar and sub-folders, could make it easier and more intuitive for residents to find relevant resources, such as upcoming opportunities for public participation and engagement.
- **People value understanding the purpose of engagement and communication upfront.** A few interviewees were curious about *why* SCV Water wants to strengthen its communication and engagement and to what end. As recommendations and next steps are developed, they advised SCV Water to center on this ‘why.’ Sharing the purpose of engagement and communication would be important for residents and communities in Santa Clarita. One interviewee offered that the drive and desire behind communication and engagement will influence how effective and how inclusive and just it ultimately is in implementation.

Appendix

I. Conversation guide for the community leader interviews

Introduction

- Please describe your organization and your role at the organization
- What are your hopes for this conversation?

Community leadership

- Who are the communities in Santa Clarita Valley that you work with?
- What are some of the greatest assets of the communities you work with?
- What are primary challenges and stress points faced by the communities you work with?
- What are best practices your team has developed to communicate with and engage with these communities?
- During times of emergency, what are the best ways to get information out to your communities?

Interactions with SCV Water

- What aspects of water are of greatest interest to your communities?
- When the communities you work with talk about water and water service, what do they talk about?
- How have you interacted with SCV Water? What have your experiences with SCV Water been?
- Do you have any recommendations on how SCV Water could improve its outreach and engagement with these communities?

Next steps

- Who else should we talk to?
- Do you know of other efforts or models of effective community engagement and communications in Santa Clarita Valley, or elsewhere, that we should look into?

II. Forms of communication used to inform residents/members that were mentioned in interviews

| |
|--|
| In-person |
| Tabling |
| Presentations |
| Coffee/office hours |
| One-on-one meetings (e.g., parent-teacher conferences; veteran-aid meetings; support for children of deployed parents) |
| Family-friendly celebrations (e.g., Hispanic Cultural Month, MLK Day Parade) |
| Community member gatherings (e.g., church services, support groups, organization meetings, public board meetings) |
| Door-to-door check-ins |
| Direct phone calls with constituents/residents |
| Virtual |
| Email outreach |
| Virtual meetings |
| Newsletters |
| Phone calls |
| Virtual editions of local newspapers: The Signal, Santa Clarita Magazine |
| TV Channels: Spectrum 1 News, Telemundo (Channel 52), Univision (Channel 34), Azteca (Channel 54), TeleFutura (46) |
| Hard copy materials |
| Printed booklets, bulletins, and pamphlets to share on tables |
| Mail and postcards |
| Hard copies of newspapers and magazines: The Signal, Santa Clarita Magazine |

MEMORANDUM

To: Kathie Martin, SCV Water

From: Joan Isaacson, Principal
Jack Hughes, Project Manager
Maria Doerr, Community Engagement Specialist

Re: SCV Water Communication and Engagement Gap Analysis – SCV Managers Interview Summary

Date: February 25, 2022

SCV Water has retained Kearns & West to help identify potential gaps in SCV Water’s communication and engagement efforts with customers in its service area and identify additional communication strategies where needed.

This memo synthesizes ideas and feedback shared in the SCV Water Program Manager interviews. The feedback has not been vetted for feasibility or appropriateness for SCV Water to take on. Rather, the memo aims to reflect the ideas, sentiments, and reflections of the Program Managers. Insights from these interviews, along with the community leader interviews, previous research on guidance, and the community characteristics analysis, will be used to inform a draft SCV Water Board Resolution and initial implementation actions.

Approach

Kathie Martin, Communications Manager at SCV Water, conducted interviews with SCV Program Managers to understand their unique experiences, needs, and opportunities in engagement and communication.

The interviews were scheduled as 60-minute virtual sessions over Zoom. The conversations began with brief opening remarks introducing the Engagement and Communication Gap Analysis. A standardized list of questions helped guide the conversations. Questions focused on understanding the experiences of managers in SCV Water engagement and communication efforts, identifying any gaps as seen and felt by SCV Water, and gathering insights on opportunities to strengthen communication and engagement. A full list of conversation questions is available in the Appendix.

Kathie Martin spoke with four SCV Water Managers:

- Sarah Fleury, Water Resources Planner
- Ryan Bye, Water Quality Supervisor
- Matt Dickens, Sustainability Manager
- Kathleen Willson, Customer Service Manager

Interview Summary

Former and Current Communication and Engagement Efforts by SCV Water

Communication and engagement are a part of many SCV Water programs and projects. Interviewees shared what SCV Water currently does to reach customers and their communities. These insights are useful background for the suggestions and ideas for how to further expand communication and engagement. Techniques and approaches differ by program needs. Below are a handful of current efforts reported by interviewees:

- Consistent customer outreach is achieved through monthly billing efforts. SCV Water uses bill inserts, envelope snipes, bill messages, robo-calls, letters, door hang tags, direct mailers, social media, and public

relations to reach ratepayers.

- Customers calling SCV Water have the option to use a 3rd-party translation service in the language of their choice.
- Drought and water conservation outreach is conducted with water customers, agencies, city entities, and local organizations using varied avenues for each respective group, such as public meetings, social media, ads, press releases, and emails
- SCV Water engages green industry, property owners, and HOA management firms about sustainability issues and opportunities to help water users reduce costs and conserve water.
- A team led outreach to Spanish-speaking landscapers about water conservation in their projects in Santa Clarita Valley (former Valencia Water Company project).
- For the Lawn Replacement Incentive Program, past and potential participants were brought together to help determine potential barriers to participation and identify what wording of benefits was most effective in outreach.
- Direct hard-copy outreach on water quality is sometimes sent to specific communities (e.g., direct letters on flushing pipes after COVID closures were sent to schools) or about specific issues (e.g., mailings on PFAs).

“We have an elevated responsibility to the public because of the critical nature of our resource. They depend on us to deliver water, be available to answer their questions, and address their issues.”

- Paraphrased quote

At the same time, Program Managers shared that there are existing challenges and barriers that communication and engagement efforts could help address. In particular, they shared that:

- **There are misunderstandings and negative impressions about SCV Water that foster distrust and inhibit productive work.** Interviewees shared that negative perceptions that some members of the public have about SCV Water – that they are the “big, bad utility,” that the water is unsafe to drink, and that SCV Water tries to hide information from water users. A lack of understanding, or an unwillingness to change their opinions, around the drought, water conservation efforts, and agency transparency measures also inhibit collaboration and make communication and engagement more difficult. An interviewee also noted that they fear that those who don’t understand may also not be asking for support and clarification. Managers advised that more trust building, closer relationships with groups and individuals, and educational opportunities could help address these misunderstandings and negative impressions. These opportunities are shared below.
- **There are users, customers, and communities that are not being reached or understood.** Program Managers have a sense of duty and responsibility to reach all water users and to serve their unique needs, but they know they aren’t reaching and supporting everyone. Some interviewees shared that they found it difficult to communicate with and engage diverse communities including renters and residents in multi-family units, those who speak other languages, lower-income communities, and those who live in disadvantaged communities. Some interviewees highlighted the importance of understanding what these groups want and need and finding the right ways to reach them.

Feedback and Opportunities for Communication and Engagement

Program Managers suggested useful feedback on how to improve communication and engagement and address the existing challenges and barriers mentioned above. They offered reflections on how communication and engagement could make their programmatic work more successful and sustainable.

Feedback from interviewees is organized into three communication and engagement categories: connecting with and understanding diverse water users and their communities; reaching and informing water users and their communities about relevant issues and opportunities; and engaging water users in decision-making and planning.

Connecting with and understanding diverse water users and their communities

Program Managers shared that they want to better understand all water users and their communities to improve their programs. Communication and engagement efforts can help. Interviewees offered ideas for how SCV Water can better connect with and understand diverse communities through relationship building, education and capacity building efforts, and rigorous data use.

- **Direct ties and relationships with local organizations and communities would aid understanding and connections to water users.** SCV Water managers emphasized the importance of going out into the field, meeting representatives and residents one-on-one, and going to community events. Building ties to local organizations that work with diverse water users that are currently hard to reach was also called out as an important area to explore. Learning more about these groups would allow SCV Water to better understand all the communities they serve and expand away from status quo outreach. To do this, an interviewee suggested SCV Water hold one-on-one conversations with open-ended questions (“What are your goals? What do you hope to accomplish?”) to better understand the experiences and goals of local groups and water users. Another interviewee advised going directly to community events and gathering spaces to meet and learn about diverse community members. Interviewees are especially interested in reaching water users who speak Spanish, are lower-income, and live in disadvantaged communities.
- **The SCV Water Board can help build stronger community ties.** An interviewee stressed the importance of the SCV Water Board being continuously and deeply involved in SCV Water’s communication and engagement efforts with the public, especially under-represented and harder-to-reach communities. They suggested that the SCV Water Board could adopt a resolution that includes listening to and learning from diverse communities in Santa Clarita Valley, especially those outside their direct base and districts.
- **Deeper coordination and proactive relationship building with other regional agencies would help SCV Water better understand and connect with water users.** Some interviewees highlighted the importance of getting more involved with other agencies and organizations at the neighborhood, city, and county level. For example, an interviewee advised that outreach to agencies may presently consist of requesting they read and comment on long draft documents such as the Urban Water Management Program. Instead, SCV Water can go beyond this to do more proactive outreach on issues of shared interest and build ongoing relationships and communication with these agencies.
- **More agency-led education and capacity-building efforts for water users, staff, and SCV Water Board members would be valued.** Interviewees identified unique education opportunities by specific community:
 - o For water users, interviewees suggested more education could help dispel misinformation and negative impressions while empowering users to know more about their water. Existing outreach, such as bill outreach and water quality report sharing, could be better harnessed to further educate water users. In addition, SCV Water could explore new opportunities to educate by going directly to the places and meetings communities (such as disadvantaged communities) attend to provide “learning days” to educate and listen to water users. In advance of such events, staff could ask community leaders for insight into questions that residents and members may have.
 - o For the SCV Water Board, more staff-led training on programmatic and technical aspects of SCV

Water’s work could help inform them and allow them to provide even more detailed feedback to staff. In addition, interviewees suggested that such training would aid SCV Water Board members in their outreach to the public.

- For staff, cross-program education opportunities could help them better understand all of SCV Water’s diverse work and more clearly articulate this in accessible ways to water users.
- **Robust user databases and more water data would support SCV Water outreach.** Advancements from the bifurcated Customer Information System (CIS) to a tool that is deeper and more holistic would help SCV Water to better understand its users, track water use, and develop targeted communication and engagement efforts for specific user groups. For example, an advanced database would be able to identify which users are renters, who prefers to speak a language other than English, who has especially high bills and water use, etc. Using this information, SCV Water teams would be able to reach out to address issues and opportunities with specific groups (e.g., sending out High Consumption Letters to advise on water conservation or audits). In addition, the ability to directly track live water use using GIS 3D mapping would allow staff to better manage and measure use across users, which could inform communication and engagement efforts.

Reaching and informing water users and their communities about relevant issues and opportunities

Program Managers also shared insights on how to reach water users and inform them about important water issues that affect them and their water service, such as the drought, rate changes, and financial support programs.

- **Strengthened, proactive drought messaging could improve user awareness and receptiveness.** Several interviewees brought up the drought and/or the need to strengthen drought communications. Messages ought to be realistic, direct, and help users understand what is happening and current conditions. Increased awareness could promote preparedness and buy-in for water conservation measures while also addressing any misconceptions about the need for water conservation. In addition to more targeted messaging, proactive outreach to other regional and local agencies and to disadvantaged communities and local community groups (such as environmental groups) could help address questions, increase awareness, and improve preparedness.
- **Meetings are an important venue to communicate and engage with residents meaningfully.** Interviewees highlighted the importance of meetings to inform and reach customers. Other channels of outreach are useful, but some felt the best way to create a connection and deeply share information (rather than just get customer’s attention) is through meetings. Face-to-face time also allows residents and SCV Water staff to build valuable relationships with one another. The ability to have virtual meetings helps reach more customers who would otherwise be burdened by attending or unable to join. An interviewee encouraged SCV Water to continue hosting meetings in a hybrid fashion even as the pandemic restrictions lighten so participants can join in the format they prefer (i.e., in-person or virtually).
- **Targeted outreach and more local partnerships could help SCV Water get in touch with harder-to-reach water users.** Interviewees proposed outreach opportunities for the specific groups below:
 - To reach renters and residents in multi-family units (i.e., water users who are not customers), interviewees suggested it would help to build more relationships with rental companies and property managers. Outreach on water quality and conservation efforts may be especially useful with these water users.
 - To reach Spanish-speakers, creating resources in Spanish and going directly to Spanish-speaking communities would help. SCV Water could build on how it makes translation services available

for callers to also offer translation of written materials. One interviewee shared that their team took part in a Rotary Club outreach at a Halloween event hosted by the City at the Newhall Community Center and it was quite successful at engaging Hispanic families.

- To reach lower-income disadvantaged communities, an interviewee advised going straight to community leaders and organizations who work with these communities. Targeted outreach could focus on valuable opportunities like arrears support.
- **Marketing works best when it is focused and targeted on individual programs.** An interviewee shared that individual program marketing works better than marketing a fleet of programs. For example, when the Smart Water Workshop was shared individually, more people signed up to participate than when it was one of many shared with users. Having different marketing efforts for each program can help bolster interest and reduce overwhelm with water users.

Engaging water users in decision-making and planning efforts

Program Managers emphasized the importance of engaging with and hearing feedback from stakeholders. “That’s why we are here: to serve the public,” shared one interviewee. More ongoing engagement with water users and their communities would be valued, and interviewees provided a myriad of ways to increase opportunities for feedback.

- **A community leader focus group could help build trust and create a structured channel for feedback** from underserved communities and community groups currently not involved with SCV Water. Several interviewees highlighted the value of garnering more frequent and organized feedback with local leaders.
- **Targeted requests for input and engagement could enrich SCV Water programming.** An interviewee advised SCV Water to go directly to community leaders and organizations for input (e.g., go to their community meetings) to make it easier for them to be involved. Another interviewee advised SCV Water to have this sort of process especially with disadvantaged communities and groups that serve them.
- **An established system for public comment would improve meetings and the usefulness of feedback.** An interviewee shared that stakeholder engagement at SCV Water public hearings and workshops would be aided by a more rigorously followed system for how to solicit, organize, and manage public feedback. For example, adherence to dated deadlines on when comments must be shared in advance of a meeting can help ensure feedback is captured, processed, and reflected by SCV Water staff. Different SCV Water efforts use different public meeting processes (e.g., multiple meetings for feedback, review, and adoption, or just a single meeting) and each requires a different structured system for public comment. Laying out this process, and how it differs for each effort, far in advance would benefit staff, SCV Water Board, and the public. Making sure expectations and requirements for feedback are widely shared would help mitigate public frustration with these rules.
- **It is valuable to solicit a wide array of feedback, both positive and constructive.** Some interviewees shared that public hearings often focus on complaints and negative feedback, while other voices and experiences of SCV Water are not well represented. Structuring meetings to require more holistic feedback (i.e., what is going well *as well as* what could be done better) and getting more varied input from the public outside of meetings would provide a bigger picture of how water users experience SCV Water and its programs. More holistic feedback would benefit SCV Water staff as well as SCV Water Board members.
- **More meeting opportunities for SCV Water staff to engage with stakeholders, apart from SCV Water Board meetings, would be beneficial.** Presently, many existing engagement processes center on involvement with the SCV Water Board. Interviewees suggested it would help to have more engagement and dialogues directly between stakeholders and SCV Water staff and managers so they

can understand and act on the public’s input in their programs.

- **A community-wide survey could help identify overall trends, needs, and opportunities for SCV Water.** Interviewees advised that SCV Water could get more representative feedback from water users and their communities using a survey that looks at what users think is going well and what could be different. Bringing a lot more voices into the mix through a survey would also help identify widespread concerns that may not be heard in very specific comments and opinions shared by invested parties at meetings.
- **Early stakeholder identification and outreach can improve engagement efforts.** An interviewee recommended that programs identify stakeholders early so they can be reached far in advance of engagement efforts. Another interviewee shared that without advanced notice, it can be hard for water users and customers to participate in meetings, as was the case with one workshop with ratepayers and ratepayer advocates. Programs can ensure ample time between notice and workshop timing so more participants can join.
- **Programs can build more confidence and trust with the public if engagements begin with more background and clear expectations upfront.** An interviewee shared how schools and HOAs felt “steam-rolled” and not part of the planning process when they were engaged in the recycled water program. These stakeholders didn’t understand how the program worked or that the required pipes were already there. To address the feeling of something being pushed on them, interviewees proposed that SCV Water could provide more background support to help stakeholders better understand the process and understand what feedback they can provide. Clear expectations can help mitigate miscommunication and frustration.
- **There are specific new engagement needs for SCV Water programs that could allow SCV Water to test and build out engagement efforts.** In particular, the following opportunities were identified:
 - o *Copper and lead service line inventory:* a new EPA regulation (with CA subset from DDW) will require SCV Water to develop a database of pipe materials on the other side of water meters for all structures built before 1985. This information will have to be made public on SCV Water’s website and searchable by address by 2024.
 - o *Public comment and engagement for Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) treatment permit process:* SCV Water’s Well-V201 in Valencia is going to install a GAC treatment system to treat perchlorate and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The permitting process requires public input. Similarly, engagement around several PFAS well-head treatment facilities will also be needed.
 - o *Managing water source taste changes:* As SCV Water begins using different sources of water, this will affect the taste and aesthetics of water (i.e., hard or soft). It may be of use to proactively prepare users for this change as it comes.
 - o *Ratepayer involvement on rates decisions:* Interviewees suggested SCV Water could get input from ratepayers on the right mix of payment options and plans to offer customers. New opportunities for discussion with ratepayers would benefit SCV Water’s customer service work. As part of this, more advance notice and outreach to ratepayers about engagement opportunities and decisions would benefit them.
 - o *Outreach around Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs):* Some potential regulations from the Division of Drinking Water may require that CCRs be shared more frequently with water users in the future (i.e., sharing the same report twice in a year or updating tables and issuing new reports). SCV Water could consider opportunities to streamline outreach around CCRs. One opportunity could be creating an interactive online version that lets users click and find relevant information.

Appendix

Below is the conversation guide used in the SCV Water Program Manager interviews.

Conversation Guide

Introduction

- Please describe your role at SCV Water and the programs you manage
- To you, why is it important to communicate and engage with customers, stakeholders, and/or communities?
- What kinds of customers, stakeholders, and/or communities do you ultimately aim to reach through your work? (*This can be aspirational and different than who you currently interact with*)

Communication

Reflecting on communication efforts in your program(s) at SCV Water (billing and customer service, water supply and quality, water conservation, drought response, emergency disruptions, etc.)

- Please describe how your program(s) have employed or used communications to date
- What has been most successful in communication with customers and/or the public on your program(s)?
- If resources and time were limitless, what would you do differently in how your program(s) does communication?
- Are there customers, stakeholders, and/or communities that you aren't currently reaching through your program(s) communication, that you wish you were? What would help you reach them?
- What do you think are primary challenges for engagement and communication with vulnerable and/or disadvantaged customers in your program(s)? What are opportunities to address these gaps?

Engagement

Reflecting on engagement efforts in planning and environmental processes (such as in Groundwater Sustainability Planning, Rate Case Planning, Water Shortage Contingency Planning, Recycled Water Planning, etc.)

- Please briefly describe the planning and environmental processes you've been most closely involved with, if any
- Overall, at SCV Water, what do you think is 1) done well and 2) could be done better in how customers, stakeholders, and/or communities are engaged in planning and environmental processes? Regarding both:
 - Outreach: How they are *informed* about opportunities to engage with SCV Water (e.g., how and where opportunities to be involved are advertised and shared)
 - Participation: How they *contribute to and engage in* SCV Water planning efforts (e.g., what feedback is solicited and how this input is used)

If the Manager's program(s) does not lead any planning, proceed to "Next Steps"

If the Manager's program(s) does lead planning, ask these questions:

- Does your program(s) currently engage customers, stakeholders, and/or communities in its planning and environmental processes?
- ***If yes:***
 - What do you hope to achieve by engaging customers, stakeholders, and/or communities in planning processes?
 - What has been most successful in your engagement efforts?
 - What has been the most challenging?
 - If resources or time weren't a question, what would you do differently (add, change, remove) in how you do engagement?
- ***If no:***
 - Do you have any plans to use customer, stakeholder, and/or community engagement in your

- planning and environmental processes moving forward?
- What would you hope to achieve through engagement?
- Have there been any barriers to engaging customers, stakeholders, and/or communities previously?
- What would need to be true for your new engagement efforts to be successful?

Next steps

- We are concurrently having interviews with community leaders to hear about their experiences of SCV Water and our engagement and communication efforts. What are you most curious to get insights into from these interviews?
- Do you have any other feedback or ideas you'd like to share?

DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY IN SUPPORT OF INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency is an integrated regional water agency which demonstrates excellent communication and engagement with water customers or users in the Santa Clarita Valley, and

WHEREAS, it is crucial for SCV Water to understand the needs, priorities, and goals of diverse communities in the service area, inform customers of issues and opportunities that may affect their service, especially service disruptions, and meaningfully engage customers and water users in agency decision-making processes in order to achieve its mission of providing responsible water stewardship to ensure the Santa Clarita Valley has reliable supplies of high-quality water at a reasonable cost, and

WHEREAS, the shared values identified in the 5-Year Strategic Plan directly inform communication and engagement efforts, including *Innovation* to continually learn and grow, *Excellence* to exceed customer expectations, *Trust* to partner with community stakeholders, *Integrity* to have the highest ethical standards, exhibiting honesty, transparency, and respect for customers within the community, and

WHEREAS, the communities, households, and individuals served by the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency have diverse backgrounds – related to their race and ethnicity, spoken languages, socio-economic status, and/or identities mentioned in the Board Policy on Fair Treatment and the Use of Authority ([Government Code §12940](#)). These qualities shape customer’s unique needs and priorities as well as how they experience and interact with their water service and the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, and

WHEREAS, the California State Water Resources Control Board¹ and the Department of Water Resources² have undertaken efforts to better communicate with and engage diverse California communities, especially those which are communities of color, socio-economically disadvantaged, or environmentally burdened in order to address inequities and injustices related to water quality, access, delivery, and involvement, and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency will endeavor to:

1. Provide “best in class” service by learning more about the experiences, needs, and priorities of diverse communities, households, and individuals which rely on the water provided by the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
2. Foster trust and ongoing partnerships by deepening or forming new relationships with these communities, households, individuals, and the organizations which serve them
3. Develop ways to reach and inform *all* water users about issues of interest or that may be relevant to them — such as emergencies involving water quality or supply disruptions
4. Strengthen engagement opportunities for all communities, households, or individuals to assure meaningful involvement in the decisions which could affect them in a regular, accessible, and inclusive manner
5. Innovate and continually learn by evaluating communication and engagement efforts in an ongoing way based on water customer or user feedback and priorities

¹ California State Water Resources Control Board, [Racial Equity Resolution](#), 2021

² CA Department of Water Resources, [DAC Involvement Program](#), 2021; DWR [Stakeholder Communication and Engagement](#), 2018

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency will seek to reach and involve all water users and develop policies and efforts which strive to achieve tangible progress towards the objectives listed above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the SCV Water Board of Directors, hereby adopts this Resolution to strengthen inclusive communication and engagement.

DRAFT

DRAFT POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

SCV Water Communication and Engagement Gap Analysis

The potential implementation actions shared below are designed to address the unique needs, priorities, and interests of community leaders and SCV Water program managers while directly contributing to SCV Water’s overall mission and reflecting the guidance of regulatory agencies and water industry groups.

The draft board resolution guides the agency in strengthening communication and engagement across the diverse communities of SCV Water’s service area, especially in communities of color, socio-economically disadvantaged communities, or environmentally burdened communities. The actions offer an avenue to demonstrate SCV Water’s continued commitment to excellence.

Below are five potential implementation actions. The actions were selected based on how they address identified gaps and contribute meaningfully to the Board resolution points, as identified in the table below. We look forward to discussing these actions with you to ensure their appropriateness, authenticity, and feasibility.

Table 1: Matrix displaying what Board resolution points the potential implementation actions address.

| Points from the draft board resolution on inclusive communication & engagement | Potential Actions | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. Learn more about the experiences, needs, and priorities of diverse communities, households, and individuals that rely on the water provided by the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency to provide “best in class” service | | X | X | | |
| 2. Deepen and form new relationships with these communities, households, and individuals as well as the organizations that serve them to foster trust and ongoing partnership | | X | X | | X |
| 3. Develop ways to reach and inform <i>all</i> water users about issues that are of interest and relevant to them – such as emergencies involving water supply and quality disruptions | X | X | X | X | X |
| 4. Strengthen engagement opportunities for all communities, households, and individuals to be meaningfully involved in the decisions that could affect them in a regular, accessible, and inclusive manner | X | X | X | X | X |
| 5. Evaluate communication and engagement efforts based on feedback and priorities in an ongoing way to better innovate and continually learn and grow | | X | X | X | |

1. Establish communication and engagement in languages other than English, especially in Spanish.

- For urgent communications, provide information in English, Spanish, and in the language spoken by any non-English-speaking group that exceeds 10 percent of persons in the service area. For each non-English-speaking group that speaks a language other than Spanish and that exceeds 1,000 residents but is less than 10 percent of the persons in the service area, provide information regarding the importance of the communication and a telephone number or address where the public water system will provide either a translated copy of the material or assistance in the appropriate language. SCV Water can explore if there are service providers who could help with

translations. This proposal is based upon a broader application current public notice requirements for public water systems in the [California Code](#) related to elevated contaminant levels.¹

- For non-urgent communication and engagement, conduct a basic analysis to determine what translation and/or interpretation services might be valuable for outreach for a program, service, or activity and if underserved communities may be impacted. When underserved water users or customers could be impacted, or when the program, service, or activity involves addressing a specific equity issue, then a more targeted effort to offer translation and/or interpretation should be pursued. The following metrics can be used as a basic analysis to assess if additional translation and/or interpretation services may be valuable to pursue:
 - The number or proportion of people with limited English proficiency to be affected (e.g., if this is greater than 10 percent of people in the service area that are likely to be affected).
 - The frequency with which people with limited English proficiency come in contact with or are affected by the program or activity.
 - The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided.
 - The resources available and the costs of interpretation/translation services.

This proposal for non-urgent communications draws upon translation guidance from the [Department of Health and Human Services](#).

- Translate resources that are both digital (e.g., PDFs, embedded flyers, meeting information) and hard copy (e.g., brochures, flyers, handouts).
 - Deepen outreach on public television channels and radio stations on Spanish-speaking stations like Telemundo (Channel 52), Univision (Channel 34), Azteca (Channel 54), and TeleFutura (46).²
 - Continue with the plan to offer language translation in a widget on SCV Water's redesigned website so people can translate resources into their preferred language.
 - Continue offering call-in customer care support in other languages.
- 2. Make additional connections with community partners to better understand other diverse communities and potential communication and engagement needs and opportunities.**
- Consider hosting (2-5) more one-on-one interviews with community leaders that support, represent, and/or work with individuals that have identities or statuses listed in the SCV Water Board Policy on Fair Treatment and the Use of Authority, prioritizing those identities and statuses not represented in the interviews already conducted. Use the interviews to better understand how identities and statuses affect experiences and interactions with water service and SCV Water. These conversations could build on the interviews already conducted, using the same interview guide and questions.
 - Collect and memorialize information including:
 - Avenues to learn from and listen to community partners, such as by attending community-based organization meetings to better understand their priorities and concerns.³

¹ See the *Community Characteristics Assessment Memo*, "Languages Spoken" section for more information. A data set of U.S. Census American Community Survey language data can be built to support translation/interpretation decision-making.

² See the *Community Characteristics Assessment Memo*, "Reaching and informing customers and their communities about water-related issues and opportunities" section for more potential media outlets.

³ See *Community Leader Interview Summary Memo*, "Connecting with diverse communities and understanding their needs, priorities, and goals" section for example organizations.

- Avenues to answer questions and listen to the water service interests, priorities, and concerns of community partners, such as through hosting coffee hours or informal conversations with SCV Water staff and/or Board members to hear information and ask questions related to SCV Water.
 - Methods for SCV Water to distribute information about updates, service disruptions, programs, and opportunities for customers to provide feedback and get involved.⁴
 - Work with SCV Water program managers and staff to incorporate findings and new understanding from community partners into their work.
- 3. Advance and refine outreach and engagement with community partners, especially those that serve and work with underserved or vulnerable communities, households, and individuals.**
- Identify community partners to work with, including service providers (NGOs and City/County agencies) that work with individuals and households that are vulnerable, such as those experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, and the elderly.⁵
 - Review SCV Water’s existing engagement and communication efforts internally and with partners and identify best engagement and communication channels for community members. Conversations with partners could take place through via one-on-one talks, focus groups, stakeholder advisory groups, or other means that are convenient for SCV Water and its partners. In conversation, and based on partner feedback:
 - Identify opportunities to adjust content, language, rhetoric, and overall outreach techniques so all water users can engage with and benefit from SCV Water’s programs.
 - Check in with service providers and, as relevant, cross-share content to ensure individuals and households through Santa Clarita Valley have equitable access to the resources that could support them (e.g., with rebates and bill support).
 - Assess opportunities to do in-person outreach at events (e.g., church events, neighborhood and cultural celebrations, parades, etc.) in and for communities that are especially harder-to-reach (e.g., those that speak Spanish, are older, have limited internet access).⁶
 - Promote connections with family and youth through participation in family-friendly events and outreach with and for school communities.
 - Identify modes of communication that work best for immediate attention and emergency outreach for different water users and customers as specific populations may use different modes. Develop an approach for how to use these modes of communication during an emergency and ensure they are used only when needed.⁷

⁴ See *Community Leader Interview Summary Memo*, for numerous examples of suggested methods from organizations interviewed. These form an initial base of ideas. This action will help build up that list of ideas by reaching more organizations that serve different populations and communities.

⁵ See *Community Characteristics Assessment Memo*, “Reaching and informing customers and their communities about water-related issues and opportunities” section for specific service providers.

⁶ The *Community Leader Interview Summary Memo* contains numerous potential places for in-person events that will be utilized.

⁷ See *Community Characteristics Assessment Memo*, “Reaching and informing customers and their communities about water-related issues and opportunities” section for specific modes of communications.

4. **Create a SCV Water guide and provide internal training for public engagement to be used across SCV Water programs and engagement efforts.**
 - Develop a consistent process for how SCV Water staff can assess, design, and conduct engagement with water users and customers. A brief guide can include prompts like the following:
 - Outline how input from engagement will be used and how this input will inform SCV Water decisions.
 - Set clear goals for engagement that could be shared internally and with engagement participants.
 - Identify how engagement can be made relevant to the unique needs, interests, and priorities of communities in the service area.
 - Identify appropriate avenues for feedback – including less burdensome methods like surveys or questionnaires by phone, text, or email that would be especially beneficial for audiences with limited time or resources to attend meetings.
 - Assess how the chosen engagement effort would be relevant to underserved communities. Refine as necessary to make sure it is accessible and relevant for communities that have historically been marginalized from decision-making.
 - Offer internal staff training on inclusive communication and engagement to help them effectively and respectfully engage with water users and customers and communicate in effective, accessible terms.

5. **Proactively engage new customers to help them understand SCV Water, their water bills, and water conservation opportunities.**⁸
 - Identify opportunities to inform new water customers and users and the groups that support them so they can better understand 1) components of their bills and what they mean, 2) how to better manage costs through water conservation practices, and 3) where their water comes from. Potential avenues to inform customers could be through tabling, partnering at events, holding trainings, and providing written info materials to service providers and other organizations.
 - Create new written and online outreach materials to share with new water customers/users about how to understand and manage their bills and reduce costs through water conservation.
 - Identify opportunities to share these materials with first-time homeowners and renters, new water customers, and the organizations that support them (including rental property managers and organizations that help house people).

⁸ See Community Leader Interview Summary Memo, “Connecting with diverse communities and understanding their needs, priorities, and goals” section for more information and suggestions. Some organizations interviewed are potential partners for this action.



COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 21, 2022
TO: Public Outreach and Legislation Committee
FROM: Steve Cole
Assistant General Manager *SC*
SUBJECT: Presentation: Overview of School Education Program

SUMMARY

Water Conservation Educator staff will provide an overview of the grade level programs offered for school-age kids in the Santa Clarita Valley.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATION

This item is provided for information only.

Attachment
PowerPoint Presentation

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July 2022

Virtual School Education Programs

Educational Programs 2020-21

- Due to school closures in 2020, we reconfigured and adjusted our programs to be virtual.
- We sent emails to educators in the Santa Clarita Valley to let them know that we would be hosting virtual field trips and were met with an enthusiastic response.
- We connected to 5,745 elementary school students in the 2020-21 school year.

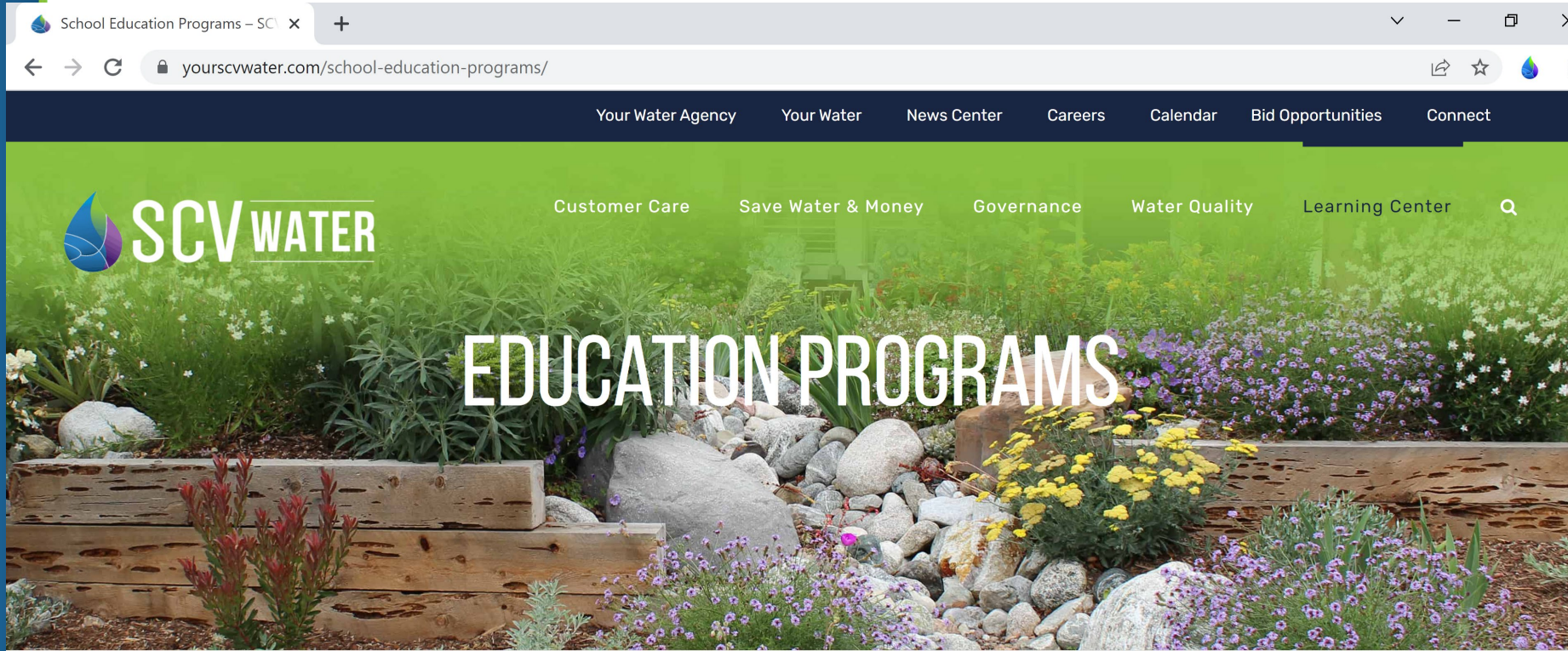


Educational Programs 2021-22

- Since the schools were still not allowing field trips in the Fall of 2021, we continued conducting virtual lessons while adding new modules to the curriculum.
- We dropped off educational materials to the schools.
- In the summer of 2021, we delivered virtual presentations to high school environmental science students.
- In the 2021-22 school year, we connected to 6,487 elementary and high school students.



Website



SCV WATER LAUNCHES LIVE DISTANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS



SCV WATER Free Live Virtual Classes for K - 6th Grade
Classes meet Extra Curriculum Standards

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Formats: All classes are virtual and taught live by credentialed teachers
- Class Length: 30 minutes
- Platform: Zoom and Google Meet
- Lesson Features: Interactive and engaging activities.

Kindergarten

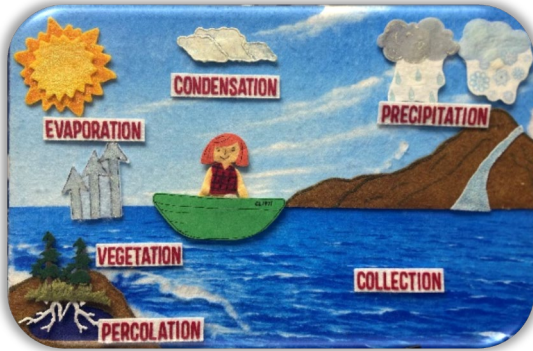


- Uses of Water
- Water Cycle Felt Story
- Water Cycle Musical
- Conservation Tips



First Grade

Water Cycle Story



Water Cycle Bracelet



Conservation Tips



Second Grade



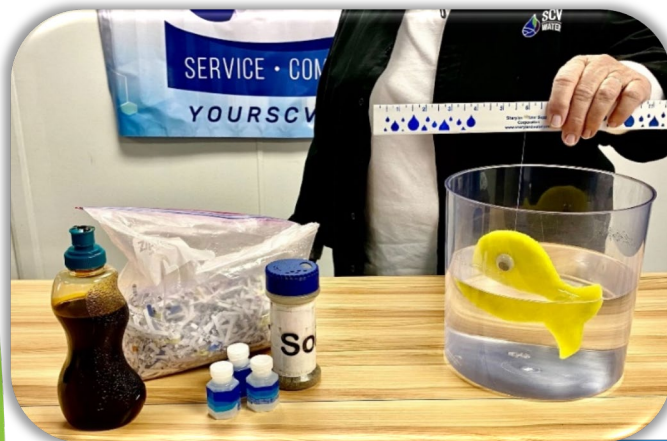
State
Water
Project

Water Pollution and Conservation Story



Water Conservation Tips

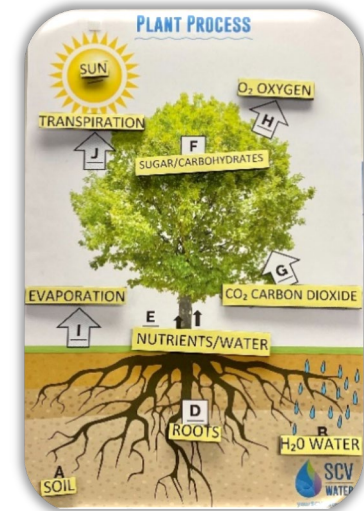
Water Pollution Demo



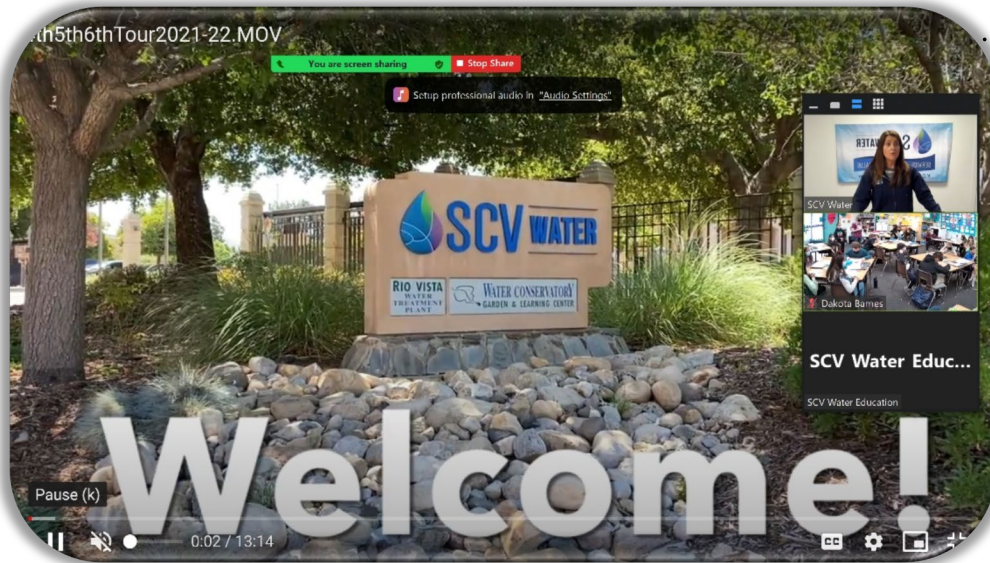
Third Grade



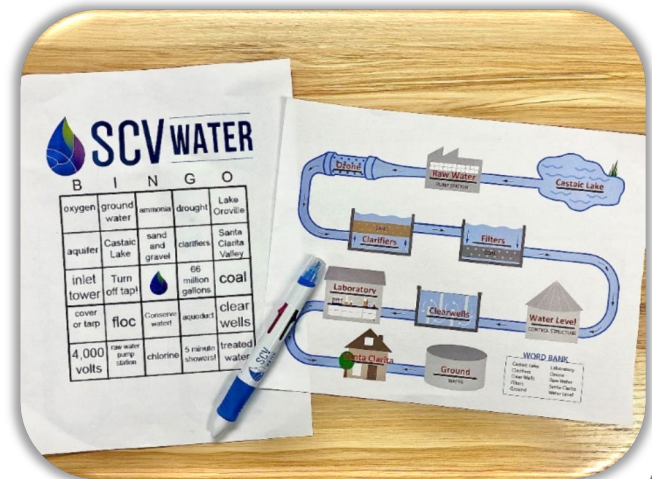
- Water on Earth
- Botanists
- How Plants Grow
- How We Use Plants
- Hidden Water Use in Clothing & Food



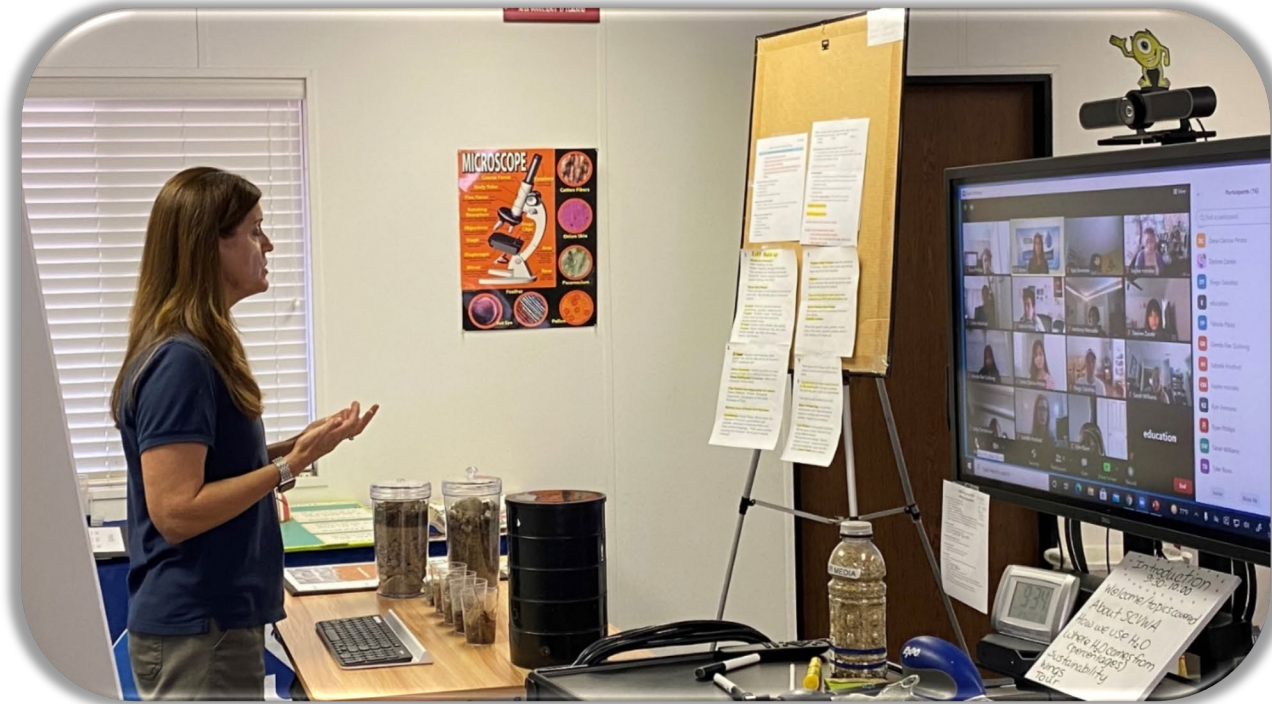
Fourth - Sixth Grades



- State Water Project
- Live Virtual Tour
- Groundwater Model
- Bingo Review



Virtual Environmental Science



- Soil horizons
- Effects of drought on the environment
- Environmental laws/regulations
- The water treatment process
- Kahoot! Assessment and attendance



In Person Environmental Science



INTRODUCTION



SOIL HORIZONS



In Person Environmental Science



SOIL PERMEABILITY



WATER LAWS AND ACTS



Promotional and Educational Items for Students



Promotional Items and Sign-Up Information for Teachers



Educational Programs 2022-23

- High school environmental science workshops returned to in-person this summer.
- After two years of successful virtual programs, we are excited to incorporate elements from our virtual lessons into our in-person curriculum.
- We are anticipating a return to in-person programs for our elementary school districts in the Fall (are visitors allowed in schools? Are field trips to our agency allowed?)
- The last two years have taught us to be prepared for all possibilities!



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LEGISLATION TRACKING
Letters of Support/Opposition

| |
|-------------------------------|
| ITEM NO. 6.1 |
|-------------------------------|

| Date | Bill/Initiative | Title | Stand | Notes | Leg. Policy* | Status |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------|---|--------------|---|
| 2/19/2021 | House-version of the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 Relief Package | State and local government emergency assistance provisions | Support | Sent our own letter to Congressman Mike Garcia | 12.0 | Letter sent 2/19/21 |
| 3/4/2021 | SB 45 (Portantino) | Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022 | Support If Amended | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) Date of Hearing: Mar 16, 21 Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee | 7.0 | Letter sent 3/5/21. 6/1/21 - Ordered to inactive file. |
| 3/4/2021 | SB 369 (Pan) | Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership Multibenefit Program | Support | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 2.0 | 9/23/21 Chaptered |
| 3/22/2021 | SB 323 (Caballero) | Water and Sewer Service: Legal Actions | Support | Sent our own letter Senate Committee on Governance and Finance Chair, Mike McGuire | 9.0 | 9/22/21 Chaptered |
| 3/24/2021 | AB 1500 (E. Garcia and Mullin) | Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022 | Support If Amended | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 7.0 | Letter sent. 5/20/21: Referred to Committee on Rules |
| 3/24/2021 | SB 45 (Portantino) | Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022 | Support If Amended | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) Date of Hearing: Apr 8, 21 Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee | 7.0 | Letter sent 3/24/21. 6/1/21 - ordered to Inactive File |
| 3/24/2021 | SB 559 (Hurtado) | State Water Resiliency Act of 2021 (including repairs to SWP due to subsidence) | Support | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 2.0 | Updated letter sent 5/26/21. 9/8/21 - now a two-year bill. Moved to Assembly Inactive File. |
| 3/24/2021 | AB 1161 (E. Garcia) | Eligible Renewable Energy and Zero-Carbon Resources | Oppose | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 3.0 | Letter sent 3/30/21 |
| 3/30/2021 | SB 626 (Dodd) | Construction Manager/General Contractor Procurement Method - would allow Design Build and Construction Manager/General Contractor processes which could accelerate project delivery (i.e., SWP facilities) | Support | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 9.0 | 9/23/21 Chaptered |
| 4/12/2021 | Valley Industry Association (VIA) SCV Helping Hand | Establish funding opportunities for local small businesses to provide financial aid for debt payments | Support | Sent our own letter to Congressman Mike Garcia | 9.0 | Letter sent 4/13/21 |
| 4/22/2021 | AB 979 (Frazier) | Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Sea Level Rise Analysis Report | Oppose | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 10.0 | Letter sent 4/22/21. 5/20/21 |
| 5/12/2021 | Forest Health Program Grant Application FY 2020-21/2021-22 Funding Opportunity | Santa Clara River Water Arundo Removal and Fire Resilience Program | Support | Sent our own letter to Ca. Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) | 10.0 | Letter sent 5/13/21 |
| 5/26/2021 | Drought Relief and Water Infrastructure Investments for Inclusion in State Budget | Support for critical funding for drought relief and water infrastructure projects | Support | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 9.0 | Letter sent 5/26/21 |

| Date | Bill/Initiative | Title | Stand | Notes | Leg. Policy* | Status |
|-----------------------|---|--|-----------------------|--|--------------|---|
| 6/30/2021 | SB 222 (Dodd) | Water Rate Assistance Program | Oppose Unless Amended | Sent our own letter to Assembly Member Chris Holden | 9.0 | Letter sent 6/30/21. 9/3/21 - moved to ASM inactive file. |
| 7/14/2021 | AB 148 (Committee on Budget, Chair Ting) | Public Resources | On Watch | California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program (CWWAPP) at the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) | 9.0 | Summary from Ca. Municipal Utilities Association |
| 8/19/2021 | Coalition PFAS Funding | Public Resources | On Watch | Support the inclusion of at least \$250 million for PFAS treatment in the drought and water resilience package in the state budget | 9.0 | Letter sent 8/20/21 |
| 12/9/2021 | Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act (S.2430) | Support of making water-saving rebates tax deductible and not subject to a Form 1066 | Support | Signed on to coalition letter from Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) | 12.0 | Letter sent 12/9/21 |
| 2/10/2022 | Assembly Member Suzette Martinez Valladares | Support letter for SCV Water DWR Grant Applications | Support | Letter submitted to DWR supporting SCV Water's "2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Funding" grant applications | 4.0 | Letter sent 2/10/22 |
| 2/11/2022 | Senator Scott Wilk | Support letter for SCV Water DWR Grant Applications | Support | Letter submitted to DWR supporting SCV Water's "2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Funding" grant applications | 4.0 | Letter sent 2/11/22 |
| 2/28/2022 | Drought Relief and Water Infrastructure Investments for Inclusion in State Budget 2022-2023 | Support for critical funding for drought relief and water infrastructure projects | Support | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 9.0 | Letter sent 2/28/22 |
| 3/3/2022 | SB 520 (Wilk) | Support relating to permitting process of the State Water Resources Control Board | Support | Sent our own letter to Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee | 12.0 | Letter sent 3/3/22 |
| 3/14/2022 5/6/2022 | AB 2142 (Gabriel) | Support income taxes: exclusion: turf replacement water conservation program | Support | Signed on to coalition letter from ACWA | 9.0 | Letter sent 3/14/22 Letter sent 5/6/22 (Attached) |
| 3/15/2022 | STREAM Act (Feinstein) | Support to Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture & Municipalities | Support | Sent our own letter to Senator Feinstein Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 9.0 | Letter sent 3/15/22 Coalition Letter sent 3/18/22 |
| 3/21/2022 | | Judicial Council to establish a program that provides training and education to judges in specified actions relating to water, as defined | Support | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 9.0 | Letter sent 3/15/22 |
| 3/21/2022 | AB 2362 (Mullin) | Ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation projects: permitting | Support If Amended | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 12.0 | Letter sent 3/15/22 Coalition Letter sent 3/18/22 |
| 3/21/2022 | SB 832 (Dodd) | State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to modify water diversion measurement requirements | Support If Amended | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 12.0 | Letter sent 3/15/22 |
| 3/29/2022 | SB 1205 (Allen) | Require SWRCB to develop & adopt regulations for determining water availability in issuance & administration of water right permits & licenses | Support If Amended | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 9.0 | Awaiting final letter from SWC |
| 3/29/2022 | S2S Sub-Seasonal to Seasonal | Request for \$15 million appropriation through the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration for the Western pilot project for winter S2S precipitation forecasts for water management in the western U.S. | Support | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 9.0 | Awaiting final letter from SWC |

| Date | Bill/Initiative | Title | Stand | Notes | Leg. Policy* | Status |
|-----------|---|---|-------------------------------|--|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 4/4/2022 | SB 832 (Dodd) | State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to modify water diversion measurement requirements | Support If Amended | Sent our own letter to Senator Henry Stern to Support if Amended | 12.0 | Letter sent 4/4/22 |
| 5/10/2022 | SB 1065 (Eggman) | Establish Ca. Abandoned & Derelict Commercial Vessel Program within the Natural Resources Agency | Support (As amended April 28) | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 10.0 | Letter sent 5/10/22 (Attached) |
| 6/9/2022 | State Budget Allocation | \$106 million budget allocation of South Delta Channel Depth Restoration Program | Support | Signed on to coalition letter from The State Water Contractors (SWC) | 9.0 | Letter sent 6/9/22 (Attached) |
| 7/8/2022 | FY 2023 Funding for Alternate Water Source Grants | Funding for the US EPA Alternative Water Source Grants FY2023 Senate Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill | Support | Sent our own letter to Senator Feinstein and Senator Padilla | 9.0 | Letter sent 7/8/22 (Attached) |

Updated: July 12, 22

Represents changes since last distribution.

DEFINITIONS:

- enrolled:** Whenever a bill passes both houses of the Legislature, it is ordered enrolled. In enrollment, the bill is again proofread for accuracy and then delivered to the
- The portion of the Daily File containing legislation that is ready for floor consideration, but, for a variety of reasons, is dead or dormant. An author may
- inactive file:** move a bill to the inactive file and subsequently move it off the inactive file at a later date.
- Presentation of a bill before the House by reading its title. The Constitution requires a bill's title to be read three times in each House prior to its passage. A
- reading:** bill is either on First, Second, or Third Reading until it is passed by both Houses.
- chaptered:** A bill is "chaptered" by the Secretary of State once it passes both houses and has been signed by the Governor or becomes law without the Governor's signature

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July 8, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator from California
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for FY2023 Funding for Alternative Water Source Grants

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water), we write to encourage support for inclusion of funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Alternative Water Source Grants in the FY2023 Senate Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Authorized under section 220 of the Clean Water Act, the Alternative Water Source Program would allow EPA to establish a grant program for state, interstate, and intrastate water resource development agencies, as well as local government, private utilities, and non-profit entities to develop alternative water source projects designed to meet water supply needs. Funding could be used for engineering, design, and construction of alternative water source projects, with a federal cost share of 50 percent.

As the Senate begins consideration of the FY2023 appropriations bills, we again urge your support for the inclusion of funding for the Alternative Water Source Program in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill. We would also like to extend our deepest appreciation for the support you have provided SCV Water, as well as your commitment to infrastructure development in our region. Your contributions continue to make a difference in the life and the economy in the state of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Cole".

Stephen L. Cole
Assistant General Manager
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency



July 8, 2022

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senator from California
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for FY 2023 Funding for Alternative Water Source Grants

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water), we write to encourage support for inclusion of funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Alternative Water Source Grants in the FY2023 Senate Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Authorized under section 220 of the Clean Water Act, the Alternative Water Source Program would allow EPA to establish a grant program for state, interstate, and intrastate water resource development agencies, as well as local government, private utilities, and non-profit entities to develop alternative water source projects designed to meet water supply needs. Funding could be used for engineering, design, and construction of alternative water source projects, with a federal cost share of 50 percent.

As the Senate begins consideration of the FY2023 appropriations bills, we again urge your support for the inclusion of funding for the Alternative Water Source Program in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill. We would also like to extend our deepest appreciation for the support you have provided SCV Water, as well as your commitment to infrastructure development in our region. Your contributions continue to make a difference in the life and the economy in the state of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Cole".

Stephen L. Cole
Assistant General Manager
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

**SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
GRANT / FUNDING EFFORTS SUMMARY**

**ITEM NO.
6.2**

| Grant | Start Date | End Date | # of SCVWA Projects within Grant | SCV Water Project Name | SCVWA PROJECTS ONLY | | | | % Grant Share Billed on Funder Approved Invoices* | Cost of Application |
|--|------------|------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|---------------|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | | Total Project Cost | Grant Funding | Required Funding Match (Non-State/Federal Share) | Other Non-State/Federal Share | | |
| DWR Prop 84 Round 1 Implementation <i>(Fundable portion of grant complete; full grant closure and retention release in SEP2022)</i> | 4/10/2012 | 3/31/2022* | 4 | 1. Grant Administration 2. SCV Water Use Efficiency Plan 3. Santa Clara River Sewer Truck Line Relocation 4. Recycle Water Project Phases 2B & 2D | \$ 14,057,107 | \$ 6,264,551 | \$ 4,110,280 | \$ 7,792,556 | 92% | \$37,700 |
| DWR Prop 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning (includes Prop 1 SGWP & Prop 68 SGP grants) | 12/5/2018 | 12/31/2022 | 3 | a. Grant Administration b. Planning Activities c. Monitoring | \$ 2,047,434 | \$ 1,307,265 | \$ 740,169 | | 82% | Prop 1 - \$24,778 Prop 68 - \$29,822 |
| Community Power Resiliency Allocation - Special Districts Program - CalOES subaward | 3/12/2021 | 3/31/2022 | 1 | Generator Replacement at Earl Schmidt Filtration Plant | \$ 249,854 | \$ 249,854 | \$ - | | 100% allocated funds received | \$0 - No charge from Consultant |
| DWR Prop 1 Round 1 IRWM Implementation | 9/24/2020 | 3/21/2026 | 2 | 1. Grant Administration 2. Recycle Water Phase 2C 3. <i>Santa Clara Honby PFAS Remediation (Substitute Project pending inclusion by Amendment) \$3M Grant</i> | \$ 20,950,450 | \$ 6,216,800 | <i>to be updated upon execution of Grant Amendment</i> | <i>to be updated upon execution of Grant Amendment</i> | 27% | \$99,192 Cost share between project proponents on a pro-rata basis |
| CalOES-FEMA Public Assistance Program FEMA-4482-DR-CA (Project 1) | 7/30/2020 | | 1 | COVID-19 Assistance (PPE & Sanitation Supplies) | | \$ 34,380 | \$ - | | 100% | \$0 Staff submitted |
| CA State Water Resources Control Board | 4/8/2021 | 3/31/2024 | 1 | LARC Ranch Water Pipeline Project | \$ 4,811,991 | \$ 3,931,991 | \$ 880,000 | | 0% | \$0 State Assigned Grant Consultant / DAC Proj |
| ACWA-JPIA | 3/1/2022 | 6/30/2022 | 1 | Emergency Preparedness (Communications Equipment) | TBD | \$ 10,000 | \$ - | \$ - | 0% | \$0 Staff Submitted |
| BOR WaterSmart Drought Resiliency Projects <i>Preliminary award 3/15/22; funding agreement pending cost verifications with BOR</i> | 7/1/2022 | 6/30/2025 | 1 | Rosedale Phase 2 Wells Project* <i>*Total project cost does not include cost to purchase well sites or easements.</i> | \$ 4,200,000 | \$ 1,458,987 | \$ 1,458,987 | | 0% | Included in annual On-Call Grant Consulting Agreement (FY2022 \$95K) |
| BOR WaterSmart Water and Energy Efficiency Grant - <i>Notification of pending award 5/11/22</i> | 7/1/2022 | 6/30/2025 | 1 | Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project (SCV Water Phase 1) | \$ 9,361,443 | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 2,000,000 | | 0% | Included in annual On-Call Grant Consulting Agreement (FY2022 \$95K) |

*Based on Funder approved invoices for ALL PROJECTS within the grant. Receipt of payment may be delayed in Funder's normal course of business.

| SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION - PENDING | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|----------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| Grant | Start Date | End Date | # of SCVWA Projects within Grant | SCV Project Name | Total Project Cost | Requested Grant Funding | Required Funding Match (Non-State/Federal Share) | Other Non-State/ Federal Share (Funding Match) | Cost of Application |
| CalOES-FEMA Public Assistance Program FEMA-4482-DR-CA (Project 2) | N/A | N/A | 1 | COVID-19 Assistance (Sanitation of Agency Facilities) | | \$ 43,700 | \$ - | | \$0 Staff submitted |
| WaterSmart BOR Drought Response Program FY2023** Application Submitted: June 14, 2022 Est. Award Date: Spring 2023 | TBD | TBD | 1 | S-Wells PFAS Treatment and Disinfection Facilities (Phase 1) | \$ 16,849,330 | \$ 5,000,000 | \$ 5,000,000 | | Included in annual On-Call Grant Consulting Agreement (FY2022 \$95K) |

**Cumulative funding limit across all BOR FY2023
WaterSmart Grant Programs is \$5M

| APPLICATIONS IN PROCESS - TO BE SUBMITTED | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Grant | Start Date | End Date | # of SCVWA Projects within Grant | SCV Project Name | Total Project Cost | Requested Grant/Loan Funding | Required Funding Match (Non-State/Federal Share) | Other Non-State/ Federal Share (Funding Match) | Cost of Application |
| CA State Water Resources Control Board Grant Incentive Grant Funding re LARC Ranch DAC Project Est. Application Submittal: Summer 2022 Est Award Date: Spring 2023 | TBD | TBD | 1+ | PFAS Remediateion Projects T & U Wells, S Wells | TBD | \$ 1,100,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$0 State Assigned Grant Consultant due to LARC Ranch DAC Proj |
| CA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan 0% Interest Incentive Loan re LARC Ranch DAC Project Est. App. Submittal: Summer 2022 Est Award Date: Spring 2023 | TBD | TBD | 1+ | PFAS Remediateion Projects T & U Wells, S Wells | TBD | \$ 10,000,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$0 State Assigned Grant Consultant due to LARC Ranch DAC Proj |
| Bureau of Reclamaton FY2023 WaterSmart** Water Energy Efficiency Grants Program Application Due: 7/28/2023 Est Award Date: 5/31/2023 | TBD | 3 years from award | 1+ | Multi-Family Apartment Retrofit Conservation Rebate Programs | TBD | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 2,000,000 | | Included in annual On-Call Grant Consulting Agreement (FY2023 - \$50,000) |
| Bureau of Reclamaton FY2023 WaterSmart** Water Energy Efficiency Grants Program Application Due: 7/28/2023 Est Award Date: 5/31/2023 | TBD | 2 years from award | 1 | Phase II Automated Metering Infrastructure Project | TBD | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 | | Included in annual On-Call Grant Consulting Agreement (FY2023 - \$50,000) |

**Cumulative funding limit across all BOR FY2023
WaterSmart Grant Programs is \$5M

| REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION / FUNDING APPLICATION PREPARATION | | | |
|--|---|------------|--|
| Document / Program | Explanation | Start Date | Est. Completion |
| Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) | An approved LHMP is an eligibility requirement for funding under FEMA and/or other federal grants opportunities. | FEB 2021 | JUL 2022 For submission to CAL-OES/ FEMA |
| Bureau of Reclamation - Title XVI Feasibility Study | Feasibility Study required to qualify for federal WIIN Act funding for Phases 2A and 2C Recycled Water Projects was approved by BOR on 4/28/2022. | JAN 2021 | Complete Accpeted by BOR |

| CLOSED / COMPLETED GRANTS | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|---------------|--|-------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Grant | Start Date | End Date | # of SCVWA Projects within Grant | SCV Water Project Name | SCVWA PROJECTS ONLY | | | | % Grant Share Billed on Funder Approved Invoices* | Cost of Application |
| | | | | | Total Project Cost | Grant Funding | Required Funding Match (Non-State/Federal Share) | Other Non-State/Federal Share | | |
| DWR Prop 84 Round 2 Implementation <i>(Complete - DWR official notification of closed grant received on 5/11/2021)</i> | 6/17/2014 | 12/31/2020 | 4 | 1. Grant Administration 2. CLWA SCV WUE Program 3. SCWD WUE Programs 4. Foothill Feeder Connection | \$ 7,804,002 | \$ 4,003,399 | \$ 3,800,603 | | 99.79% FINAL | \$84,175 |
| DWR Prop 84 2014 Drought Grant <i>(Complete - DWR official notification of closed grant received on 5/11/2021)</i> | 7/20/2015 | 12/31/2020 | 3 | 1. Grant Administration 2. RRB/CLWA Banking Program 3. CLWA/SWSD Extraction & Conveyance | \$ 15,616,780 | \$ 11,535,067 | \$ 4,081,713 | | 99.68% FINAL | \$80,000 |
| American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 through CA DDW - CA Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program | Immediate | 1/31/2022 | 1 | Arrearage Payment Program (customer bills arrearage payment forgiveness) | \$ 671,520 | \$ 671,520 | \$ - | \$ - | N/A | \$0 Staff Submitted |

| UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|----------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------|--|--|---|
| Grant | Start Date | End Date | # of SCVWA Projects within Grant | SCV Project Name | Total Project Cost | Grant Funding | Required Funding Match (Non-State/Federal Share) | Other Non-State/ Federal Share (Funding Match) | Cost of Application |
| DWR Prop 84 IRWM Round 3 Grant | N/A | N/A | 2 | 1. Grant Administraton 2. CLWA Res & Comm Turf Removal 3. Santa Clara River Trunk Sewer Line Project Phase II (NCWD?) 4. Valencia WRP Advanced Water Treatment Facilities | \$ 40,565,007 | \$ 16,229,000 | \$ 24,427,007 | | \$110,000 Cost Share between Project Proponents on a pro -rata basis |
| WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants BOR-DO-21-F001 | N/A | N/A | 1 | Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project (SCV Water Phase 1) | \$ 3,475,860 | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 | \$ 2,475,860 | Included in annual On-Call Grant Consulting Agreement (FY2021 \$60K) |
| WaterSMART Drought Response Program BOR-DO-20-F002 | N/A | N/A | 1 | Saugus Wells 3 & 4 Equipment and Site Improvement Project | \$ 3,744,829 | \$ 1,500,000 | \$ 1,500,000 | \$ 744,829 | |
| CA DWR Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program - | N/A | N/A | 1 | Saugus Wells 3 & 4 (Replacement Wells) Well Equipment and Site Improvement Project | \$ 8,300,000 | \$ 2,500,000 | \$ - | | Included in annual On-Call Grant Consulting Agreement (FY2022 \$95K) |
| CA DWR 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Grant <i>to be reconsidered under Round 3</i> | N/A | N/A | 1 | Santa Clara/Honby PFAS Groundwater Treatment Improvement Project <i>INCLUDED AS SUBSTITUTE PROJECT IN PROP 1 ROUND 1 IRWM GRANT ABOVE</i> | \$ 11,750,000 | \$ 4,000,000 | \$ - | | \$6,000 to date |

Last Update: 07/11/2022

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**PUBLIC OUTREACH AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR FY 2022-2023**

**ITEM NO.
6.4**

July 5, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Approve Legislative Advocacy Contract Renewal
2. Presentation: Drought Messaging Action Plan

July 21, 2022 Committee – Hybrid Meeting

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Discussion of Draft Board Resolution and Initial Implementation Action from the Engagement Gap Analysis
3. Presentation: Overview of School Education Program
4. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2022/23
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2022/23

August 18, 2022 Committee – Hybrid Meeting

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Tour of Agency's New Website
3. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Tentative Presentation on Social Media Quarterly Report
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2022/23
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2022/23

September 15, 2022 Committee

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Discussion of Water Academy Plan
3. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2022/23
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2022/23

October 20, 2022 Committee

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Discussion of Crisis Communication Plan
3. Tentative Drought Outreach Action Plan Update
4. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2022/23
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2022/23

November 17, 2022 Committee

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Social Media Quarterly Report
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report

- Sponsorship Tracking FY 2022/23
- Committee Planning Calendar FY 2022/23

December 15, 2022 Committee

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Outreach Year in Review
3. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2022/23
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2022/23

January 19, 2023 Committee

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Discussion of the 2023 Legislative Platform and Advocacy Process
3. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2022/23
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2022/23

February 7, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

1. Adoption of the 2023 Legislative Platform

February 16, 2023 Committee

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Social Media Quarterly Report
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2022/23
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2022/23

March 16, 2023 Committee

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2022/23
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2022/23

April 20, 2023 Committee

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2022/23
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2022/23

May 18, 2023 Committee

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Social Media Quarterly Report
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2022/23

- Committee Planning Calendar FY 2022/23

June 22, 2023 Committee

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2022/23
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2023/24