



SCV
WATER



SCV WATER AGENCY PUBLIC OUTREACH AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

START TIME: 5:30 PM (PST)

Join the Committee meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

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Can't attend? If you wish to still have your comments/concerns addressed by the Committee, all written public comments can be submitted by 4:00 PM the day of the meeting by either e-mail or mail.** Please send all written comments to Eunie Kang. Refer to the Committee Agenda for more information.

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**All written comments received after 4:00 PM the day of the meeting will be posted to yourschw.com the next day. Public comments can also be heard the night of the meeting.


Disclaimer: Pursuant to the Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom, public may not attend meetings in person. Public may use the above methods to attend and participate in the public meetings.

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Date: February 11, 2021

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

From: Steve Cole, Assistant General Manager 

The **Public Outreach and Legislation Committee** is scheduled to meet via teleconference on **Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 5:30 PM**, dial information is listed below.

**TELECONFERENCE ONLY
NO PHYSICAL LOCATION FOR MEETING**

TELECONFERENCING NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, any Director may call into an Agency Committee meeting using the Agency's **Call-In Number 1-833-568-8864, Webinar ID: 160 858 1051** **or Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608581051>** without otherwise complying with the Brown Act's teleconferencing requirements.

Pursuant to the above Executive Order, the public may not attend the meeting in person. Any member of the public may listen to the meeting or make comments to the Committee using the call-in number or GoToMeeting link above. Please see the notice below if you have a disability and require an accommodation in order to participate in the meeting.

We request that the public submit any comments in writing if practicable, which can be sent to **ekang@scvwa.org** or mailed to **Eunie Kang, Executive Assistant**, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 27234 Bouquet Canyon 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 meeting. Anything received after 4:00 PM the day of the meeting will be posted on the SCV Water website the following day.

MEETING AGENDA

<u>ITEM</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
1.	Public Comments – Members of the public may comment as to items not on the Agenda at this time. Members of the public wishing to comment on items covered in this Agenda may do so now or at the time each item is considered. (Comments may, at the discretion of the Committee Chair, be limited to three minutes for each speaker.)	
2.	Legislative Consultant Report:	
* 2.1	Van Scoyoc Associates	1
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* 2.3	Poole & Shaffery	13
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5.	Communications Manager Activities:	
* 5.1	Quarterly Social Media Report from Consultant Tripepi Smith	63
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* 5.5	Committee Planning Calendar FY 2020/21	73
6.	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, at (661) 297-1600, or in writing to Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, 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 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 February 11, 2021

M65



To: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency; Public Outreach & Legislation Committee
From: Van Scoyoc Associates (VSA); Geoff Bowman & Pete Evich
Date: February 5, 2021
Subject: FEBRUARY 2021 Report

COVID-19 Response

President Joe Biden's released a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief "blueprint" on January 28th which includes \$5 billion to help low-income renters pay for water and energy costs. While the plan is unclear on how the water ratepayer aid will be provided to individuals, it suggests using the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to help distribute assistance energy assistance. The plan also includes \$350 billion for state and local governments but doesn't specify how the funding should be distributed. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and incoming Majority Leader Charles Schumer have stated they will be advancing a COVID relief package as a priority early in the 117th Congress.

Congressional leaders in the House and Senate announced their intention to enact another COVID-19 relief package by mid-March, which is when expanded emergency unemployment benefits are scheduled to expire. Both the House and Senate passed a Fiscal 2021 Budget Resolution during the week of February 1st, which is the first step toward a so-called reconciliation bill, which will allow the Senate to proceed on a simple-majority vote basis -- avoiding the need for 60 votes to cut off the filibuster. While this process will allow the Senate to only need 50 votes to pass the legislation, the catch is that not all of the proposed elements of the next Democratic COVID plan may qualify for inclusion through that route. Only mandatory, and not discretionary funding, qualifies via the budget reconciliation process. So, while stimulus checks and jobless benefits would qualify, funding for State and local government and vaccines and testing would face a high hurdle in order to be made in order.

SCV Water has flagged funding for a federal low-income water ratepayer assistance program and for special districts to be included as part of any future COVID relief package that provides direct funding for State and local governments.

Special Districts

On January 28th Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) and Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) jointly re-introduced the Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act of 2021 (S.91/H.R.535). The Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act would provide:

- *Eligibility for Future Federal Assistance:* Makes special districts eligible for direct federal financial assistance appropriated by Congress in the future, along with State, county, and local governments that are also subject to the same oversight requirements. This would not apply retroactively to the \$150 billion provided under the CARES Act.
- *Access to Municipal Liquidity Facility:* Provides special districts access to the Federal Reserve’s Municipal Liquidity Facility, which provides states, counties, and cities federally guaranteed “bridge financing” to offset unexpected short-term revenue shortfalls caused by the current pandemic. Like states, counties, and cities, many special districts serve large populations and have the legal authority to issue short-term tax and revenue anticipation notes. However, special districts are not currently granted direct access to the Municipal Liquidity Facility.

Senator Feinstein is one of two lead co-sponsors, the other is Senator John Cornyn of Texas. H.R. 535’s cosponsors are all Democrats and only 3 of the 18 are from outside of California.

FY2022 Budget Proposal

The incoming Biden Administration is developing a fiscal year 2022 budget. While the Budget Control and Impoundment Act requires a budget proposal from the Administration be sent to Congress on the first Monday in February, due to the Presidential transition the first official Biden budget will likely be delayed until sometime in March or April.

Senator Padilla

Newly sworn in Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) obtained a seat on the Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW). Former Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) was a longtime member of the Committee and ultimately chaired EPW for several year. Former Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) was on EPW briefly but had to give up he seat to serve on the Committee on the Judiciary. Senator Padilla also secured positions on the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs. Having a Senator on the Environment and Public Works Committee may be beneficial to SCV Water as it pursues multiple project authorizations in the next Water Resources Development Act.

Arundo Removal

In January SCV Water sent a Letter of Intent to the United States Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District requesting assistance under section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 to remove an infestation of invasive plants, the most destructive being *Arundo donax*, a bamboo-like grass that can reach 30 feet tall.

The letter of intent will afford SCV Water the opportunity to participate in a project with the Corps of Engineers to investigate alternative solutions to identify a restoration plan for construction. As the non-federal project sponsors, SCV Water would be responsible for cost-sharing 50 percent of the feasibility cost after the first \$100,000 in federal expenditures and 35 percent of the project implementation costs if a feasible plan is identified. This will put SCV Water in a position to begin seeking federal assistance for this project in Fiscal Year 2022.

WRII Act

Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA) is expected to reintroduce her WIIN Title XVI grant program reauthorization bill titled the “Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act” (WRII Act). As crafted in the 116th Congress (H.R. 1162), this measure would increase funding for the WIIN Title XVI competitive grant program to \$500 million over a five year period (\$100 million annually), and will make the program permanent as the law is currently set to expire at the end of 2021. Over the last several federal fiscal cycles, annual WIIN Title XVI funding has been pegged at \$20 million per year. The legislation would also raise the federal contribution cap from \$20 million to \$30 million. H.R. 1162 passed the House last July as part of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, a large, multi-trillion-dollar infrastructure package. H.R. 2, which was largely a partisan measure, was not considered by the Senate and therefore not enacted by Congress.

RENEW Act

On February 2nd Representative David Valadao (R-CA) of the Central Valley introduced H.R.737, the Responsible, No-Cost Extension of Western Water Infrastructure Improvements, or RENEW WIIN Act. The legislation is a reauthorization of several 2016 WIIN Western water provisions, including extending the WIIN Delta “operational flexibility” provision to 2036 and the WIIN Water Storage program to 2031. Though the main Bureau of Reclamation program funding components of the WIIN Act’s Western water sections are the water storage, Title XVI, and the desalination grant programs, the Valadao legislation does not reauthorize the WIIN Title XVI program or the desalination program.

The legislation is cosponsored by every California GOP House member, including Representative Mike Garcia. There are eleven California House GOP members in the 117th Congress.

As the Republicans are in the minority, this legislation likely won’t be considered, but intended to demonstrate an approach they support. The straight WIIN extension approach was being pushed by California House GOP members last year as well. They offered an amendment to the Moving Forward Act which failed. House Natural Resources Committee Democrats led by Water and Power Subcommittee Chairman Jared Huffman (D-CA) do not want to extend the delta operational flexibility provision and also want to significantly change the way the WIIN water storage grant program is structured, amongst other modifications. Changes to the WIIN water storage program are also being pushed by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Democrats. Senator Feinstein is working on a compromise approach and will introduce her own legislation at some point.

PFAS

132 House Members sent a letter to President Biden on January 29th urging the Administration to take several actions to rein in release of PFAS chemicals. This letter was generated by the “bipartisan Congressional PFAS Taskforce.” The letter outlines 9 actions items for the Biden Administration to take, including:

- Directing the EPA to quickly finalize a national drinking water standard for PFOA and PFOS.
- Directing EPA to quickly restrict industrial releases of PFAS into the air and water by using the tools provided by the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act and to expand reporting of these releases through the Toxic Release Inventory.
- Directing EPA to immediately designate two types of PFAS, PFOA and PFOS, as “hazardous substances” under CERCLA and to revise groundwater clean-up standards.

With President Biden already on record supporting these steps, and with the narrow vote margins in the House and Senate, it is seemingly just a matter of time before EPA finalizes a national drinking water standard for PFOA and PFOS as well as CERCLA designation for those two PFAS chemicals.

Trade Association Activities

With the water sector being impacted by the global pandemic and requiring clean water for handwashing and a cratering economy that makes affording reliable access difficult for many ratepayers, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) are launching a media and advocacy campaign that will consist of digital ads, congressional and grassroots lobbying, and a focus on telling local utilities’ stories.

The public water sector estimates it faces a more than \$8 billion shortfall since last March from unpaid bills because of the pandemic and subsequent spike in unemployment. It comes as federal investment in such water infrastructure is decreasing, while operations, maintenance, and compliance costs are growing.

Congress in December inserted \$638 million into the fiscal 2021 omnibus spending package for the Health and Human Services Department to create a Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program to provide relief to ratepayers in need during the pandemic through state grants.

Along with targeted aid for the sector and ratepayers in an upcoming relief package, groups like NACWA would like to see the federal government provide permanent, reliable funding for low-income households through the creation of a program that does for water what the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) does for heating and cooling costs. LIHEAP assists eligible households with their home energy costs.

FEMA Reimbursement to States and Local Governments

On January 21st, President Biden signed a memorandum directing the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to increase federal reimbursement to States and Tribes from 75 percent to 100 percent for certain costs incurred associated with COVID-19 pandemic response efforts. FEMA released an advisory that provided further clarification on eligible expenses for the Public Assistance Program. A listing of some of the eligible activities include:

- Providing personal protective equipment and disinfection services and supplies.
- Paying staff overtime for vaccine administration or logistics.
- Contracting additional staff.
- Training personnel on vaccine distribution and administration.
- Supplies for administration sites.
- Using technology to register and track vaccine administration.
- Providing public communication on vaccine efforts.
- Leasing facilities or equipment to administer and store the vaccine.

Department of the Interior Appointments

The Biden Administration announced that it has appointed Tanya Trujillo to be Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science and Camille Touton to be Deputy Commissioner and the Bureau of Reclamation. Prior to assuming this position at the Department of Interior, Trujillo served as the Executive Director of the Colorado River Board of California and as a board member on the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. Trujillo also led the Colorado River Sustainability Campaign, a multimillion-dollar effort that coordinates and funds a variety of environmental advocacy groups in the basin and was a legislative aide to then-Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). For, Touton, this will be a return to the Department of interior who served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science in 2016. Most recently, Touton has served as a Professional Staff Member for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

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February 5, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steve Cole, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

FROM: Dennis K. Albiani, Anthony Molina, California Advocates, Inc.

SUBJECT: February Report

As the political musical chairs continues to take place in California and Washington D.C., business within the Legislature is moving forward. In a traditional year, the primary focus would be getting bills introduced and referred to policy committees. However, given the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Legislature has been forced to adapt by changing the normal course of business. For example, this year's budget cycle has already kicked off. Budget-sub committees are meeting and discussing the Governor's January Budget proposal which provides "early action" and "regular action". Early action items refer to Fiscal Year 2020/2021 budget actions, while regular action items reflect the Fiscal Year 2021/2022. The goal of the Legislature is to have "early action" items dispensed with by legislative Spring Recess. All "regular action" items will follow the traditional budget track and be a part of negotiations following the Governor's May Revise.

Meanwhile, Legislators are continuing to introduce their bill packages for the year. While neither house has restriction on the number of bills a Member may introduce, Members have been asked to use their best judgement on issues brought forward this year. To date, there have been 305 Senate Bills and 415 Assembly Bills introduced. We are likely to see around 1,500 – 2,000 bills introduced by the February 19th bill introduction deadline. As we continue to monitor bill introductions, we will notify SCVWA of any key issues and provide updates in a timely manner.

2021 Legislative Tracking

SB 45 (Portantino) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022.

This bill would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,510,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.

Status: Senate Natural Resources and Water
Position: Watch

SB 52 (Dodd) State of emergency: local emergency: sudden and severe energy shortage: planned power outage.

This bill would expand the definition of “sudden and severe energy shortage” to include a “deenergization event,” defined as a planned power outage, as specified, and would make a deenergization event one of those conditions constituting a state of emergency and a local emergency.

Status: Senate Governmental Organization

Position: Watch

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 both drinking water and wastewater services, to low-income ratepayers and ratepayers experiencing economic hardship in California. The bill would make moneys in the fund available upon appropriation by the Legislature to the state board to provide, as part of the Water Affordability Assistance Program established by the bill, direct water bill assistance, water bill credits, water crisis assistance, affordability assistance, and short-term assistance to public water systems to administer program components.

Status: Senate Environmental Quality

Position: Watch

SB 223 (Dodd) Discontinuation of residential water service.

The bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to provide technical assistance to very small community water systems. The bill would require the State Board to establish a bridge loan program to assist very small community water systems that may suffer revenue loss or delayed collection while complying with this chapter. To the extent funding is available, partial loan forgiveness would be made available to systems that offer debt forgiveness to low-income residents with past due accounts. This bill would also require an urban water supplier and an urban and community water system to update policies to comply this chapter by July 1, 2022.

Status: Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications

Position: Watch

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 an ongoing, dedicated program called the Constituents of Emerging Concern Program to assess the state of information and recommend areas for further study on the occurrence of constituents of emerging concern (CEC) in drinking water sources and treated drinking water. The bill would require the state board to convene, by an unspecified date, the Science Advisory Panel to review and provide recommendations to the state board on CEC for further action. The bill would require the state board to provide an annual report to the Legislature on the ongoing work conducted by the panel.

Status: Senate Environmental Quality

Position: Watch

AB 62 (Gray) Income taxes: credits: costs to comply with COVID-19 regulations.

This bill will provide a tax credit for essential and small businesses seeking to comply with COVID-19 regulations adopted by the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board on November 19, 2020, relating to COVID-19 prevention and approved by the Office of Administrative Law.

Status: Assembly Revenue and Taxation

Position: Watch

AB 100 (Holden) Drinking water: pipes and fittings: lead content.

The act prohibits the use of 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. The act defines "lead free" for purposes of conveying or dispensing water for human consumption to mean not more than 0.2% lead when used with respect to solder and flux and not more than a weighted average of 0.25% lead when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes and pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures.

Status: Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials

Position: Watch

AB 339 (Lee) State and local government: open meetings.

This bill would require all meetings, including gatherings using teleconference technology, to include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option that provides closed captioning services and requires both a call-in and an internet-based service option to be provided to the public. The bill would require all meetings to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on proposed legislation, as provided, and requires translation services to be provided for the 10 most-spoken languages, other than English, in California, and would require those persons commenting in a language other than English to have double the amount of time as those giving a comment in English, if time restrictions on public comment are utilized, except as specified. The bill would require instructions on how to attend the meeting to be posted at the time notice of the meeting is publicized.

Status: Introduced, pending referral.

Position: Watch

AB 377 (Rivas) Water quality: impaired waters.

This bill would require all California surface waters to be fishable, swimmable, and drinkable by January 1, 2050. The bill would prohibit the state board and regional boards from authorizing an NPDES discharge, waste discharge requirement, or waiver of a waste discharge requirement that causes or contributes to an exceedance of a water quality standard, or from authorizing a best management practice permit term to authorize a discharge that causes or contributes to an exceedance of a water quality standard in receiving waters. The bill would prohibit, on or after January 1, 2030, a regional water quality control plan from including a schedule for implementation for achieving a water quality standard that was adopted as of January 1, 2021, and would prohibit a regional water quality control plan from including a schedule for implementation of a water quality standard that is adopted after January 1, 2021.

Status: Introduced, pending referral.

Position: Watch

Regulatory

- The State Water Resources Control Board Drinking Water COVID-19 Financial Impacts Survey was released. The survey results show public water systems throughout California are facing heightened financial challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, as about 1.6 million residential water customers, or 12% of all households, have been unable to pay their bills, according to the State Water Resources Control Board's comprehensive survey. The complete survey background, information, and summary can be found [HERE](#).
- The Legislative Analysts office released their analysis and recommendation to support the California Natural Resources Agency \$125 "Budget Change Proposal" for habitat restoration projects along the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. The report can be found [HERE](#).
- The Governor made the following appointments:

Amy Cordalis, 40, of McKinleyville, has been appointed to the California Water Commission.

Cordalis, a member of the Yurok Tribe, has been General Counsel for the Yurok Tribe since 2016 and served as a Staff Attorney for the Tribe from 2014 to 2016. She was Staff Attorney at Berkey Williams LLP from 2012 to 2014 and at the Native American Rights Fund from 2007 to 2012.

Kimberly Gallagher, 45, of Davis, has been appointed to the California Water Commission.

Gallagher has been Farm Operations Manager at Erdman Farms since 2014 and Owner and Operator of Gallagher Farming Company since 2009. She was a Science Teacher for the Davis Unified School District from 2012 to 2014 and an Independent Study Teacher for the Elk Grove Unified School District from 2004 to 2011.

Fern Steiner, 71, of San Diego, has been appointed to the California Water Commission.

Steiner has been an Attorney at Smith, Steiner, Vanderpool APC since 1987 and a Shareholder there since 1993. She was an Attorney at Richard D. Prochazka APC from 1984 to 1987 and an Attorney at Karmel and Rosenfeld from 1977 to 1984.

H. David Nahai, 68, of Los Angeles has been appointed to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Nahai has been President of David Nahai Consulting Services Inc. and Partner at Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard and Smith since 2010. He was General Manager and CEO of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power from 2007 to 2009, Vice President of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Board of Commissioners from 2005 to 2006 and President of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Board of Commissioners from 2006 to 2007.

Michael Mendez, 43, of Long Beach, has been appointed to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Mendez has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Urban Planning and Public Policy at the University of California, Irvine since 2019. He was a Faculty Fellow and Associate Research Scientist at the Yale School of the Environment from 2016 to 2019 and a Postdoctoral Scholar and Lecturer at the University of San Francisco Department of Environmental Science from 2015 to 2016.

California Advocates, Inc. Activity Report

- Participated in daily briefings for COVID-19 and pass along pertinent information to SCVWA staff.
- Participated in ACWA MMLG meeting.
- Requested background information from on SB 222 (Dodd) “Water Affordability Assistance Program” from Senator background Dodd’s office.
- Requested ACWA’s “State Legislative Committee” analysis on SB 222 (Dodd) “Water Affordability Assistance Program” from ACWA.
- Requested a meeting with Senator Caballero and staff to discuss the ACWA sponsored bill on validation rates for water and sewer service.
- Participated in a webinar on the Governors “Natural Resources Executive Orders” (N-82-20), led by California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot.
- Participated in the SCVWA introductory/educational meeting with Assemblymember Suzette Valladares-Martinez.
- Scheduled and participated in an introduction meeting with the Governor’s new Legislative Deputy Secretary, Angela Pontes, who will handle water issues.
- Requested an introductory meeting with the Governor’s new Hazel Miranda, new Legislative Deputy Secretary on Natural Resources, Environmental Protection, and Utilities.

Important Dates and Deadlines for 2021

February:

- Feb. 15 – Presidents' Day.
- Feb. 19 – Last day for bills to be introduced.

March:

- Mar. 25 – Spring Recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(a)(2)). (add to calendar)
- Mar. 31 – Cesar Chavez Day observed.

April

- Apr. 5 – Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess.
- Apr. 30 – Last day for policy committees to meet and report to fiscal committees’ fiscal bills introduced in their house.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: STEVE COLE, SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY

FROM: HUNT BRALY

RE: January 2021 Report

DATE: 2-5-2021

I have provided a synopsis of activities performed on behalf of the Agency in January.

1. Continued to work with staff regarding PFAS Contamination issue.
2. Continued to participate in efforts with Federal Advocates potential federal legislation and funding opportunities.
3. Continued to work with staff on Groundwater Management Committee. Attended Virtual GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee on January 12 and 27 and the GSA Board Meeting on January 25.
4. Assisted in organizing and arranging virtual briefing of Assemblywoman Suzette Valladares and staff. Participated on January 22nd meeting.

RECURRING ACTIVITIES/MEETING ATTENDANCE:

5. Safe, Clean Water Program (Measure W) Watershed Area Steering Committee Santa Clara River Meeting was held on January 7 and the main action item was the selection for the Watershed Coordinator. The Committee unanimously selected Tree People to be the Coordinator.
6. Attended Virtual City Council Meeting on January 12.

The key items at the meeting were:

-Some public opposition to funding for the Sheriff's Cobra unit due to lack of participation by the public and a concern on the communities which would be the focus of the unit.

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance

Significant staff report. State law has preempted most of the ability of local government to regulate ADUS regardless of their land use zoning and general plan. A local ordinance provides some additional ability to provide some input on the units, but can not prohibit them if they comply with state law.

Council comments were primarily from Mayor Pro Tem Weste and Councilwoman Wested.

Among the concerns with the ADU mandates were:

- Occupancy can be increased by up to 3 times with 3 separate families.
- Creates boarding Houses in our neighborhoods
- Impact on utilities are unknown, especially water and sanitation.
- Impact on schools unknown.
- State law prohibits impact fees on ADUs which are 750 square feet or less, and a proportional amount for those that exceed that limit, but no direction for Housing and Community Development yet.
- School impacts with not new fees to assist.
- Sanitation may not be able to handle the increase. T
- Will count toward the new housing required by the Reina numbers, but none can count toward Affordable since those can't be mandated.
- Complaint that one size fits all.
- Trash pickup up is a concern with up to 3 separate residents.

Matter passed 5-0

-Final approval of the memorial for the victims of the Saugus shooting was approved as proposed by the families at Central Park.

Matter Passed 5-0

Final matter was the selection of new appointments to Commissions by newly elected Cameron Smyth and Jason Gibbs:

Cameron Smyth renominated Renee Berlin to the Planning Commission, Henry Rodriquez to Parks Commission and Vanessa Wilk to the Arts Commission.

Jason Gibbs nominated Tim Burkhart to the Planning Commission, Johnathan Waymire to the Parks Commission and April Scott Goss for the Arts Commission.

Attended Virtual City Council Meeting on January 26.

The key issues at the meeting were:

There was significant discussion on the SCE power outages. Public speakers, City Manager Striplin and members of the Council expressed concern and the City continues to be engaged on several efforts to deal with this issue.

There was the Second Reading ADU Ordinance.

Weste asked if ADU water impacts will be assessed by the SCV Water Agency. Staff indicated that they had been informed that a process had not yet been created.

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The annual Arts Grants were awarded.

The Final item Homeless Innovation Grants.

\$126,000 to City from a recent release of \$6 million to local jurisdictions to fund innovation.

6 applications were funded, 5 at 23,200 and 1 at \$15,000.

7. Participate in Virtual January 21st Public Outreach and Legislation Committee.
8. Monitored and reviewed Agency Board Agendas.
9. Reviewed weekly emails regarding articles of interest from Agency.

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COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 18, 2021
TO: Public Outreach and Legislation Committee
FROM: Steve Cole
Assistant General Manager *SC*
SUBJECT: Discussion of Water Affordability Assistance Programs

SUMMARY

Per a request from the Public Outreach Committee, this item is brought forward to facilitate understanding and discussion of water affordability assistance programs (also called ratepayer assistance or lifeline assistance).

DISCUSSION

This legislative session, Senator Bill Dodd has introduced SB 222, Low Income Water Rate Assistance Fund. This measure will set up the Water Affordability Assistance Fund in the State Treasury and authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB, or Board), in consultation with an Advisory Board to establish guidelines and criteria for the program.

SB 22 authorizes use of monies deposited in the Fund including:

- Direct water bill assistance
- Water bill credits to renters
- Water crisis assistance
- Water efficiency measures for low-income households
- Short-term assistance to public water systems

More information can be found here:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB222

BACKGROUND:

The issue has been discussed for several years. When Senator Dodd was in the Assembly, he carried AB 401 that directed the SWRCB to review the issue and provide a report. Below is a link to AB 401 and the report.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab_0401-0450/ab_401_bill_20151009_chaptered.pdf

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/assistance/docs/2019/draft_report_ab401.pdf

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None at this current time.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is provided for informational purposes.

Attachments:

ACWA State Legislative Committee Analysis
SB 222 Fact Sheet from Senator Dodd's office

MEMORANDUM

January 19, 2021

To: ACWA State Legislative Committee

From: Meghan Cook, State Relations Assistant

Re: 2021 State Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule

Below is **bill packet #2** for the State Legislative Committee meeting on **Friday, January 22, 2021. 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 2021:

- January 22nd, 2021
- February 19th, 2021
- March 12th, 2021
- April 9th, 2021
- April 30th, 2021
- May 21st, 2021
- June 18th, 2021
- July 9th, 2021
- August 20th, 2021

Annual Planning Meeting: October 29, 2021

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 Meghan Cook, ACWA State Relations Assistant, at meghanc@acwa.com, or call at (916) 441-4545.

BILL PACKET #2

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ASSEMBLY BILLS: N/A

SENATE BILLS:

SB 222: Water affordability assistance program.

Author: Dodd

Introduced: 1-14-21

Amended: N/A

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

Current Position: NYC

Recommended Position:
Oppose Unless Amended

Assigned to: Cindy Tuck/Kristopher Anderson/Soren Nelson

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 Program. The 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 that may need to be taken. For purposes of that report, AB 401 defined “low income” as a household with income that is equal to or no greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline level (FPL).

Bill Summary

I. Water Affordability Assistance Fund

SB 222 would establish the Water Affordability Assistance Fund (Fund) in the State Treasury. The Fund would provide water affordability assistance for both **drinking water and wastewater** services to low-income ratepayers and ratepayers experiencing **economic hardship**. Money in the Fund would be made available upon appropriation by the Legislature to the State Water Board for the following **six purposes**:

- A) Direct water bill assistance;
- B) Water bill credits to renters, individuals, or households that pay **other amounts, fees, or charges** related to residential water and wastewater service;

- C) Water crisis assistance;
- D) Affordability assistance to low-income households served by **domestic wells**;
- E) Water efficiency measures for low-income households;
- F) **Short-term** assistance to public water systems to administer program components, including startup costs.

SB 222 would define “low-income” as a household income, or a **community annual median household income**, that is equal to or no greater than 200 percent of the FPL.

A. Fund Administration

SB 222 would authorize the State Water Board to use up to 5 percent of the annual deposits into the Fund for reasonable regulatory costs associated with the “administration” of the Fund. Along with other administration-related provisions, SB 222 would authorize the State Water Board to:

- 1) Develop and implement a process for disbursing program funds to public water systems or third-party providers, including controls to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse;
- 2) Expend, upon appropriation by the Legislature, moneys in the Fund for **grants**, contracts, direct monetary assistance or services to assist “eligible recipients.”

II. Program Implementation

A. Guidelines, Oversight Procedures and Stakeholder Advisory Group

The State Water Board would be required to develop **guidelines and oversight procedures** for implementation of this program by January 1, 2023. In developing these guidelines, SB 222 would require the State Water Board to consult with an advisory group that includes representatives of the following:

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

B. Annual Fund Expenditure Plan

SB 222 would require the State Water Board, following a public hearing, and in consultation with the advisory group described above, to adopt an annual fund expenditure plan (FEP). This FEP could be incorporated into the FEP for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund under SB 200 (Chapter 120, Statutes of 2019). The bill would require that the SB 222 FEP contain:

- 1) Identification of key terms, criteria, metrics, and their definitions related to the implementation of this requirement;
- 2) A description of how proposed “**remedies**” will be identified, evaluated, prioritized, and included in the FEP;
- 3) A report of expenditures from the Fund for the prior fiscal year and planning spending for the current year;
- 4) An estimate of the number of households eligible for assistance, including those that do not receive a direct water bill;
- 5) A section that discusses water affordability challenges and “**proposed solutions**” for Californians served by state small water systems, **local small water systems**, and domestic wells. An evaluation of solutions would be required to include, but would not be limited to, the following:
 - a) Amortization of an unpaid balance;
 - b) Participation in an alternative payment schedule;
 - c) Partial or full reduction of the unpaid balance financed without additional charges to ratepayers;
 - d) Temporary deferral of payment;
 - e) An arrearage management plan;
 - f) **Tiered water rates** or percentage of income payment plan;
 - g) Methods to retain water system solvency, such as the **use of fixed rates** and increased use of water meters to improve planning;
- 6) 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;
- 7) An identification of the funding need of DACs and low-income households whose water bill charges pose “**affordability challenges**” based on metrics developed by the State Water Board and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC); and
- 8) An analysis with metrics to evaluate how expenditures from prior fiscal years improved affordability.

C. Electrical and Gas Customer Data

SB 222 would require the 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 California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program. SB 222 would also authorize the State Water Board to require **publicly owned electric 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 data sharing summarized here would be subject to the confidentiality provisions of California Government Code Section 6254.16.

III. Fund Expenditures

The bill would require the State Water Board, if funds were deposited into the Fund before the adoption of an FEP, to use those funds for the following:

- A) Provision of water crisis assistance to low-income households through direct assistance to the low-income households;
- B) **Reimbursement of public water system forgiveness of delinquency;**
- C) Some other disbursement mechanism not specified by the bill.

For these “Fund Expenditure” provisions, the State Water Board would be authorized to use up to 5 percent of funds for administrative purposes. The bill would authorize the State Water Board to adopt, if necessary to implement the Fund Expenditure provisions, both a policy handbook and emergency regulations.

IV. Program Administration

In administering this program, the bill would require that the State Water Board do all of the following (partial list from Article 4):

- A) **Collect and ensure the accuracy of water rate data and water system boundary data from each public water system;**
- B) Provide **oversight** of public water systems’ implementation of the program to ensure effectiveness and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse;
- C) Develop and publish performance metrics for the program, including, but not limited to, enrollment levels, total water shutoffs for inability to pay, and on-time payment levels;
- D) Identify alternative entities to distribute and track benefits if a public water system is unwilling to do so or if the State Water Board has determined a public water system is incapable of administering the program.

V. Not a Local Mandate

Section 2 of SB 222 would specify that no reimbursement would be required under Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated within the meaning of California Government Code Section 17556.

Amendment History

N/A

Staff Comments

I. Legislative and Regulatory History

SB 222 is the “son of AB 401.” AB 401 (Dodd, 2015). AB 401 required the State Water Board, in collaboration with the Board of Equalization and relevant stakeholders, to develop a plan for the funding and implementation of a low-income water rate assistance (Water LIRA) program by January 1, 2018. AB 401 also required the State Water Board to submit by February 1, 2018 a report to the Legislature on its findings regarding the feasibility, financial stability, and desired structure of the program, including any recommendations for legislative action.

When AB 401 went through the Legislature, ACWA worked with the Author on the bill and maintained a “Watch” position. Under Proposition 218, public agencies cannot in their rate-setting shift costs from some customers to other customers. Some ACWA member agencies have customer assistance programs, and those programs are funded with non-rate sources of funding such as cell-tower-lease revenue or contributions. In taking the “Watch” position on AB 401, ACWA recognized that there could be a reasonable statewide water LIRA program. That is the starting point for ACWA’s analysis of SB 222. As with so many programs, reasonableness depends on the details – which AB 401 did not prescribe. As discussed further below, some aspects of SB 222 are problematic.

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 that advocacy. ACWA developed and submitted detailed comment letters that addressed many aspects of the program. For example, ACWA advocated for the use of an existing funding distribution mechanism (i.e., CalFresh) as opposed to a requirement that over three thousand public water system change their billing systems to implement the program. ACWA also advocated against a water tax as had been proposed early on in that process by State Water Board staff as the funding source. ACWA instead 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). The AB 401 Report is available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/assistance/docs/ab401_report.pdf

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 Board recommended progressive revenue sources (e.g., increased personal income tax on high earners) and a bottled water tax. [AB 401 Report, Page 9.] This was major progress from 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, but one of them is that it would work against water affordability.

II. ACWA’s Perspective

Consistent with ACWA’s position on AB 401, there could be a bill written that would create a reasonable and effective Water LIRA program. The initial version of SB 222 does not specify the funding source. As with SB 200 (Monning) in 2019 regarding safe drinking water funding, knowing the funding source makes a big difference in being able to evaluate the proposed program. There is interest within (but not yet a decision from) the broad coalition working in D.C. to obtain COVID-19 water funding relief, in which ACWA is a participant, to seek a long-term federal funding source for Water LIRA. Whether that funding will be pursued and can be obtained is yet to be determined. Putting aside federal funding for a moment, if Senator Dodd

will agree that the funding source should not be a water tax and be progressive and not increase the cost of water, the negotiation of a reasonable bill becomes easier. (A water tax is a regressive tax.) The introduced version of SB 222, however, is silent on the funding source, and the bill text raises many issues and concerns, as discussed in the next section.

III. Initial List of Issues and Concerns Raised by the Introduced Version of SB 222

A. Implementing Agency

In developing amendments for SB 222, ACWA should consider which State agency should implement the program. Obviously, the State Water Board staff cares about these issues and want to implement the program. They have written the AB 401 report, but there should be a discussion on this given the financial nature as opposed to regulatory nature of the program, and that the amount of the assistance could exceed \$6 billion in the first ten years.

B. Benefit Distribution Mechanism

For eligible customers who directly pay their water bill, SB 222 would have over three thousand public water systems distribute a significant part of the benefit (i.e., “direct water bill assistance”). There was never consensus on this in the stakeholder process. The Legislature needs to consider what will be the most efficient process, and an existing benefit distribution mechanism, such as CalFresh, is a good option. In other words, have one agency distribute the money instead of 3,000 agencies.

The bill authorizes “water bill credits to renters” (at Page 3, Line 3). In the AB 401 Report, State Water Board staff suggest that the renter’s credit “would operate as a state income tax credit.” Why not also use a State income tax credit for eligible households that pay their water bill directly? The Franchise Tax Board is another entity that could distribute the benefit.

C. Scope

The AB 401 report focuses on four types of assistance: 1) direct water bill credits; 2) renter’s water bill credits; 3) water crisis assistance; and 4) short-term assistance to community water systems for “administration.” The direct water bill credits suggested in the Report would be a credit distributed via the water bill (as opposed to through an existing distribution mechanism). While SB 222 does not define the term “water crisis assistance,” in the AB 401 report this term refers to assistance for direct bill customers who are in danger of having their drinking water shut off due to the inability to pay on time. [AB 401 Report, Chapter 4, Pages 35-45.]

In addition to the four types of assistance mentioned above, there are several provisions in SB 222 that collectively make the proposed scope in SB 222 very broad – and broader than what is covered in the AB 401 report. In the development of suggested amendments, ACWA should consider what the appropriate scope is. Examples of such provisions include:

- 1) Inclusion of wastewater services;
- 2) No definition of “economic hardship”;

- 3) Inclusion of affordability assistance to low-income households served by domestic wells;
- 4) Reference in the FEP language to a “description of how proposed **remedies** will be identified, evaluated, prioritized and included in the FEP. [Page 4, Line 2.] It is unclear what the Author mean by “remedies”; and
- 5) An evaluation in the FEP of solutions for water affordability challenges for state small water systems, local small water systems and domestic wells [Page 4, Line 28].

Of course, the funding dedicated to the program will define the cost of the program.

D. Unspecified Price Tag and Funding Source

When SB 200 (Monning, 2019), was enacted, it specified the funding sources (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Account) and General Fund. It also specified the amount of funding (up to \$130 million per year). SB 222, as introduced, does not set the funding source(s) or the amount of funding. The timing for inclusion of such details is a political decision for the Author, but knowing the funding source(s) greatly aids the evaluation of the impacts on public water agencies.

As noted above, the AB 401 Report estimated the cost of the program described in the Report at \$606.2 million. However, ACWA’s understanding is that estimate did not include wastewater services or assistance for low-incomes households served by domestic wells. Further, that estimate did not capture the concept of an ongoing needs assessment, as captured in the comments above regarding the scope of the program.

E. Eligibility Criteria

SB 222 would define “low-income” as a household income, or a community annual median **household income**, that is equal to or no greater than 200 percent of the (FPL). For purposes of preparation of the AB 401 report, AB 401 defined “low-income as a household with income that is equal to or no greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline level.” It is unclear why SB 222 includes a community annual median household income as an option when a LIRA program is aimed at (individual) customer affordability as opposed to affordability at a system or community level.

Further, in the development of the AB 401 report there was some discussion that the State should look at different eligibility levels. In the AB 401 report, and based on 2010-2014 American Community Survey data, 24 percent of California households were at 150 percent of the FPL. If the threshold is set at 200 percent of the FPL, the percentage of eligible households goes up to 34 percent. The selection of the threshold percentage is important in that it is a major factor in who receives assistance and the costs of the program.

Further, the bill makes assistance available to ratepayers experiencing “economic hardship.” The bill does not define “economic hardship.”

F. Cap on State Administration Costs but No Cap on State Implementation Costs

At Page 3, Line 13, SB 222 proposes to limit the use of Fund dollars for “administrative” purposes to 5 percent of the annual deposits into the Fund. The AB 401 Report estimates the program costs at over \$600 million per year so that gives a ballpark indication of the annual deposit amount (although it could be significantly higher given the scope issue discussed above and inclusion of wastewater and domestic wells). The cap on administrative costs is appropriate. However, the SB 222 language parallels the SB 200 administrative cap language in Subdivision (e) of California Health and Safety Code Section 116766. In the State Water Board’s development of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 FEP for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, it became clear that the State Water Board differentiated between “administrative” purposes and “implementation” purposes. For example, while five percent of the \$130 million for this Fiscal Year would have been \$6.5 million, the State authorized many new positions, and the SB 200 FEP included \$12.8 million for staff costs. This was done under the “implementation” label. Since SB 222 includes a program implementation article, the bill should also have a cap on state implementation costs.

G. Short-Term Assistance to Community Water Systems for Program Administration

The bill proposes that the Fund could be used for “short-term assistance to public water systems to administer program components, including initial start-up costs.” [Page 3, Line 6.] At Page 11 of the AB 401 report, State Water Board staff estimated the funding need for this at \$43 million. But if one divides that amount by 3,000 systems, the amount would be approximately \$14,333 per system. The cost to just change billing software for one agency can be over \$100,000 (and for some cities that amount is much higher than that). During the AB 401 stakeholders process, the high administrative/implementation costs for public water agencies and their customers led ACWA and others to push for use of a more efficient existing distribution mechanism at one entity.

H. Public Process and Program Documents

SB 222 is thin on public process steps. For example, it proposes a hearing on the FEP but does not propose a workshop in advance of the hearing. As another example, except for the consultation with the proposed advisory group, there is no public process proposed for the development of guidelines and fund oversight procedures for implementation. (See Page 3 at Line 33.) Over time, this would be a multi-billion dollar assistance program. There should be opportunities for public input into the foundational documents.

I. Proposed Authority for Collection of Public Water Agency Rate Data

At Page 6, Line 17, SB 222 proposes that the State Board would be required to “Collect and ensure the accuracy of water rate data and water system boundary data from each public water system.” In the process for the development of the Electronic Annual Report (EAR) questions this year, ACWA, ACWA member agencies, and others in the water community have been concerned about proposed questions that go beyond the scope of what is needed for the

State Water Board’s regulatory purposes. The proposed SB 222 language is very broad. What is appropriate in this area needs to be discussed and developed.

ACWA’s development of amendments should also examine provisions regarding rate structures for state small water systems and “local small water systems” at Page 4 (Lines 35-39). Here the State Water Board is going beyond low-income water rate assistance into judging what the appropriate rate structure is for these systems.

To put the rate data collection into perspective, it is noteworthy that in Appendix F of the February 2020, AB 401 Report at Page 71, State Water Board staff wrote:

“Thus, one of the Board’s proposals is for the Legislature to evaluate (or direct the Board to evaluate) options for additional state oversight and direction on how public water systems set rates.”

ACWA’s member agencies are local governments. Setting rates is a local decision based on many specific local factors for the system in question (e.g., service characteristics, infrastructure needs, operational requirements, water quality, climate, etc.). The circumstances for each system are unique. As noted by the ACWA Board of Directors, locally elected decision makers are best positioned to provide direction on providing a reliable and affordable water supply to their constituents.

On a different note related to data, the proposal for electrical and gas corporations to share data regarding their customers (Page 5, Line 16) is there in part because generally public water agencies do not obtain income data from their customers. This proposal could be avoided if the State implementing agency already had that information (e.g., Franchise Tax Board).

J. Proposed Authorization for Incorporation of SB 222 Fund Expenditure Plan (Water Affordability Assistance Fund) into SB 200 Fund Expenditure Plan (Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund)

This provision should be deleted. ACWA has been actively engaged in SB 200 and is very aware how complex that program is. ACWA is concerned that State Water Board staff in developing the cost methodology and risk assessment methodology are increasing the scope and cost of the program. SB 222 would likely have higher funding and could involve as many as one third of the households in California. The two programs should be kept separate.

K. Other Provisions

Examples of the other issues that ACWA should discuss internally in the process of developing amendments include:

- 1) Proposal that the funding could be used for “grants” without any elaboration [Page 6, Line 27];
- 2) Proposal to allow “other entities” (an undefined term) to distribute and track benefits if a public water system is unwilling to do so, or if the State Water Board

determines that the system is incapable of implementing the program [Page 6, Line 30];

- 3) Use of the word “forgiveness” in the context of “forgiveness of delinquency by the public water system and reimbursement by the State Water Board.” Another word may be better because the payment would be covered [Page 6, Line 2]; and
- 4) Whether the “no state mandate” language in Section 2 is appropriate.

Recommended Position: Oppose Unless Amended

With appropriate amendments, there could be a bill that would create a reasonable and effective Water LIRA program. As introduced, however, SB 222 has many problematic provisions. ACWA should develop suggested amendments, work with the Author and sponsors on amendments and oppose the bill until the Author incorporates the needed amendments.

Support: California Coastkeeper Alliance, Natural Resources Defense Council, NextGen California, PolicyLink, Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles (PSR-LA), Union of Concerned Scientists

Opposition: N/A

SB 223: Discontinuation of residential water service.

Author: Dodd; co-authors: Sen. Gonzalez, Asm. Bloom, Asm. R. Rivas

Introduced: 1-14-21

Amended: N/A

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

Current Position: NYC

Recommended Position: Oppose Unless Amended

Assigned to: Cindy Tuck/Kristopher Anderson/Soren Nelson

Existing Law

SB 998 (Chapter 891, Statutes of 2018) established within the California Health and Safety Code certain procedures and requirements related to the discontinuation of residential water service. That law prohibits an urban and community water system, defined as a public water system that supplies water to more than 200 service connections, from discontinuing residential water service for nonpayment until a payment by a customer has been delinquent for at least 60 days. That law also requires an urban and community water system to have a written policy on discontinuation of residential service for nonpayment, including, among other

things, specified options for addressing the nonpayment. An urban and community water system is required to provide notice of that policy to customers.

The SB 998 statute also prohibits an urban and community water system from discontinuing residential service for nonpayment if certain conditions are met, including that the customer or a tenant submits certification of a primary care provider that discontinuation of residential service will be life threatening to, or pose a serious threat to the health and safety of, a resident of the premises. An urban and community water system is required to impose fees, not to exceed a specified amount, for reconnection of service for customers with a household income below 200% of the federal poverty line. The SB 998 statute also authorizes the Attorney General at the request of the State Water Board or on his or her own motion to enforce the requirements imposed on urban and community water systems in connection with discontinuing residential service for nonpayment by seeking an injunction.

Bill Summary

Definitions

The definition of “urban and community water system” would be amended to mean a public water system that supplies water to more than 200 service connections *used by year-long residents*.

A definition for “very small community water system” would be added and defined as a public water system that supplies water to 200 or fewer service connections used by yearlong residents.

References to “urban community water system” throughout the language established by the enactment of SB 998 (Stats. 2018, Ch. 891) have all been amended to include “and/or very small community water system(s),” so that all requirements already established in this chapter for urban and community water systems would also apply to very small community water systems.

Compliance Timeline

SB 223 would require very small community water systems to comply with the requirements summarized below on and after July 1, 2022. The bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to provide technical assistance to very small community water systems.

The bill would require the State Water Board to establish a bridge loan program to assist very small community water systems that may suffer revenue loss or delayed collection while complying with this chapter. To the extent funding is available, partial loan forgiveness would be made available to systems that offer debt forgiveness to low-income residents with past due accounts.

SB 223 would require an urban water supplier and an urban and community water system to update policies to comply this chapter by July 1, 2022.

Discontinuation of Service Policy & Arrearage Management Plans

Urban and community water systems are required to have a written policy on discontinuation of service for nonpayment. This bill would require that those policies include the following, in addition to what existing law already requires:

- A plan for deferred or reduced payments (this is current law) *that includes an option for repayment over a period of 12 months or longer.*
- An arrearage management plan.
 - The arrearage management plan would be required to extend for a maximum of 12 months and include forgiveness of at least one-twelfth of the delinquent balance with each consecutive on-time payment of the monthly charge for water service only. Forgiveness of the full delinquent balance under the arrearage management plan would be required to take place at the final consecutive on-time payment under the plan.
 - A customer who misses two consecutive payments could be removed from the arrearage management plan. If a customer is removed from the arrearage management plan before making 12 on-time payments, any debt forgiven would remain forgiven, and the urban and community water system or very small community water system would be required to offer enrollment into an amortization agreement, alternative payment schedule, or a plan for deferred or reduced payment.
- For systems that provide water audits or have the capacity to do so, a free water audit offered to low-income residential customers households with water usage that is above the annual average volume usage of their customer class.

SB 223 would require systems without an internet website to provide the policy in writing upon its adoption or revision as well as upon request by a customer. The bill would require the State Water Board to develop a template for a written policy on discontinuation of residential service for nonpayment, on or before September 1, 2022, to aid very small community water systems.

Service Discontinuation Restrictions

Existing law prohibits a water system from discontinuing service for nonpayment for at least 60 days. SB 223 would specify that this applies to nonpayment for water service. The bill would also extend the prohibition to at least 120 days of nonpayment and would specify that the amount of the delinquency, excluding late charges and interest, would have to be at least \$400 to trigger discontinuation of service. When mailing notice of service discontinuation to the customer, systems would now be required to include a description of the process by which the customer could enter into an *arrearage management plan*, in addition to other repayment options already specified in existing law.

SB 223 would establish that a residential water customer who pays a water bill that is combined with billing for other services, including, but not limited to, sewer service or electricity service, would not be delinquent and would not have their water service discontinued for nonpayment

if the customer has paid an amount equal to or greater than the monthly charge for water service, excluding taxes and fees.

Notwithstanding any other law, the bill would also establish that the urban and community water system or very small community water system would be required to release all liens, and would not obtain any new lien, for delinquent amounts owed for residential water service when the customer is enrolled in an amortization agreement, alternative payment schedule, or arrearage management plan, or a plan for deferred or reduced payment.

SB 223 would prohibit a water system from discontinuing residential service for a master-metered multifamily residence with at least four units or to a master-metered mobile home park.

Communications Between Delinquent Customers and Service Providers

The bill would prohibit discontinuation of residential service for nonpayment during a state or local emergency. Existing law prohibits systems from discontinuing residential water service if the customer meets certain conditions. This bill would **add** the following conditions to that list:

- A customer self-certifies that a resident of the premises is over 65 or under 18.
- A customer, or tenant of the customer, self-certifies that they do not have a primary care provider and that discontinuation of residential service will be life threatening to, or pose a serious threat to the health and safety of, a resident of the premises where residential service is provided.
- A customer demonstrates they are financially unable to pay within the normal billing cycle (existing law). A customer could be deemed unable to pay if any member of household is a current enrollee in the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Program or the Family Electric Rate Assistance Program, in addition to those programs already specified in the existing law (e.g., CalFresh). The same criteria could be used to deem a residential customer to have a household income below 200 percent of the federal poverty line.
- The customer is willing to enter an arrearage management plan (in addition to other payback schedules in existing law).

If these conditions are met, a system must offer the customer a range of repayment options. SB 223 would add “arrearage management plan” to that list. That system would be required, in consultation with the customer, to select the option that best assists the customer in avoiding discontinuation of service over the long term.

A system may discontinue service under current law if the customer fails to comply with certain conditions. SB 223 would add failure to adhere to an arrearage management plan to those conditions.

By July 1, 2022, the CPUC would be required to establish a mechanism for electrical and gas corporations to regularly share data with urban and community water systems and very small

community water systems in their service areas regarding the utility customers enrolled in, or eligible to be enrolled in, the CARE program or the Family Electric Rates Assistance program.

Fee Waivers

Under existing law, if a residential customer demonstrates income below 200 percent of the federal poverty line, the water system is required to set reconnection fees according to certain criteria. This includes caps on the amount agencies can charge for reconnecting service. SB 223 would strike this requirement, and instead require a water system to waive fees for disconnection and reconnection of service. The bill would also require that a water system waive all late fees, interest charges, and penalties on delinquent bills every 12 months.

Annual Reporting

SB 223 would require each urban and community water system and very small community water system to report annually to the State Water Board, and on the system's website (if one exists) the number of discontinuations of residential service for inability to pay, during the reporting year, both for the water system as a whole and for each ZIP Code served by the water system.

In its annual reporting to the State Water Board, the system would be required to report all of the following:

- The number of accounts for which water service was restored within 36 hours of the time of disconnection.
- The number of accounts for which water service was restored between 36 hours and seven days from the time of disconnection.
- The number of accounts for which water service was restored more than seven days after disconnection.
- The number of accounts for customers who fell behind on their water bills during the year, the median amount of household water debt that is outstanding at the end of each annual reporting cycle, and the overall amount of household water debt that is outstanding at the end of each annual reporting cycle.
- The number of accounts for customers who are enrolled in a water affordability program at the end of each annual reporting cycle.

Enforcement

SB 223 would authorize the State Water Board to issue an enforcement order to an urban and community water system or very small community water system relative to the requirements of this chapter.

Existing law allows the Attorney General, at the request of the State Water Board or upon the Attorney General's own motion, to bring an action in state court to restrain by temporary or permanent injunction the use of any method, act, or practice declared in this chapter to be unlawful. This bill would also authorize the State Water Board to independently bring this action.

Amendment History

N/A

Staff Comments

Senator Dodd (D-Napa) has authored a number of water shut-off and water rate assistance bills in recent years. As an Assemblymember, Dodd authored AB 401 in 2015 and has introduced sister legislation this year to create a Low-Income Rate Assistance Program (SB 222). SB 223 follows up SB 998 (Dodd, 2018), which created a one-size-fits-all statewide water service shutoff law, which ACWA opposed at the Legislature. SB 223 raises many of the same concerns that ACWA members raised in 2018 and raises new issues regarding proposed forgiveness of arrearages.

Debt Forgiveness & Fee Waivers

Proposition 218, among other things, prohibits public water agencies from charging rates that exceed the proportional costs of the service attributable to the parcel. This prevents public water agencies from using ratepayer revenues to subsidize other ratepayers within the same customer class because such a practice would result in some customers paying more than the cost of service. Multiple provisions of SB 223 appear to clash with this prohibition in the State Constitution.

The most egregious example arises from the proposed “arrears management plan” (Plan), which SB 223 would require agencies to offer to delinquent customers. This repayment plan would extend for a maximum of 12 months. SB 223 would require the agency to include in the Plan forgiveness of one-twelfth of the delinquent balance with each consecutive one-time payment of the customer’s monthly water bill. If implemented, this would result in agencies waiving costs for a service already provided to the customer. Here, the question becomes, if the customer does not pay for the costs of service, who does? As noted above, the public water agencies cannot use ratepayer revenues to subsidize other ratepayers. SB 223 is proposing a requirement that would be inconsistent with the State Constitution, and this proposed requirement needs to be deleted.

This bill would also prohibit agencies from charging disconnection and reconnection fees to customers with a household income below 200 percent of the federal poverty line. SB 998 capped reconnection fees for this class of customers. ACWA, along with other organizations, opposed these caps, arguing they would violate Proposition 218 by preventing agencies from recovering the actual costs of the work necessary to reconnect customers whose service had been discontinued. The risk of violating Proposition 218 seems even clearer now, as agencies would be required to *disconnect* and reconnect this class of customers *free of charge*. If the ratepayer whose service would be restored does not pay for this service, agencies may be forced to cross-subsidize these costs with revenue from other ratepayers.

ACWA will make the Proposition 218 concerns raised by this bill prominent in deliberations with the Author, sponsors, and Legislature going forward.

Service Discontinuation Restrictions

SB 998 required that urban and community water systems not regulated by the CPUC comply with the SB 998 provision on or after April 1, 2020. (The deadline for CPUC-regulated urban and community water systems was February 1, 2020.) Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-42-20, which temporarily suspended the ability of water systems to discontinue service for nonpayment, as specified. So while the reality is that full implementation of this new law has not even begun, SB 223 already proposes to re-write the new statute to further limit an agency's ability to shutoff delinquent customers and address nonpayment and maintain financial stability. In order to conduct a shutoff, this bill would extend the minimum time of delinquency from 60 to 120 days and require the customer's debt be at least \$400 (not including interest and late charges). Additionally, as noted in the summary, the bill proposes new restrictions on shutoffs when the customer's water bill is combined with charges for other services, including sewer, electricity, and other services, creating more logistical challenges for agencies already acclimating to a new law.

In 2018, advocacy by ACWA and others resulted in a proposed health-related shutoff prohibition being limited to where the customer submitted a certification from the primary care provider. SB 223 would expand the pool of low-income customers who could never have service discontinued. This would include customers that "self-certify" that: (1) a member of the premises is older than 65 years of age or younger than 18 years of age; or (2) a shutoff would be life-threatening, or pose a serious threat to the health and safety, of a resident of the premises. These restrictions would significantly limit agencies' ability to shut off water service, so long as the customer is willing to enter into a repayment plan, as specified.

Public water agencies, which are local governments, have spent more than a year drafting new shutoff policies and taking the logistical steps necessary to comply with SB 998. Now, with implementation of existing but still new law just underway, SB 223 proposes that agencies spend public resources to comply with a new set of rules. Data does not support such wholesale changes to the law, as it is too soon to tell what impact SB 998 has had on shutoffs. SB 998—previously lauded by proponents for its slate of consumer protections—should have a chance to work before proponents rush back to the drawing board.

ACWA staff would appreciate thoughts from committee members on some proposed restrictions, including the prohibition on shutoffs during state or local emergencies. At the very least, the bill should clarify that the state of emergency must be declared in the county where the customers reside.

Reporting & Enforcement

SB 223 would require agencies to comply with a host of new data and reporting requirements. Agencies would be required to track shutoffs by ZIP Code, as well as the hours and days that

elapsed before service was restored to a disconnected customer. The bill would also require agencies to prepare to receive and store data from local electrical and gas corporations detailing customers enrolled in or eligible to be enrolled in low-income assistance programs. It is likely many agencies do not track some of these data points, and it could be difficult to compile this information.

Also worth noting is that the bill would give the State Water Board independent authority to bring an action in court against agencies to enforce the provisions of this chapter. There is no evidence that the Attorney General is unable to independently exercise its existing authority, therefore, such a change to the law appears premature and unnecessary.

Recommended Position: Oppose Unless Amended

SB 223 would amend existing Health and Safety Code sections established by SB 998 that lay out procedures for the discontinuation of residential water service for nonpayment. The bill would create new requirements for water systems – most notably, adoption of an “arrearage management plan,” by which customers with delinquent balances would have their debt forgiven. The bill raises a number of concerns, including that, in staff’s opinion, some of the new requirements proposed would be in direct conflict with Proposition 218. Staff should develop suggested amendments to address these issues and narrow the proposal, work with the Author and the bill’s sponsors, and oppose the bill until the needed amendments are incorporated. Staff recommends an “Oppose Unless Amended” position.

Support: California Coastkeeper Alliance, Natural Resources Defense Council, NextGen California, PolicyLink, Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles (PSR-LA), Union of Concerned Scientists

Opposition: N/A

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SB 222 – DODD LOW-INCOME WATER RATE ASSISTANCE FUND

Summary

SB 222 would establish the Water Affordability Assistance Fund in the State Treasury and establish the Water Affordability Assistance Program to help provide water affordability assistance for both drinking and wastewater services to low-income ratepayers experiencing economic hardships.

Background

AB 401 (Dodd), enacted in 2015, required the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to develop a plan for funding and implementing the Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program. The plan would include recommendations for cost-effective methods of offering assistance to low-income water customers.

The Board submitted its report to the legislature in early 2020. The Board found “drinking water is a basic human need. However, California households find it increasingly difficult to satisfy this need as the retail cost of water has risen substantially over the last decade and is expected to rise significantly over the coming years. Adjusting for inflation, the average Californian household paid around 45% more per month for drinking water service in 2015 than in 2007. The burden of rapidly rising drinking water costs falls disproportionately on the 13 million Californians living in low-income households, many of whom have seen their incomes stagnate during the same period. The high and rising costs of basic needs for California residents, including housing, food, and other

utility services, can force families to make difficult and risky tradeoffs that could harm their health and welfare. Expenditures to meet basic water needs are expected to continue to rise rapidly due to the need for water systems to replace aging infrastructure, meet treatment standards, diversify supplies, and maintain a well-trained workforce.” In short, there is ample justification for a low-income water rate assistance program for water and wastewater.

While many low-income Californians receive electric and gas utility rate assistance, less than 20% of the state’s low-income population served by community water systems (CWS) receive any benefits from a low-income water rate assistance program. There are financial obstacles to providing a rate assistance program to water users at the system level absent a statewide program. Further, roughly 50% of the 2,900 individual CWS cannot operate standalone rate assistance programs because they lack an adequate rate base to support benefit expenditures. Using 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) as the baseline eligibility criteria for WLIRA programs would mean that—for many large systems—more than 50% of their customers would be eligible for assistance. The problem is even more extreme for many smaller systems. To operate individual low-income rate assistance programs, these systems would likely impose outsized burdens on higher-income households. Even then, publicly-owned systems would face legal barriers (Prop. 218) from imposing water rates on



non-eligible customers that exceed the cost of serving those customers.

All these reasons and others are why the State Water Board has recommended the creation of a statewide low-income water rate assistance program, to help provide universal access to urgently needed water affordability assistance.

Existing Law

Existing law declares that as a matter of state policy, every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes (AB 685, 2012).

This Bill

SB 222 establishes the Water Affordability Assistance Program and related Water Affordability Assistance Fund (Fund) in the State Treasury.

SB 222 does not appropriate any funding. However, should money be appropriated in the future, authorized use of monies deposited in the Fund will include the following:

- Direct water bill assistance
- Water bill credits to renters,
- Water crisis assistance
- water efficiency measures for low-income households
- Short-term assistance to public water systems.

This bill requires the Board, in consultation with a specified advisory group to develop guidelines for Program implementation, fund oversight, and an expenditure plan containing enumerated components. The Fund expenditure plan would specifically identify the funding needs for disadvantaged communities and low-income households. If funding is appropriated prior to the adoption of an expenditure plan, the bill

directs the Board to allocate that funding to low-income households needing crisis assistance.

SB 222 requires investor and publicly owned utilities to share data with the Board pertaining to energy and utility customers enrolled in low-income affordability programs to facilitate enrollment for the low-income water rate assistance program.

Support

Clean Water Action

- Community Water Center
- Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
- California Coastkeeper Alliance
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- NextGen California
- PolicyLink
- Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles (PSR-LA)
- Union of Concerned Scientists

Opposition

None on File

Contact

Les Spahnn: leslie.spahnn@sen.ca.gov; 916-651-4505



COMMITTEE

DATE: February 18, 2021
TO: Public Outreach and Legislation Committee
FROM: Steve Cole
Assistant General Manager *SC*
SUBJECT: Discussion of Agency Resources for Plant Selection and Landscaping

SUMMARY

Per a request from the Public Outreach Committee, this item is brought forward to discuss the use of water efficient plants as an innovative and cost-effective conservation solution. At the SCV Water Board of Director's January 5th, 2021 meeting, a public comment was provided pertaining to the agency's "30 Hottest Plants Guide" noting inconsistent imaging and limited inclusion of native plants in the guide. As a result, agency staff received supplemental inquiry into the agency's use of native plants in its water use efficiency repertoire. In response, Conservation staff have developed a presentation to discuss current programs which utilize native plants and an overview to the committee on extensive research, evaluation, and findings recommended for improved program expression.

DISCUSSION

SCV Water's Lawn Replacement Program (LRP) was introduced during California's most recent drought in 2013 with the goal of providing customers with incentives to convert their turf grass lawns to water efficient plants with efficient irrigation equipment. During the peak of the drought, there was high customer participation in the program, but participation slowly declined after the drought ended. Considering decreasing program participation and in light of future water use efficiency requirements (AB 1686 and SB 606 – Conservation Long-Term Framework) Conservation identified a need to revamp, rebrand, and modify the current LRP in order to create a standing program that incentivizes customers to participate, even when a drought has not been declared. SCV Water partnered with a consultant to perform a thorough analysis on other agency LRPs to compare to SCV Water's current LRP and supporting resources, including the "30 Hottest Plant Guide." Interviews with local nurseries and contractors were conducted to address challenges and opportunities in the supply chain, and SCV Water customers were surveyed to gain insight on customer needs and interest in the program. This presentation will provide an overview of SCV Water's current Lawn Replacement Program, the comprehensive LRP analysis, identified findings and recommendations, and Conservation's proposed vision for the new LRP. Conservation is seeking committee feedback on the identified recommendations and vision for improving SCV Water's Lawn Replacement Program.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None at this current time.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is provided for informational purposes.

Attachment:

PowerPoint Presentation – Lawn Replacement Program Transformation Overview

Lawn Replacement Program (LRP) Transformation Overview





Table of Contents

1. Current Program Parameters
2. LRP Evaluation Overview
3. Recommendations & Vision
4. Committee Feedback
5. Proposed Path Forward



Turf Grass

Crop coefficient (K_c): 0.70

Higher water needs

Increased runoff and waste

Monoculture

Water Efficient Landscaping

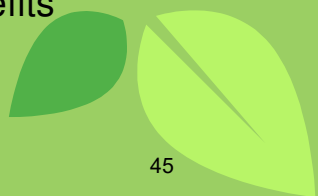
Crop coefficient (K_c): 0.30

Requires 40-60% less water

Decreased runoff

Water quality benefits

More biodiverse





1 Current Program Parameters

Coast Sunflower/ Coast Encelia
Encelia californica

Current Lawn Replacement Program

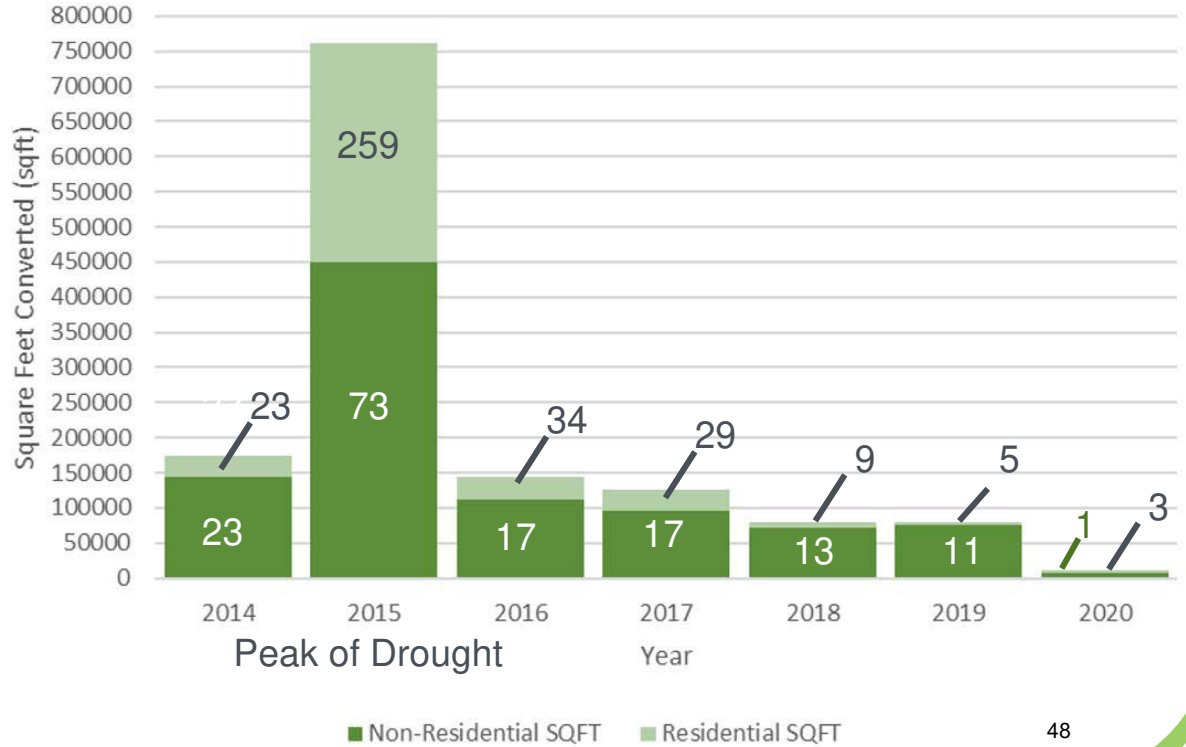


- 3 Incentives
 - Turf conversion: \$2/sqft (max. \$5,000)
 - Drip conversion: \$0.50/sqft (max. \$750)
 - Design assistance: \$150
- Requirements
 - Must be living grass, no artificial turf, 50% plant coverage at maturity, pre- and post-inspection
 - External: HOA, city permitting
- Supporting Material/Resources
 - Hottest 30 Plant Guide
 - Gardening Classes
 - WaterSmart Workshop
 - santaclaritagardens.com

Participation



Residential and Non-Residential LRP Participation





2. LRP Evaluation Overview



Scope

- External environmental scan
- Supply chain analysis
- Customer questionnaires
- Findings report

External Environmental Study

Best in class programs:

- Balance program requirements
- Provide personalized support
 - specifically design support
- Integrate supply chain
- Target market
- Make the process easy
- Offer choices
- Motivate by incentivizing



Supply Chain Analysis

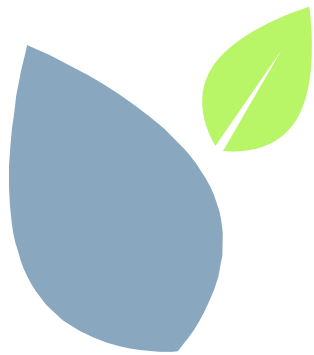
Contractor Interviews

- Contractors need support tools & marketing resources to sell
- Want to be on certified list
- Interested in training
- Like option to be paid directly

Local Nursery Interviews

- Plant availability at local nurseries is an issue
- Plants are not labeled
- Confusion regarding native plants
- Interested in cooperative marketing





LANDSCAPE QUALITY

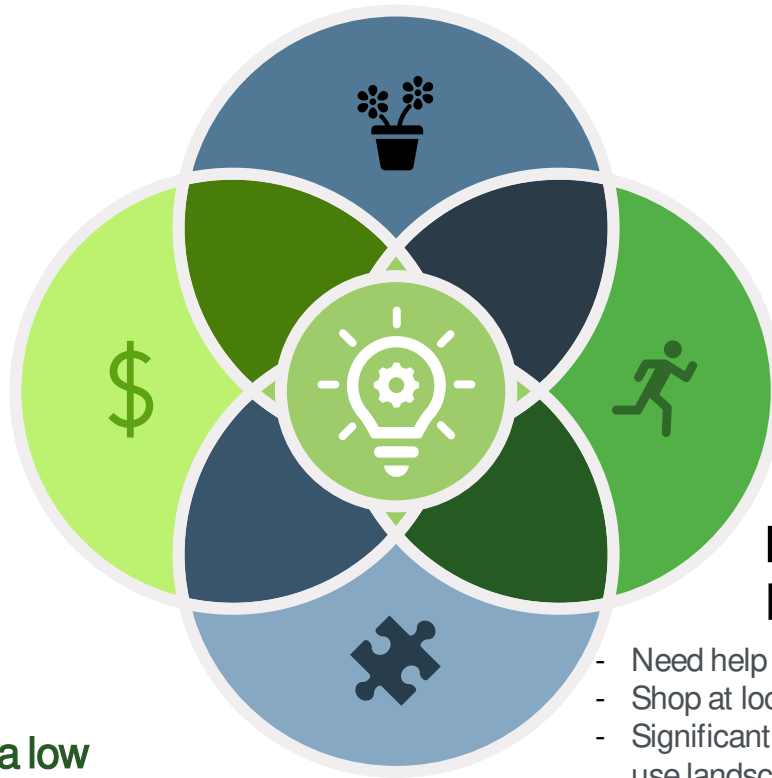
Beauty & appearance = most important



COST

Concerned about high cost

Majority of customers think a low water use landscape can be beautiful!



LANDSCAPE UTILITY

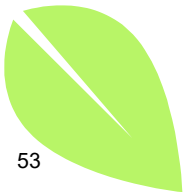


Place for children & pets to play = 2nd highest priority

KNOWLEDGE & RESOURCES



- Need help with design
- Shop at local nurseries
- Significant number think low water use landscape means cactus, gravel, and fake lawn
- Majority of customers did not know about LRP





3. Recommendations & Vision

Recommendations

Landscape Utility & Quality

- Rebrand and market new LRP
- Increase customer engagement

Cost

- Increase Lawn Replacement & Drip Rebates
 - Bonus Rebate Structure
 - Water retention features or majority native plants

Knowledge & Resources

- Supply chain partnerships
 - Nurseries, contractors, landscape designers (style guides/templates)
- Community partnerships
 - Example houses & tours, HOAs

Expand Plant Guide

- Current plant guide:
 - 3 SCV native plants
- Emphasis on native and California-friendly plants
- Non-invasives
- Promote biodiversity and habitat for local wildlife



Vision

- New LRP implementation
- Market transformation
 - Water efficient irrigation equipment
 - Native plants
- Demonstration gardens
 - Conservatory Garden remodel
 - Bridgeport Pocket Park & others
- New web page
 - Improved process & workflow for customers & staff
 - New resources incl. plant list tool
- Building partnerships in the community





4. Committee Feedback

Committee Feedback



Lawn Replacement Program

- Analysis
- Increased Rebates
 - Bonus Structure

Plant Guide

- More natives
- Promotes local biodiversity

Vision

- Supply Chain Partnerships
- Market Transformation
- Community Partnerships



5. Path Forward

Blue-Eyed Grass
Syrinchium bellum



Proposed Path Forward

1. Finalize LRP analysis
2. Action Plan & Schedule
3. Committee and board approval
4. Implementation



Matthew S. Dickens (Sustainability Manager)
Julia Grothe (Water Conservation Specialist I)
Maureen Erbeznik (Maureen Erbeznik & Associates)



Quarterly Dashboard Report
Q4: November 2020 - January 2021

Prepared by: Allison Torres



ITEM NO.
5.1

Quarterly Highlights

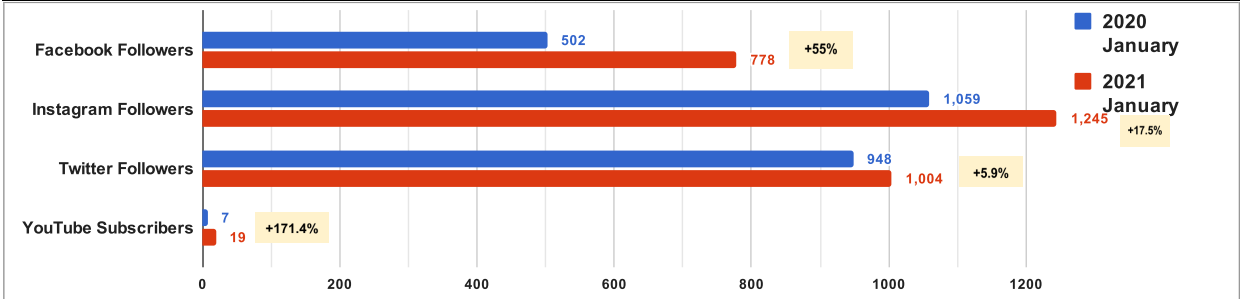
Quarterly Post Highlight

SCV Water
 Published by Tripepi Smith & Associates [?] · November 28, 2020 ·

After a fulfilling career teaching local students all about water, Water Conservation Education Specialist Cindy Brady, retired on October 27, 2020. In her 24 years with SCV Water, Cindy taught thousands of school-aged children the many facets of water. Perhaps you were one of them! Congratulations and happy retirement, Cindy!

- 322 People Reached
- 104 Engagements
- Overall, the reach and engagement metrics indicate followers' interest in agency staff updates.

FOLLOWERS / SUBSCRIBERS [1]	Facebook Followers	Instagram Followers	Twitter Followers	YouTube Subscribers
2020 January	502	1,059	948	7
2020 March	506	1,069	967	6
2020 June	671	1,150	1,004	13
2020 September	754	1,200	1,010	14
2020 December	768	1,230	1,009	18
2021 January [2]	778	1,245	1,004	19



NUMBER OF POSTS	Facebook	Instagram	Twitter [3]	YouTube
2019 Average [4]	15	12	13.4	0.2
January - March 2020 Total	61	63	74	0
April - June 2020 Total	50	41	50	5
July - September 2020 Total	41	79	71	1
October - December 2020 Total	93	70	80	2
January 2021	26	70	80	2

REACH [6]	Facebook	Instagram	Twitter	YouTube	TOTAL
2020 - January	3,663	4,660	9,993	204	18,520
February	7,388	3,958	9,352	259	20,957
March	15,444	6,970	14,109	310	36,833
April	6,850	2,853	8,661	503	18,867
May	3,012	4,052	3,931	564	11,559
June	3,868	89,159	2,179	540	95,746
July	8,384	3,553	2,077	966	14,980
August	2,336	2,379	1,584	730	7,029
September	2,777	3,374	1,572	528	8,251
October [7]	11,573	6,474	5,906	899	24,852
November	2,858	4,227	3,738	1,257	12,080
December	2,747	3,900	3,566	610	10,823
2021 - January	2,354	3,864	4,654	837	11,709

ENGAGEMENT [8]	Facebook	Instagram	Twitter	YouTube	TOTAL	
2020 - January	321		206	62	144	733
February	495		141	64	162	862
March	1,641		370	185	126	2,322
April	1,202		209	217	414	2,042
May	491		258	61	474	1,284
June	396		174	54	336	960
July	664		157	37	240	1,098
August	246		159	35	270	710
September	242		168	15	174	599
October	853		349	109	966	2,277
November	298		228	60	594	1,180
December	229		219	63	205	716
2021 - January	140		206	71	384	801
WEBSITE SESSIONS [9]						
	Total	Sessions from Facebook [10]	Sessions from Instagram [11]	Sessions from Twitter	TOTAL [12]	
2020 - January	21,230	304	5	4	313	
February	21,081	688	7	4	699	
March	21,641	220	5	4	229	
April	21,151	359	7	2	368	
May	22,109	147	3	7	157	
June	22,850	118	8	4	130	
July	24,122 [13]	100	0	1	101	
August	22,210	215	0	4	219	
September	25,783	141	0	1	142	
October	27,237	145	0	5	150	
November	24,215	136	0	9	145	
December	21,940	219	0	2	221	
2021 - January	21,980	322	0	4	326	

BOOSTED POSTS



Rejected · Created by Karen Villaseñor [View Results](#)

Event Responses

You're invited! Join us for SCV Water's first virtual Urba...



From November to January 2021, SCV Water boosted three posts on Facebook to promote its Groundwater Sustainability Workshop, Urban Water Planning Workshop and Water Shortage Contingency Plan Workshop. The three boosted posts reached 3,401 people and received 24 event responses. The total spent was \$75 averaging \$10.30 per event response. The boosted post for the Urban Water Planning Workshop ran for a couple days but was flagged and removed due to Facebook's strict ad policies during the November election. While this post was unable to finish the boosted post cycle, it still appears on the Facebook page.

TOP SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS (excluding boosted posts) from Nov. '20 - Jan. '21 [14]






Facebook [15]

11/04/2020 9:00 AM		VIRTUAL WORKSHOP TODAY! Join us from 4-6 p.m to learn about			199		7 9	
11/09/2020 9:00 AM		It's not one-size-fits-all! Different devices put out water at different			237		1 6	
11/13/2020 9:00 AM		Successful irrigation systems match your landscape with the			212		0 4	
11/28/2020 9:00 AM		After a fulfilling career teaching local students all about water,			322		63 41	
12/11/2020 9:00 AM		Looking for shrubs, groundcover or trees that work well in the SCV?			239		2 6	

Instagram (by Reach) [16]

 SCV WATER 207	 SCV WATER 205	 202
 START NOW! 180	 180	 179

Twitter [17]

 SCV Water @scv_water · Jan 21 As the pandemic progressed in 2020, SCV Water adapted its Conservation programs to meet people where they were – at home! Did you know that SCV Water conducted 972 residential water use efficiency check-ups? For more information, visit: ow.ly/Twkp50D9Y6B pic.twitter.com/EIENCNINsT <small>View Tweet activity</small>	791	8	1.0%	Promote
 SCV Water @scv_water · Jan 12 Do you know of all the ways we store and transport your water? In 2020, we had, 💧 98 water storage tanks 💧 163 million gallons storage capacity 💧 879 miles of pipeline We will continue to ensure your water is healthy and safe! pic.twitter.com/rBigLgBsNA <small>View Tweet activity</small>	731	11	1.5%	Promote
 SCV Water @scv_water · Jan 20 Did you know that in 2020, #SCVWater customers used over 20 billion gallons of water? That's about 63,484 acres in total! We will continue to ensure that your water is healthy and safe! pic.twitter.com/2ZmxY3g7E7 <small>View Tweet activity</small>	728	10	1.4%	Promote
 SCV Water @scv_water · Dec 7 We know the pandemic has created financial hardships for some customers. If this is you, and you've fallen behind on your bill, please call so we can work with you on a payment plan. Late fees and shut-offs are still suspended, but a payment plan can help avoid large balances. pic.twitter.com/jbbYZia44U <small>View Tweet activity</small>	601	11	1.8%	Promote
 SCV Water @scv_water · Dec 3 SCV Water is proud to announce that the Agency's ongoing communication efforts surrounding PFAS chemicals were honored with a PRISM Award from the Public Relations Society of America – Los Angeles Chapter. Read more about the award at ow.ly/DV8G50CuWpj pic.twitter.com/KENwvVSZ28 <small>View Tweet activity</small>	315	7	2.2%	Promote

Multi-Post Campaigns

Did You Know Facts 2020	1/7/20-Ongoing	4 posts so far
Monthly Gardening Tips	11/27/20-Ongoing	3 posts so far
Water Conservation Campaign	9/26/20-Ongoing	12 posts so far
Water Professionals Appreciation Week	10/3/20-10/10/20	4 posts
National Preparedness Month	9/1/20-9/30/20	4 posts
COVID-19 Staff Campaign	4/27/20-5/6/20	8 posts
COVID-19 Information	3/20/20-3/28/20	9 posts
Water Summit 2020	2/24/20-3/11/20	5 posts
DWR Shutdown	2/11/20-3/4/20	4 posts
Water Professionals Appreciation Week	10/7/19-10/11/19	16 posts

Tripepi Smith is on retainer to write 6 social media posts per week. Any post beyond that scope is considered ad hoc work.

[1] Facebook is currently working on an update that will remove Facebook Page Likes. When the update is complete, Facebook will only show Page Followers. Moving forward, this section will show Facebook Followers instead of Likes. Previous data has also been updated to show Followers.

[2] Since the SCV Water Communications meeting is in February 2021, the metrics for January 2021 are include to provide the agency with the most up-to-date report.

[3] You may notice that Twitter usually has more posts than any other platform. This is because of their character limit. When a post is more than 140 characters, we split the post up into a threaded Tweet, but each of these count as a post.

[4] These totals are a calculated average for all of the posts during August - December 2019.

[5] Tripepi Smith began a renewed engagement where we post six times a week. The jump in the number of posts is due to the renewed engagement.

[6] Facebook Reach: The number of unique people who saw your post.

Instagram Reach: The number of unique people who saw your post.

Twitter Impressions: The number of times a Tweet shows up in somebody's timeline.

YouTube Impressions: How many times your thumbnails were shown to viewers on youtube.com

[7] The increase in Reach and Engagement across platforms is due to Tripepi Smith's renewed engagement with SCV Water which calls for six posts per week instead of three. This will create a new baseline for us as we continue to collect metrics.

[8] Facebook Engagement: calculated based on the number of likes, comments, shares, and clicks your posts are generating.

Instagram Engagement: Anytime a user likes or comments on one of your posts.

Twitter Engagement: Total number of times users interacted with a Tweet (clicks anywhere on the Tweet including Retweets, replies, follows, likes, links, cards, hashtags, embedded media, username, profile photo, or Tweet expansion).

YouTube Watch Time: The amount of time that a viewer has watched a video. This gives you a sense of what content viewers actually watch (as opposed to videos that they click on and then abandon).

[9] Session: A session is the period time a user is actively engaged with your website, app, etc. All usage data (Screen Views, Events, Ecommerce, etc.) is associated with a session.

[10] Sessions data from Facebook, Instagram and Twitter signifies how many times each platform drives traffic to the website. For example, if a user clicks on SCV Water's website link through the Facebook page, that data is collected.

[11] Linktree only allows data to be capture by Google Analytics under the "Linktree Pro" account. This change was announced April 2020 to be in affect by June 2020. SCV Water does not have a Pro account, hence there are no metrics calculated.

[12] Website Total Sessions from Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

[13] For the November 2020 Dashboard Report, Tripepi Smith has updated the website sessions number for July 2020, previously 9,627, to a more accurate number. The previous number reflected incomplete data due to new a "View" created in Google Analytics to filter out website traffic from staff. The new View did not begin capturing data until mid-July therefore was not an accurate source of website traffic for that month. The new number for July 2020 is from an old "View" that does not filter out staff traffic.

[14] SCV Water's top posts varied across platforms from November 2020 to January 2021. Across Facebook and Twitter, engagement was high with educational content such as landscaping inspiration tips and water conservation tips. On Instagram, agency updates such as winning awards, received high engagement.

[15] The top posts for Facebook shows that followers interact the most with event updates and educational information such as landscaping tips.

[16] The top posts for Instagram shows that followers interact most with Agency updates such as highlighting achievements or departments.

[17] The top posts for this quarter shows that Twitter Followers interact the most with educational content and SCV Water agency updates, such as the Did You Know Facts campaign.



LEGISLATION TRACKING
Letters of Support/Opposition

ITEM NO. 5.2

Date	Bill/Initiative	Title	Stand	Notes	Leg. Policy*	Status
2/7/2020	Water Resilience Exec. Order N-10-19	Comments on draft resilience portfolio	Support	Signed on to coalition letter to Nancy Vogel, Director of the Governor's Water Portfolio Program on the resilience portfolio in development. Specifically addresses topics including water storage, conveyance, flood management, regulation and planning and others	2.0, 5.0	Letter sent
2/7/2020	Water Resilience Exec. Order N-10-19	Comments on draft resilience portfolio	Support	Also sent our own letter to Ms. Vogel, with similar points.	2.0, 5.0	Letter sent
4/20/2020	AB 2182 (Rubio)	Emergency Backup Generators: Water & Wastewater Facilities	Support	Sent our own letter to Chair, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources Laura Friedman	3.0	Letter sent
4/20/2020	SB 1099 (Dodd)	Emergency Backup Generators: Critical Facilities Exemption	Support	Sent our own letter to Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee Ben Allen	3.0	Letter sent
5/28/2020	S. 3811 (Feinstein)	Restoration of Essential Conveyance Act, legislation that would authorize federal funding to repair critical water supply infrastructure associated with the Ca. Aqueduct	Support	Sent our own thank you letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein	2.0	Letter sent
6/9/2020	S. 2044	Comments to support the inclusion of section 2 of S. 2044, the Water Supply Infrastructure Rehabilitation & Utilization Act as an amendment to S. 3422 the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA)	Support	Sent our own letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein and Senator Kamala Harris	7.0	Letter sent
6/29/2020	H.R.2 (Moving Forward Act)	Amendment to H.R. 2 "Moving Forward Act"	Support	Sent our own thank you letter to Congressman Mike Garcia	9.0	Letter sent
7/7/2020	SB 1044 (Allen)	Firefighting Equipment & Foam which prohibits the use of PFAS chemicals	Support	Sent our own letter requesting Governor Newsom Signature	10.0	Letter sent 9/3/20
7/7/2020	AB 2560 (Quirk)	Amends CA Safe Drinking Water Act to require SWRCB to comply with specified public notice/comment procedures when revising (most) NLS and RLS	Support	Sent our own letter requesting Governor Newsom Signature	6.0	Bill passed. Enrolled 9/1/2020 - Sent letter to Governor 9/3/20
7/21/2020	AB 1720 (Carrillo)	Long Duration Energy Storage Procurement	Oppose Unless Amended	Signed on to coalition letter to Assembly Member Wendy Carrillo. CPUC also filed opposition.	3.0	Letter sent. 8/3 hearing postponed by committee
7/24/2020	EPA WaterSense Program	Response to EPA announcement that after a review of product performance criteria, they were not making any changes in specifications, and to consider adding consumer satisfaction to the specifications.	Support of the WaterSense program	Signed on to coalition letter from The Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE)	5.0	Letter sent
8/7/2020	AB 3030 (Kalra)	Comments to oppose unless amended with ACWA's recommendations	Oppose Unless Amended	Signed on to coalition letter to Senator Henry Stern	7.0	Letter sent. 8/19 - placed on suspense file
9/3/2020	SB1386 (Moorlach)	Protect fire hydrant system funding and ensure public water suppliers can operate water systems to supply their customers & to fight fires	Support	Sent our own letter requesting Governor Newsom Signature	9.0	Letter sent 9/3/20
12/3/2020	Surplus Land Act Draft Guidelines	Comments to oppose unless amended with CSDA's recommendations	Oppose Unless Amended	Sent our own letter Ca. Dept of Housing and Community Development	11.0	Letter sent 12/3/20

* Reference to applicable section of Legislative Policy Guidelines
Updated: Feb 9, 21
Represents changes since last distribution.

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY GRANT SUMMARY									ITEM NO. 5.3
Grant	Start Date	End Date	# of SCVWA Projects within Grant	SCV Water Project Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Funding	Required Funding Match (Non-State/Federal Share)	Other Non-State/Federal Share	% Grant Share Billed on Funder Approved Invoices*
DWR Prop 84 Round 1 Implementation	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	57%
DWR Prop 84 Round 2 Implementation	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
DWR Prop 84 2014 Drought Grant	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
DWR Prop 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning	12/5/2018	12/31/2022	2	a. Grant Administration b. Planning Activities	\$ 2,047,434	\$ 1,307,265	\$ 740,169		35%
DWR Prop 1 Round 1 IRWM Implementation <i>(Preliminary Award)</i>	N/A	N/A	2	1. Grant Administration 2. Recycle Water Phase 2C	\$ 9,124,450	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 4,880,005	\$ 1,154,445	0%

*Based on Funder approved invoices. Receipt of payment may be delayed in Funder's normal course of business.

APPLICATIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION								
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)
WaterSMART Drought Response Program BOR-DO-20-F002	TBD	TBD	1	Saugus Wells 3 & 4 Equipment and Site Improvement Project	\$ 3,744,829	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 744,829
WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants BOR-DO-21-F001	TBD	TBD	1	Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project (SCV Water Phase 1)	\$ 3,475,860	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,475,860
Community Power Resiliency Allocation - Special Districts Program - CalOES subaward	TBD	TBD	1	Generator Replacement at Earl Schmidt Filtration Plan	\$ 249,854	\$ 249,854	\$ -	

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	JAN 2022
Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) Application	Very low interest, long term loan program for funding capital improvement projects related to safe drinking water. The Agency is pursuing DWSRF loan funding for future phases of PFAS remediation projects.	FEB 2021	JUN 2021
Crosswalk for Recycled Water	Collect, analyze and review existing Agency documentation (and determine additional documentation needs) to meet application requirements of federal WIIN Act funding for Phases 2A and 2C Recycled Water Projects.	JAN 2021	Ongoing
Grant and DWSRF Funding (LARC Ranch Project)	Resulting from SCV Water's installation of the LARC Ranch Pipeline (serving a Disadvantaged Community), the Agency gained eligibility to apply for a \$1M grant and a \$10M DWSRF 0% interest loan for an eligible incentive project(s) of our choosing. Selection of the incentive project(s) is in process.	Est. for Application APR 2021	TBD

Last Update: 2/10/2021



SPONSORSHIP TRACKING FY JULY 2020 - JULY 2021

**ITEM NO.
5.4**

Updated: Feb 9, 2021

Agency Name	Event	Event Date	Event Location	Reg. Fee	Committed	Paid	Sponsorship
ACWA	2020 Summer Conference	May 5-8, 2020 (RESCHEDULED: July 28-31, 2020)	VIRTUAL	\$350		\$2,500	(ACWA transitioning to new virtual sponsorship options: added another \$500 and sponsored Thursday closing keynote E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, SWRCB & Director Karla Nemeth, CA DWR) Wed: Ice Cream Break \$2000
Urban Water Institute (UWI)	Informative Discussion with Felicia Marcus & Pat Mulroy	Aug 19, 2020	VIRTUAL			\$500	Listed on the UWI website, Zoom call and invitation as a sponsor, Name recognition on the call, A small ad in the monthly UWI newsletter, one participate can attend on all future Zoom Calls until end of 2020 at no charge
Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development & College of the Canyons (SCVEDC)	2020 Economic Outlook	Mar 12, 2020 (RESCHEDULED: Sept 17, 2020)	VIRTUAL	FREE		\$1,100	(VIRTUAL SPONSORSHIP: Q & A style article with me highlighting you or your company that will be posted on our blog and promoted on our social channels and via our eblasts, a full page ad with company recognition in the Santa Clarita Valley Business Journal, continued promotion of your company's sponsorship through our social media channels & on our website) Bronze: 2 reserved complimentary tickets to event at a sponsor table; Business card size color ad in Forecast program book; Company promotion through electronic and social media event marketing; Company logo in event presentation
SCV Chamber	State of the County Luncheon	May 15, 2020 (RESCHEDULED Aug 5, 2020; RESCHEDULED 2021)		\$75		\$1,500	Bronze Sponsor: 4 complimentary tickets, social media recognition, sponsor recognition in all marketing. Credit carried forward to 2021
CSDA	2020 Annual Conference	Aug 24-27, 20 (CANCELED)	Palm Desert	\$675			Sponsorship of Morning Coffee Station & 2/3rd page ad in the 50th Anniversary commemorative program - initial cost \$2,000
AWA	Annual Member & Elected Officials Reception	Sept 17, 20 (CANCELLED)	Ronald Reagan Presidential Library	Free to members			Representative Sponsor: Listing on invitation & event program, agency name on signage
SCV Chamber	Legislative Leaders Forum	TBD	Hyatt Valencia	N/A	\$1,000		Gold Sponsor: 6 reserved seats, logo placement on all event marketing materials, recognition in media and press
Urban Water Institute (UWI)	Informative Discussion with Jeff Kightlinger	Oct 21, 2020	VIRTUAL	\$25		\$500	Listed on the UWI website, Zoom call and invitation as a sponsor, Name recognition on the call, A small ad in the monthly UWI newsletter
AWA	25 Yrs. of Water Leadership Award Recipients	Oct 22, 2020	VIRTUAL	Free to members		\$500	Agency name on the program invitation, show it to attendees during the event, and place on AWA's website
Santa Clarita Environmental Education Consortium (SCEEC)	Green STEM	Nov 2020	College of the Canyons (VIRTUAL)	N/A		\$2,000	The event provides high school and college students with exposure to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) concepts, but with sustainability as a key focus. The Water Technology program at COC is one of the featured programs. (Decreasing from previous Family of Water sponsorship of \$5000)
ACWA	2020 Fall Conference	Dec 2-3, 2020	VIRTUAL			\$2,500	Sponsoring Wednesday Opening Keynote, with recognition as a sponsor during the keynote; logo and link to website during the presentation located in the sponsors box

Agency Name	Event	Event Date	Event Location	Reg. Fee	Committed	Paid	Sponsorship
Maven's Notebook	2021 Weekly E-blast	2021				\$5,000	Gold Sponsors: organizations receive a one-year subscription to Maven's Weekly Water Blast; one-year to California Water Library; recognized with large logo linked to organization's website. Renews annually
Valley Industry Assn (VIA)	Monthly Luncheon Event	Jan - Dec 2021	VIRTUAL			1,500.00	Gold Sponsor: Prepaid lunches for one year (one seat) 12 months participation in VIA pop banner program; recognition as a luncheon sponsor at each luncheon form stage & logo; luncheon presentation package inserts opportunity for 12 months
Urban Water Institute (UWI)	2021 Spring Conference	Feb 17-18, 2021	VIRTUAL			1,500.00	Gold Sponsor: Company logo listed in all promotional materials; logo on program; logo displayed during reception; priority position on conference landing page - includes brief company bio, link to website, contact info, video; small ad in UWI monthly newsletter; 2 conference registrations
ACWA	DC Virtual Conference	Feb 24, 2021	VIRTUAL			1,500.00	Virtual Menu: Company logo is placed as a rotating pop-up box that is visible on any page.
Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corporation (SCVEDC)	2021 Economic Outlook Spring & Fall Event	Mar 26 and Sept 17	VIRTUAL			1,100.00	Bronze Sponsor: 2 complimentary tickets to the spring virtual event, and 2 in-person* tickets plus 2 virtual tickets to the fall event. Business card size color ad in fall Economic Outlook Book. Company promotion through electronic and social media event marketing Company logo in event presentations
San Joaquin Valley Water (SJV)	Nonprofit news site https://sjvwater.org/news/	March - August 2021				\$300	SJV Water will include a banner at the right hand side of their home page and news pages alerting the public to a company's good work or upcoming event for a limited time and for a fee based on web traffic defined as monthly page views.
			Committed			\$1,300	
			Paid			\$21,700	
			Subtotal			\$23,000	
			FY20/21 Budget			\$20,000	
			Bal Remaining			-\$3,000	



**PUBLIC OUTREACH AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR FY 2020-2021**

**ITEM NO.
5.5**

July 16, 2020 Committee – VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Public Information Officer Activities:
 - Monthly Outreach Matrix
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2019/20 and FY 2020/21
 - Public Outreach Event Calendar 2020
 - Committee Planning Calendar 2020

August 20, 2020 Committee – VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Public Information Officer Activities:
 - Quarterly Social Media Report from Consultant Tripepi Smith
 - Monthly Outreach Matrix
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2020/21
 - Public Outreach Event Calendar 2020
 - Committee Planning Calendar 2020
3. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Apply for Grant Funding Under the Federal Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart Water Energy Efficiency Grant Program (WEEG) for an Automated Metering Infrastructure Project
4. Discussion of the RFP for New Website Design and Development
5. General Update on Virtual Outreach Efforts

September 1, 2020 – Board

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Apply for Grant Funding Under the Federal Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart Water Energy Efficiency Grant Program (WEEG) for an Automated Metering Infrastructure Project
2. Approve RFP for New Website Design and Development

September 17, 2020 Committee – VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Public Information Officer Activities:
 - Monthly Outreach Matrix
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2020/21
 - Public Outreach Event Calendar 2020
 - Committee Planning Calendar 2020
3. Overview of Outreach Efforts

October 15, 2020 Committee – VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Public Information Officer Activities:
 - Monthly Outreach Matrix
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2020/21
 - Public Outreach Event Calendar 2020



**PUBLIC OUTREACH AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR FY 2020-2021**

- Committee Planning Calendar FY 2020/21

November 19, 2020 Committee – VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Kennedy/Jenks Consultants to Provide Grant Administration Services for the Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant
3. Public Information Officer Activities:
 - Quarterly Social Media Report from Consultant Tripepi Smith
 - Monthly Outreach Matrix
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2020/21
 - Public Outreach Event Calendar 2020
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2020/21

December 1, 2020 - Board Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Kennedy/Jenks Consultants to Provide Grant Administration Services for the Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant

December 17, 2020 Committee – CANCELLED

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Public Information Officer Activities:
 - Monthly Outreach Matrix
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2020/21
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2020/21

January 21, 2021 Committee – VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Review of Agency's Legislative Platform
3. Discussion of Consolidated Communications Efforts
4. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Monthly Outreach Matrix
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2020/21
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2020/21

February 2, 2021 - Board Meeting

1. Approve Adoption of the Agency's 2021 Legislative Platform



**PUBLIC OUTREACH AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR FY 2020-2021**

February 18, 2021 Committee – VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Discussion of Water Affordability Assistance Programs
3. Discussion of Agency Resources for Plant Selection and Landscaping
4. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Quarterly Social Media Report from Consultant Tripepi Smith
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2020/21
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2020/21

March 18, 2021 Committee – VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2020/21
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2020/21

April 15, 2021 Committee – VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Quarterly Outreach Maxtrix
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2020/21
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2020/21

May 20, 2021 Committee – VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Quarterly Social Media Report from Consultant Tripepi Smith
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2020/21
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2020/21

June 17, 2021 Committee – VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Legislative Consultant Reports
2. Communications Manager Activities:
 - Legislative Tracking
 - Grant Status Report
 - Sponsorship Tracking FY 2020/21
 - Committee Planning Calendar FY 2020/21