

RWA Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy Program 2016 Work Plan

Introduction

The 2016 Work Plan prepares RWA for the upcoming legislative session and further advances the RWA Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy Program in a manner consistent with the Advocacy Platform agreed upon by the RWA Board. The Work Plan anticipates a balanced approach between the inherent urgency of the legislative process and a reasonably paced advancement of RWA's long-term efforts towards a successful and prominent advocacy program. In developing the Work Plan, expectations have been tempered based on the knowledge that our resource limitations can be overwhelmed by the predictably, unpredictable legislative process and the State's precarious water situation.

The Work Plan stays focused on the Priority Issues outlined in the Advocacy Platform and is consistent with RWA's desire to increase its advocacy role on statewide water issues.

Advocacy Platform Priority Issues:

- Ensure a Diverse, Resilient, and Reliable Water Supply
- Protect the Water Rights and Entitlements of RWA Member Agencies
- Maximize Funding Opportunities Beneficial to RWA Member Agencies
- Promote Balanced Statewide Water Management Solutions Beneficial to the Greater Sacramento Region
- Promote Water Efficiency and Water Conservation
- Support Stewardship of the Region's Environmental Resources

The 2016 Work Plan concentrates on three target areas: legislative advocacy, regulatory advocacy, and business development. The Work Plan will be useful in directing the efforts of RWA staff and members towards achieving a reasonable set of desired outcomes that will serve as steppingstones for subsequent efforts.

The 2016 Work Plan

The 2016 Legislative Session

The 2016 Work Plan will include reviewing, analyzing, monitoring and engaging in priority legislation either carried over from the 2015 legislative session or introduced as part of the 2016 legislative session. The legislative session starts with the introduction of new bills in the January to February timeframe and culminates with bills being sent to the Governor in September. The activity leading up to the Governor's consideration will be consumed with active advocacy and

coalition building to persuade bill authors and committees to support positions taken by RWA and allied organizations.

Proactive Advocacy

The proactive component of the Work Plan is intended to better position RWA for positive outcomes consistent with the common good of the region as expressed in the Strategic Plan and the Advocacy Platform. A table is attached describing the advocacy goals, target audiences, objectives, and activities contemplated. Below is an outline version of these anticipated efforts.

- *Legislative Advocacy* - the main goal of the 2016 legislative advocacy will be to maximize funding opportunities for RWA member agencies. The plan will focus on the following areas:
 - Secure Proposition 1 funding for infrastructure, water efficiency and water conservation
 - Advocate for additional state funding for turf replacement
 - Prepare for and participate in the State budget process
 - Develop policy for potential public goods charge and proactively engage in enabling legislation
- *Regulatory Advocacy* – the main efforts in the regulatory arena will be to ensure the region’s water supply reliability and promote balanced statewide solutions that benefit the region.
 - Assure favorable implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
 - Assure reasonable and effective approach to drought response and post-drought expectations, including the consideration of the region’s climate, land use patterns, and non-consumptive use of water.
 - Engage in discussions to assure positive outcomes from any changes to Folsom and CVP operations plans
- *Business Development (Enhancing RWA Advocacy Profile)*
 - Develop an inventory of RWA relationships and contacts to be used strategically for purposes of maximizing our advocacy efforts
 - Develop/update/revise narratives and compile advocacy binder
 - Conduct tours for target audiences
 - Legislators and their staff
 - Regulators
 - Other water agencies
 - Host roundtable discussions to further the understanding of RWA and it’s member agencies
 - Continue to build positive relationships with:
 - State officials
 - Local elected official
 - Media
 - Allied agencies such as Northern California Water Association and East Bay Municipal Utility District