

Regional Water Authority – Legislative Hot List – 2016 (May 16 Version)

RWA’s Legislative Hot List provides the summary and status of significant legislation followed by RWA’s Advocacy Program. The Hot List includes bills determined to be of High or Medium priority using the decision matrix included in the Legislative Platform and/or input from the Lobbyist Subscription Program Committee. For more information on a specific bill, please contact Soyla Fernandez, Hector Fernandez or Dave Brent.

RWA – Hot Bill Legislation (New Bills)	Position	Status
<p>AB 1555 (Gomez D) <i>Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: This bill would potentially benefit RWA’s efforts to provide State funding for turf replacement and other water efficiency tools.</p> <p>This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation to appropriate \$800 million from the GGRF for the 2016/17 fiscal year, for among other things, \$100 million to DWR for turf and toilet replacement programs and \$10 million for an energy efficient groundwater pump replacement program.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p>	<p>Introduced: 1/4/16</p> <p>Amended on 3/28 (summary reflects amendments)</p> <p>Re-Referred to Budget Com on 5/4</p>
<p>AB 1585 (Alejo D) <i>Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: For consideration, does RWA want to take positions on earmark funding issues?</p> <p>This bill would allocate \$25 million from an unspecified source to the MCWR Agency for the purpose of constructing a water conveyance tunnel between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio to reduce flooding, maximize runoff capture and reduce saltwater intrusion.</p>	<p>Watch</p>	<p>Introduced: 1/6/16</p> <p>Amended on 4/4 Referred to Appr. Com. Suspense File on 4/27</p>
<p>AB 1587 (Mathis R) <i>Groundwater: subsidence abatement.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: Two things, first is the “earmark” issue and second is the proposal to streamline groundwater recharge during droughts and floods. (As of 4/14, the bill has been amended to remove the streamlining provision)</p> <p>This bill contains two provisions of interest. The first issue is a provision that would appropriate \$50M of the \$100M authorized in Prop 1 for groundwater resource planning for those projects that would create groundwater recharge basins in areas of fallow farmland.</p> <p>ACWA Not Favor because the \$50M appropriation is an amendment to Prop. 1.</p>	<p>Watch</p>	<p>Introduced: 1/6/16</p> <p>Amended on 3/15 and again on 4/14</p> <p>Referred to Appr. Com. Suspense File on 4/27</p>

RWA – Hot Bill Legislation (New Bills)	Position	Status
<p><i>AB 1588 (Mathis R) Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant Program.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: This bill offers an alternative source of funding (i.e., the General Fund) for low income assistance programs. Consistent with our “Public Goods Policy”.</p> <p>This bill would require the State Board to establish a program to provide low-interest loans and grants to eligible, low income homeowners for specified purposes related to drinking water and wastewater treatment. Creates the “Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant Fund” and provides \$20M from the General Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the State Board for the program.</p>	Watch	<p>Introduced: 1/6/16</p> <p>Amended 3/16 – added co-authors Cannella and Vidak</p> <p>Referred to Appr. Com. Suspense File on 4/4</p>
<p><i>AB 1649 (Salas D) Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014: water storage projects.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: The bill attempts to confirm the commitment of the Legislature to ensure Prop 1 funding and construction of qualified, surface water storage projects. Importantly, it also greases the skids for Temperance Flat Dam and Sites Reservoir which could probably be considered earmarks and a change to Prop 1’s intent of having qualified projects compete for funding.</p> <p>While these reservoirs are consistent with RWA priorities and principals related to “Statewide Balanced Management Solutions Beneficial to the Greater Sacramento Region”, they may be counter to our stance on “earmarks”.</p> <p>ACWA Opposed – due to earmark of specific projects counter to Prop 1 principles</p>	Watch	<p>Introduced: 1/12/16</p> <p>Amended 3/17 and 4/5</p> <p>Referred to Appr. Com. Suspense File on 4/27</p>
<p><i>AB 1716 (McCarty D) Lower American River Conservancy</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: The LAR Conservancy would include local representation plus State officials including, Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, and the directors of Finance, Fish and Wildlife, and Parks and Recreation. Also would include appointees from the Governor, Senate Rules Committee, and the Assembly Speaker.</p> <p>This bill would establish in the Natural Resources Agency the Lower American River Conservancy to receive and expend proceeds from bonds or other appropriations for the benefit of the American River Parkway. The bill would create the LAR Conservancy Fund in the State Treasury, and would specify that moneys in the fund shall be available, upon appropriation, for the purposes of the conservancy.</p>	Support	<p>Introduced: 1/27/16</p> <p>Amendment on 4/26 - favorable to our Support position</p> <p>Referred to Appr. Com. Suspense File on 5/4</p>

RWA – Hot Bill Legislation (New Bills)	Position	Status
<p><i>AB 1749 (Mathis R) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: recycled water pipelines.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: As noted by ACWA, the original bill was part of the Trailer Bill process (SB 88) that included the water system consolidation issue. RWA was opposed to both the TB process and the consolidation component of SB 88. The bill itself is helpful.</p> <p>This bill extends the sunset of a CEQA exemption for construction of recycled water pipelines and related infrastructure, including related groundwater replenishment projects, approved or carried out before July 1, 2017. Exemption is repealed January 1, 2018 or the end of Governor's declared drought emergency, whichever occurs first.</p> <p>This bill has become a very specific and short-term. Not sure it is important to RWA anymore. Recommend removing from Hot List.</p>		<p>Introduced: 2/2/16</p> <p>Amended 3/28 and 4/27</p> <p>Calendar: 5/18 – Appr. Com.</p>
<p><i>AB 1755 (Dodd D) The Open and Transparent Water Data Act.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: As the title implies, this bill is attempting to upgrade the State's collection, management, and transparency of water data, including pending and previous water transfer information. Recommend that RWA work through ACWA on this and AB 2304 (Levine).</p> <p>This bill would enact the Open and Transparent Water Data Act. The act would require the DWR to establish a public benefit corporation that would create and manage (1) a statewide water information accounting system to improve the ability of the state to meet the growing demand for water supply reliability and healthy ecosystems, that, among things, would integrate existing water data information from multiple databases and (2) an online water transfer information clearinghouse for water transfer information that would include, among other things, a database of historic water transfers and transfers pending responsible agency approval and a public forum to exchange information on water market issues.</p> <p>Reviewing May 11 amendments.</p> <p>ACWA Support if Amended – working with author to align bill with ACWA's BoD recommendations</p>	<p>WATCH</p>	<p>Introduced: 2/2/16</p> <p>Met w/ Dodd's chief of staff on 3/23. It appears bill will a preferred alternative to AB 2304</p> <p>Amended on 4/5 and 5/11</p> <p>Referred to Appr. Com. on 5/14</p> <p>Reviewing May 11 amendments</p>

RWA – Hot Bill Legislation (New Bills)	Position	Status
<p><i>AB 1925 (Chang R) Desalination: statewide goal.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: One of several desalination related bills. This one would establish annual production goals for 2025 and 2030. This would be consistent with RWA Priorities and Policy Principles if increased use of desalination by exporters reduce dependency on Delta supplies, as it should,</p> <p>If desalination in the State does become more of a priority, RWA will need to keep an eye on funding sources and assure that the beneficiary pays principles are upheld.</p> <p>ACWA Favor if Amended</p>	Watch	<p>Introduced: 2/12/16</p> <p>Appr. Com. – May 4 hearing cancelled by Com.</p>
<p><i>AB 1989 (Jones R) Water, energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions</i></p> <p>As gutted and amended on March 14, this bill would require the State Water Board, in coordination with the California Energy Commission (CEC), the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), and DWR, to develop and implement a grant and low-interest loan program for water projects that result in the net reduction of water-related GHG emissions.</p> <p>ACWA Favor if Amended – change lead agency to DWR</p>	Watch	<p>Introduced: 2/16/16</p> <p>Gut and Amended on 3/14/16.</p> <p>Further amended 3/30/16 – removed the \$200 million annual and continuous GGF appropriation</p> <p>Referred to Appr. Com. Suspense File on 5/11</p>
<p><i>AB 2040 (Melendez R) Outdoor Water Efficiency Act of 2016: personal income tax credits: outdoor water efficiency.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: A tax credit for water efficiency improvements that would be consistent with RWA Priority Issues and Policy Principles. However, the bill would require local agency involvement.</p> <p>This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, and before January 1, 2021, would allow a credit equal to 25% of the amount paid or incurred by a qualified taxpayer for water-efficiency improvements, as defined, on qualified real property in this state, as specified.</p>	Watch	<p>Introduced: 2/17/16</p> <p>Amended on 4/6 and re-referred to Com. on Rev and Tax – changed dates as noted</p> <p>Approved by Rev. and Tax Com. on 5/12</p> <p>Referred to Appr. Com</p> <p>Calendar: 5/16 - Second Reading File</p>

RWA – Hot Bill Legislation (New Bills)	Position	Status
<p><i>AB 2099 (Stone, Mark D) Safe drinking water assistance program.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: In its current form, this bill hits the mark by providing assistance to low income households without depending on a PGC on water ratepayers. The bill specifically requires the State Department of Social Services to establish a safe drinking water assistance program and fund it with existing resources. We need to keep an eye on it for amendments that would utilize a PGC. AB 2099 provides temporary relief to struggling families who live in homes with inadequate drinking water supplies by offsetting the cost of purchasing water during the interim wait for long-term water supply infrastructure upgrades. The measure allows impoverished families who live in a community or home with insufficient, contaminated, or otherwise unsafe drinking water supplies to access a small supplemental cash benefit for purchasing water.</p> <p>ACWA Watch</p>	Watch	<p>Introduced: 2/17/16</p> <p>Amended 3/28 and again on 4/14</p> <p>Referred to Appr. Com. Suspense File – 5/11</p>
<p><i>AB 2304 (Levine D) California Water Market Exchange.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: This bill attempts to do a lot in managing water transfers. Key concerns for RWA include 1) the establishment of the Ca. Water Market Exchange, a 5-member board, four appointed by the Governor; 2) would this be funded by a PGC? and 3) provisions that might limit an “open market” for transfers. Recommend that RWA work through ACWA on this and AB 1755 (Dodd).</p> <p>Would establish the California Water Market Exchange, governed by a 5-member board, in the Natural Resources Agency. This bill would require the market exchange, on or before December 31, 2017, to create a centralized water market platform on its Internet Web site that provides ready access to information about water available for transfer or exchange.</p> <p>Reviewing amendments (AB 1755 appears more reasonable and practical)</p> <p>ACWA Support if Amended</p>	Watch	<p>Introduced: 2/18/16</p> <p>Amended 5/11</p> <p>Referred to Appr. Com. on 5/12</p>

RWA – Hot Bill Legislation (New Bills)	Position	Status
<p><i>AB 2480 (Bloom D) Source watersheds: maintenance and repair.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: The stipulation that source watersheds would be eligible for financing on an equivalent basis with other water infrastructure may mean this “spot bill” will become another vehicle for a PGC. RWA should keep an active eye on this bill.</p> <p>Would declare it to be state policy that source watersheds are recognized and defined as integral components of California's water system. The bill would also declare that their maintenance and repair are eligible for financing on an equivalent basis with other water collection and treatment infrastructure.</p> <p>ACWA Not Favor Unless Amended</p>	Watch	<p>Introduced: 2/19/16</p> <p>Amended: 3/17 – no longer a spot bill</p> <p>Potential PGC candidate</p> <p>Referred to Appr. Com. Suspense File – 5/11</p>
<p><i>AB 2525 (Holden D) Water-efficient landscaping.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: This bill would encourage local agencies to incentivize water efficient landscapes. It also creates the Water Efficient Landscaping Fund that provides funding for turf replacement and other water efficiency measures for low-income and disadvantaged communities. The presumption is the Fund would be part of a PGC.</p> <p>Would require the DWR to create the California Water Efficient Landscaping Program for the purpose of encouraging local agencies and water purveyors to use economic incentives that promote the efficient use of water, promote the benefits of consistent landscape ordinances, and support and enhance turf replacement. This bill would create the Water Efficient Landscaping Fund and provide that moneys in the fund are available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the department for certain purposes.</p> <p>ACWA Watch</p>	Watch	<p>Introduced: 2/19/16</p> <p>Amended on 4/5</p> <p>Referred to Appr. Com. Suspense File – 5/11</p>
<p><i>AB 2551 (Gallagher R) Surface storage: design-build contracts.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest:</p> <p>Would authorize certain surface storage projects that receive Proposition 1 funding to use the design-build method of project delivery.</p>	Watch	<p>Introduced: 2/19/16</p> <p>Amended 4/5</p> <p>Calendar: Appr. Com. – 5/18</p> <p>Recommend we remove from Hot List</p>

RWA – Hot Bill Legislation (New Bills)	Position	Status
<p><i>ACA 8 (Bloom D) Local government financing: water facilities and infrastructure: voter approval.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: This measure attempts to add a tool to the toolbox water agencies can use for funding needed infrastructure projects. Specifically, it would exempt bonds sold for purposes of funding water related infrastructure projects from the 1% property tax limit and it would lower the voter approval threshold for such bonds from 2/3 of voters to 55% of voters.</p> <p>ACWA Support</p>	Support	<p>Introduced: 2/19/16</p> <p>No activity since introduction</p> <p>Moved from Watch to Support</p>
<p><i>SB 814 (Hill D) Drought: excessive water use: urban retail water suppliers.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: SB 814 will require both public and private urban retail water suppliers that directly provide potable municipal water to more than 3,000 users – to levy fines against excessive water users and define.</p> <p>The bill prohibits excessive water use and requires water suppliers to assess a penalty of at least \$500 on residential water customers for every hundred cubic feet used above an “excessive use definition”.</p> <p>Would require water providers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an ordinance or rule to create a definition of excessive use based on local conditions and declare that excessive use is a waste or unreasonable use of water. • Assess fines on residential customer’s water bills. • Have a process for non-payment. • Have an appeal process for assessed fines. <p>ACWA Oppose Unless Amended</p>	OPPOSE	<p>Introduced: 1/4/16</p> <p>CMUA and ACWA both working on amendments.</p> <p>Amended 3/30 – removed part of bill that increased public records act request authorities</p> <p>Moved to Assembly on 5/9 Held at Desk</p>

RWA – Hot Bill Legislation (New Bills)	Position	Status
<p><i>SB 919 (Hertzberg D) Water supply: creation or augmentation of local water supplies.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: SB 919 is attempting to encourage more recycled water and desalination by cost-effectively tapping into oversupplies of renewable energy. ACWA concludes that the existing language discourages inter-regional transfers and is anti-robust water market. ACWA’s position at this point is a “Favor if Amended”</p> <p>SB 919 requires the Public Utilities Commission to develop a special time of use rate for entities that augment local water supply through recycling, brackish desalting, or desalination. The bill also requires the Commission to adopt other policies that address the issue of oversupply.</p> <p>ACWA Favor if Amended</p>	Watch	<p>Introduced: 1/27/16</p> <p>Referred to Coms. on E., U., & C. and N.R. & W. on 2/4/16</p> <p>Amended on 3/7, 4/6 and 4/14</p> <p>Moved to Assembly on 5/9 Held at Desk</p>
<p><i>SB 1233 McGuire D) Joint powers authorities: Water Bill Savings Act.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: This bill would authorize JPAs to provide funding for a customer of a local agency to voluntarily acquire, install, or repair a water efficiency improvement on the customer’s property. The bill would require the customer to repay the JPA through an efficiency charge on their water bill. SB 1233 will provide local governments and disadvantaged communities the necessary tools to fund water savings projects for customers who voluntarily participate, thus helping the state achieve its continued goals of reducing water use.</p> <p>ACWA Watch</p>	Watch	<p>Introduced: 2/18/16</p> <p>Amended 3/28, 4/14 and 5/4 – technical and clarifying amendments</p> <p>Calendar: Senate Floor on 5/16</p>

RWA – Hot Bill Legislation (New Bills)	Position	Status
<p><i>SB 1262 (Pavley D) Water supply planning.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: This bill, along with a few others, including SB 1263, SB 1317, and SB 1318 all take strides towards more State Board control and seem to also further define the water system consolidation requirements put into law last year through the Trailer Bill process, specifically SB 88.</p> <p>SB 1262 , in conjunction with SB 1263 builds on the administration’s Affordable Safe Drinking Water Initiative to update the “show me the water” bills from 2012 (SB 610 and SB 221) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrates GSA’s and consideration of groundwater sustainability plans into water supply and land use planning. • Prohibits use of groundwater to supply new development if the groundwater basin has been deemed out of compliance with SGMA (i.e., is “probationary”) • Prohibits the use of hauled water • Creates a process to discourage creation of new water systems when it is geographically and economically feasible to connect to an existing system <p>ACWA Oppose Unless Amended</p>	<p>WATCH</p>	<p>Introduced: 2/18/16</p> <p>Amended on 5/11</p> <p>Calendar: Senate Floor on 5/16</p>
<p><i>SB 1263 (Wieckowski D) Public water system: permits.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: This bill, along with a few others, including SB 1262, SB 317, and SB 318 all take strides towards more State Board control and seem to also further define the water system consolidation requirements put into law last year through the Trailer Bill process, specifically SB 88.</p> <p>Also, there is no definition of “new public water system” in the bill.</p> <p>SB 1263 would commencing January 1, 2017, prohibit an application for a permit for a new public water system from being deemed complete unless the applicant has submitted a preliminary technical report to the State Board and would allow the State Board to impose technical, financial, or managerial requirements on the permit.</p> <p>ACWA Oppose Unless Amended</p>	<p>WATCH</p>	<p>Introduced: 2/18/16</p> <p>Moved to Assembly on 5/10</p> <p>Held at Desk</p>

RWA – Hot Bill Legislation (New Bills)	Position	Status
<p><i>SB 1264 (Cannella R) Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Salinas River System.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: This one is simply an earmark question. It probably doesn't have much of a chance of getting signed into law. Does RWA take stances on earmark matters? To be determined after further direction from the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Would appropriate \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, for use in the Salinas River, to assist in the removal of excess vegetation and trash, increase efficiency of instream flow using sediment and vegetation management strategies, and support the development and implementation of long-term management policies.</p> <p>ACWA Favor</p>	<p>Watch</p>	<p>Introduced: 2/18/16</p> <p>No activity since 3/3/16 Stuck in Policy</p>
<p><i>SB 1294 (Pavley D) The California Community Climate, Drought, and Jobs Resiliency Act.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: At face value, RWA agencies could benefit from this bill as it specifically states that in awarding grants, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery shall give priority to projects that would aid urban canopies at the greatest risk from drought. The bill does not indicate where the funding would come from so, RWA should keep an eye on this for potential PGC language.</p> <p>Would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to award grants to local conservation corps certified by the California Conservation Corps for projects that improve the climate and drought resiliency of urban canopies, community landscaping, and urban greening efforts through the use of various water conservation methods, including the application of compost and mulch.</p> <p>ACWA Favor</p>	<p>Watch</p>	<p>Introduced: 2/19/16</p> <p>Amended on 4/4 and 4/27</p> <p>Referred to Appr. Com. Suspense File on 5/9</p>

RWA – Hot Bill Legislation (New Bills)	Position	Status
<p><i>SB 1317 (Wolk D) Conditional use permit: groundwater extraction facility.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: This bill will require local agencies to issue permits for groundwater wells unless they adopt an ordinance regulating the installation of groundwater wells before July 1, 2017.</p> <p>Would, by July 1, 2017, require a city or county overlying a basin designated as a high- or medium-priority basin to establish a process for the issuance of conditional use permits for the development of a groundwater extraction facility in order to prevent a new groundwater extraction facility from contributing to or creating an undesirable result, as prescribed.</p> <p>ACWA Oppose</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p>	<p>Introduced: 2/19/16</p> <p>Amended on 5/10</p> <p>Referred to Appr. Com. on 5/10</p>
<p><i>SB 1318 (Wolk D) Local government: drinking water infrastructure or services: wastewater infrastructure or services.</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: This bill is another step towards mandatory consolidations. Recent amendments (4/12) slow down the process but still limit LAFCO discretion.</p> <p>Senate Bill 1318 ensures that disadvantaged communities secure access to safe and affordable drinking water and wastewater services. Specifically, this bill requires cities and special districts to make water and wastewater services available to existing communities within or adjacent to their spheres of influence prior to annexing more land or extending services for new development.</p> <p>ACWA Oppose</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p>	<p>Introduced: 2/19/16</p> <p>Amended: 3/28 and 4/12</p> <p>Calendar: Appr. Com. on 5/23</p>

RWA – Hot Bill Legislation (New Bills)	Position	Status
<p><u>SB 1340</u> (Wolk D) <i>Water Conservation in Landscaping Act</i></p> <p>RWA Interest: SB 1340 incorporates a requirement for the permitting of stand-alone irrigation installations for commercial and large residential landscapes into the Water Conservation and Landscaping Act. This is definitely an added workload on local agencies but it does address a potential problem area that is addressed in the Independent Technical Report produced in response to AB 1420 (Laird). RWA may want to consider a “Support” position.</p> <p>SB 1340 would add to the model water efficient landscape ordinance a permit requirement for the installation, expansion, or replacement of specified automatic irrigation systems for a landscape project on or after July 1, 2017. The bill would allow the governing body of a local agency to adopt an ordinance prescribing fees for filing an application for the permit.</p> <p>Recommend RWA move to a Support position</p> <p>ACWA Oppose</p>	<p>Move to Support?</p>	<p>Introduced: 2/19/16</p> <p>Amended 4/5</p> <p>Calendar: Senate Floor - Third Reading File on 5/16</p>
<p><u>SB 1398</u> (Leyva D) <i>Public water systems: lead pipes.</i></p> <p>Would require a public water system to compile an inventory of lead pipes in use by July 1, 2018, and, after completing the inventory, to provide a timeline for replacement of lead pipes in the system to the board. This bill would require the board to establish best practices to ensure that chemicals introduced into public water systems do not create corrosion or contamination within the system.</p>	<p>Watch</p>	<p>Gut and Amended on 3/28</p> <p>Referred to Appr. Com. Suspense file on 5/9</p>

Version 5 of Hot List Summary – May 16, 2016

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- For review and discussion by Lobbyist Subscription Program Committee on 5/18
- Added AB1555 back to Hot List.
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