

**REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA  
July 22, 2020; 8:30 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

The public shall have the opportunity to directly address the Board on any item of interest before or during the Board's consideration of that item. Public comment on items within the jurisdiction of the Board is welcomed, subject to reasonable time limitations for each speaker. Public documents relating to any open session item listed on this agenda that are distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors less than 72 hours before the meeting are available for public inspection in the customer service area of the Authority's Administrative Office at the address listed above. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability and need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Executive Director of the Authority at (916) 847-7589. Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting. The Executive Committee may consider any agenda item at any time during the meeting.

**Note: Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, and given the state of emergency regarding the threat of COVID-19, the meeting will be held via teleconference.**

**We encourage Committee members and participants to join the meeting 10 minutes early. Note that we will use GoToMeeting to share slides and other information during the meeting. Use the link below to join GoToMeeting. If you have a microphone that you can use with your computer, it should be possible to both listen to, and participate in, the meeting through GoToMeeting. If you do not have a microphone, or a headset with a microphone, that plugs into your computer via USB port, you will need to call into the conference line to listen and comment, although you still should be able to view the meeting materials on GoToMeeting. Please do not simultaneously use a microphone through GoToMeeting and the telephone conference line. That combination results in audio problems for all participants.**

**Meeting Information:**

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- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Members of the public who wish to address the committee may do so at this time. Please keep your comments to less than three minutes.

3. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
  - a. Minutes of the June 24, 2020 Executive Committee meetings  
**Action: Approve the June 24, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes.**
4. **SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**  
Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director
5. **LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE**  
Information Presentation: Ryan Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager  
**Action: Adopt Positions on Legislation**
6. **FEDERAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE POSITIONS ON LEGISLATION AND UPDATE**  
Discussion: Sean Bigley, Federal Affairs Standing Committee Chair and Jim Peifer, Executive Director  
**Action: Adopt positions on Legislation**
7. **AMEND RWA PERSONNEL RULES (POLICY 400.1)**  
Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director  
**Action: Recommend Approval of Amendments to Policy 400.1**
8. **SMALL AGENCY SUPPORT**  
Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director
9. **STRATEGIC PLAN**  
Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director
10. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
11. **DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Upcoming meetings:**

Executive Committee Meetings: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. and September 23, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at the RWA Office, the location is subject to change depending on the COVID-19 emergency.

Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, September 10, 2020, 9:00 a.m., at the RWA Office, the location is subject to change depending on the COVID-19 emergency.

The RWA Board Meeting electronic packet is available on the RWA website at <https://rwah2o.org/meetings/board-meetings/> to access and print the packet.

July 22, 2020

**AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSENT CALENDAR**

Approval of the minutes from the June 24, 2020 Executive Committee meeting

**Action: Approve the June 24, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes**

Attachments:

Draft June 24, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Schmitz called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 8:30 a.m. as a teleconference meeting. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

**Executive Committee Members**

Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District  
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom  
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville  
Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento  
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company  
Brent Smith, Placer County Water Agency  
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency  
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Marty Hanneman, San Juan Water District

**Staff Members**

Jim Peifer, Rob Swartz, Ryan Ojakian, Josette Reina-Luken, Amy Talbot, Cecilia Partridge, Monica Garcia and Ryan Bezerra, legal counsel

**Others in Attendance**

Pam Tobin, Paul Helliker, Greg Zlotnick, Cathy Lee, Craig Locke, Dane Wadle, Brian Sanders, Tim Shaw and Robert Reisig

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Minutes of the May 27, 2020 Executive Committee meeting

Mr. Peifer said that the RWA received an request from Mr. Shaw, Rio Linda/Elverta CWD asking that some of the items in the Executive Director's Report in the minutes be stricken. The minutes reflect what Mr. Peifer said but he requested that a note be inserted in the minutes indicating that Mr. Shaw disagrees with the statements.

Mr. Yasutake noted that under item nine under director's comments WIND should be changed to WIIN.

Motion/Second Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Hanneman moved, with a second by Mr. Yasutake, to approve the May 27, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes with the suggested edits. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Brent Smith, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District, and Marty Hanneman, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

#### **4. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

Mr. Peifer said that we have been talking about Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority's (SCGA) interest in potentially having the RWA provide staffing services. A 2 x 3 has been formed including chairs and vice chairs of the RWA, Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) and SCGA. One of the things that the committee thought would be appropriate was to have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to guide the discussions and the intent going forward. If the MOU was approved, a 3x3 committee would be formed that would include one member of each authority who is not a member of the other two authorities. That person, along with the Chair and Vice Chair of the authorities would participate in the meetings and discussions that will include the Executive Director of the RWA/SGA and the SCGA Interim Executive director with additional staff from the authorities as needed. Discussions will include operational and administrative changes as well as governance changes that might be necessary for this to work. The MOU was adopted by the SGA.

Mr. Woodling confirmed that the SCGA took an action to appoint him as interim executive director. They are working towards the SCGA moving away from Sacramento County administration and form a relationship with RWA similar to what SGA has; they will be looking at the potential benefits for all three authorities working collaboratively. The vision is to put something together that integrates the management and administration under RWA and bring the 3 x 3 participants together to figure out the details going forward.

There was discussion on the possible benefits to each agency, the costs involved, and if additional staff or changes in staff will be necessary to provide the necessary support required by each agency. It was noted that this needs to be either neutral or positive to the RWA, SGA and SCGA.

M/S/C Mr. Bigley moved, with a second by Mr. Hanneman, to recommend board approval of the MOU. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Brent Smith, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento

Suburban Water District, and Marty Hanneman, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

## **5. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE**

Mr. Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager reported that there are about a quarter of the number of bills typically seen at this time. There appears to be a budget agreement between the administration and the legislature which is a combination of what the legislature passed, a budget and what the governor may revise. Staff is watching what is happening with the bonds and the safe drinking water funding. The deadline is July 24th to have a bond measure passed to be put on the ballot. Staff will present updates as the legislature continues to deal with COVID-19 that has affected budget discussions.

## **6. FEDERAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATE AND POSITION ON LEGISLATION**

Mr. Bigley reported on Federal Affairs Standing Committee positions on legislation. The standing committee released an article regarding a list of some of our projects that was distributed to congressional offices. The first meeting with congressional staff is today regarding infrastructure and how infrastructure projects could beneficially impact recovery related to COVID-19. A presentation was developed by Christine Kohn and other resources to present at congressional briefings that will occur over the next couple of weeks. There is a map tool associated with infrastructure which is being refined to potentially post to the website. This is a great communication aid to show where those projects are located.

Mr. Wadle, Field Coordinator with California Special Districts Association, talked briefly about HR 7073. This is a bill that would allow, through future state stimulus measures that are passed, 5% to be allocated to special districts. The bill permits districts to be considered eligible issuers of the Federal Reserve Board's Liquidity Facility Program that was created as a tool to use some funds provided in the CARES Act regarding the purchase bonds and revenue anticipation notes for local governments and states. As special districts were left out of allocation in the CARES Act, HR 7073 is an attempt to remedy it.

Mr. Peifer said that there is a role within RWA for the Federal Affairs Committee as they do work for its members by aligning the region on federal issues with a consistent voice. The next steps for the committee are to organize efforts to reach out to members of congress and staff with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the need to invest in our community as a way of moving the member projects forward for our reliability and efficiency. This is a means of educating the members of Congress on our needs, making the case of putting people back to work and why we are worthy of investment. These efforts have been in our strategic plan for years.

The Ferguson Group put together an RWA federal legislative tracker that identifies the bills that are of interest to the committee and the RWA. This will be a useful tool for member agencies and will be available on the RWA website. This might be something that general managers want to include in their board packages to help educate their board members.

Mr. Bigley said that the committee felt it was appropriate to recommend support of HR 7073 with a request that the RWA Executive Director develop a support letter to indicate RWA support for the bill.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Mr. Yasutake, to adopt positions on legislation and support position on HR 7073. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Brent Smith, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District, and Marty Hanneman, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

## **7. POTENTIAL MATERIAL PURCHASING PROGRAM**

Mr. Peifer said that at the last Executive Committee meeting, Director York was suggested that RWA should consider a regional material purchasing program where member agencies could use their combined purchasing power to negotiate lower prices for materials. This is very similar to the chemical purchasing program that some RWA member agencies participated in. A regional material purchasing program could potentially benefit small and large agencies and the entire region. Similar programs have been vetted at the state and federal level and there are cooperative government purchasing contracts that are cost savers.

There was discussion in support of a regional material purchasing program with interest to discuss additional regional programs including fuel deliveries for generator services.

## **8. STRATEGIC PLAN**

Mr. Peifer reported that we had a strategic planning session last Friday, with our next session scheduled for the following Friday from nine o'clock to noon, which focused on objectives. We were hoping to adopt the Strategic Plan at the July RWA Board meeting, but it appears that we will discuss this further at the July meeting. We expect to schedule the Strategic Plan for adoption at the September Board meeting. This is an important document that we need to spend adequate time on to make sure we have good input and discussion before finalizing.

## **9. RWA OFFICE OPERATIONS**

Mr. Peifer reported that the RWA office is largely closed, with staff working remotely and only going in periodically when necessary to use resources and perform particular tasks. Mr. Peifer noted that some employees would like to work from the office occasionally and others are at higher risk and may want to continue to work from home. Mr. Peifer noted that from his personal perspective, there are distractions at home that are not experienced in the office. He requested input from the Executive Committee on a direction or plan to explore options for staff to safely return to the office.

There was discussion by different agencies on how they are integrating staff back into their offices and the safety measures they are employing. It is a judgment call on what is best for staff in the changing and challenging times when considering proper safety protocols. Although it varies for each agency and individual circumstances, it was noted that productivity has been as high working remotely as it was working in the office. Communication between employees can be more difficult through text and email than in person, but this may not change until after the COVID crisis is over. It was suggested that staff time in the office be staggered on a case by case basis while encouraging employees who are productive working remotely to continue to do so. It was suggested that for employees working remotely that equipment be provided to make the work space as ergonomically fit as possible.

Mr. Bezerra said that we need to pay attention to changing law regarding workers' compensation. We currently have a Governor's Executive Order that says if anyone does any work in the office and then comes down with COVID in the next 14 days, it is presumed to be related to work.

Mr. Hanneman left the meeting.

## **10. RWA JULY 9, 2020 BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

After discussion it was suggested that the Strategic Plan update be moved to the Executive Director's report and a Sacramento Region Water Utility Collaboration/Integration Study presentation by Dan York be added to the agenda.

M/S/C Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley, to approve the July 9, 2020 board meeting agenda with the suggestions. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Brent Smith, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

## **11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Peifer participated in a Public Policy Institute of California meeting to discuss Central Valley project (CVP) Water Transfers. PPIC's goal for the meeting was to learn from Central Valley Project stakeholders about their experience with CVP trading and banking approval processes, including the updated 2019 CVP groundwater banking guidelines.

The Water Forum has begun the process of renegotiating the Water Forum agreement. The primary negotiating steering committee (NSC) members include Paul Shubert (Golden State Water Company), Dan York (Sacramento Suburban Water District), Darin Reintjes (Placer County Water Agency), Greg Zlotnick (San Juan Water District) and Jim Peifer (RWA) for the water caucus. Public caucus members include Kerry Schmitz (Sacramento County) and Bill Busath (City of Sacramento). Updates are provided periodically to the Water Caucus and Public Caucus meetings.

The initial meeting was held on April 14th where the negotiation ground rules, scope of the agreement, and negotiating structure/framework was discussed. The second Negotiating Steering Committee (NSC) meeting was held on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The Public and Water Caucus presented and discussed its interests and revisions to the negotiating framework to the NSC members. At the June 18th meeting, the Environmental Caucus presented its interests to the NSC. I have been requested to work with Tom Gohring along with one or two members of the Environmental Caucus and perhaps one additional member of the Water and Public Caucus to define the initial work groups.

RWA staff continues to advocate for changes in the Water Loss Regulation setting process. Amy Talbot has made presentations to the ACWA Water Loss subcommittee, California Municipal Utilities Association and American Water Works Association (CA NV Section) on the Water Loss Regulation Comment Letter. Ryan Ojakian and Jim Peifer have met with Cindy Tuck, Kris Anderson and Chelsea Haines with ACWA to coordinate on policy advocacy.

## **12. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Greenwood said that Carmichael Water District is replacing one of their water tanks, redirecting some of their main water lines, and working on beautification of the downtown Carmichael area. Staff has been working to facilitate an upcoming water transfer by selling surface water in return for groundwater.

Mr. Yasutake reported that one of the City of Folsom's city council members resigned. The City Council appointed new Council member Andy Morin to serve for the remainder of the previous Council member's term.

Mr. Bigley said that the City of Roseville is working on storage and recovery wells within the city's groundwater program. They have secured the land necessary for

the facilities. In the fall, they will begin to drill monitoring wells to determine feasibility in those areas.

Ms. Carrey gave an update on the City of Sacramento's 2020 groundwater substitution transfer. The City Council approved the agreements and the buy/sell water transfer agreement. They expect to have the appropriate documents executed by the end of this week and will be ready for the water transfer to start in July.

Mr. Shubert said that Golden State Water has a new well in their system that is going online. He thanked Mr. Swartz for his guidance through the water transfer process.

Mr. Smith said that Placer County Water Agency received word that they are now the proud owner of a 40-year operating license for the Middle Fork American River Project. There are a lot of license conditions that need to be implemented and they will be moving forward right away.

Chair Schmitz said that she met with Tim Shaw and Chris Gifford from Rio Linda/Elverta Water District along with Mr. Greenwood to discuss their thoughts about RWA and to find out if there are ways we could be doing better. It seems that they are looking for more collaboration and opportunities for partnerships recognizing the small agencies as well as the larger agencies. She suggested we find productive ways to improve the value of RWA and benefit to the smaller agencies

Mr. York thanked everyone for their assistance and efforts on the water transfers.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Schmitz adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer

July 22, 2020

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

##### **BACKGROUND:**

The purpose of this item is to provide updates on the any discussions or noteworthy items relating to the potential for the RWA to provide staffing services to the SCGA.

Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

July 22, 2020

## **AGENDA ITEM 5: LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE**

**BACKGROUND:** The Legislature will return to session on July 27<sup>th</sup>. All bills must have final action by August 31<sup>st</sup>. This end of session is unique in that it will have policy committee hearings. Typically end of session has only fiscal committee and floor actions. The schedule for committee hearings is not out yet, but it seems likely that all policy hearings will have to occur on the weeks of July 27<sup>th</sup> and August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

It appears as is if most live policy bills will have an opportunity to be heard. As such there are some bill that RWA has not yet taken a position on that staff is updating the executive committee on.

SB 1044 (Allen) – Phases out the use of PFAS compounds in firefighting foams.

SB 1099 (Dodd)- Allows for the use of backup generators during a public safety power shutoff if they meet specified operations and maintenance standards.

SB 974 (Hurtado)- Exempts water supply projects for small disadvantaged communities from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQ).

AB 609 (Levine)- Requires electronic reporting of specified CEQA documents.

AB 3226 (McCarty)- Updates state law to be in line with federal law for a flood control project authorization for the City of West Sacramento.

Also at the end of session the Legislature will be acting on budget refinements and considering economic stimulus options. Importantly, how safe drinking water will be funded will be part of the budget actions. Advancing a bond to the November ballot is very unlikely at this point, but the Legislature is taking a renewed look at the prospects of economic stimulus through advancing tax receipts.

The Water Board approved the first year fund expenditure plan for safe drinking water. The plan assumes \$130 million. Full funding will still depend on Legislative action. As part of the Water Boards July 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting the board was provided with updates on several items including the impacts of COVID-19, Water Board staff presented the initial results of a survey on the financial impacts of COVID-19 on water agencies.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Information Presentation: Ryan Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager

**Action: Adopt Positions on Legislation**

July 22, 2020

**AGENDA ITEM 6: FEDERAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE POSITIONS ON LEGISLATION AND UPDATE**

**BACKGROUND:**

The purpose of this item is to:

1. Provide a brief update on the activities of the Federal Affairs Standing Committee, and
2. To provide direction to the Executive Director to request funding for the Sacramento Regional Water Bank and other regional projects for the RWA or its member agencies, as part of federal legislation, including but not limited to legislative vehicles such as a continuing resolution.

Discussion: Sean Bigley, Federal Affairs Standing Committee Chair and Jim Peifer, Executive director

**Action: Adopt positions on Legislation**

Attachments:

RWA Federal Legislation Tracker



# RWA Federal Legislative Tracker

Last Updated: July 09, 2020

## Overview

The following legislative tracker provides the status of legislation introduced in the 116th Congress of interest to the RWA. Each of the bill numbers is hyperlinked to the bill text and other related details. The bills are listed in order of last action. The first section of the tracker highlights any legislation that has seen activity in the seven days prior to the publishing of the report.

The RWA Federal Legislative Tracker is presented in coordination with the RWA Federal Affairs Committee, The Ferguson Group, and ENS Resources.

## Bills by Issue

### Recently Updated Bills (0)

No bills to show.

### RWA (17)

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 4188	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Energy And Natural Resources 2020 07 02	In Senate
<b>Title</b> A bill to provide for drought preparedness and improved water supply reliability, and for other purposes.		<b>Bill Summary:</b> Last edited by TFG Reports at Jul 9, 2020, 3:32 PM This bill would provide for drought preparedness and improved water supply reliability, and for other purposes.	
<b>Primary Sponsors</b> Kamala Harris		<b>Introduction Date:</b> 2020-07-02	
State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 4189	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Energy And Natural Resources Sponsor Introductory Remarks On Measure Cr S 4227 2020 07 02	In Senate
<b>Title</b> A bill to provide for drought preparedness and improved water supply reliability.		<b>Bill Summary:</b> Last edited by TFG Reports at Jul 9, 2020, 3:33 PM This bill would provide for drought preparedness and improved water supply reliability.	
<b>Primary Sponsors</b> Ron Wyden		<b>Introduction Date:</b> 2020-07-02	

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 2	Pursuant To Clause 1 C Of Rule Xix The House Resumed Consideration Of H R 2 2020 07 01	In Senate

**Title**  
INVEST in America Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Peter DeFazio

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at Jul 1, 2020, 8:25 PM  
This bill addresses provisions related to federal-aid highway, transit, highway safety, motor carrier, research, hazardous materials, and rail programs at the Department of Transportation, among other provisions, including the Bureau of Reclamation

**Introduction Date:** 2020-06-11

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 2871	Subcommittee Hearings Held 2020 06 25	In House

**Title**  
Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Russ Fulcher

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at Jun 16, 2020, 5:20 PM  
This is the companion bill to S. 1570. The bill would let the Commissioner of Reclamation allow the use of excess capacity in Bureau conveyance facilities for carriage of non-Reclamation project water for aquifer recharge.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-05-21

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 3591	S Amdt 1593 Senate Amendment Submitted 2020 06 08	In Senate

**Title**  
America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020

**Primary Sponsors**  
John Barrasso

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at Jun 16, 2020, 5:51 PM  
This bill provides roughly \$17 billion in new federal authorizations to invest in our infrastructure for projects across the country.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-05-04

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 7073	Referred To The Committee On Oversight And Reform And In Addition To The Committee On Financial Services For A Period To Be Subsequently Determined By The Speaker In Each Case For Consideration Of Such Provisions As Fall Within The Jurisdiction Of The Committee Concerned 2020 06 01	In House

**Title**  
Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
John Garamendi

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at Jun 16, 2020, 5:18 PM  
This bill would amend the Social Security Act to include special districts in the coronavirus relief fund, to direct the Secretary to include special districts as an eligible issuer under the Municipal Liquidity Facility, and for other purposes.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-06-01

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 3811	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Energy And Natural Resources Sponsor Introductory Remarks On Measure Cr S 2588 2589 2020 05 21	In Senate

**Title**  
Restoration of Essential Conveyance Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Dianne Feinstein

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at Jun 1, 2020, 7:59 PM  
This bill addresses the impacts of groundwater subsidence on major portions of California's water delivery system, and authorizes \$600 million in federal funding for three major projects to repair California's water delivery system. The bill provides \$200 million for the Friant-Kern Canal, \$200 million for the Delta-Mendota Canal, and \$200 million for the California Aqueduct. The bill also provides an additional \$200 million in funding for restoration of the San Joaquin River, including environmental protective infrastructure such as fish screens, fish bypass projects, and control structures necessary to successfully implement the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-05-21

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 3590	Placed On Senate Legislative Calendar Under General Orders Calendar No 452 2020 05 11	In Senate

**Title**  
Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020

**Primary Sponsors**  
John Barrasso

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at Jun 16, 2020, 5:50 PM  
This bill reauthorizes Safe Drinking Water Act programs that support drinking water infrastructure and provide resources and technical assistance to communities facing critical drinking water needs.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-05-04

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 6617	Referred To The Subcommittee On Water Oceans And Wildlife 2020 04 29	In House

**Title**  
Western Water Storage Infrastructure Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
TJ Cox

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at May 12, 2020, 3:45 PM  
This bill would provide additional funding for surface storage, groundwater storage, and the supporting conveyance facilities.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-04-24

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 2473	Subcommittee On Water Oceans And Wildlife Discharged 2020 03 11	In House

**Title**  
Securing Access for the central Valley and Enhancing (SAVE) Water Resources Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Josh Harder

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at May 12, 2020, 3:45 PM  
This is the companion bill to H.R. 116, the Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act. The bill provides a broad approach to addressing water issues facing the Central Valley by increasing storage opportunities, spurring innovation, and making investments in our aging infrastructure. The bill also leverages federal resources to identify prime locations for groundwater storage and recharge in California and across the Western United States. This bill requires the Bureau of Reclamation to expedite feasibility studies for four specific storage projects in the Central Valley, including: Sites Reservoir, Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir, Los Vaqueros and San Luis Reservoirs and provides \$100 million in storage funding. The bill also invests in water reuse and recycling by increasing funding for WaterSMART programs from \$50 million to \$500 million and extending the program's authorization. It also establishes a water infrastructure and drought resolutions fund to provide \$300 million for water surface and groundwater storage, reclamation and reuse, and WaterSMART program projects. The bill would create a innovating financing program which would provide low-interest federal loans to fund local water infrastructure projects, and would reauthorize the Rural Water Supply Act.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-05-02

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 1162	Subcommittee On Water Oceans And Wildlife Discharged 2020 03 11	In House

**Title**  
Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Grace Napolitano

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at May 12, 2020, 3:46 PM  
The bill aims to assist water agencies with the expansion, planning, design, and building of water recycling plants and modernizing water infrastructure in California and other western states. Specifically, the bill would increase funding authorization for the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI water recycling competitive grant program to \$500 million from \$50 million. It would also make the program permanent as it currently expires in 2021, and funds water recycling and reuse projects for 17 western states.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-02-13

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 2044	Committee On Energy And Natural Resources Reported By Senator Murkowski With An Amendment In The Nature Of A Substitute With Written Report No 116 156 2019 10 29	In Senate

**Title**  
Water Supply Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Utilization Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Martha McSally

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at May 12, 2020, 3:47 PM  
This bill would amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to establish an Aging Infrastructure Account. Specifically, this bill could provide Congress with the unfunded need for these improvements in a timely manner through a streamlined process, allowing Congress to provide Reclamation these additional funds "upfront" to initiate extraordinary maintenance projects on federal facilities, with extended repayment for the non-federal operating entities through a clearly defined application and review process already in law. The bill would also raise the Reclamation Safety of Dams program authorization by \$550 million and create a Flood Control Manual and Reservoirs Operations Pilot Program, which would give operators of Reclamation reservoirs more flexibility to temporarily store water in dedicated flood control space during certain low-risk times of the year.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-06-27

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 1497	Subcommittee On Water Resources And Environment Discharged 2019 10 29	In House

**Title**  
Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019

**Primary Sponsors**  
Peter DeFazio

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at May 12, 2020, 3:47 PM  
The bill would renew the Federal commitment to addressing local water quality challenges by providing an infusion of Federal assistance for the construction, repair, and replacement of the Nation's network of wastewater and stormwater conveyance and treatment facilities. The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019 will address America's crumbling wastewater infrastructure and local water quality challenges. This bill authorizes \$23.5 billion to improve wastewater infrastructure. This bill also will provide funds for agencies to meet Clean Water Act standards by constructing stormwater systems. The funding provided in the bill will be used in direct infrastructure investment over the next five years. Funds will be given to projects that address America's crumbling wastewater infrastructure and improve local water quality challenges. The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act also increase the amount of federal assistance made available to states and communities through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-03-05

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	S 1932	Committee On Energy And Natural Resources Senate Subcommittee On Water And Power Hearings Held 2019 07 18	In Senate

**Title**  
Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Cory Gardner

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at Jan 16, 2020, 10:27 PM  
This bill would support water infrastructure in the nation's Reclamation states, as well as extend federal funding an additional five years, including \$670 million in surface and groundwater storage projects; \$100 million for water recycling projects; and \$60 million for desalination projects. The bill would also establish a new loan program for water agencies designed to spur investment in new water supply projects. Key provisions include but are not limited to expanding and updating the Bureau of Reclamation funding authorizations in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) to fund portions of federal (50%) and non-federal (25%) surface and groundwater storage and conveyance facilities, as well as cost share (25%) additional water reuse and recycling and desalination projects; and creating a new loan program at 30-year Treasury rates for water supply projects under what would be established under the Reclamation Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (RIFIA). These loans would use criteria (49% maximum loan) modeled after the well-established Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (WIFIA) program at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The legislation would also authorize \$140 million for restoration and environmental compliance projects, including forest, meadow and watershed restoration projects with water benefits and projects to help restore threatened and endangered species affected by Reclamation water projects.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-06-20

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 2460	Sponsor Introductory Remarks On Measure Cr H 3509 2019 05 09	In House

**Title**  
Modernizing Agricultural Transportation Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Greg Pence

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at Jun 16, 2020, 5:20 PM  
This bill directs the Department of Transportation to establish a working group to (1) identify obstacles to safe, humane, and market-efficient transport of livestock, insects, and agricultural commodities; and (2) develop guidelines and recommended regulatory or legislative actions to improve the safe, humane, and efficient transport of livestock, insects, and agricultural commodities.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-05-01

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 2470	Referred To The Subcommittee On Water Resources And Environment 2019 05 03	In House

**Title**  
Clean Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Salud Carbajal

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at May 12, 2020, 3:49 PM  
This bill establishes an EPA grant program for communities to improve the resiliency and adaptability of their water-related infrastructure. Competitive grants will spur projects which conserve water or increase efficiency in its use, preserve or improve water quality, rebuild or relocate threatened infrastructure, protect source waters and ecosystems, and implement advanced treatment technologies such as water reuse and recycling.

**Introduction Date:** 2019-05-02

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
US	HR 1429	Introduced In House 2019 02 28	In House

**Title**  
Drinking Water Infrastructure for Job Creation Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Maxine Waters

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at May 12, 2020, 3:50 PM  
This bill would make supplemental appropriations for FY 2019 for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, and for other purposes. The Drinking Water Infrastructure for Job Creation Act will provide emergency supplemental appropriations of \$7.5 billion over the next six years. These funds will be used for job creation and to address the nation's drinking water infrastructure. The funds provided from this bill will be appropriated to the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and will assist public water systems finance infrastructure projects. The funding provided by this bill is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. The emergency funding is exempt from discretionary spending limits and is only available if the President subsequently designates the amounts as an emergency and submits the designation to Congress. The bill also exempts the funding from sequestration. (Sequestration is a process of automatic, usually across-the-board spending reductions under which budgetary resources are permanently cancelled to enforce specific budget policy goals.)

**Introduction Date:** 2019-02-28

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## **AGENDA ITEM 7: AMEND RWA PERSONNEL RULES (POLICY 400.1)**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Section 805 of Policy 400.1 (RWA Personnel Rules) identifies the holidays that the RWA observes and provides for its employees. This item proposes that the second Monday in October, known as Columbus Day, be removed and the third Monday in January, known as Martin King Luther, Jr.'s birthday be added. The proposed change would go into effect on January 1, 2021. The proposed text change to section 805 is presented below:

#### **805. HOLIDAYS**

The Authority will designate specific days as Authority paid holidays. All regular Authority employees shall be entitled to the following paid holidays, which shall be credited or charged at the rate of eight (8) hours per holiday.

- January 1, New Year's Day
- Third Monday in January
- President's Day (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in February)
- Last Monday in May, Memorial Day
- July 4, Independence Day
- First Monday in September, Labor Day
- ~~Second Monday in October~~
- November 11, Veterans' Day
- November, Thursday designated as Thanksgiving Day
- November, Day after Thanksgiving Day
- December 24, commonly called Christmas Eve
- December 25, commonly called Christmas

The following provisions for administration of paid holidays will apply to all regular employees:

- A. Holidays are considered eight (8) hours and four (4) hours as noted in this Section.
- B. A new employee whose first working day is the day after a paid holiday will not be paid for that holiday.
- C. An employee who is terminating his/her employment and whose last day as a paid employee is the day before a holiday will not be paid for that holiday.
- D. Holidays with pay will be provided for the first 30 consecutive calendar days of any leave with pay. An employee who is on leave of absence without pay, or after the first 30 consecutive days of any leave with pay, will not be paid for that holiday.

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- E. In the event a holiday falls upon a Sunday, the following Monday will be deemed to be the legal holiday. In the event the legal holiday falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday will be deemed to be the legal holiday.
- F. If a legal holiday occurs during a vacation period, the day will not be charged to vacation leave, but will be charged as a holiday.
- G. The Authority may, at its discretion, require an employee to work on a scheduled holiday and provide pay in lieu of time off. Any regular non-exempt employee who is required to work on an Authority holiday will be compensated at the rate of one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. Exempt employees required to work on an Authority holiday will not receive additional compensation.
- H. When a regular day off of any regular employee whose work schedule is other than Monday through Friday falls on a holiday, then, at the Executive Director's discretion, the employee will be provided with (1) a day off with pay on the day preceding or succeeding the holiday, or (2) eight hours of compensatory time off.

Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Action: Recommend Approval of Amendments to Policy 400.1 to the Board of Directors.

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## **AGENDA ITEM 8: SMALL AGENCY SUPPORT**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Chair Schmitz requested the Executive Committee discuss how the RWA could better support its small agency members. Small agency members may experience additional burdens to their operation in addition to the challenges that all RWA member agencies experience. The purpose of this item is to explore and discuss ways and means to supporting small, and potentially medium size agencies.

Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

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**AGENDA ITEM 9: STRATEGIC PLAN**

**BACKGROUND:**

The purpose of this item is to receive Committee feedback on the process and progress of the Strategic Plan.

Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

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**AGENDA ITEM 10: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

An oral report will be provided

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**AGENDA ITEM 11: DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**