



*Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

**AGENDA
MESA WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, April 28, 2016**

**1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
3:30 p.m. Special Board Meeting**

**LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Non-Agendized Matters: Members of the public are invited to address the Board on matters which are not on the Agenda. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. The Board will set aside thirty (30) minutes for public comments.

Agendized Matters: Members of the public may comment on Agenda items before action is taken, or after the Board has discussed the item. Each speaker is limited to five (5) minutes.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Items recommended for approval at this meeting may be agendized for approval at a future Board meeting.

None

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Resolution No. 1472 – Long-Term Water Conservation and Management Policy in California

REPORTS:

2. Advocacy Consulting Services Report
3. Legislative Consulting Services Report
4. Report of the General Manager
5. Directors' Reports and Comments

INFORMATION ITEMS:

6. Outreach Update

In compliance with California law and the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services in order to participate in the meeting, or if you need the agenda provided in an alternative format, please contact the District Secretary at (949) 631-1206. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) to make reasonable arrangements to accommodate your requests.

Agenda materials that are public records, which have been distributed to a majority of the Mesa Water Board of Directors (Board), will be available for public inspection at the District Boardroom, 1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA and on Mesa Water's website at www.MesaWater.org. If materials are distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior or during the meeting, the materials will be available at the time of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MEMORANDUM



MesaWater
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TO: Legislative & Public Affairs Committee
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Public & Government Affairs Manager
DATE: April 28, 2016
SUBJECT: Resolution No. 1472 - Long-Term Water Conservation and Management Policy in California

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution No. 1472 – Long-Term Water Conservation and Management Policy in California.

STRATEGIC PLAN

- Goal #1: Provide a safe, abundant, and reliable water supply.
- Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
- Goal #4: Increase public awareness about Mesa Water® and about water.
- Goal #6: Provide outstanding customer service.
- Goal #7: Actively participate in regional water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

DISCUSSION

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) issued an “outreach alert” to all members regarding the Brown Administration’s long-term water conservation and management policy. Though the situation continues to evolve, recent developments have created a more encouraging picture for the water community.

Based on ACWA staff’s recent conversations with the Brown Administration (“Administration”), it no longer appears likely that the Administration will pursue legislation in 2016 on the issue. Instead, it appears there is interest in pursuing a process spearheaded by the Department of Water Resources -- as already required under 2009 legislation -- to work with stakeholders to produce a report in 2017 on ways to enhance and update the so-called 20X2020 goal (per [SB X7-7](#), The Water Conservation Act of 2009) for urban water conservation. That process is expected to place a premium on local discretion with provisions for state review and possibly a state backstop to strengthen accountability for local outcomes and actions.

The Administration has indicated it is unlikely to pursue legislation on a long-term water conservation and management policy before 2017. It does not plan to move a budget trailer bill this year. There is still the possibility, however, that lawmakers could introduce legislation independently of the Administration.



The Administration may make an announcement in the near future regarding its plans for long-term conservation as outlined in the Administration's [California Water Action Plan](#). The first element in the plan is "Make conservation a California way of life." ACWA will advise its members of any announcement or timing of further developments.

In light of ACWA's recent conversations with the Administration, letters to legislators are not yet needed and ACWA will advise members if/when letters and/or legislative contacts are needed. Meanwhile, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff has indicated a long-term regulatory approach could be discussed at SWRCB's May 3 Board meeting, but it has not yet been determined whether the topic will be on the agenda for that meeting.

At this time, ACWA recommends that local water agencies adopt Board resolutions in support of long-term water conservation and management policies that recognize local water supply resilience, emphasize efficiency, and preserve local decision-making authority over water management. This is an important mechanism for many agencies to state their position on this issue and gain authorization for additional advocacy and outreach actions that may be required in the near future. Staff has prepared a draft resolution for the Board's consideration.

ACWA members are also encouraged to continue educating their customers and other audiences on the value of local investments in drought resilience and the need for local discretion over local water management decisions. ACWA has provided outreach tools to members for this purpose.

ACWA remains actively engaged in policy discussions on this topic, and vigilant to any legislative proposals that may emerge independent of the Administration. ACWA members should be prepared to quickly respond (within 48 hours, weekends included) to additional ACWA Outreach Alerts, especially in the event that any budget trailer bills emerge in the coming weeks or later this summer.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Draft Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 1472

RESOLUTION OF THE MESA WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING LONG-TERM WATER CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY IN CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, the Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) is a county water district organized and operating according to California Law; and

WHEREAS, local California water agencies have invested nearly \$20 billion in the past 20 years to build, and prudently manage, diverse water supply portfolios to meet their customers' needs and provide reliable supplies during times of drought; and

WHEREAS, these local investments -- from water recycling, to local and regional water storage, to desalination of brackish groundwater and ocean water, to mitigation and treatment of amber-tinted groundwater for potable water use -- were made with the public's support and are widely credited with keeping California's economy largely intact throughout the current multiyear drought; and

WHEREAS, the emergency drought regulation adopted in May 2015 and extended in February 2016 by the State Water Resources Control Board largely overlooked these investments and required local urban water suppliers to impose mandatory reductions in water use on their customers, even where hydrology and available local supply options did not warrant such stringent reductions; and

WHEREAS, Californians responded heroically to the drought emergency and largely met the statewide goal of reducing urban water use by 25 percent from June 2015 through February 2016; and

WHEREAS, Mesa Water's customers contributed extraordinary efforts to help the District exceed its 20 percent state mandate with more than 21 percent water conservation from June 2015 through February 2016; and

WHEREAS, with the state's focus now transitioning from the emergency regulation to a potential long-term policy approach to conservation, local water agencies believe it should be the state's policy to emphasize investments in drought-resiliency and ongoing water-use efficiency and to leave discretion with local water agencies to choose appropriate management strategies; and

WHEREAS, California water agencies affirmatively support a long-term policy that demands high levels of water use efficiency, promotes innovation in developing water shortage contingency plans, requires high levels of accountability at local water agencies, and preserves local control over water management decisions;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MESA WATER DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Mesa Water® supports a long-term policy that will result in a highly efficient and resilient water future, and will allow local water agencies to continue planning for and investing in the water supply reliability actions needed to meet California’s 21st century water needs; and

Section 2. Mesa Water® believes long-term water management policy is most appropriately developed and administered by the California Department of Water Resources, which already has the lead role in managing the state’s Urban Water Management Plan / Water Shortage Contingency Plan process.

ADOPTED, SIGNED, and APPROVED this 28th day of April 2016 by a roll call vote.

AYES: DIRECTORS:
NOES: DIRECTORS:
ABSENT: DIRECTORS:
ABSTAIN: DIRECTORS:

Shawn Dewane
President, Board of Directors

Coleen L. Monteleone
District Secretary

MEMORANDUM



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TO: Legislative & Public Affairs Committee
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Public & Government Affairs Manager
DATE: April 28, 2016
SUBJECT: Advocacy Consulting Services Report

RECOMMENDATION

This item is provided for information only.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #4: Increase public awareness about Mesa Water® and about water.

Goal #7: Actively participate in regional water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

This item is updated for the monthly meeting of the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee.

DISCUSSION

Staff will provide a verbal report to the Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In fiscal year 2016, \$84,000 is budgeted; \$63,000 has been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative & Public Affairs Committee
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Public & Government Affairs Manager
DATE: April 28, 2016
SUBJECT: Legislative Consulting Services Report

RECOMMENDATION

This item is provided for information only.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #4: Increase public awareness about Mesa Water® and about water.
Goal #7: Actively participate in regional water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

This item is updated for the monthly meeting of the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee.

DISCUSSION

Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) receives legislative consulting services from Townsend Public Affairs (TPA). As part of its service to Mesa Water®, TPA submits a monthly written report of its activities on behalf of the District, including a legislation matrix.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In fiscal year 2016, \$60,000 is budgeted; \$45,000 has been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Report & Legislation Matrix

MEMORANDUM

To: Mesa Water®

From: Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.

Date: April 18, 2016

Subject: Monthly Political and Activity Report

Specific Activities for the Month:

- TPA provided updates to Mesa Water staff on priority legislation and priority topics including but not limited to: Proposition 1, Minimum Wage Proposal
- TPA continued to reach out to several organizations and elected officials to request and finalize resolutions or certificates to congratulate Mesa Water for achieving a 20 percent water conservation standard. TPA continuously provided staff with updates on this task. These resolutions or certificates were presented to the Board on April 14. TPA provided staff with contact information of event attendees, so staff can send pictures and thank you messages to them. Attendees TPA secured for the event included:
 - Assemblymember Matthew Harper
 - Vice-Chair Michelle Steel
 - OCWD Board President Cathy Green
 - City of Costa Mesa Mayor Steve Mensinger
 - Costa Mesa Sanitary District Board Secretary Robert Ooten
 - Representative from Congressman Rohrabacher's office
- TPA provided Mesa Water staff with updated legislative matrix specific to the legislation being considered by the ACWA state leg committees
- On March 23, TPA attended the MWDOC PAL Committee on behalf of Mesa Water. TPA provided notes to staff
- On March 24, TPA attended the Mesa Water Legislative Committee meeting and presented a State and Federal update

State Political Update

The month of March was an abbreviated month for the Legislature as they adjourned for Spring Recess from March 17 until March 28. The Legislature now faces a quick turn-around to the first major deadline of the new session, April 22, the last day for policy committees to hear and report fiscal bills in their house of origin. Below is a list of important upcoming deadlines in the Legislature.

- **April 22** – Last day for policy committees to hear and report fiscal bills in their house of origin to fiscal committees
- **May 6** – Last day for policy committees to hear and report non-fiscal bills in their house of origin to the floor
- **May 27** – Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report bills in their house of origin to the floor
- **June 3** – Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house

While the attention of the Legislature has recently been focused on passing bills out of policy committees before the deadline, the drought still remains a high priority in Sacramento. On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown announced his Executive Order declaring a state of emergency. A year later, on March 30, 2016, a snow survey taken at the same location revealed the State's snowpack is at 87% of its March 30 historical level, a sizeable increase from 2015. Snowpack is the main source of drinking water in the State and is also used as a metric to measure drought conditions. Many experts predicted a "Godzilla El Nino" to hit California this past winter season, however so far it has not lived up to the hype despite the sharp increase of rain and snow in Northern California. Although California as a whole did see an increase in both rainfall and snowpack as compared to last year, the State is still below average levels.

The increase of rainfall and snowpack in March had a positive impact on the State's two largest reservoirs, Lake Oroville and Lake Shasta. While many key reservoirs remain significantly below historical levels, Lake Oroville and Lake Shasta are slightly above these levels. As such, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced on March 17 that they have increased the water delivery allocation from the State Water Project to 45 percent of requests for the calendar year. This is a significant increase from the 30 percent allocation announced by DWR on February 24. The State Water Project provides access to water for 29 public agencies who serve approximately 25 million Californians and slightly less than a million acres of irrigated farmland.

Despite receiving an increase in rain and snowfall, a recent poll conducted by Save Our Water and Field Research Partner determined that Californians continue to view the ongoing drought as extremely serious. The survey found that nearly 90 percent of Californians plan on using less water even after the current drought is declared over. Save Our Water, the State's primary water education resource, also reported that 84 percent of the people surveyed believe it is important for California to make permanent changes to outdoor landscaping. This poll shows that the State's educational campaign as well as individual water districts conservation efforts will have a lasting effect on water use.

State Water Use: February 2016

For the fifth straight month, Californians have failed to meet the 25 percent water conservation target set forth by the Governor. Total water saved in the month of February was only 12 percent when compared with February 2013, the lowest conservation amount since the Governor's executive order in April 2015. The cumulative water savings from June 2015 – February 2016 when compared to the same months in 2013, finished at 23.9 percent, or 96 percent of the Governor's goal. Residential water use increased for the first time since the Governor's executive order, even though Californians only used 67 residential per person per day in February 2016. The conversation has now shifted toward the possibility of permanent water use restrictions.

In February:

- Statewide water savings for February 2016 was 12% (41,591 acre-feet or 13.6 billion gallons), a decrease from January 2016's 17.1% savings.
- February 2016 compliance indicates that 55% of suppliers met their conservation standards.
- Statewide average water use for February was 67 residential gallons per capita per day (R-GPCD), closely matching the December 2015 average but higher than January's all-time low of 61 gallons per person per day.

Conservation Regulations: Long-Term Approach

The State Water Resources Control Board has begun to discuss the possibility of enacting permanent regulations for water conservation. Although no formal proposal has been released, there is speculation that the Board will pursue long-term conservation measures. Concepts could include per capita level of water consumption as well as making permanent the water prohibitions addressed in the emergency regulations. Depending upon what the State Board proposes, it may be necessary for the Legislature to pass legislation granting the Board the specific regulatory authority to enact permanent regulations. Legislation relating to long term water conservation would not be expected until 2017. The Board could provide a status update on long term conservation policy as early as May, when they will consider modifications to the emergency conservation regulations.

ACWA has recommended to the Board that long-term conservation policy should take into account investments made in drought resilience and water efficiency. Furthermore, it is ACWA's opinion that local water management should be at the discretion of local water agencies. ACWA, in conjunction with other water agency organizations, have also released a draft framework to their members which outlines long term conservation recommendations. ACWA has recently decided not to finalize and circulate the draft framework and instead wants to give member agencies more time to provide input.

Proposition 1 Water Recycling Budget Request

At the end of March, The State Water Resources Control Board submitted a budget letter requesting an appropriation of \$320 million from Proposition 1 for water recycling. Approximately \$290 million of the \$725 million set aside in Proposition 1 for water recycling has been appropriated. The Governor's January Budget made no additional appropriations from Proposition 1 to the Board's Water Recycling Funding Program, despite the Program being overloaded with requests for grant and low interest financing. It is worth noting that if this \$320 million appropriation is included in the final Budget in June, there will only be slightly over \$100 million left in the water recycling account for future appropriation.

Water Loss Control Collaborative

SB 555 (Wolk) requires, on or before October 1, 2017, each urban water retail supplier to submit a validated water loss audit report to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The State Water Resources Control Board approved the use of approximately \$3.2 million in Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Local Assistance set aside funds, to establish a Water Loss Control Collaborative. This Collaborative is administered by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) CA-NV Section, and will develop a water loss control program with the intent to bolster the State's water management system. AWWA will use the program to provide programmatic resources and technical assistance in the form of

workshops, training, and individual learning sessions to urban water retail suppliers to help them submit and validate accurate water loss control audit reports.

This program is still in its development stage and more information is not currently available. AWWA is expected to award contracts to the technical assistance firms very shortly. TPA will continue to track this program and update Mesa Water on its status.

Drinking Water Fee Regulations

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released their first draft of drinking water fee regulations on April 8. These are fees are paid by drinking water systems to help support the State’s Drinking Water Program. When control of the program switched to the SWRCB on July 1, 2014, a fiscal analysis performed by the Board revealed that the existing fee structure was unreliable, unsustainable, and inequitable. Since then, the SWRCB has been working with stakeholders on a draft annual fee structure, provided in the table below:

Water System Type	Fee
Community Water System	
100 or fewer service connections	\$200.00
100 or fewer service connections (severely disadvantaged community)	\$100.00
101 to 1,000 service connections	\$4.00 per service connection
101 to 1,000 service connections (severely disadvantaged community)	\$2.00 per service connection
1001 or more service connections	\$4.00 per each of first 1,000 service connection plus \$2.00 per each service connection greater than 1,000
1001 or more service connections (severely disadvantaged community)	\$2.00 per service connection
Nontransient Noncommunity Water System	\$2.00 per person served, but not less than \$456.00.
Transient Noncommunity Water System	\$800.00.
Wholesaler	\$6,000.00 plus \$1.36 per each MG ¹

Federal Legislative Update

Drought Legislation & FY 2017 Appropriations

After years of unsuccessful attempts to enact drought legislation through regular order, House leaders have chosen to utilize the FY 2017 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill as the vehicle to push through portions of the bill passed by the House in July 2015. The language included in the bill approved by the House Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee on April 13 generally parallels provisions from Rep. David Valadao’s drought bill (H.R. 2898). However, some provisions contrast with language included in Senator Dianne Feinstein’s latest drought bill (S. 2533) or programs she has long been committed to. A summary of the House bill sections and related Feinstein bill provisions are summarized below.

- **Delta Pumping:** The House appropriations bill requires Reclamation to pump at -5,000 cfs Old and Middle River (OMR) flows, the maximum allowed under the biological opinions, *unless* that jeopardizes the long-term survival of the Delta smelt or Chinook salmon. Pumping greater than -5,000 cfs would also be required unless there would be an “imminent negative impact on the long-term survival of the species.” Like the House bills, Senator Feinstein’s bill requires Reclamation to manage OMR flows to maximize water supplies, but does not mandate specific pumping rates. Both the House appropriations bill and the Feinstein bill require the Secretary of the Interior to explain why pumping at less than -5,000 cfs is necessary to protect the species.
- **Winter Storms Flexibility:** The House appropriations bill authorizes Reclamation to increase pumping to -7,500 cfs OMR to capture storm water runoff when there is high Delta outflow (i.e. water flowing into the Pacific Ocean) provided such action does not jeopardize the long-term survival of the Delta smelt or Chinook salmon. The Feinstein bill also includes a provision to allow for greater pumping to capture additional storm flows.
- **State Water Project Offset & Water Rights Protections:** The House appropriations bill and Senator Feinstein’s bill include language that would prohibit Reclamation from implementing any action otherwise authorized in the legislation that would directly or indirectly result in the involuntary reduction of water supply to state or federal water contractors. The provision is necessary to ensure that no actions are taken that might benefit federal water contractors but cause the State of California to restrict supplies for State Water Project contractors to compensate for reduced river flows. It also ensures that senior water rights holders north and south of the Delta are preserved and protected.
- **San Joaquin River Settlement:** As in previous years, the House Appropriations bill would prohibit the use of federal funds to implement the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Agreement. However, to date, this provision has never been enacted. Senator Feinstein was the sponsor of the legislation enacting the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act in 2009, which ended decades of litigation between water users and environmental groups.
- **New Melones Reservoir:** The House appropriations bill directs Reclamation to work with local entities to increase water storage opportunities at New Melones Dam. This provision parallels compromise language developed by House and Senate staff last fall as part drought bill discussions.
- **Duration:** The House Appropriations bill would establish permanent changes, whereas the Feinstein bill’s emergency operations provisions would expire either September 30, 2017 or when Governor Brown declares an end to the Drought State of Emergency.

What’s Next: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has filed a motion to proceed on the Energy and Water Appropriations Act, making it the first FY 2017 appropriations bill to reach the Senate floor. The House appropriations bill is expected to be adopted by the full committee on April 19; a House floor vote is expected in the next few weeks. Over the next few months, House and Senate Appropriators will meet to decide whether to include the provisions in the conference report, which must be adopted by both bodies. Senate Democrats are expected to strongly oppose these provisions, potentially preventing the overall bill from moving forward. Failure to reach agreement on this or other appropriations bills may also result in a continuing resolution being adopted without any of the drought provisions being included. Even if the House version of the bill is ultimately enacted, environmental lawsuits are certain to follow, particularly with regard to Delta flows and the termination of the San Joaquin River Settlement Act.

Meanwhile, outside the appropriations process, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee continues to work on a western water bill, which is expected to include some or all of Senator Feinstein's bill. However, with a July 15 recess looming, there is relatively little time to pass the bill out of committee, on the Senate floor, and conclude conference committee negotiations before the session ends.

Water Conservation Rebate Tax Exemption Bill

H.R. 4615, the *Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act*, introduced by Rep. Jared Huffman (D) and Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R), continues to gain support, albeit only by California House Democrats. The bill, which was introduced in late February, would clarify that rebates offered by water utilities for residential water conservation and efficiency or water runoff management improvements are exempt from federal income taxes. The bill seeks to create parity between energy conservation rebates, which were declared nontaxable by Congress in 1992, and water efficiency rebates.

Currently, the bill has 18 California House Democrats as cosponsors, half of all California Democrats. However, other than Rohrabacher, no Republicans have agreed to cosponsor. Though Republican members would seem natural supporters of the anti-tax measure, the fact that Huffman is the bill's sponsor may be hurting its chance for success. Huffman and House Republicans have fought bitterly over proposed drought legislation since the Northern California Democrat first took office in January 2013. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which may also make it difficult to pass.

BILL	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	LATEST ACTION	MESA WATER POSITION	OTHER POSITIONS
Mesa Water® Priority Legislation (FY 15-17)					
AB 291	Medina [D]	California Environmental Quality Act: local agencies: notice of determination: water. Would authorize a local agency, for certain water projects, to file the notice with the county clerk of the county in which the local agency's principal office is located in lieu of the county clerk of each county in which the project is located and would, if the local agency exercises this authorization, require the local agency to file the notice with the Office of Planning and Research. This bill contains other existing laws.	Assemblymember Medina does not plan on pursuing AB 291 this session		ACWA-Support Met- Support MWDOC-Support OCWD-NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Support
AB 501	Levine [D]	Resources: Delta research Would require a person conducting Delta research, as defined, whose research is funded, in whole or in part, by the state, to take specified actions with regard to the sharing of the primary data, metadata, and other supporting materials created or gathered in the course of that research. The bill would make a researcher ineligible for state funding if the researcher does not substantially comply with these requirements within 6 months of completing the Delta research project, until the researcher complies with those requirements.	Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee		ACWA-NYC Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-NYC
AB 647	Eggman [D]	Groundwater: Would declare that the storing of water underground constitutes a beneficial use of water if the diverted water is used while it is in underground storage for specified purposes. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature that this storage of water underground not injure any legal user of the water involved. This bill would provide that the period for the reversion of a water right does not include any period when the water is being used in the aquifer or storage area or is being held in storage for later application to beneficial use, as prescribed.	Assemblymember Eggman plans on moving forward with this bill. No action yet		ACWA - Watch Met - Support MWDOC - Watch OCWD - Oppose if Amended IRWD - NYC CSDA - Watch
AB 1201	Salas [D]	Fish and wildlife: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: predation by nonnative species. Under the California Endangered Species Act, the Department of Fish and Wildlife may authorize the take of listed species if the take is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity and the impacts are minimized and fully mitigated. This bill would require the department, by June 30, 2016, to develop and initiate a science-based approach that addresses predation by nonnative species upon species of fish listed pursuant to the act that reside all or a portion of their lives in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.	No action		ACWA-Support Met- Support MWDOC-NYC OCWD-NYC IRWD-Support CSDA-Watch

AB 1244	Grey [D]	Water rights: small irrigation use. Would require the State Water Resources Control Board, when adopting general conditions, to consult with the Department of Food and Agriculture and the University of California Cooperative Extension, regarding relevant agricultural information, and with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, regarding potential impacts on fish and wildlife species, for small irrigation use other than for facilities used for frost protection in a prescribed area.	Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee		ACWA - Watch Met- Support MWDOC-NYC OCWD-NYC IRWD-Support CSDA-Watch
AB 1463	Gatto [D]	Onsite treated water. Would require the State Water Resources Control Board, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health, the California Building Standards Commission, and stakeholders, to establish water quality standards and distribution, monitoring, and reporting requirements for onsite water recycling systems prior to authorizing the use of onsite treated water in internal plumbing of residential and commercial buildings. This bill would require onsite treated water to be considered the same as recycled water that is produced on site.	No action		ACWA-Not Favor Unless Amended Met- NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD-NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 1588	Mathis [R]	Water and Wastewater Loan Program: Would require the State Water Resources Control Board to establish a program to provide low-interest loans and grants to local agencies for low-interest loans and grants to eligible applicants for specified purposes relating to drinking water and wastewater treatment. This bill would transfer to the Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant Fund \$10,000,000 from the General Fund. This program will be focused on individual homeowners. 3/16/16 amendments were not substantial.	Amended 3/16/16. Re-Referred to Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee		ACWA-Favor Met-NYC MWDOC-Watch OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 1647	Waldron [R]	Environmental quality: water storage facilities. The California Environmental Quality Act requires the lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment based on substantial evidence in light of the whole record. The act exempts certain specified projects from its requirements. This bill would exempt a project to expand the storage capacity of an existing surface water storage facility, or to replace an existing surface water storage facility, that is owned and operated by a public entity if that public entity adopts, by resolution, findings and declarations that the project meets specified criteria.	Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee		ACWA-Favor Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch

AB 1649	Salas [D]	State water policy: priority: surface water storage projects and joint powers authorities: Would require the Department of Water Resources to develop a state water policy that gives priority to the formation of joint powers authorities that are formed to address critical surface water storage needs and to funding of the joint powers authorities' surface water projects. The bill would make findings and declarations of the Legislature, including, but not limited to, that, of the water storage projects available, the Temperance Flat Dam and Sites Reservoir will meet statewide goals and provide specified public benefits to the greatest extent.	Amended 4/5/16. Re-Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee		ACWA-Not Favor Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 1694	Lackey [R]	State Water Resources Control Board: grant program for school drinking water. Previously an appropriation bill for an additional \$90 million in grants for multibenefit stormwater management projects, amendments taken on 3/15/16 now would require the State Water Resources Control Board to establish a grant program to award grants to public elementary and secondary schools to improve access to, and the quality of, drinking water. The bill would specify various types of projects for which these grants could be awarded. The bill would require the state board to give priority to applicant public elementary and secondary schools that serve a disadvantaged community, as defined.	Amended on 3/15/16. Referred to Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee		ACWA-Not Favor Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 1713	Eggman [D]	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: peripheral canal. Current law requires various state agencies to administer programs relating to water supply, water quality, and flood management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The bill would prohibit the construction of a peripheral canal, as defined, unless expressly authorized by an initiative voted on by the voters of California on or after January 1, 2017, and would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to complete a prescribed economic feasibility analysis prior to a vote authorizing the construction of a peripheral canal.	Referred to Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee	Oppose	ACWA - Oppose Met-NYC MWDOC-Oppose OCWD- NYC IRWD-Oppose CSDA-Watch
AB 1738	McCarty [D]	Building Standards: Dark Graywater Would define "dark graywater" as a specified wastewater that comes from kitchen sinks and dishwashers. This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development , at the next triennial building standards rulemaking cycle, to adopt and submit for approval building standards for the construction, installation, and alteration of dark graywater systems for indoor and outdoor uses. Amendments taken on 3/28/16 were insignificant	Amended on 3/28/16. Referred to Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee		ACWA-NYC Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch

AB 1749	Mathis [R]	<p>California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: recycled water pipelines CEQA exempts from its requirements projects consisting of the construction or expansion of recycled water pipeline and directly related infrastructure within existing rights of way, and directly related groundwater replenishment, if the project does not affect wetlands or sensitive habitat, and where the construction impacts are fully mitigated, and undertaken for the purpose of mitigating drought conditions for which a state of emergency was proclaimed by the Governor on a certain date. CEQA provides that this exemption remains operative until the state of emergency has expired or until January 1, 2017, whichever occurs first. Amendments taken on 3/28/16 reduce the extension from 2022 to 2019.</p>	Amended 3/28/16. Re- Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee		ACWA- Favor/Amend Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 1773	Oberholte [R]	<p>Local government renewable energy self-generation program. Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is vested with regulatory authority over public utilities. Existing law authorizes a local governmental entity, except a joint powers authority, to receive a bill credit to a designated benefiting account, for electricity exported to the electrical grid by an eligible renewable generating facility and requires the PUC to adopt a rate tariff for the benefiting account. This bill would grant a joint powers authority the existing authority of a local governmental entity to receive a bill credit to a designated benefiting account for electricity exported to the electrical grid by an eligible renewable generating facility. Amendments taken on 4/13/16 were minor.</p>	Amended on 4/13/16. Referred to Assembly Local Government Committee		ACWA-Favor Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 1842	Levine [D]	<p>Water: pollution: fines. Current law imposes a maximum civil penalty of \$25,000 on a person who discharges various pollutants or other designated materials into the waters of the state. This bill would impose an additional civil penalty of not more than \$10 for each gallon or pound of polluting material discharged. The bill would require that the civil penalty be reduced for every gallon or pound of the illegally discharged material that is recovered and properly disposed of by the responsible party.</p>	Referred to Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee		ACWA-NYC Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-NYC

AB 1866	Wilk [R]	High-speed rail bond proceeds: redirection: water projects Would provide that no further bonds shall be sold for high-speed rail purposes pursuant to the Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century, except as specifically provided with respect to an existing appropriation for high-speed rail purposes for early improvement projects in the Phase 1 blended system. The bill, subject to the above exception, would require redirection of the unspent proceeds received from outstanding bonds issued and sold for other high-speed rail purposes prior to the effective date of these provisions, upon appropriation, for use in retiring the debt incurred from the issuance and sale of those outstanding bonds.	Referred to Assembly Transportation Committee and Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee		ACWA-Watch Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 1871	Waldron [R]	Desalination. Previously a bill that would state an intent of the Legislature regarding Desalination, amendments taken on 3/18/16 changed the bill to limit the growth-inducing impacts the Coastal Commission may consider in its review of a coastal development permit for a water supply project.	Amended on 3/18/16. Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee		ACWA-NYC Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 1925	Chang [D]	Desalination: Statewide Goal: The law provides that is it the intention of the Legislature that the Department of Water Resources undertake to find economic and efficient methods of desalting saline water so that desalted water may be made available to help meet the growing water requirements of the state. This bill would establish a goal to desalinate 300,000 acre-feet of drinking water per year by the year 2025 and 500,000 acre-feet of drinking water per year by the year 2030. Amendments taken on 3/16/16 added the 300,000 and 500,000 acre-foot goals.	Amended on 3/16/16. On Assembly Floor		ACWA- Favor/Amend Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 2022	Gordon [D]	Advanced purified demonstration water: Would authorize the operator of a facility producing advanced purified demonstration water, as defined, to cause that water to be bottled and distributed as samples for educational purposes and to promote water recycling. The bill would prohibit the advanced purified demonstration water from being distributed unless the water meets or is superior to all federal and state drinking water standards. The bill would authorize advanced purified demonstration water to be bottled at a licensed water-bottling plant in compliance with specified provisions. Amendments taken on 3/31/16 were minor	Amended 3/31/16. Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee		ACWA-Favor Met-Support MWDOC-NYC OCWD- Sponsor IRWD-Support CSDA-Support

AB 2040	Melendez [R]	Outdoor Water Efficiency Act of 2016: personal income tax credits: outdoor water efficiency. The Personal Income Tax Law allows various credits against the taxes imposed by that law. 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. Amendments taken on 4/6/16 changed the taxable years to 2016 - 2021	Amended on 3/31/16. Re- Referred to Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation		ACWA-Watch Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-NYC
AB 2042	Harper [R]	Water desalination facilities. Would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation relating to water desalination facilities.	Introduced 2/17/16		ACWA-Watch Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 2043	Harper [R]	Desalination. Would state that the Legislature recognizes that desalination is an important local and regional sustainable water supply and reliability option	Introduced 2/17/16		ACWA-Watch Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 2076	Garcia [D]	Water and energy use efficiency: certification: breweries. Previously a bill requiring the board to adopt uniform water recycling criteria for the use of recycled water in the manufacture of beer and wine, AB 2076 would now require the Department of Water Resources, in consultation with the California brewing industry, to develop water and energy use efficiency certification guidelines for the production of beer that include, among other things, uniform standards for the industry's use of efficiency certification seals and would require the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to consult in label design and approval for the use of a seal on a beer bottle.	Amended 4/5/16. Re- Referred to Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee		ACWA-NYC Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 2198	Brough [R]	Coastal development permits: desalinization facilities. The California Coastal Act of 1976 requires any person wishing to perform or undertake any development in the coastal zone, as defined, to obtain a coastal development permit, except as specified, from the California Coastal Commission or from a local government. This bill would require an application for a coastal development permit for a desalinization project, as described, to be given priority for review, and would require the issuing agency to expedite the processing of any such permit application.	Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee		ACWA-Watch Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch

AB 2438	Waldron [R]	<p>California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: recycled water pipelines Would, until January 1, 2020, additionally exempt from CEQA a project for the construction and installation of a new pipeline or the maintenance, repair, restoration, reconditioning, relocation, replacement, removal, or demolition of an existing pipeline, not exceeding 8 miles in length, for the distribution of recycled water within a public street, highway, or right-of-way and would require the lead agency to undertake specified activities, including the filing of a notice of exemption for the project with the Office of Planning and Research and the office of the county clerk of each county in which the project is located.</p>	Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee		ACWA-Favor if Amended Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 2444	Garcia [D]	<p>California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2016. Previously a Legislative intent bill, AB 2444 would now enact the California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2016, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an unspecified amount pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a parks, water, climate, and coastal protection and outdoor access for all program.</p>	Amended 4/13/16. Re-Referred to Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee		ACWA-NYC Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 2525	Holden [D]	<p>Water-efficient landscaping. Would require the Department of Water Resources 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. Amendments made on 4/5/16 were minor.</p>	Amended on 4/5/16. Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee		ACWA-Watch Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
AB 2583	Frazier [R]	<p>Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 This bill would add a definition of the California Water Fix to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009. Amendments taken on 3/17/16 would eliminate certain provisions applicable to the BDCP and would revise other provisions to instead refer to a new Delta water conveyance project for the purpose of exporting water. Also, this bill would require new Delta water conveyance infrastructure to be considered as interdependent parts of a system and to be operated in a way that maximizes benefits for each of the coequal goals. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.</p>	Amended on 3/17/16. Referred to Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee		ACWA-Oppose Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-Oppose CSDA-Watch

AB 2613	Achadjian [R]	County auditor: audits: special districts. Would authorize a special district to, by unanimous request of its governing board and with unanimous approval of the board of supervisors, replace the annual audit with an annual financial compilation and an annual review of the internal control procedures of the special district to be performed by the county auditor in accordance with professional standards if certain conditions are met.	Introduced 2/19/16		ACWA-NYC Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Sponsor
ACA 8	Bloom [D]	Local government financing: water facilities and infrastructure: voter approval. Would create an additional exception to the 1% limit for a rate imposed by a city, county, city and county, or special district to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of wastewater treatment facilities and related infrastructure, potable water producing facilities and related infrastructure, nonpotable water producing facilities and related infrastructure, and stormwater treatment facilities and related infrastructure, that is approved by 55% of the voters of the city, county, city and county, or special district, as applicable, if the proposition meets specified requirements, and would authorize a city, county, city and county, or special district to levy a 55% vote ad valorem tax. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.	Introduced 2/18/16		ACWA-Support Met-Support MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Support If Amended
SB 20	Pavley [D]	California Water Resiliency Investment Act. This bill would create the California Water Resiliency Investment Fund in the State Treasury and provide that moneys in the fund are available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purpose of providing a more dependable water supply for California. This bill would create various accounts within the fund for prescribed purposes. This bill was a last minute gut and amend in the first year of the two year session, and will spur conversation about a public goods charge on water in the upcoming session. The bill does not currently contain provisions relating to a public goods charge, but rather it establishes a state fund that can pay for water related projects.	No action		ACWA-Oppose Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
SB 122	Jackson [D]	California Environmental Quality Act: record of proceedings Amended on June 1, 2015, this bill requires the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to implement a public database of all environmental documents and notices required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This bill also requires a CEQA lead agency, upon request of the project applicant and with consent of the lead agency, to prepare the record of proceeding concurrently with the administrative process and certify the record of proceeding within 30 days after filing notice of determination or approval.	None		ACWA-Watch Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Concerns

SB 163	Hertzberg [D]	Wastewater treatment: recycled water: SB 163 was amended the last week of the Legislative session to address wastewater treatment. The bill would declare that the discharge of treated wastewater from ocean outfalls, except in compliance with the bill's provisions, is a waste and unreasonable use of water in light of the cost-effective opportunities to recycle this water for further beneficial use. This bill, on or before January 1, 2026, would require a wastewater treatment facility discharging through an ocean outfall to achieve at least 50% reuse of the facility's actual annual flow, as defined, for beneficial purposes.			ACWA-Not Favor Met-NYC MWDOC-Support if Amended OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
SB 223	Galgiani [D]	Division of Boating and Waterways: oversight committee: invasive aquatic plants The Division of Boating and Waterways within the Department of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency in the state for purposes of cooperating with other state, local, and federal agencies in identifying, detecting, controlling, and administering programs to manage invasive aquatic plants in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, its tributaries, and the Suisun Marsh, and prescribes the duties of the division with regard to the management and control or eradication of those plants. This bill would require the division, no later than 90 days after the effective date of the bill, to establish, and designate and provide staff support to, an advisory and oversight committee to evaluate and monitor the activities of the division relating to the management and control or eradication of those plants.	None		ACWA-Favor/Amend Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-NYC
SB 471	Pavley [D]	Water, energy, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions: planning. Would include reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with water treatment among the investments that are eligible for funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Would establish a grant and loan program for water projects that result in the net reduction of water-related greenhouse gas emissions	None		ACWA-NYC Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Support in Concept
SB 551	Wolk [D]	State water policy: water and energy efficiency: Would declare the policy of the state that water use and water treatment shall operate in a manner that is as energy efficient as is feasible and energy use and generation shall operate in a manner that is as water efficient as is feasible. This bill would require all relevant state agencies to consider this state policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria when pertinent to these uses of water and energy	No action		ACWA - Watch Met - Watch MWDOC - NYC OCWD - Support IRWD - NYC CSDA - Watch

SB 554	Wolk [D]	<p>Delta levee maintenance Current law establishes a delta levee maintenance program pursuant to which a local agency may request reimbursement for costs incurred in connection with the maintenance or improvement of project or nonproject levees in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This bill would declare legislative intent to reimburse up to 75% of those costs incurred in any year for the maintenance or improvement of levees in excess of \$1,000 per mile of levee and would authorize the board to advance funds in an amount that does not exceed 75% of the estimated state share to an eligible local agency.</p>	Passed Senate Floor. At Assembly Desk		ACWA-Favor Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
SB 814	Hill [D]	<p>Drought: excessive water use: urban retail water suppliers. Would declare that excessive water use, as defined by each urban retail water supplier, is a waste or unreasonable use of water. This bill would prohibit excessive water use by a residential customer and would make a violation of this prohibition an infraction punishable by a fine of at least \$500 per 100 cubic feet of water used above the excessive water use definition in a billing cycle. By creating a new infraction, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws. Amendments on 3/30/16 removed a California Public Records Act requirement.</p>	Amended on 3/30/16. Re- Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.		ACWA-Oppose Unless Amended Met-NYC MWDOC-Oppose Unless Amended OCWD- NYC IRWD-Seek Amendments CSDA-Watch
SB 919	Hertzberg [D]	<p>Water supply: creation or augmentation of local water supplies. This bill would require the CPUC to consult with the California Independent System Operator and adopt and implement policies or tariffs to address the oversupply of renewable energy resources by July 1, 2017. The adopted policies must include, but are not limited to, a tariff for use by facilities that create or augment local water supplies like desalination, brackish water desalting, water recycling, or water reuse facilities. Amendments taken on 4/14/16 were minor.</p>	Amended on 4/14/16. Re- Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee		ACWA-Favor if Amended Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
SB 1141	Moorlach [R]	<p>State highways: transfer to local agencies: pilot program. Would require the Department of Transportation to participate in a pilot program over a 5-year period under which 2 counties, one in northern California and one in southern California, may be selected to operate, maintain, and make improvements to all state highways, including freeways, in the affected county. The bill would require the department, with respect to those counties, for the duration of the pilot program, to convey all of its authority and responsibility over state highways in the county to the county or to a regional transportation agency that has jurisdiction in the county.</p>	Amended on 4/5/16. Referred to Senate Transportation and Housing Committee		ACWA-NYC Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-NYC

SB 1170	Wieckowski [D]	Public contracts: water pollution prevention plans: delegation Would prohibit a public entity, charter city, or charter county from delegating to a contractor the development of a plan, as defined, used to prevent or reduce water pollution or runoff on a public works contract, except as provided. The bill would also prohibit a public entity, charter city, or charter county from requiring a contractor on a public works contract that includes compliance with a plan to assume responsibility for the completeness and accuracy of a plan developed by that entity. Amendments taken on 4/6/16 were minor in nature.	Amended 4/6/16. In Senate Environmental Quality Committee		ACWA-Not Favor Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Oppose
SB 1317	Wolk [D]	Conditional use permit: groundwater extraction facility 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. By increasing the duties of cities and counties, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.	In Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee		ACWA-Oppose Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-Oppose Unless Amended CSDA-Watch
SB 1415	De Leon [D]	California Environmental Quality Act: water projects: exemption. Would exempt from the requirements of CEQA drought-oriented projects, as specified, proposed by one or more public agencies, or a combination of public agencies and private organizations, that have the purpose of mitigating drought conditions for which a state of emergency has been declared by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act. This bill contains other existing laws.	Introduced 2/19/16		ACWA-Favor Met-NYC MWDOC-NYC OCWD- NYC IRWD-NYC CSDA-Watch
N/A		Public Goods Charge	No legislation yet, this concept will be discussed this year		ACWA - Oppose OCWD - Oppose

*AB 725 (Wagner) has been dropped due to IRWD resolving their issue regarding storm induced overflow administratively.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

4. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER:

REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

5. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

MEMORANDUM



*Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

TO: Legislative & Public Affairs Committee
FROM: Noelle Collins, Public Affairs Coordinator
DATE: April 28, 2016
SUBJECT: Outreach Update

RECOMMENDATION

This item is provided for information only.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #4: Increase public awareness about Mesa Water® and about water.
Goal #6: Provide outstanding customer service.
Goal #7: Actively participate in regional water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

This item is updated for the monthly meeting of the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee.

DISCUSSION

In addition to ongoing communications, industry and internal relations, legislative relations, media relations (News Bureau), publications, water education and the annual Water Issues Study Group (WISG) series, the Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) outreach program includes constituent relations via Community Outreach events, Speaker's Bureau opportunities, Town Hall talks, and "Well Wisher" meetings.

Each of these activities is designed to connect Mesa Water® with its constituents in order to achieve the awareness goal in the District's strategic plan. These activities are also designed to achieve the Strategic Plan goals related to human resources, customer services, and/or regional water issues involvement by educating and informing the District's constituents about Mesa Water, water issues, and water in general.

Mesa Water constituents include external audiences -- such as customers; community members; elected officials; industry colleagues, water districts and special districts; and, media -- as well as internal audiences such as current and former Mesa Water staff and Board members. Following is an update on outreach activities designed to educate and inform the District's constituents about Mesa Water and water in general.

1. Community Outreach Events – Staff has planned Mesa Water's participation in and/or sponsorship support of the following events:
 - a. Mayor's Celebration – The Art of Leadership at Samueli Hall at the Segerstrom Center for Performing Arts on Thursday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m.



- b. Costa Mesa Chamber Student Scholarships, Costa Mesa Hilton, Friday, May 20, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
 - c. Orange County Water Summit, Westin South Coast Plaza, Friday, May 20, 2016 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
2. Speaker's Bureau – Includes presentations by Mesa Water's Board and/or staff member(s) in the community as well as media interviews, including MWRf tours. Mesa Water will be live on KOCL, 101.5 on Sunday, May 1, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.
3. Town Hall Talks – Mesa Water hosted three town hall talks and tours in fall 2015, with a combined total of 65 constituents in attendance.
4. "Well Wisher" Meetings – To date, Mesa Water has received 341 "Well Wisher" support cards and hosted 1,135 constituents at the MWRf.

Staff will continue to provide updates to the Board regarding Mesa Water's Community Outreach events, Speaker's Bureau opportunities, Town Hall talks, and "Well Wisher" meetings.

For the "Well Wisher" meetings, staff will continue to develop, prioritize, and update the contact information list of appropriate representatives at key businesses, charities, churches, community service organizations, customers, HOAs, former Mesa Water directors/staff, WISG alums, and other groups/individuals in the District's service area. Also, staff will work with the Board to designate the appropriate Mesa Water representative(s) to participate in specific "Well Wisher" meetings, arrange the "Well Wisher" meetings, and notify the appropriate Mesa Water representative(s).

Following are the benefits of Mesa Water's outreach program:

- Informing constituents about Southern California's perpetual drought, the historical drought now facing California, and the importance of developing local and cost-effective sources of safe, reliable water for Mesa Water's service area and the region at large;
- Educating Mesa Water constituents about the importance of water and water stewardship, in order to sustain Southern California's population, quality of life, business, and economy;
- Educating constituents about Mesa Water's stewardship of ratepayer funds and financial responsibility to fund, invest in, and save for the current and future provision of safe and reliable water for the District's service area;
- Informing Mesa Water constituents of the District's infrastructure improvements to ensure water quality and water reliability for its service area;
- Learning from constituents and evolving as a well-informed Board of Directors;
- Promoting water use efficiency to Mesa Water's customers (ratepayers) and community members to help them save water, money, and the environment;
- Ensuring, for public health and safety reasons, that Mesa Water customers and community members identify the District as their water provider and as the source of information about water in emergency situations;



- Supporting Mesa Water's service area as an actively involved participant in programs that provide added value and benefits to the community;
- Informing the media of Mesa Water's activities that benefit the District's customers and community;
- Empowering Mesa Water's Board and staff with information that will help them provide the best possible service to the District's customers and community members; and,
- Strengthening Mesa Water's industry relations to provide opportunities for improving the District's business and operations -- including the areas of financial and human resources strength, infrastructure and technological innovation, and setting/supporting policies that have a positive impact on Mesa Water's service area -- so that the District can continue to provide safe, high-quality, reliable, and affordable water to its customers.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In fiscal year 2016, \$700,875 is budgeted (for the Public & Government Affairs department's total expenses); \$615,814 has been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

None.