



-VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL-

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MEMORANDUM

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TO: Stacy Taylor, Mesa Water District
FROM: Dennis K. Albiani, Anthony Molina, California Advocates, Inc.
SUBJECT: November Report

As families prepare to celebrate the holidays, Sacramento begins to focus on the second year of the 2nd year of the legislative session. Actions include interim hearings, administrative regulatory preparations, meetings on budget appropriations, and meetings with legislative staff to discuss priorities.

As we begin to prepare for next year, below is the list of two-year bills that CalAd is monitoring and engaging in on behalf of Mesa Water District that will carry over from this legislative session – please review bill list. In addition, both the California State Senate and Assembly have released their legislative calendar for next year with “Key Dates and Deadlines.” It’s imperative to know that as soon as Legislators Reconvene in January for the legislative session, that several major deadlines will occur in January and February – please see below:

January

- Jan. 1 – Statutes take effect.
- Jan. 3 – Legislative Session Reconvenes. Policy Committees Begin for two-year fiscal bills.
- Jan. 10 – Budget must be submitted by Governor.
- Jan. 14 – Last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal committees' two-year fiscal bills.
- Jan. 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observed.
- Jan. 21 – Last day for any committee to hear and report to the floor bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year. Last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Jan. 31 – House of Origin Deadline for two-year bills.

February

- Feb. 18 – Last day for bills to be introduced
- Feb. 21 Presidents' Day Observed.

The beginning of the second year of the legislative session is an accelerated timeline which requires early engagement with key staff, consultants, and Legislators during December. In conclusion of Mesa Water District’s review of their bill list, please let CalAd know if there are specific bills you would like to engage in that we have not done so to this point.

“Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022”

The More Water Now Coalition has filed the “Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022” with the Attorney General’s Office and have requested Title and Summary. The initiative calls for 2 percent of the state’s general fund – about \$3.5 billion per year – to be allocated to projects that increase California’s water supply. A copy of the filed initiative can be found [HERE](#).

Currently, proponents of the initiative are reaching out organizations and legislators for endorsements to support the initiative. Additionally, the proponents are also seeking financial commitments to support the initiative.

Legislative Calendars Released for 2022

Both the California State Senate and Assembly posted their legislative calendars with key dates and deadlines. You can view both calendars at the links below:

Senate Legislative Calendar 2022: [HERE](#)

Assembly Legislative Calendar 2022: [HERE](#)

Congress Passes \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Congress passed the \$1.2 Trillion “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,” after months of negotiations. California will be infused, yet again, with additional federal funding to go towards its infrastructure. More details on how the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will benefit California can be found [HERE](#). California expects to receive the following:

- \$3.5 billion over five years to improve water infrastructure across the state and ensure clean, safe drinking water for California communities.
- \$1.5 billion for infrastructure development for airports over five years
- \$384 million over five years to support the expansion of an EV charging network in the state and the opportunity to apply for the \$2.5 billion in grant funding dedicated to EV charging.
- \$25.3 billion for federal-aid highway apportioned programs and \$4.2 billion for bridge replacement and repairs over five years.
- \$9.45 billion over five years to improve public transportation options across the state.
- A minimum of \$100 million to help provide broadband coverage across the state.
- \$84 million over five years to protect against wildfires and \$40 million to protect against cyberattacks.

These funds will build upon multiple federal pandemic relief packages and California’s record-breaking budget surplus during the 2021/22 fiscal year.

2021 - 2022 Legislative Tracking

SB 222 (Dodd) Water Affordability Assistance Program.

This bill would establish the Water Affordability Assistance Fund in the State Treasury to help provide water affordability assistance, for both drinking water and wastewater services, to low-income ratepayers and ratepayers experiencing economic hardship in California. The bill would make money in the fund available upon appropriation by the Legislature to the state board to provide direct water bill assistance, water bill credits, water crisis assistance, affordability assistance, and short-term assistance to public water systems to administer program components.

Status: Assembly Floor, Inactive File
Position: Oppose Unless Amended

SB 223 (Dodd) Discontinuation of residential water service.

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

Status: This bill is dead.
Position: Oppose

AB 377 (Rivas) Water quality: impaired waters.

This bill would require all California surface waters to be fishable, swimmable, and drinkable by January 1, 2050. The bill would prohibit the state board and regional boards from authorizing an NPDES discharge, or a waste discharge requirement or waiver of a waste discharge requirement for a discharge, to surface water that causes or contributes to an exceedance of an applicable water quality standard in receiving waters, or from authorizing a best management practice permit term to authorize a discharge to surface water that causes or contributes to an exceedance of an applicable water quality standard in receiving waters.

Status: Two-year bill
Position: Oppose

AB 588 (E. Garcia) California Safe Drinking Water Act: compliance.

This bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to set a period from 30 days to three years for reaching compliance with a new drinking water regulation. The bill would also require the Board to identify actions to assist water systems to achieve compliance with a new regulation.

Status: Two-year bill
Position: Support

AB 703 (Rubio) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

This bill will eliminate the previously existing concept of "teleconference locations"; will revise existing law to ensure minimum standards for public participation; and will revise notice requirements to allow for greater public participation in teleconference meetings of local agencies. The bill does not require teleconferencing but modernizes existing law to ensure greater public participation in meetings of the legislative bodies of local agencies which choose to utilize teleconferencing.

Status: Two-year bill
Position: Support

AB 1434 (Friedman) Urban water use objectives: indoor residential water use.

This bill would incrementally lower the indoor water use standard starting January 1, 2023, to reach a standard of 40 gallons per capita daily starting in 2030. The bill also removes the requirement for the Department of Water Resources, in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board, to submit a report on the result of its indoor water use studies and make recommendations regarding the existing standards.

Status: Two-year bill

Position: Oppose

Bonds

Both bond proposals bills have been put to a halt for the immediate future. The Senate moved their bond proposal to the Senate Floor "Inactive File" and the Assembly moved their bond proposal to the Assembly Rules Committee. At this time both bills will be held until leadership in both houses decides to move forward with each proposal in the legislative process. To make it on the November 2022 ballot, either bill must pass the Legislature before June 2022.

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

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

Status: Senate Floor, Inactive File

Position: Watch

AB 1500 (E. Garcia) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022.

This bill would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$6,700,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs.

Status: Assembly Rules Committee

Position: Watch

Budget

CalAd is spending a significant amount of time over the legislative interim meeting with internal leads at California's regulatory agencies. Given this year's budget, there are opportunities for grant funding within existing programs and new programs being developed. Each regulatory agency has a different approach, process, and timeline for appropriating funding. It is CalAd's goal to identify opportunities and priorities for Mesa Water District to apply for grant funding. As we gather more information, we will communicate with Mesa Water District leadership and

ensure they receive all pertinent information. Should Mesa Water District have any programs, they would like CalAd to research, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Regulatory

- **Secretary of the State Certified Recall Results**

California Secretary of State Shirley Weber has certified the results of the September 14, 2021, California Gubernatorial Recall Election. The results for the question of whether to recall Governor Gavin Newsom were the following:

Voting Yes – 4,894,473 (38.1%)

Voting No – 7,944,092 (61.9%)

Also, it has been reported by the Secretary of the State's office that there were 22,057,154 total registered voters as of August 30, 2021, which is a state record. In the Recall, there were a total of 12,892,578 total votes cast – 11,733,29 were vote-by-mail ballots. Thus, voter turnout was at 58.45% for the Recall Election.

- **California Redistricting Commission Releases Draft Redistricting Maps**

Last week, the California Redistricting Commission released the preliminary maps outlining what California's congressional and legislative districts could look like for the next 10 years, starting with the 2022 elections. The maps are open for public comment. There will be at least four meetings before finalizing the districts by a December 27th court-ordered deadline. The preliminary maps can be found [HERE](#).

- **The Governor made the following appointments:**

- **Nancy Wright, of Whitewater, has been reappointed to the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board**, where she has served since 2012 and served from 2000 to 2007. Wright has been Co-Owner at Peter Wright General Contractor since 1977. Wright is a member and president of the Mission Springs Water District Board of Directors, where she has served since 1988.
- **Gloria Alvarado, of Santa Ana, has been appointed to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board**. Alvarado has been Executive Director at the Orange County Labor Federation since 2018, where she has held several positions since 2011, including Organizing Director and Community Organizer. She was National Immigration Coordinator at the AFL-CIO from 2015 to 2017 and Recreation Director for the City of Santa Ana from 1986 to 2010.
- **John Scandura, 64, of Huntington Beach, has been appointed to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board**. Scandura held several positions at the Department of Toxic Substances Control from 1985 to 2018, including Branch Chief for the Site Mitigation and Restoration Program, Remediation Project Manager and Remediation Program Supervisor. He was Staff Scientist at Tetra Tech from 1983 and 1985. Scandura earned a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science and Engineering from the University of North Carolina.