

Rank	Legislative Policy & Funding Priorities for 2025	Strategy/Next Steps
<b>FEDERAL Legislative Policy &amp; Funding Priorities</b>		
#1	<p>PFAS:</p> <p>Secure an explicit exemption for water and wastewater agencies from CERCLA liability</p> <p>Provide funding for PFAS remediation to water and wastewater agencies</p> <p>Monitor and review the science and studies used to set regulatory standards</p> <p>Monitor and support the AWWA and AMWA lawsuit</p>	<p>Support legislation that provides for a specific exemption</p> <p>Gain support with associations, including ACWA, AMWA, CMUA, CASA etc. &amp; coordinate messaging and strategy</p> <p>Maintain and expand relationships with elected officials</p> <p>Host briefing meetings in Washington D.C., provide testimony at hearings that deal with PFAS, and host meetings in Orange County for legislators and their key staff</p> <p>Brief water, natural resource, and appropriations committee members and staff</p> <p>Hire technical experts to assist staff</p>
#2	Seek funding for the South Basin Groundwater Cleanup Project. Total project cost is \$15 million, ask is \$5 million for planning and design	Pending community project funding opportunities in 2025 or “earmarks.”
#3	<p>Sediment Removal:</p> <p>Encourage the USACE to become involved in sediment removal from behind Prado Dam</p>	Support funding in USACE budget & seek federal grants to partner with coastal cities for the removal of sediment from behind Prado Dam for beach replenishment at coastal communities to support:

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Coastal resiliency/climate adaption</li> <li>-Protection of coastal railways</li> <li>-Infrastructure to move sediment or 'sluice' sediment utilizing natural riverbed to replenish beaches</li> <li>-SediMatch tool, which connects sediment producers with beach communities in need of restoration, nourishment and construction projects</li> </ul>
#4	<p><b>FIRO:</b></p> <p>Support the incorporation of FIRO into the USACE Water Control Manual for Prado Dam</p> <p>Help facilitate the adoption of a permanent deviation into the USACE operating manual by 2030</p>	See strategy for PFAS above
#5	Support the Santiago Basins slope stabilization project to recharge stormwater into the basin through working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Congressmember Correa's office is very interested in making sure the Santiago Basins slope stabilization project moves forward as it not only provides groundwater recharge but is a key flood control project. The project is in Congressmember Young Kim's district and collaboration between the offices has begun to develop bi-partisan next steps
#6	Support OCWD's producers' water infrastructure funding requests	
#7	Identify and pursue federal assistance for an enhanced tour educational area	

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#8	Seek funding for subsequent phases of the Local groundwater Supply Improvement Project (Local SIP) in collaboration with the project partners (Cities of Huntington Beach and Newport Beach, and Mesa Water®).	
<b>STATE Legislative Policy &amp; Funding Priorities</b>		
#1	Support water infrastructure funding opportunities and obtain state funding for PFAS	<p>To the extent funding is ready to be distributed in 2025, apply for state funding grants through Proposition 4, and state budget opportunities</p> <p>Maintain and expand relationships with elected officials &amp; the Governor's office</p> <p>Host briefing meetings in Sacramento and Orange County for new legislators and their key staff.</p> <p>Brief key water and natural resource &amp; appropriations committee members &amp; staff</p>
#2	Seek funding for the South Basin Groundwater Cleanup Project. Total project cost is \$15 million, ask is \$5 million for planning and design	To the extent funding is ready to be distributed in 2025 or 2026, apply for state grant funding
#3	Seek state grants to partner with coastal cities for the removal of sediment from behind Prado Dam for beach replenishment at coastal communities	Continue working with Assembly Member Dixon & the rest of the OC delegation to develop momentum and statewide support for sediment removal from Prado Dam and use as necessary beach replenishment

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#4	Support ongoing state funding for Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) and Atmospheric Rivers (AR) research in the Department of Water Resource's budget	Continue to educate new members and key staff on the importance of the existing FIRO budgeted funding to prevent any future reductions
#5	Ensure producers are gaining the maximum amount of 'bonus incentive' and/or credit for potable reuse as it relates to the State's indirect potable reuse allocation, which OCWD championed, and secured in statute (of making conservation a California way of life) and rulemaking process.	OCWD staff to provide calculations for GWRS water
#6	<p>Emphasize the difference between state droughts and regional or local droughts.</p> <p><i>Suppose areas served by OCWD are not experiencing a drought due to an abundance of water being recharged into the basin. In that case, such areas should not be under the same restrictions as those relying on State Drought measures.</i></p>	OCWD staff to provide educational information to the media, Governor's office and key elected officials to oppose any upcoming one-size-fits-all drought restrictions
#7	Identify and pursue state assistance for an enhanced tour educational area	To the extent funding is ready to be distributed in 2025, apply for educational state grant funding
#8	Seek funding for subsequent phases of the Local groundwater Supply Improvement Project (Local SIP) in collaboration with the project partners (Cities of Huntington Beach and Newport Beach, and Mesa Water®).	

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