

AGENDA
COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING
WITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS*
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA (714) 378-3200
September 5, 2024 12:00 p.m.- Conference Room C-2

*The OCWD Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting is noticed as a joint meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of strict compliance with the Brown Act and it provides an opportunity for all Directors to hear presentations and participate in discussions. Directors receive no additional compensation or stipend as a result of simultaneously convening this meeting. Items recommended for approval at this meeting will be placed on the **September 18** Board meeting Agenda for approval.

This meeting will be held in person. As a convenience for the public, the meeting may also be accessed by Zoom Webinar and will be available by either computer or telephone audio as indicated below. Because this is an in-person meeting and the Zoom component is not required, but rather is being offered as a convenience, if there are any technical issues during the meeting, this meeting will continue and will not be suspended.

Computer Audio: You can join the Zoom meeting by clicking on the following link:
<https://ocwd.zoom.us/j/99465334409>

Telephone Audio: (213) 338 8477

Webinar ID: 994 6533 4409

Teleconference Sites:
10382 Bonnie Drive, Garden Grove
19 Cannery, Buena Park
1454 Madison Street, Tustin
1502 North Broadway, Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana

* Members of the public may attend and participate at all locations.

ROLL CALL

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt resolution determining need to take immediate action on item(s) and that the need for action came to the attention of the District subsequent to the posting of the Agenda (requires two-thirds vote of the Board members present, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present.)

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

Time has been reserved at this point in the agenda for persons wishing to comment for up to three minutes to the Board of Directors on any item that is not listed on the agenda, but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the District. By law, the Board of Directors is prohibited from taking action on such public comments. As appropriate, matters raised in these public comments will be referred to District staff or placed on the agenda of an upcoming Board meeting.

At this time, members of the public may also offer public comment for up to three minutes on any item on the Consent Calendar. While members of the public may not remove an item from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion, a Director may do so at the request of a member of the public.

CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM NO. 1)

All matters on the Consent Calendar are to be approved by one motion, without separate discussion on these items, unless a Board member or District staff request that specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration.

1. MINUTES OF COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AUGUST 8, 2024

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes as presented

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for September 18 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

3. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for September 18 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

4. CHILDREN'S WATER EDUCATION FESTIVAL LOCATION AND CONTRACT APPROVAL

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for September 18 Board meeting: Authorize staff to execute an agreement with James Events Productions to host the 2025 Festival at Oak Canyon Park in Orange on April 23-24 and to provide rentals, event planning, and logistical support and services for the 2025 Festival for a combined total amount not to exceed \$195,500

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. WATER SUMMIT UPDATE
6. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OUTREACH REPORT

CHAIR DIRECTION AS TO WHICH ITEMS IF ANY TO BE AGENDIZED AS A MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE SEPTEMBER 18 BOARD MEETING

DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

GENERAL MANAGER'S ANNOUNCEMENT/REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

COMMUNICATION AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Denis Bilodeau - Chair
Van Tran - Vice Chair
Roger Yoh
Bruce Whitaker
Steve Sheldon

Valerie Amezcua
Natalie Meeks
Dina Nguyen
Erik Weigand
Cathy Green

Agenda Posting: In accordance with the requirements of California Government Code Section 54954.2, this agenda is posted in the window of the guard shack at the main entrance of the Orange County Water District, 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA and on the OCWD website: www.ocwd.com not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date and time above. All written materials relating to each agenda item are available for public inspection in the office of the Assistant District Secretary. Backup material for the Agenda is available at the District offices for public review and can be viewed online at the District's website: www.ocwd.com.

Accommodations to the Disabled: Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with a disability who require a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, may request such modification or accommodation from the District Secretary at (714) 378-3234, by email at cfuller@ocwd.com by fax at (714) 378-3373. Notification 24 hours prior to the meeting will enable District staff to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.

Availability of Agenda Material: As a general rule, agenda reports or other written documentation that has been prepared or organized with respect to each item of business listed on the agenda can be reviewed at www.ocwd.com. Copies of these materials and other disclosable public records distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors in connection with an Open Session agenda item are also on file with and available for inspection at the Office of the District Secretary, 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If such writings are distributed to members of the Board of Directors on the day of a Board meeting, the writings will be available at the entrance to the Board of Directors meeting room at the Orange County Water District office.

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
 ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
 August 8, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

Director Weigand called the Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. in the District Conference Room C-2. Public access was also provided via Zoom webinar. The Secretary called the roll and reported a quorum as follows:

Committee Members

Denis Bilodeau (arrived at 12:07 p.m.)
 Van Tran (absent)
 Roger Yoh
 Bruce Whitaker (absent)
 Steve Sheldon (absent)

OCWD Staff

John Kennedy – General Manager
 Chris Olsen – Executive Director
 Gina Ayala – Director of Public Affairs
 Alicia Harasty – Legislative Affairs Liaison
 Dani Berch – Communications Specialist
 Lisa Haney – Executive Director
 Roy Herndon – Chief Hydrogeologist
 Leticia Villarreal –Assistant District Secretary

Alternates

Valerie Amezcua
 Natalie Meeks (absent)
 Dina Nguyen (absent)
 Erik Weigand
 Cathy Green

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Yoh, seconded by Director Amezcua and carried [3-0] as follows:

Ayes – Yoh, Amezcua, Green
Abstain – Weigand

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the June 6, 2024 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. State Legislative Update

The OCWD Consultants provided recommendations on bill positions that impact OCWD and efforts to gain PFAS funding.

Upon motion by Director Yoh, seconded by Director Bilodeau and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its August 21 Board meeting: Take the following position:

Bill Number/Short Title/Author	Position Recommendation for Consideration:
SB 1255 (Durazo. D-Los Angeles) Public water Systems; needs analysis: water rate assistance program	Oppose Unless Amended

Ayes: Bilodeau, Yoh, Amezcua, Weigand, Green

3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultant Eric Sapirstein provided an update on the progress towards securing an exemption for water entities from PFAS liability and the recent OCWD visit to Washington, D.C. He also provided information on the new reporting requirements from the DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Bilodeau and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its August 21 Board meeting: Take the following positions:

Bill Number/Short Title/Author	Position Recommendation for Consideration:	Recommendation
S. 4673 Senator Kysten Sinema (I-AZ and Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)	Special District Grant Accessibility Act	Support
No bill number yet/Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)	Improving Atmospheric River Forecasts Act	Support

Ayes: Bilodeau, Yoh, Amezcua, Weigand, Green

4. State Legislative Advocacy Services

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala stated that the current agreement expires August 31, 2024. The Committee suggested moving from month-to-month to a 2-year agreement term to match the legislative session.

Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Bilodeau and carried [4-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its August 21 Board meeting Retain both Joe A. Gonsalves and Son at the same rate of \$8,000 per month and Edelstein Gilbert Robson and Smith (EGRS) at the same rate of \$8,000 per month for state legislative advocacy services for a 2-year term.

Ayes: Bilodeau, Yoh, Weigand, Green

5. Federal Legislative Advocacy Services

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala stated that the current agreement expires August 31, 2024. The Committee suggested moving from month-to-month to a 2-year agreement term to match the legislative session.

Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Bilodeau and carried [4-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its August 21 Board meeting Retain ENS Resources at a rate of \$8,000 per month for federal legislative advocacy services on a 2-year term.

Ayes: Bilodeau, Yoh, Weigand, Green

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. Children's Water Education Festival Update

Communications Specialist Dani Berch shared the 2025 water festival will be the 28th year that OCWD has had this event. She stated that staff is currently researching venues for the 2025 festival. She informed the Committee that they have looked at over 60 different locations across Orange

County. She reported that they narrowed the list of 60 venues to 3 locations as a possible host: 1) UC Irvine, 2) Huntington Beach Sports Complex and 3) Oak Canyon Park in Orange. She stated the next step would be to get cost estimates from the three locations and see what dates they have available. She advised that staff will bring location, date and event services recommendations to the Committee in September.

7. Water Summit Update

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala provided an update on the 2024 Summit being held on Friday, September 27, at the Westin South Coast Plaza. She stated there are currently 72 registrants and \$24,900 in sponsorships. She advised that updates to the Committee will continue monthly.

8. Public Affairs Outreach Report (June/July)

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala provided an overview of outreach for June and July 2024.

Highlights:

- 21 tours with 378 tour guests and 12 speaker's bureau engagements were held.
- Construction Notifications were written for 3 projects: Seawater barrier well cleaning, Huntington Beach monitoring well construction and Tustin PFAS treatment facility construction
- OCWD welcomed EPA Acting Assistant Administrator Bruno Pigott on a tour of the Linda Vista PFAS Treatment Plant in Anaheim, EPA staff and representatives from the offices of Congresswoman Young Kim and Congressman Lou Correa also joined the tour.

CHAIR DIRECTION AS TO ITEMS IF ANY TO BE AGENDIZED AS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE AUGUST 21 BOARD MEETING

It was agreed to place all items on the Consent Calendar at the August 21 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Denis Bilodeau, Chair

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: September 5, 2024

Budgeted: N/A

To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte.
Board of Directors

Budgeted Amount: N/A

Cost Estimate: N/A

From: John Kennedy

Funding Source: N/A

Program/Line-Item No.: N/A

General Counsel Approval: N/A

Staff Contact: G. Ayala/A. Harasty

Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A

CEQA Compliance: N/A

Subject: STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SUMMARY

Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) staff and consultants will provide an update on the California legislative session which adjourns on August 31, 2024.

Attachment: Joe A. Gonsalves and Son – Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith September 2024

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for September 18 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Legislature is quickly approaching the end of session. They are expected to adjourn sine-die around midnight Saturday, August 31, 2024. An update on bills of interest to OCWD is attached and titled “Joe A. Gonsalves and Son – Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith September 2024 State Legislative Update.”

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

October 2 Assembly Member Petrie-Norris is working to host the state Lt. Governor, Senator Alex Padilla, and members of the Orange County delegation for a tour of the GWRS.

ACTIVITIES

July 11 Assembly Members Dixon and Davies coordinated a meeting at UCI entitled “Sand Replenishment and the Business of Beaches,” which included OCWD in the program to discuss sediment behind Prado Dam and the need to gain funding for transportation costs to replenish sand at local Orange County beaches. OCWD’s Lisa Haney was included in the program. President Cathy Green, John Kennedy, Gina Ayala, and Alicia Harasty also attended.

April 16 Orange County Supervisor Doug Chaffee met with President Cathy Green, John Kennedy and Alicia Harasty regarding OCWD and its state priorities

- March 26 Assembly Member Dixon met with President Cathy Green, John Kennedy and Alicia Harasty regarding OCWD and its state priorities
- March 8 Assembly Member Valencia met with President Cathy Green, John Kennedy and Alicia Harasty regarding OCWD and its state priorities
- March 15 Assembly Member Tri Ta met with President Cathy Green, John Kennedy and Alicia Harasty regarding OCWD and its state priorities
- January 31 Senator Janet Nguyen's staff, Joe Pena, was briefed by Alicia Harasty
- January 29 Senator Kelly Seyarto's staff, Madison Marks-Noble, was briefed by Alicia Harasty
- January 26 Assembly Member Cottie Petrie-Norris met with President Cathy Green, John Kennedy and Alicia Harasty regarding OCWD and its state priorities
- January 25 OCWD President Green, senior staff and lobbyists had a productive meeting with the Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board
- January 24 Assembly Member Tri Ta's staff, Colin Edwards, Assembly Member Dixon's staff, Kristin Vallandi, Senator Umberg's staff, Fidel Vasquez, was briefed by Alicia Harasty
- January 23 Assembly Member Petrie-Norris's staff, Michael Tou, was briefed by Alicia Harasty
- January 16 The following Sacramento staff to the Orange County delegation were briefed by Alicia Harasty: Jessica Matlock, Office of Senator Newman; Hannah Skaggs, Office of Assembly Member Dixon; Christopher Aguilera, Office of Assembly Member Quirk-Silva; Katherine Moore, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water/Senator Min key contact; Victoria Harris, Office of Assembly Member Petrie-Norris; Christian Lopez, Office of Senator Seyarto; Ted Blanchard, Office of Senator Nguyen; Katie Guthrie, Office of Assembly Member Valencia



EDELSTEIN GILBERT ROBSON & SMITH^{LLC}



Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Anthony D. Gonsalves
Jason A. Gonsalves
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PROFESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION
925 L ST. - SUITE 200 - SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-3766
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Email: gonsalves@gonsalves.com

TO: ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

FROM: JOE A. GONSALVES AND SON
EDELSTEIN GILBERT ROBSON & SMITH^{LLC}

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DATE: August 27, 2024

The Legislature is quickly approaching the end of session. They are expected to adjourn sine-die around midnight this Saturday, August 31st. With a sizeable delegation of Democratic legislators absent last week to attend the Democratic National Convention, legislators have been forced to stay in session late into the evening to catch up on the 1,000+/- bills to be considered prior to Saturday's deadline.

SB 1255 (Durazo) – Low Income Rate Assistance

Earlier this month, OCWD took an oppose unless amended position on SB 1255 (Durazo). SB 1255 would have required OCWD's producers to operate low-income rate assistance (LIRA) programs. Specifically, SB 1255 required retail water agencies to place a "voluntary" charge on ratepayer bills that would be sufficient to provide a significant subsidy to low-income ratepayers.

While the bill would have allowed ratepayers to "opt-out" of this charge, administering the program as structured in the bill was incredibly administratively burdensome. In some cases, water agencies anticipated that the cost of administering the program to be higher than the benefits paid out to low-income customers.

Finally, while the author and proponents made some effort to resolve the concerns of water agencies, the bill was not put into print until halfway through the legislative year, leaving little time for stakeholders to weigh in.

Given all of this, we are pleased to report that SB 1255 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee and died as a consequence.

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: September 5, 2024	Budgeted: N/A
To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte. Board of Directors	Budgeted Amount: N/A
From: John Kennedy	Cost Estimate: N/A
Staff Contact: G. Ayala/A. Harasty	Funding Source: N/A
	Program/Line-Item No.: N/A
	General Counsel Approval: N/A
	Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A
	CEQA Compliance: N/A

Subject: FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SUMMARY

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) federal advocate and staff will provide an update on spending bills and funding for OCWD's projects.

Attachments:

- ENS Resources September Update
- Federal Bill Matrix

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for September 18 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Please see attached "ENS Resources September Update," for a federal update regarding funding and PFAS-related items of interest to OCWD. The pending spending priorities for Fiscal Year 2025 are important to OCWD for the following reasons:

1. OCWD's Community Project assistance request is included in the approved House-passed bill;
2. The federal infrastructure partnership with water agencies, including a priority to address PFAS cleanups, will remain robust;
3. The continuing education on the challenge of PFAS treatment and destruction has apparently put a pause on using the appropriations process to dictate treatment and clean-up mandates. Instead, it appears, based upon the House and Senate bills, that a focus on collecting data is the priority for resource allocation. The House bill mandate to report on PFAS drinking water MCL costs and the impact upon water agencies' ability to comply indicates a continued interest in identifying how the agency arrived at the 4PPT standard; and,
4. The requirement to require USEPA to report on the implementation of its policy not to impose liability on public water agencies related to PFAS cleanups indicates a potential for increased oversight on the impacts, costs and benefits of USEPA's rules and policies upon the water sector.

ACTIVITIES

- May OCWD Board President Cathy Green, General Manager John Kennedy and staff visited Washington D.C. to advocate for OCWD federal priorities and funding requests.
- February 26 OCWD and ACWA President, Cathy Green, led the ACWA Washington D.C. conference and clearly conveyed the impact of PFAS cleanup costs to OCWD, advocated for funding and an exemption from CERCLA liability, among other topics
- January 25 Staff of U.S. Senator Laphonza Butler, Chesna Foord, toured the GWRS and was briefed by Alicia Harasty



TO: Alicia Harasty
FROM: Eric Sapirstein
DATE: August 27, 2024
SUBJECT: Washington Update

Congress recessed for summer at the end of July, leaving a host of legislative issues to be considered when it returns in September. However, in reality, most legislative work will remain unfinished to be addressed until the Lame Duck Session that will begin in mid-November following the November 5 General Election. Before leaving, the House and Senate moved most fiscal year 2025 spending bills through their respective spending committees. The House passed a handful of spending bills, while the Senate failed to debate any of the pending bills. Outside of spending measures, action on the Water Resources Development Act occurred. PFAS liability legislation remained a pending matter before the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over hazardous waste site clean-ups.

The following summarizes the status of federal policy matters of interest to OCWD.

- ***Water Resources Development Act of 2024***
House and Senate efforts to reauthorize the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA), H.R. 8812 and S. 4367, to renew the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) programs and projects took an important steps when, on July 22 and July 25 the House and Senate respectively passed their version overwhelming. H.R. 8812 passed 318-19 and S. 4367 passed unanimously. This means that WRDA is now poised for final passage later this fall once a House-Senate Conference Committee drafts a compromise bill. Both bills are limited in scope with a focus on authorizing USACE approved Chief's Reports, a series of Environmental Infrastructure projects, including ecosystem restoration projects. Also, both bills would elevate water supply as core USACE mission alongside navigation and flood protection. However, the House would make such elevation permanent. Conversely, the Senate would make water supply a priority only during times of drought. Additionally, the two bills reaffirm the priority for FIRO to address water supply reliability.

Importance to OCWD

WRDA would not directly impact OCWD's water supply needs. The Senate bill would create a priority for water supply at USACE facilities during declared drought emergencies. Alternatively, the House approach would simply elevate water supply as a core mission for USACE along with flood protection and navigation irrespective of the presence of a declared drought. Under either provision, if enacted, OCWD would have another tool in the toolbox to work with USACE to bolster water conservation at Prado Dam. A second indirect benefit for are provisions to enhance forecasts of atmospheric rivers through the Forecast Informed Reservoir Operation (FIRO) program that relies upon advance meteorological capabilities. FIRO would improve water conservation and also provide a tool to better understand stormwater impacts that can result in surge events. The Senate provides a directive to USACE to make use of FIRO with a target area of USACE's South Pacific Division that includes OCWD's region.

- ***PFAS Rulemakings and Liability Protection Legislation***

Federal PFAS policymaking continues to command congressional and stakeholder attention. Within the policymaking arena, Congress is using the annual appropriations process to address concerns from the water sector. The House Committee on Appropriations approved the USEPA Fiscal Year 2025 spending bill (H.R. 8998) and included PFAS related policy riders. First, the committee reaffirmed its Fiscal Year 2024 spending bill directives to the Government Accountability Office (GAO). GAO was mandated to conduct a study into the economics underlying USEPA's decision to establish a drinking water standard (MCL) of 4PPT. In the House Fiscal Year 2025 spending bill, the committee expanded the mandate, requiring GAO and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to identify the number of drinking water agencies impacted by the rule and the costs of compliance. The House spending bill also requires that, within 90 days of enactment, USEPA provide a report to Congress on its progress for implementation of the PFAS CERCLA municipal discretionary enforcement policy. USEPA asserts this policy will avoid enforcing against drinking water agencies when CERCLA liability might be triggered at a clean-up site.

Aside from these liability and compliance issues, the spending bill provides USEPA with directives to maintain research into PFAS environmental and health impacts, and to support water agencies with technical assistance to comply with the MCL.

The legislative effort to develop a water sector PFAS Comprehensive Emergency Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) liability exemption continues in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. As reported previously, committee leadership is committed to develop a consensus approach before consideration of PFAS legislation. Consensus exists within the committee to support increased funding for health research and technology

development to treat or destroy PFAS. The challenge continues to be defining a passive receiver to qualify for a CERCLA liability exemption and how to create “guardrails” to protect against abuses that might occur under any liability exemption that might be drafted. According to committee staff, action on a bill is unlikely before the Lame Duck Session. In the House, H.R. 7944, Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act, would provide for an explicit water sector exemption from liability remains as a marker to rely upon should the Senate pass a bill and send it to the House. H.R. 7944 is important because, if enacted, it would provide protections to the water sector and contractors that support water agencies.

From a legal perspective, the American Water Works Association and Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies have filed a challenge to USEPA’s MCL standard. The litigation questions the agency’s calculations of the costs of the mandate to justify its publication. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce filed a legal challenge to the agency’s PFAS hazardous substance designation that has created the potential CERCLA liability for the water sector. Both challenges could result in a judicial decision that would force USEPA to revise the rulemakings or toss the rules completely. The legal challenges are not expected to delay enforcement of the rules, however. In the case of the MCL, it does not become enforceable for five years from July 8, 2024 and therefore resolution of the challenge should occur before compliance with the MCL is triggered.

Importance to OCWD

The decision to include directives to USEPA to provide Congress with data on the impact of the two rulemakings could provide important information that might influence the ongoing legal challenges filed against the MCL and the designation of PFAS as a hazardous substance. The bipartisan effort to address PFAS hazardous substance liability, while unlikely to be acted upon before late fall, continues to gain support from House and Senate members who believe the matter should be addressed. OCWD’s priority to ensure that the water sector receives CERCLA liability protections remains an active issue for Congress. However, it is important to note that resolution of the debate over liability protections could extend into 2025 if a bipartisan agreement remains elusive.

- ***Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations***

The House leadership pledged to move all twelve Fiscal Year 2025 spending bills to the Senate before the August recess. It reached an important milestone when the Committee on Appropriations approved the twelve spending measures. Most of the bills were approved on party line votes, including USEPA’s spending bill (H.R. 8998). This bill contains OCWD’s PFAS clean-up assistance and the House passed it and is pending in the Senate. However, disputes surrounding funding levels contained in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill (H.R. 8997) that funds USBR and USACE programs, failed to pass the House. The Senate Committee on Appropriations similarly approved USEPA, USBR and USACE spending bills, but did not report them to the Senate for floor debate and votes, preferring to hold the bills at committee level to avoid protracted floor

debates. The Senate will use the committee approved bills to negotiate with the House passed bills.

Regardless of the status of the twelve spending bills, a final spending agreement before the November election will not occur. The broad policy differences and spending levels between the two chambers and the limited time before the new fiscal year begins on October 1 makes reconciliation impossible. Passage of stopgap spending bill, extending into December or into early 2025 is likely before the end of September to avoid a government shutdown on October 1.

The House-passed USEPA spending bill is notable for the significant budget cuts totaling \$2 billion compared with current year spending level. Specifically, the House reduced the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) by almost \$1 billion. While this is a significant reduction, it is important to note that the next phased of the infrastructure law's supplemental SRF funding of \$9 billion will help to offset the cuts. The House bill also includes the PFAS directives noted previously in this update. The bill also claws back millions in the USEPA green infrastructure fund, eliminates funding for environmental justice programs, and denies funding of DEI environmental programs. H.R. 8998 also includes clarifying language that Community Projects assistance would not be subject to federal procurement rules related to sole source project selection.

Unlike the House bill, the Senate version, S. 4802, does not impose spending reductions. Instead, most programs remain funded at current levels. The SRF, for example, would be funded at almost \$3 billion. The Senate legislation highlights that \$9 billion was advanced appropriated as part of the infrastructure law.

Importance of Spending Bills to OCWD

The pending spending priorities for Fiscal Year 2025 are important to OCWD for four reasons. First, OCWD's Community Project assistance request is included in the approved House-passed bill. Second, the federal infrastructure partnership with water agencies, including a priority to address PFAS cleanups, will remain robust. Third, the continuing education on the challenge of PFAS treatment and destruction has apparently put a pause on using the appropriations process to dictate treatment and clean-up mandates. Instead, it appears, based upon the House and Senate bills, that a focus on collecting data to is the priority for resource allocation. The House bill mandate to report on PFAS drinking water MCL costs and the impact upon water agencies' ability to comply indicates a continued interest in identifying how the agency arrived at the 4PPT standard. Last, the requirement to require USEPA to report on the implementation of its policy not to impose liability on public water agencies related to PFAS cleanups indicates a potential for increased oversight on the impacts, costs and benefits of USEPA's rules and policies upon the water sector.



OCWD Legislative Policy Report - August 27, 2024

Pending Legislation of Interest

A summary of key legislation of interest to OCWD

Orange County Water District Bills

11 Bills

US S 4367

Title: Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2024-05-20

Last Action Date: Held at the desk.. 2024-08-06

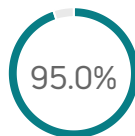
Summary: The legislation passed out of the committee 19-0. Contained within the bill is a reaffirmation of FIRO. The legislation also provides for limited number of environmental infrastructure authorization projects that include \$20,000,000 to support flood protection and habitat conservation in the Bay Delta presumably in support of Voluntary Agreements.

Location: United States

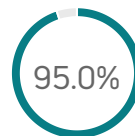
Floor Forecast Scores



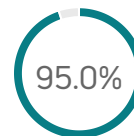
Senate
Pre-Floor Score



Senate
Floor Score



House
Pre-Floor Score



House
Floor Score

US HR 7525

Title: Special District Grant Accessibility Act

Current Status: In Senate

Introduction Date: 2024-03-05

Last Action Date: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.. 2024-07-31

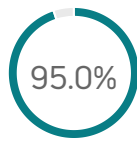
Description: Special District Grant Accessibility Act This bill requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue guidance within 180 days that clarifies how a federal agency recognizes a special district as a unit of local government for the purpose of being eligible to receive federal financial assistance. Under the bill, a special district is a political subdivision of a state, with specified boundaries and significant budgetary autonomy or control, that was created by or pursuant to state law to perform limited and specific governmental or proprietary functions that distinguish it as a significantly separate entity from the administrative governance structure of any other form of local government unit within a state. The bill requires federal agencies to implement OMB's guidance within one year of the date it is issued.

Location: United States

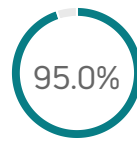
Floor Forecast Scores



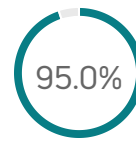
House
Pre-Floor Score



House
Floor Score



Senate
Pre-Floor Score



Senate
Floor Score

US S 4673

Title: Special District Grant Accessibility Act

Current Status: In Senate

Introduction Date: 2024-07-11

Last Action Date: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.. 2024-07-11

Summary: Companion bill to H.R. 7525.

Location: United States

US HR 8032

High Priority

Title: Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act

Current Status: In House

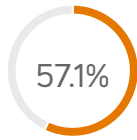
Introduction Date: 2024-04-16

Last Action Date: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials.. 2024-04-19

Summary: H.R. 8032 is the companion bill to S. 3830 that would create a permanent low income ratepayer assistance for water and wastewater services.

Location: United States

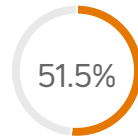
Floor Forecast Scores



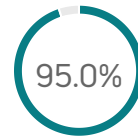
House
Pre-Floor Score



House
Floor Score



Senate
Pre-Floor Score



Senate
Floor Score

US HR 8030

Title: DROUGHT Act of 2024

Current Status: In House

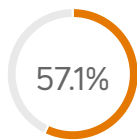
Introduction Date: 2024-04-16

Last Action Date: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials.. 2024-04-19

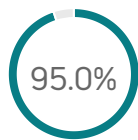
Summary: H.R. 8030 would increase the federal cost-share of from 80% to 90% for WIFIA funded projects addressing resilience or disadvantaged communities. Under the bill, WIFIA would still fund 49% percent of a project's costs, but of the remaining 51% of costs federal funds could be used to finance the project up to the 90% of the entire project's costs.

Location: United States

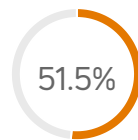
Floor Forecast Scores



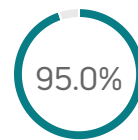
House
Pre-Floor Score



House
Floor Score



Senate
Pre-Floor Score



Senate
Floor Score

US S 4172

Title: Drought Resilient Infrastructure Act of 2024

Current Status: In Senate

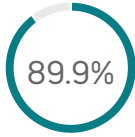
Introduction Date: 2024-04-18

Last Action Date: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.. 2024-04-18

Summary: Legislation would enhance USACE's mission to support drought relief projects that address water conservation, groundwater banking and FIRO projects. FIRO focus would be for South Pacific Division of USACE that includes California. In times of declared drought USACE could operate a facility where the primary purpose of the facility is to provide for water supply. Such priority would lapse after declared drought period concludes.

Location: United States

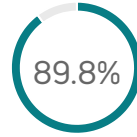
Floor Forecast Scores



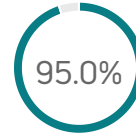
Senate
Pre-Floor Score



Senate
Floor Score



House
Pre-Floor Score



House
Floor Score

US HR 7944

Title: Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2024-04-11

Last Action Date: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials.. 2024-04-12

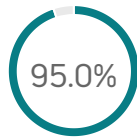
Summary: H.R. 7944 is a companion bill to S. 1430 sponsored by Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WY). H.R. 7944 would protect water and wastewater agencies and related contractors from liability under CERCLA unless the threat stemmed from gross negligence.

Location: United States

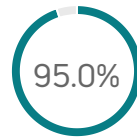
Floor Forecast Scores



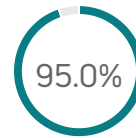
House
Pre-Floor Score



House
Floor Score



Senate
Pre-Floor Score



Senate
Floor Score

US S 3830

Title: Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act

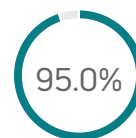
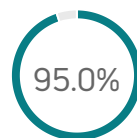
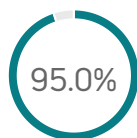
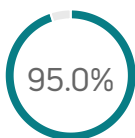
Current Status: In Senate

Introduction Date: 2024-02-28

Last Action Date: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.. 2024-02-28

Location: United States

Floor Forecast Scores



Senate
Pre-Floor Score

Senate
Floor Score

House
Pre-Floor Score

House
Floor Score

US HR 6805

High Priority

Title: PFAS Action Act of 2023

Current Status: In House

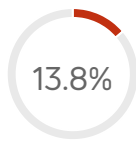
Introduction Date: 2023-12-14

Last Action Date: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment..
2024-01-02

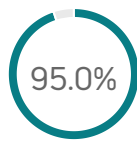
Summary: PFAS Action Act of 2023 is a reintroduction of the 2021 legislation. It would impose a statutory designation of PFAS as a hazardous substance under CERCLA. It would also impose other mandates including time specific drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS and other members of the PFAS chemical family. It currently enjoys 21 sponsors, all Democratic. Sponsor: Rep. Debbie Dingell D-MI

Location: United States

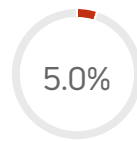
Floor Forecast Scores



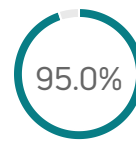
House
Pre-Floor Score



House
Floor Score



Senate
Pre-Floor Score



Senate
Floor Score

US HR 3027

Medium Priority

Title: Reclamation Climate Change and Water Program Reauthorization Act of 2023

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2023-04-28

Last Action Date: Subcommittee Hearings Held. 2023-06-14

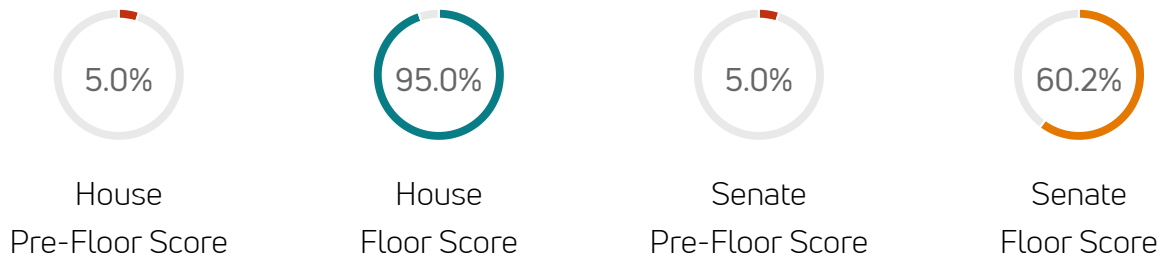
Summary: Would extend, through FY 2033, the U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Reclamation Climate Change and Water Program, which expires at the end of FY 2023. The program requires the Bureau, in consultation with other federal agencies to deliver a report to Congress, every five years, on the impact of global climate change on the operations of the each major reclamation river basin. The report includes a mitigation and adaptation strategy and authorizes a feasibility study on impact of a strategy on "construction of any water supply, water management, environmental, or habitat enhancement water infrastructure." No direct funding is authorized for the program. Sponsor: Rep. Katie Porter D-CA

Description: Reclamation Climate Change and Water Program Reauthorization Act of 2023
This bill reauthorizes through FY2033 the Bureau of Reclamation's climate change and water program. Under the program, Reclamation assesses the effects of global climate change on

the quantity of water resources in certain western states and develops strategies to address potential water shortages, conflicts, and other impacts to such water resources.

Location: United States

Floor Forecast Scores



US S 1430 High Priority

Title: Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act

Current Status: In Senate

Introduction Date: 2023-05-03

Last Action Date: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.. 2023-05-03

Summary: S. 1430 would provide a limited CERCLA liability (section 107) exemption for PFAS family of chemicals for water and wastewater agencies. S. 1430 would not exempt an agency from liability in cases of gross negligence.

Description: Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act This bill exempts specified water management entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) for releases of certain perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as PFAS. Specifically, the entities covered under the bill are public water systems, publicly or privately owned or operated treatment works, municipalities with a stormwater discharge permit, political subdivisions or special districts of a state that act as a wholesale water agency, and contractors performing the management or disposal activities for such entities. Under the bill, the exemption only applies if a specified entity transports, treats, disposes of, or arranges for the transport, treatment or disposal of PFAS consistent with applicable laws and during and following the conveyance or treatment of water under federal or state law, such as through the management or disposal of biosolids consistent with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Liability for damages or costs associated with the release of certain PFAS must not be precluded if an entity acted with gross negligence or willful misconduct.

Location: United States

Floor Forecast Scores



Senate
Pre-Floor Score

Senate
Floor Score

House
Pre-Floor Score

House
Floor Score

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: September 5, 2024

To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte.
Board of Directors

From: John Kennedy

Staff Contacts: G. Ayala/D. Berch

Budgeted: Yes

Budgeted Amount: \$265,000

Cost Estimate: \$195,500

Funding Source: 1012.51112

Program/Line Item No.: 1206

General Counsel Approval: N/A

Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A

CEQA Compliance: N/A

**Subject: CHILDREN'S WATER EDUCATION FESTIVAL LOCATION AND
CONTRACT APPROVAL**

SUMMARY

The 28th annual Children's Water Education Festival (Festival) planning is underway for 2025. Staff will provide a recommendation on the 2025 location, event services, and date.

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for September 18 Board meeting: Authorize staff to execute an agreement with James Events Productions to host the 2025 Festival at Oak Canyon Park in Orange on April 23-24 and to provide rentals, event planning, and logistical support and services for the 2025 Festival for a combined total amount not to exceed \$195,500.

Attachment: 2025 CWEF James Events Contract

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Children's Water Education Festival is an annual, successful program started in 1997 to educate Orange County's youngest stakeholders about the importance of water. Since inception, more than 152,000 students have experienced the Festival and all it has to offer. The free event is open to third, fourth and fifth grade classes in Orange County, Calif.

The entire cost of the Children's Water Education Festival is budgeted and is contained in OCWD's approved FY 2024-25 budget. The venue and rental contracts are the event's two largest expenses. Sponsorships, donations and grants offset the District's cost.

For the 2025 Festival, staff conducted a thorough evaluation of over 60 potential venues, with three locations meeting most of the event needs and willing to host the event. The three locations are Oak Canyon Park, UC Irvine (UCI), and the Huntington Beach Sports Complex (HBSC). Staff recommends Oak Canyon Park in Orange, CA as the preferred event location. While UC Irvine has traditionally been hosted the event,

several significant challenges have arisen for the 2025 Festival that impact its feasibility. The Huntington Beach Sports Complex also met many event needs but did not have enough parking for Festival attendees. More information regarding the three locations is detailed below.

Oak Canyon

Oak Canyon Park, located by Irvine Lake, is the most viable and cost-effective location for the 2025 Festival. The facilities at Oak Canyon offer ample space (17 acres), privacy, safety, parking accommodations, and their team offers an understanding of the Festival that will ensure its success.

Oak Canyon Park is owned and operated by James Events, who have provided all-inclusive event rentals and services to the Festival for over 20 years. James Events previously hosted the Festival at another of their locations, Hidden Valley in Irvine. This location successfully held the Festival for several years, until the size of the event outgrew the space. James Events staff have a strong understanding of the Festival and its unique needs, always providing a smooth and seamless event.

Oak Canyon has the space to host 7,500+ students and 1,600+ teachers, presenters, and volunteers in a beautiful park setting with convenient and ample parking. The James Events cost includes facility needs, such as the outdoor event space, multiple parking lots, staffing, and maintenance costs. The cost also encompasses event service needs, including rentals (tents, tables, chairs, golf carts, AV, generators, etc.), portable restrooms, security and first aid services, logistical support and coordination throughout the year-long planning effort, and onsite event staff during the weeklong set-up, teardown, and event days.

The available date at Oak Canyon with the least amount of school conflicts is April 23-24, 2025.

UC Irvine

The estimated costs associated with hosting the event at UC Irvine in 2025 are projected to nearly exhaust the total budget allocated for the Festival. This financial strain makes it challenging to proceed with UCI as the 2025 venue. It is necessary to have additional funds for the success of the event. Director Weigand and staff have met with UCI Vice Chancellors Alberto Sandoval and Shoba Spencer to address this issue. Although they are supportive of the event and are hopeful that various departments will sponsor Festival, the funds are not guaranteed, and the amount of funding needed is significant.

Additionally, UCI has mandated Sexual Abuse and Molestation (SAMs) insurance coverage for OCWD and all participating organizations. This coverage is expected to cost OCWD up to an additional \$20,000, as estimated by our insurance provider. The cost to other organizations will be determined by their provider. This additional financial burden would be an unreasonable ask of organizations volunteering their time at the

Festival and the cost may exclude them from participating.

Huntington Beach Sports Complex

The parking availability of HBSC is insufficient for the needs of the Festival. Considerations to utilize parking at the nearby Huntington Beach Library were explored, but the parking lot is not available for rental as it must be open to the public during operating hours.

Price Breakdown by Location:

Location	Location Cost	Event Services	Total
HBSC (confirmed event estimate + anticipated parking cost) <i>*Not viable due to insufficient parking</i>	\$30,000	\$159,500	\$189,500
Oak Canyon <i>*Recommended location</i>	\$36,000	\$159,500	\$195,500
UCI (estimate + anticipated increases + insurance) <i>*Not viable due to cost and insurance requirements</i>	\$123,250	\$132,200	\$255,450

PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTION(S) Annual



a full service event production company

July 31, 2024

Dani Berch
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
18700 Ward St.
Fountain Valley, CA 92728
714-378-3202 office

DATE: March or April 2025
TIME: 7:00 am – 4:00 pm each day
SET-UP TIME: Tents will begin setting up on Sunday @ 6am.
Presenters can move into booths Tuesday after 12pm.
LOCATION: Oak Canyon Park
CONTACT: Dani Berch
JOB#: -DS

***CONTRACT MUST BE FINALIZED AND A SIGNED COPY RECEIVED IN OUR OFFICE AT
LEAST 10 BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR EVENT TO ENSURE ALL ITEMS ARE
AVAILABLE. YOU MAY EITHER MAIL OR FAX TO OUR OFFICE. FAX NUMBER: (714)
563-9164.**

office 714.563.9778
fax 714.563.9164

1116 North Olive Street
Anaheim, CA 92801

jamesevents.com

PROPOSED EQUIPMENT AND ATTRACTION RENTAL CONTRACT

JAMES EVENT PRODUCTIONS, INC. 1116 N. Olive St., Anaheim, CA 92801 (hereinafter referred to as "Producer") and **ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT** (hereinafter referred to as "Client") hereby enter into this contract for Producer to rent equipment attractions as described below to Client.

DATE: March or April 2025
TIME: 7:00 am – 4:00 pm each day
SET-UP TIME: Tents will begin setting up on Sunday @ 6am.
LOCATION: Oak Canyon Park
JOB#: -DS

James Event Productions to provide:

OAK CANYON FACILITY &

5 Day Rental

PARKING

Includes all lots identified
Grading of the weeds
Organization of cones for identifying route
Parking staff **Client to provide 5 each event day.**
Directional Signage with arrows if needed.

ORGANIZATION

All Electrical Needs & Generators for presenters
32 Porto Potties (3 Handicap/2 in Parking Lot)
15 Gallons of Hand Sanitizer
4 Water Hoses & 3 Connectors
1 JP Booth – Information w/banner - Blue
1 JP Booth – First Aid w/banner - Red
5 JP Canopies (Check In Area) - Blue
1 JP Canopies (Volunteer Check In) - Blue
1 JP Canopies (Bus Driver area) – White
2 10'x10' JP Canopies for Extra
Bases for all Canopies
16 Red Flags w/Stands for Trash Stations
6 Flat Carts for Vendor Move In

GOLF CART RENTALS

2 Four Passenger Carts; 3 Flatbed Carts

MAINTENANCE & TRASH MANAGEMENT

Full maintenance & Supplies included in rental.

AV EQUIPMENT

6- PA Systems w/music and Mics for tents
Bell system with speakers and attendant
AV needs to be finalized closer to event.

RENTALS

Includes estimated additional rentals based on new location.

1- 40'x70' Maxi Canopy
1 15'x40' Disney Storage with slider on one end (no tables)
1 40'x40' Maxi Canopies
1-40'x50' Maxi
52- 20' x 20' Canopies
6 40'x40' Canopies
3 40"x60' Canopies
3- 20'x40' Canopies
1 20,x20' OCWD Storage
1-15'x15' Volunteer Tent
225' 10' high white wall
2,300 8' high white wall
310 - 8' Tables
3,700 Samsonite Chairs
310 White Resin Chairs
9 – 8'x8' Stages in
Site Drawing/Layout/Design

Rain Plan (not included in price)

Sidewall for every tent add \$20,000.00 approx.

STAFFING

Event Manager
Electrical Technician
2 Support Staff
EMT (8-3 each day)
2 Security Mon, Tues & Wed night (5pm-6am)
2 staff for OCWD's use Tues-Thurs 7am-4pm

1. Client will pay **\$195,500.00 including park rental and parking!** to Producer for the above described equipment or attraction rental.

2. Terms of Payment. **A deposit is required to hold the equipment.** This deposit is non-refundable. The balance of the contract amount is due and payable on the day of the event, prior to the commencement of the event. If payment is not made at that time, Producer reserves the right to remove the attraction or rental equipment at Producer's discretion.

3. Insurance. Producer will provide comprehensive general liability insurance and property damage in the total amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00). **Producer agrees to provide liability and property damage insurance in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 naming your organization as additionally insured, a certificate for which to be issued by Producer's insurance company, if requested by Client, prior to the date of equipment or attraction rental.** Client will provide Producer with a copy of comprehensive general liability insurance and property damage naming James Productions, Inc as additionally insured. Certificate to be provided prior to the event.

4. Indemnity. Client shall indemnify and hold harmless, Producer, its employees, executives and agents from and against any and all damages, liabilities, claims, costs, expenses, attorney's fees, etc. incurred by Producer directly or indirectly, in connection with the rental of the above named rental equipment and/or attraction or attractions. Any injuries, damages or losses must be reported by any person to Producer on the day of the Event and failure to report such injury, damage or loss in writing may result in a waiver of insurance coverage. In such event, Producer shall bear no responsibility for such injury or damage.

5. Condition of Rental Equipment. Producer agrees to deliver equipment for rental in a safe and fully operable condition. Client agrees that all of Producer's safety instructions will be followed and assumes full liability for any damage to equipment as a result of Client's or any of Client's guests or Client's employees', executives' or agents' failure to follow Producer's instructions concerning said equipment.

6. Cancellation. An event may be canceled or postponed by Client by notifying Producer in writing, provided that in the event of such cancellation or postponement, the following amounts shall be due from Client to Producer and shall be deducted from the deposit on hand or if insufficient, additional funds shall be paid by Client to Producer:

A. If a written cancellation is received more than 30 days prior to the date of the Rental, Producer shall return Client's deposit.

B. If the written cancellation is received within 30 days of the date of the rental, then producer shall retain the deposit as full compensation.

C. If the event is postponed more than 30 days, the deposit shall apply to the event at its new date and the balance due paid on that date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement which is effective on the date and year when executed by Producer.

JAMES EVENT PRODUCTIONS, INC.

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: September 5, 2024

To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte.
Board of Directors

From: John Kennedy

Staff Contact: G. Ayala/C. Nettles

Budgeted: Yes

Budgeted Amount: \$100,000

Cost Estimate: \$100,000

Funding Source: 1012.51119

Program/Line Item No.: 9959

General Counsel Approval: N/A

Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A

CEQA Compliance: N/A

Subject: WATER SUMMIT UPDATE

SUMMARY

Planning continues for the 2024 OC Water Summit. Staff will provide a verbal update of the event.

RECOMMENDATION

Informational

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The OC Water Summit is an annual water supply conference co-hosted by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC). OCWD and MWDOC trade off leading planning efforts each year. MWDOC is leading planning of the 2024 event.

The 16th annual Summit takes place Friday, September 27, 2024, at the Westin South Coast Plaza. This year's theme is "Liquid Logic: The Fusion of Finance, Tech, and Water". Comedian and former NBC weatherman Fritz Coleman will return as master of ceremonies. Five sessions are scheduled and listed below.

1. Shielding SoCal Waters: Cyber Defense for Orange County's Water Infrastructure
2. Decoding Proposition 4: Ensuring Effective Water Funding in California's Climate Bond
3. Ripple Effect: Consequences of Making Conservation a California Way of Life
4. Navigating the Transition: Decarbonizing the Electric Grid for California Water Agencies
5. Luncheon Keynote: Making Water a Priority at the Federal Level

The following sponsors have confirmed as of August 27:

- Aleshire & Wynder
- Anaheim Public Utilities
- Black & Veatch
- Disneyland Resort

- El Toro Water District
- Hazen & Sawyer
- IRWD
- Jacobs
- Kennedy Jenks
- Mesa Water District
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Michael Baker International
- Moulton Niguel Water District
- Orange County Sanitation District
- South Coast Water District
- Trabuco Canyon Water District
- Yorba Linda Water District
- Western Municipal Water District

Staff will provide a verbal update on event planning.

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: September 5, 2024

Budgeted: N/A

To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte.
Board of Directors

Budgeted Amount: N/A

Cost Estimate: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

From: John Kennedy

Program/Line Item No.: N/A

General Counsel Approval: N/A

Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A

Staff Contact: G. Ayala/C. Nettles

CEQA Compliance: N/A

Subject: PUBLIC AFFAIRS OUTREACH REPORT (AUGUST 2024)

SUMMARY

Outreach for the Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) and its programs and projects continue in an in-person and virtual format.

Attachment: August 2024 Media Clips Report

RECOMMENDATION

Informational

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Tours

Ninety-four people attended GWRS tours in August.

August GWRS tours:

- August 2 –Public Virtual Tour
- August 7 – Cal Environmental Labs
- August 13 – Orange County Grand Jury
 - Day-long tour that included the GWRS, Water Quality, Santa Ana River, La Palma Basin, and Yorba Linda Water District’s PFAS plant
- August 15 – Good Time Travel
- August 15 – Department of Drinking Water
- August 19 – Los Angeles Sanitation District
- August 29 – US Department of Energy
- August 30 – Korean Delegation

Scheduled September tours:

- September 3 – Japanese Delegation
- September 5 – Salton Sea Authority (Prado Wetlands)
- September 12 – Stanford University
- September 12 – City of Phoenix Water

- September 13 – Norco College (Prado Wetlands)
- September 15 – Water Reuse Conference
- September 18 – Arizona Public Services
- September 18 – Valley Water
- September 25 – Meta Water
- September 27 – Hydronautics

The GWRS on-demand technical tour and on-demand general tour were updated. The [on-demand technical virtual tour](#), in all forms, has been viewed more than 9,600 times. The [on-demand general virtual tour](#), in all forms, has been viewed more than 5,100 times. An on-demand tour of OCWD’s surface recharge operations has garnered more than 480 views.



Speakers Bureau/Media

As part of OCWD’s standard to forge and maintain long-term, positive, and proactive relationships with members of the community and to be transparent about its operations and programs, OCWD Board members and staff participate, regularly, at conferences and events and speak before civic groups.

August Speakers Bureau:

- August 1 – General Manager John Kennedy provided an OCWD overview to the Newport Beach Chamber’s WAKE UP! Newport event
- August 9 – Principal Communications Specialist Medha Paliwal hosted an OCWD table at Newport Beach Chamber’s State of the County event
- August 12 – Principal Hydrogeologist John Bonsangue was a speaker at the American Institute of Professional Geologists annual conference
- August 13 & 14 – Executive Director of Operations Mehul Patel participated in two panels at the International Water Association World Congress
- August 15 & 16 – Executive Director of Planning and Natural Resources Lisa Haney spoke during two panels at the California Data Collaborative Water Data Summit

- August 16 – Board President Cathy Green and Communications Specialist Dani Berch were panelists during the “Battle of the Ages” session at the California Data Collaborative Water Data Summit
- August 20 – Board President Cathy green participated in the “Future of Water” panel at the Building Industry Association of Orange County’s Future Housing & Sustainability Conference
- August 21 – General Manager John Kennedy provided a presentation on the OC Groundwater Basin to the Rotary Club of Fullerton
- August 22 – General Manager John Kennedy was a panelist during Sustain SoCal’s Water Solutions 9 conference



Upcoming Speakers Bureau:

- WaterReuse Orange County
- Singapore Public Utilities Board
- Groundwater Resources Association Western Groundwater Congress
- American Water Works webinar

Webinar

OCWD hosted the webinar “Squeezing the Last Drop: Using Enhanced-Recovery Reverse Osmosis to Improve Water Production”. Speakers included Han Gu, Ph.D., senior scientist/process specialist, Orange County Water District and Alex Waite, P.E., supervising civil engineer, City of Santa Monica. Approximately 80 people attended the live webinar on August 7 and 298 people have watched the recording (as of August 27).

Utilization of High-recovery RO for Potable Reuse

- **Conventional RO** removes dissolved solids, macromolecules, and pathogens, but **recovery is limited**
- RO generates large volumes of **concentrated waste stream**, making concentrate management a challenge
- Economically feasible **high-recovery RO** technologies, such as **CCRO**, **FO-RO** and **FRRO**, may make potable reuse a more viable option
- **CCRO** pilot tested at PUB (2012-17), PDMWD (2016-17) and LACSD (2015-18), recovery range from 90-96%
- Singapore PUB implemented **FRRO** at full-scale (2.8 mgd) in NEWater plant from 2017--22 (Recovery increased from 75% to 90%)
- Santa Monica recently began first municipal **FRRO** performance testing at full-scale facility

Singapore PUB – F

Full scale CCRO system

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT 5

Media Clips

In August, there were 10 global news hits for OCWD, the GWRS and other District programs and projects with a total reach of 7.4 million. The media clip report for August (as of August 27) is attached.

Social Media

The District engages 18,353 followers on its social media channels. Below are statistics for OCWD's social media for August (as of August 27).

OCWD's X (formally Twitter) page

- Followers: 5,522
- Posts: 16
- Post impressions: 1,498

OCWD's Facebook

- Followers: 1,729
- Posts: 13
- Engagement: 171
- Post impressions: 2,855

OCWD's LinkedIn

- Followers: 8,239
- Posts: 11
- Engagement: 484
- Post impressions: 16,453

OCWD's Instagram

- Followers: 1,948
- Posts/Reels: 15
- Stories: 33
- Engagement: 337
- Post impressions: 4,834

OCWD's TikTok

- Followers: 37
- Videos: 4
- Views: 2,455

OCWD's Threads

- Followers: 260
- Posts: 1

OCWD's YouTube

- Subscribers: 618
- Views: 1,499
- Hours watched: 140

District's PFAS treatment plant. Presentations included a District and water quality overview.



Construction Outreach

Construction notifications were written and distributed for the following projects:

- Huntington Beach Monitoring Well construction
- City of Tustin PFAS Treatment Facility Construction

Chamber Outreach

Staff is monitoring events for Orange County's 40+ chambers and participating as appropriate.

- August 1, Newport Beach: General Manager John Kennedy presented on OCWD at the Chamber's WAKE UP! Newport event
- August 9, Newport Beach: Principal Communications Specialist Medha Paliwal staffed an OCWD information table at the Chamber's State of the County event

OCWD MEDIA CLIPS
AUGUST 2024

	Date	Media Outlet	Country	Title	Link	Total Readership
1	8/23/2024	WateReuse Association	United States	Bridging the Data Gap: Digital and Physical Twins to Advance Water Reuse Operations	https://watereuse.org/bridging-the-data-gap-digital-and-physical-twins-to-advance-water-reuse-operations/	7,257
2	8/19/2024	smartwatermagazine.com	United States	Orange County Water District achieves record year of groundwater recharge	https://smartwatermagazine.com/news/orange-county-water-district/orange-county-water-district-achieves-record-year-groundwater	51,708
3	8/18/2024	CAWG	United States	DAILY DIGEST, weekend edition: Deadly bacteria is a growing threat to beach vacations; Klamath Basin wildlife refuges battle suspected botulism and bird flu outbreak; Two sides attempt mediation to settle lawsuit over sinking Friant-Kern Canal; and more ...	https://mavensnotebook.com/2024/08/18/daily-digest-weekend-edition-deadly-bacteria-is-a-growing-threat-to-beach-vacations-klamath-basin-wildlife-refuges-battle-suspected-botulism-and-bird-flu-outbreak-two-sides-attempt-mediation-to-settle/	7,854
4	8/15/2024	WaterWorld	United States	Orange County Water District achieves record year of groundwater recharge	https://www.waterworld.com/drinking-water-treatment/press-release/55133025/orange-county-water-district-achieves-record-year-of-groundwater-recharge	46,038
5	8/9/2024	MENAFN	Jordan	Feds Vastly Underestimate Forever Chemical Clean-Up Costs For Water Sector PFAS Myths Report Shows Operational Costs For Wastewater Utilities To Go Up 60%, Drinking Water Utilities Require At Least \$50 Billion For New Treatment Technology	https://menafn.com/1108536159/Feds-Vastly-Underestimate-Forever-Chemical-Clean-Up-Costs-For-Water-Sector-PFAS-Myths-Report-Shows-Operational-Costs-For-Wastewater-Utilities-To-Go-Up-60-Drinking-Water-Utilities-Require-At-Least-50-Billion-For-New-Treatment-Technology	137,525

OCWD MEDIA CLIPS AUGUST 2024

	Date	Media Outlet	Country	Title	Link	Total Readership
6	8/7/2024	CAWG	United States	DAILY DIGEST, 8/7: Water operations long-term plan could limit supply; California farmers face uncertainty, diminishing profitability; Extreme, prolonged heat is straining drinking water wells throughout the San Joaquin Valley; and more ...	https://mavensnotebook.com/2024/08/07/daily-digest-8-7-water-operations-long-term-plan-could-limit-supply-california-farmers-face-uncertainty-diminishing-profitability-extreme-prolonged-heat-is-straining-drinking-water-wells-throug/	7,402
7	8/6/2024	ACWA	United States	OCWD Achieves Record Year of Groundwater Recharge	https://www.acwa.com/news/ocwd-achieves-record-year-of-groundwater-recharge/	6,326
8	8/6/2024	solondais.fr	France	Key Considerations for Municipalities Developing or Expanding Water Reuse Strategies Using Advanced Water Treatment Technologies – Solondais	https://solondais.fr/2024/08/06/news270452/key-considerations-for-municipalities-developing-or-expanding-water-reuse-strategies-using-advanced-water-treatment-technologies	3,556
9	8/6/2024	Water & Wastes Digest	United States	Four considerations for water reuse in your community	https://www.wwdmag.com/water-reuse-recycling/article/55042255/top-considerations-for-municipalities-developing-or-expanding-water-reuse-strategies-with-advanced-water-treatment-technologies	47,752
10	8/1/2024	The Epoch Times	United States	Major American Cities Facing a 'Day Zero' Water Crisis, Experts Say	https://www.theepochtimes.com/article/major-american-cities-facing-a-day-zero-water-crisis-say-experts-5686104?cmt=1	7,121,270
					Total Readership	7,436,688