



AGENDA

18700 Ward St.
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 378-3200

COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING
WITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS*
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
May 8, 2025, 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 **May 21** 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
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana
303 W. Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton
19 Cannery, Buena Park
1502 North Broadway, Santa Ana
1454 Madison Steet, Tustin

* 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 APRIL 3, 2025

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes as presented

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for May 21 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

Bill Number/Author	Short Title	Position	Status
AB 259 Blanca Rubio (D-West Covina)	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences	Support	Assembly 3 rd reading
SB 72 (Caballero, D-Merced)	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets 'California Water for All'	Support	Appropriations Suspense File
AB 794 (Gabriel, D-Encino)	California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations	Oppose	Appropriations Suspense File
SB 454 (McNerney, D-Stockton) ACWA Sponsored Bill	SB 454 State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program	Support	Appropriations Suspense File
SB 496 Hurtado (D-Bakersfield)	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions	Support	Set for hearing May 5 Appropriations
SB 601 Allen (D-Santa Monica)	Water: Waste Discharge	Oppose	Appropriations – no hearing date set
SB 599 Anna Caballero (D-Merced)	Atmospheric rivers research: forecasting methods: experimental tools	Support	Appropriations Committee – hearing May 5

3. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for May 21 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. CHILDREN'S WATER EDUCATION FESTIVAL RECAP
5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OUTREACH REPORT

CHAIR DIRECTION AS TO WHICH ITEMS IF ANY TO BE AGENDIZED AS A MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE MAY 21 BOARD MEETING

DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

GENERAL MANAGER'S ANNOUNCEMENT/REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

COMMUNICATION AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Van Tran – Chair
Roger Yoh – Vice Chair
Steve Sheldon
Valerie Amezcua
Erik Weigand

Cathy Green
Fred Jung
Dina Nguyen
Natalie Meeks
Denis Bilodeau

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
April 3, 2025 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

Van Tran (absent)
Roger Yoh arrived @ 12:03 p.m.
Steve Sheldon (absent)
Valerie Amezcua
Erik Weigand

OCWD Staff

John Kennedy – General Manager
Crystal Nettles – Public Affairs
Gina Ayala – Director of Public Affairs
Alicia Harasty – Legislative Affairs Liaison
Chris Olsen – Executive Director
Stephanie Dosier – Director of HR
Jason Dadakis – Executive Director
Lisa Haney – Executive Director
Andre Casasola – IT
Leticia Villarreal – Assistant District Secretary

Alternates

Cathy Green
Fred Jung arrived @ 12:17 p.m.
Dina Nguyen (absent)
Natalie Meeks (absent)
Denis Bilodeau arrived @ 12:04 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Ayes – Amezcua, Weigand, Green

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the March 6, 2025 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. State Legislative Update

The State consultant provided an update on legislation and recommendations on bill positions and efforts that impact the District.

Upon motion by Director Amezcua, seconded by Director Green and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its April 16 Board meeting: Take the following positions:

Bill Number/Author	Short Title	Recommendation
SB 496 Hurtado (D-Bakersfield)	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions	Support
SB 601 Allen (D-Santa Monica)	Water: Waste Discharge	Oppose
SB 599 Anna Caballero (D-Merced)	Atmospheric rivers research: forecasting methods: experimental tools	Support
AB 810 Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks)	Local government: internet websites and email addresses	Oppose

Ayes: Yoh, Amezcua, Weigand, Green, Bilodeau

3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultants provided an update on federal regulations related to PFAS, funding for OCWD’s projects and bill positions that impact the District.

Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Amezcua and carried [4-1], the Committee recommended that the Board at its April 16 Board meeting: Take the following position:

Bill Number/Authors	Short Title	Recommended Position
H.R. 2093 (Ken Calvert, R-D-41)	Extends Permitting Terms	Support

**Ayes: Yoh, Amezcua, Weigand, Green
Abstain: Bilodeau**

4. First Responder Training and Tour

Principal Communications Specialist Crystal Nettles recalled that at the February 19 Board meeting, the Directors discussed the possibility of hosting a first responder appreciation luncheon. She stated that staff was directed to explore options for the luncheon and potential alternatives. She presented three alternatives: 1) a thank-you letter with a tour invitation, 2) on-site training combined with a tour, and 3) options for a scaled-back appreciation luncheon. The Directors reviewed and discussed the three options and asked staff follow-up questions.

Upon motion by Director Amezcua, seconded by Director Green and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its April 16 Board meeting: Approve on-site training and tour. Public affairs staff is directed to work with OCWD’s risk and safety department to identify training opportunities on OCWD’s campus for local emergency response agencies. As part of the training, facility tours and lunch would be offered to make response personnel familiar with OCWD’s campus. Budget for food not to exceed \$2,000. Invitations to this event would be issued to local Fountain Valley PD and fire departments from responding cities, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach and Costa Mesa.

Ayes: Yoh, Amezcua, Weigand, Green, Jung

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. Children’s Water Education Festiva Update

Ms. Nettles reported that this year’s Children’s Water Education Festival is scheduled for April 23–24 at its new location, Oak Canyon Park. She noted that 60 presenters are confirmed for the event. She stated that sponsorship efforts have exceeded the goal of \$70,000, with staff securing over \$103,000 in support. She noted that this year, the festival will host 240 elementary schools, representing approximately 6,270 students over the two-day event.

6. Public Affairs Outreach Report

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala provided a brief overview of outreach activities for March 2025.

March Highlights:

- Fourteen tours were conducted, with a total of 324 guests, along with 6 speaker engagements.
- On March 11, OCWD hosted the webinar “Managing Sediment for a Reliable Water Supply”. Seventy people attended the live webinar and more than 100 people have watched the recording.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Erik Weigand, Director

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: May 8, 2025

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 a status update on legislation of interest to the District.

Attachments:

- Joe A. Gonsalves and Son – Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith May Report
- State Bill Matrix

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for May 21 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate.

STATUS UPDATE ON BILLS WITH OCWD'S POSITIONS

Bill Number/Author	Short Title	Position	Status
AB 259 Blanca Rubio (D-West Covina)	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences	Support	Assembly 3 rd reading
SB 72 (Caballero, D-Merced)	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets 'California Water for All'	Support	Appropriations Suspense File
AB 794 (Gabriel, D-Encino)	California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations	Oppose	Appropriations Suspense File
SB 454 (McNerney, D-Stockton) ACWA Sponsored Bill	SB 454 State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program	Support	Appropriations Suspense File
SB 496 Hurtado (D-Bakersfield)	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions	Support	Set for hearing May 5 Appropriations
SB 601 Allen (D-Santa Monica)	Water: Waste Discharge	Oppose	Appropriations – no hearing date set
SB 599 Anna Caballero (D-Merced)	Atmospheric rivers research: forecasting	Support	Appropriations Committee – hearing May 5

	methods: experimental tools		
AB 810 Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks)	Local government: internet websites and email addresses	Oppose	Appropriations Committee – no hearing date set
SB 31 Jerry McNerney (D- Pleasanton)	Water Quality: Recycled Water	Support	Appropriations Committee – no hearing date set

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

ACTIVITIES

- April 23 Madison Marks-Noble, District Representative, Office of Senator Tony Strickland (SB-36) visited OCWD for a briefing and tour of the GWRS with Alicia Harasty
- March 11 President Bilodeau, John Kennedy and Alicia Harasty visited Sacramento and met with Assemblymembers Chen, Dixon and Ta, as well as Senators Umberg and Choi. They also met with staff for Assemblymember Quirk-Silva, Sanchez, and the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
- March 26 Alicia Harasty participated in the ACWA Legislative Symposium
- January 23 Alicia Harasty briefed staff to Assembly Member Avelino Valencia



EDELSTEIN GILBERT ROBSON & SMITH^{LLC}



Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Anthony D. Gonsalves
Jason A. Gonsalves
Paul A. Gonsalves
PROFESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION
925 L ST. - SUITE 200 - SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-3766
916 441-6597 - FAX 916 441-5961
Email: gonsalves@gonsalves.com

TO: ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

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

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DATE: April 28, 2025

This week marks the deadline for any bill with costs to the state to pass out of a policy committee. As you can imagine, the vast majority of bills cost the state at least some money to implement. As such, the final two weeks before this deadline are quite busy in Sacramento as legislators, staff, and lobbyists scramble to work bills.

Despite the significance of the deadline, very few bills fail to meet it. As a general proposition, Democratic legislators are given the “courtesy” to move their bills forward even when they are opposed.

Bills that meet the deadline move next to the Appropriations in their respective house. Any bill with state costs in excess of \$150,000 are placed on the suspense file. All suspense bills must pass out of Committee by May 23 to remain alive.

Budget

California’s Budget is likely in poor shape. In January, the Governor and Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) both projected a budget that was essentially in balance.

However, as the Department of Finance (DOF) was rolling out the Governor’s Budget in January, the firestorms that ravaged Los Angeles were breaking out and spreading. Emergency assistance, but more importantly delayed tax filing deadlines for those effected, almost immediately put the state “in the red.” While the state will ultimately receive the tax revenues, it is unclear exactly how significant the impact will be on this year’s budget.

Costs for the state’s Medi-Cal program have also exceeded what the state budgeted for when passing 2025/2026 Budget. The increased program costs are largely due to the state’s expansion of Medi-Cal coverage for undocumented Californians. To date, the Legislature has had to appropriate another \$11.1 billion to cover this shortfall.

As you know, California is especially dependent on high income earners. Consequently, the recent convulsions in the stock market will likely have a significant negative effect on state revenues.

Finally, any reductions in Federal funding to the states will likely have a significant negative impact on California's budget.

It remains to be seen just how significant these shortfalls are and how legislative leadership and the Governor address them.

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Calendar	Summary	Position
AB 259	Rubio, Blanca, D	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.	04/22/2025 - Assembly THIRD READING	05/01/25 #48 A-THIRD READING FILE - ASSEMBLY BILLS	The Ralph M. Brown Act mandates that meetings of a local agency's legislative body must be open to the public, with certain exceptions, and allows teleconferencing under specified rules. Agencies using teleconferencing must follow requirements such as posting meeting agendas at all teleconference locations and ensuring these locations are accessible to the public. Current law, effective until January 1, 2026, permits alternative teleconferencing if a quorum of members is present in person at a publicly accessible location within the agency's jurisdiction. It also limits the number of remote meetings a member can attend based on the agency's meeting frequency. This bill proposes extending these alternative teleconferencing procedures and emergency remote participation rules to January 1, 2030. Existing laws require posting meeting agendas 72 hours in advance but allow exceptions for emergency participation requests if time constraints prevent agenda updates. The bill includes legislative and constitutional findings aimed at preserving public access to meetings and official writings.	Support
AB 794	Gabriel, D	California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations.	04/23/2025 - Assembly APPR. SUSPENSE FILE		The California Safe Drinking Water Act mandates that the State Water Resources Control Board regulate drinking water for public safety. This responsibility includes enforcing federal regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Existing law allows the state board to enact emergency regulations aligning with federal standards, subject to certain conditions. This bill clarifies that the board's power to adopt emergency regulations includes implementing requirements from a federal regulation effective as of January 19, 2025, even if those federal requirements are later repealed or made less stringent. The bill also states that emergency regulations cannot implement less stringent standards than existing ones and can impose stricter monitoring demands. However, maximum contaminant levels and their compliance deadlines set by emergency regulations cannot be stricter than those set by federal standards. By December 31, 2026, the board must adopt an emergency regulation and begin establishing primary standards for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Additional changes to procedures for setting public health goals and standards are also included.	Oppose

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Calendar	Summary	Position
AB 810	Irwin, D	Local government: internet websites and email addresses.	04/23/2025 - Assembly APPR.		Existing law mandates that by January 1, 2029, local agencies maintaining public internet websites and email addresses must use a "gov" or "cagov" domain. Local agencies are defined as cities, counties, and city-counties. This bill proposes changes by directly requiring cities and counties to adhere to these domain rules and removing the term "local agency" from these provisions. Furthermore, it extends the requirement to special districts, joint powers authorities, and other political subdivisions, with a compliance deadline of January 1, 2031. Community college districts and colleges can use an "edu" domain, while K-12 school districts are exempt. The bill adds responsibilities to local officials, creating a state-mandated local program. According to the California Constitution, the state must reimburse certain costs to local agencies, and if this bill is deemed to impose such costs, reimbursement will be provided following established statutory procedures.	Oppose
AB 1413	Papan, D	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater adjudication.	04/29/2025 - Assembly APPR.		The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires groundwater basins classified as high or medium priority to be governed by a groundwater sustainability plan. The Department of Water Resources reviews these plans to ensure compliance with laws and assess their likelihood of achieving sustainability goals. Previously, groundwater sustainability agencies could challenge the validity of their plans in court 180 days after plan adoption. The bill modifies this by allowing challenges within 180 days post-adoption. For basins under legal adjudication, the bill mandates that any legal challenges related to plan adoption or implementation be consolidated with other adjudication processes. The court must prioritize reviewing the plan's determination of the basin's sustainable yield before addressing other issues. Additionally, the bill stipulates that a court judgment should not permit pumping beyond the sustainable yield defined in a validated groundwater sustainability plan, as this would impair compliance with SGMA and hinder sustainable groundwater management.	Participate in ACWA's work group to gain amendments.

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Calendar	Summary	Position
SB 31	McNerney, D	Water quality: recycled water.	03/25/2025 - Senate E.Q.	04/30/25 S- ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 113 BLAKESPEAR, CATHERINE, Chair	The Water Recycling Law promotes the use of recycled water and requires reporting any unauthorized discharge of 50,000 gallons or more. This bill clarifies that discharges from decorative waters during storms are not unauthorized if evaporation replenishment used recycled water. Additionally, the bill allows incidental mists or runoff of disinfected tertiary treated recycled water into outdoor dining areas when used in park irrigation. Public agencies can mandate recycled water for residential irrigation, and for irrigation of homeowner's association common areas, it's not considered a dual-plumbed system but must meet specific standards. Furthermore, recycled water usage is authorized in food handling or processing facilities for non-potable purposes like toilet flushing or outdoor irrigation, provided it doesn't enter food handling areas.	Support
SB 72	Caballero, D	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.	04/28/2025 - Senate APPR. SUSPENSE FILE		The Department of Water Resources in California must update "The California Water Plan" every five years to manage the state's water resources. This plan includes strategies for water storage, conservation, recycling, desalination, and transfers. This bill proposes changes, such as expanding the advisory committee to include tribes, labor, and environmental justice groups. By the 2033 plan update, the department must revise planning targets for 2050, considering water needs for urban, agricultural, tribal, and environmental uses, and ensuring safe drinking water for all. The plan must outline the costs, benefits, and impacts of recommended projects to meet water supply targets. The department is also required to report updates and recommendations to the Legislature and host public workshops for feedback.	Support

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Calendar	Summary	Position
SB 454	McNerney, D	State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program.	04/21/2025 - Senate APPR. SUSPENSE FILE		Existing law assigns the State Water Resources Control Board the responsibility to manage various drinking water programs, including the California Safe Drinking Water Act. This bill proposes to establish the PFAS Mitigation Fund in the State Treasury. This fund would be used by the state board, pending legislative approval, for specific purposes related to PFAS mitigation. The state board is also authorized to seek and handle nonstate federal and private funds, which would be continuously appropriated for the board's use in the PFAS Mitigation Fund. The board can establish separate accounts within this fund and utilize the funds through grants, loans, or contracts to assist water suppliers and sewer system providers. These funds are intended to help with costs related to treating drinking water to meet state and federal PFAS safety levels. To qualify for funding, water suppliers or sewer systems must clearly state how the funds will benefit public water safety. The state board is required to adopt implementation guidelines for these provisions by July 1, 2027.	Support
SB 496	Hurtado, D	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions.	04/22/2025 - Senate APPR.	05/05/25 S-APPROPRIATIONS 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200 CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair	Current law requires the State Air Resources Board to manage vehicle emissions and fuel standards to control air pollution effectively, ensuring they are feasible and cost-effective. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates this board to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. Under this authority, the board implemented the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation, mandating that government and high-priority fleets transition to zero-emission vehicles, with some exemptions permitted. This bill proposes the establishment of an Appeals Advisory Committee to review denied exemption requests. This committee, comprising specified government and non-government representatives, must meet monthly, with meetings recorded and accessible online. They must review appeals and provide recommendations within 60 days, which the board must consider publicly within another 60 days. Certain vehicles involved in emergency responses would be exempt from the regulations, and fleet owners will not be pressured to produce zero-emissions vehicle purchase agreements to delay transitioning mandates.	Support

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Calendar	Summary	Position
SB 599	Caballero, D	Atmospheric rivers: research: forecasting methods: experimental tools.	04/22/2025 - Senate APPR.	05/05/25 S- APPROPRIATIONS 10 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200 CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair	This bill describes a program within the Department of Water Resources called the Atmospheric Rivers Research and Forecast Improvement Program (AR/FIRO), which aims to enhance climate adaptation. The program requires operating reservoirs to better protect against floods and optimize water storage by capturing water from atmospheric rivers. It also involves developing new methods for predicting atmospheric rivers to improve responses to water supply issues, flooding, post-wildfire debris flows, and environmental impacts. This bill mandates that this program includes using experimental tools for creating seasonal and subseasonal forecasts of atmospheric rivers.	Support
SB 601	Allen, D	Water: waste discharge.	04/02/2025 - Senate JUD.		This bill would amend water quality regulations in California, particularly concerning the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) permits. The key changes include requiring businesses to demonstrate enrollment in either NPDES or WDR programs when applying for business or construction permits involving land disturbance over one acre. This demonstration must include specific information, such as the disturbed acreage and a Waste Discharger Identification (WDID) number. Furthermore, the bill expands the State Water Resources Control Board's authority to adopt water quality control plans to include all state waters, referred to as "nexus waters," which include non-navigable waters. Existing standards for nexus waters will remain unless more stringent standards are established. The bill also mandates the inclusion of nexus waters in federal and state water management processes. Additionally, the bill modifies discharge requirements, enforcing state water quality policies and adjusting civil penalties related to waste discharge violations. It allows the public to bring court actions to enforce compliance with state and federal water standards concerning nexus waters. The definition of "waste discharge requirements" is broadened to include nexus waters, treating them comparably to navigable waters under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.	Oppose

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: May 8, 2025

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

From: John Kennedy

Staff Contact: G. Ayala/A. Harasty

Budgeted: N/A

Budgeted Amount: N/A

Cost Estimate: N/A

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's (OCWD) federal advocate and staff will provide an update on federal regulations related to PFAS, funding for OCWD's projects and an update on the status of bill of interest to OCWD.

Attachments:

- ENS Resources May Update
- Federal Bill Matrix

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for May 21 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate.

PFAS INFORMATIONAL UPDATE

PFAS Policy Priorities

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Administrator Zeldin issued a comprehensive policy statement on the management and control of PFAS chemicals, including PFOA and PFOS. Central to the statement is the acknowledgement that the agency must work with stakeholders and Congress to develop a liability regime that protects passive receivers and ensures that polluters pay for any adverse impacts from PFAS. (Please see the full report in the attached "ENS Resources May Update.")

Importance of USEPA Statement

The Administrator's statement is important because it represents the first comprehensive PFAS policy priorities for the new Administration and how it intends to proceed with the development of rules and guidance affecting the monitoring, treatment, disposal and cleanup of PFAS chemicals. The key fundamental change involves the priority to work with stakeholders and Congress to develop a CERCLA liability protection for passive receivers that ensures the polluter pays principle. The other notable priority is the focus on manufacturers and users of PFAS chemicals to address source control as well as treatment standards to reduce or eliminate PFAS from wastewater discharges that can end up in treatment works and ultimately surface waters. Both of these priorities, coupled with several other goals the Administrator

identified should provide a reset on how the federal government will regulate PFAS chemicals and protect the interests of the water sector as a passive receiver.

STATUS UPDATE ON BILLS WITH OCWD’S POSITIONS

Bill Number/Authors	Short Title	Position	Status
H.R. 1267 Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA) & Celeste Maloy (R-UT)	Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act	Support	Introduced in House 2/12 not yet assigned to a committee
S. 322 Alex Padilla (D-CA)	Improve Atmospheric River Forecasts Act	Support	Introduced in Senate 1/29 not yet assigned to a committee
H.R. 2093 (Ken Calvert, R-D-41)	Extends Permitting Terms	Support	Introduced in House 3/14 not yet assigned to a committee

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

- March 28 OCWD applied for Community Project Funding (CPF) or “earmarks” for PFAS Cleanup Projects of \$5 million from Congressmembers Kim, Tran, Min, and Senators Padilla and Schiff. The City of Santa Ana applied for CPF for PFAS Cleanup Projects of \$5 million from Congressman Correa

- February 17 President Bilodeau and Alicia Harasty provided a briefing and tour of OCWD/GWRS to Congressman Dave Min and his staff

- January 30 President Bilodeau, John Kennedy and Alicia Harasty briefed Congresswoman Young Kim and her staff on PFAS, FIRO, Sunset Gap, and Sediment removal from behind Prado Dam

- January 22 Alicia Harasty briefed staff to the office of Congressman Lou Correa



TO: Alicia Harasty
FROM: Eric Sapirstein
DATE: April 29, 2025
SUBJECT: Washington Update

Congress was on recess for the last two weeks of April. Prior to recessing, Congress completed action on a compromise budget resolution. The vote to approve the resolution allows for work to begin in earnest on the budget reconciliation measure that would serve to implement tax policy and spending decisions. House committees will begin the formal process of approving program spending levels for programs that are within their jurisdiction. With the exception of national security programs, most decisions will revolve around what level of spending reductions should be imposed on domestic program spending. Once these decisions are reached, and final congressional approval occurs, the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations will be guided on how to draft annual spending bills.

For OCWD, the point to highlight is we expect that a final reconciliation bill will adhere to the House-passed directives that the the Committee on Energy and Commerce must impose spending cuts totaling \$880 billion. These directives are important. The committee has jurisdiction over drinking water infrastructure programs (State Revolving Loan Fund). These programs could be at risk for reduced funding levels to comply with the resolution. This however is not a certainty given the interest to reauthorize the programs. Additionally, water supply programs like the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program and general western water supply programs within the Committee on Natural Resources could be subjected to spending cuts, but the committee is only directed to reduce funding levels by a total of \$1 billion over ten years. This could mean that any cuts would not be as severe as those dictated for other committees. While Congress works to secure agreement on a reconciliation, it will also focus on developing a Fiscal Year 2026 budget with the expressed hope to enact final appropriations bills by October 1 with earmarks.

USEPA Administrator Issues PFAS Policy Priorities

Administrator Zeldin issued a comprehensive policy statement on the management and control of PFAS chemicals, including PFOA and PFOS. Central to the statement is the acknowledgement that the agency must work with stakeholders and Congress to develop a

liability regime that protects passive receivers and ensures that polluters pay for any adverse impacts from PFAS.

Importance of USEPA Statement

The Administrator's statement is important because it represents the first comprehensive PFAS policy priorities for the new Administration and how it intends to proceed with the development of rules and guidance affecting the monitoring, treatment, disposal and cleanup of PFAS chemicals. Many of the statements represent a continuation of the Biden EPA policy priorities to eliminate PFAS from the environment. The key fundamental change involves an Administrator Zeldin stated priority to work with stakeholders and Congress to develop a CERCLA liability protection for passive receivers that ensures the polluter pays principle. The other notable priority is the focus on manufacturers and users of PFAS chemicals to address source control as well as treatment standards to reduce or eliminate PFAS from wastewater discharges that can end up in treatment works and ultimately surface waters. Both of these priorities, coupled with several other goals the Administrator identified should provide a reset on how the federal government will regulate PFAS chemicals and protect the interests of the water sector as a passive receiver.

Senate Committee Approves USEPA Senior Officials

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works swiftly voted on key USEPA political appointments. After an uneventful confirmation hearing, Jessica Kramer's nomination to become Assistant Administrator for Water was approved on a bipartisan basis (15-4). Senators Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff voted to approve the nomination. The agency's General Counsel nominee, Sean Donahue, was controversial because of questions about Donahue's experience to be the agency's General Counsel. This resulted in a party line vote of 10-9. Both nominees are expected to be debated and voted on by the full Senate in May. Assuming Senate approval, the nominees will be sworn into office shortly after the Senate votes.

Importance of Senate Committee Vote

The vote to approve Jess Kramer's nomination on a bipartisan basis, with the support of both California Senators and the committee's Ranking Democrat, suggests that Kramer will enjoy a sound working relationship with Congress as she assumes her duties. Chief among her responsibilities will be developing a final Waters of the U.S. rule, finalizing a PFAS biosolids risk assessment management model, PFAS source control and treatment technology needs, and renewal of water infrastructure assistance programs that Congress is expected to consider as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law expires in 2026.

House and Senate Move Forward on Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations

The House and Senate Committees on Appropriations have formally begun the process of developing spending bills for Fiscal Year 2026 that begins October 1, 2025. The first formal step was the release of committees' instructions to Members on how to submit Community Project Requests (earmarks). For OCWD, its project requests were submitted to the congressional delegation. Both the House and Senate committees' leadership have signaled a priority to complete action on the twelve spending bills by late summer to increase the chance of finalizing spending bills by October 1. If this occurs, earmarks should be included

as part of any enacted spending bills unlike Fiscal Year 2025 when a final spending agreement could not be reached, and Congress simply passed a Continuing Resolution that precluded earmarks.

As the committees move forward, progress will also depend upon the Administration's budget request. It is expected that the president's budget request will be transmitted to Congress on or around May 3. As part of the budget request, it is reported that a rescission package to cut prior appropriations will be sought. It is unlikely that water program spending will be part of this package, but a number of clean energy and climate programs, including resiliency spending, could be included. Congress has been loath in the past to reverse prior years' appropriations and the prospect of passage of any rescissions package remains murky.

Do Not Flush Wipes Legislation Approved by House Committee

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce approved the WIPPES Act (H.R. 2269) by voice vote, reporting the bill to the full House. An identical Senate bill, WIPPES Act (S.1092) is pending committee consideration and mark-up action. Senator Alex Padilla is a cosponsor. Both bills would if enacted would adopt the California labeling mandates of wipes that ensures consumers know they should avoid flushing wipes into sewer systems. We expect that the Senate Committee on Commerce will consider the legislation in the coming months. Assuming that the committee approves the bill, the labeling mandate could become law by the end of the year.

Presidential Orders Impacting Policy Making Process and Rulemakings

The president continued to issue orders to federal agency heads to revamp the way in which the federal bureaucracy operates. Most notable was a directive that the federal government implement a new employee classification system that would make approximately 50,000 employees "at will" employees. According to the directive, employees that serve in policy making positions or manage confidential information would be subject to this new classification.

This categorization suggests that officials that are program managers and senior policy officials might become subject to the new labor classification. The directive highlights that it does not address officials that are considered Senior Executive Service (SES), who are currently subject to reassignment to new positions. Officials like USBR Deputy Commissioners and Directors at regional offices or Office Directors at USEPA, for example, are SES employees. The directive also highlights that the Administration intends to issue rules to allow for the removal of other federal officials not covered by this order. Given the employee-related policy directives taken to date, the Administration appears to be on track to reduce the federal workforce by tens of thousands of staff. At the same time, the President indefinitely extended the hiring freeze. This action suggests that staff reductions are likely to be long-term.

In a separate action, USEPA formally restarted the review of the agency's Waters of the U.S. rule. The action is being taken to ensure the rule issued last year defining waters of the U.S. (WOTUS), which leads to regulation under the Clean Water Act, aligns with the Supreme

Court's Sackett decision. The decision stated that a direct nexus to a waterway is necessary for regulation. As part of this effort, the agency intends to convene listening session to learn about stakeholders concerns with the Biden WOTUS rule and recommendations to rewrite the rule.

Importance of Directives

The employee directive is important because it represents the first concrete step, aside from DOGE inspired voluntary separations of the past few months, to reduce the federal workforce. The Administration has also noted that it intends to seek substantial "reductions in force" over the next several months. In tandem with these efforts is an Administration priority to reorganize and consolidate agency offices. This is expected to result in the elimination of offices. Although at this writing, it appears that most consolidation efforts are focused on consolidating IT, human resources and financial duties under one office. It is also possible that the relocation of Washington offices and staff to other regions of the country might be implemented.

Taken collectively, these initiatives could potentially affect federal management of water resources and supply programs. Federal officials with responsibility and deep expertise in the management of water programs and projects, as well as approving permits and other administrative requirements, could be terminated (or retire to avoid relocation or transfer to other programs). While this is unlikely to create a long-term impact, a short term consequence could be workforce challenges in managing federal programs or projects. For OCWD, the recent USACE approval of the Prado Dam deviation means that any personnel changes at USACE will not adversely impact OCWD.



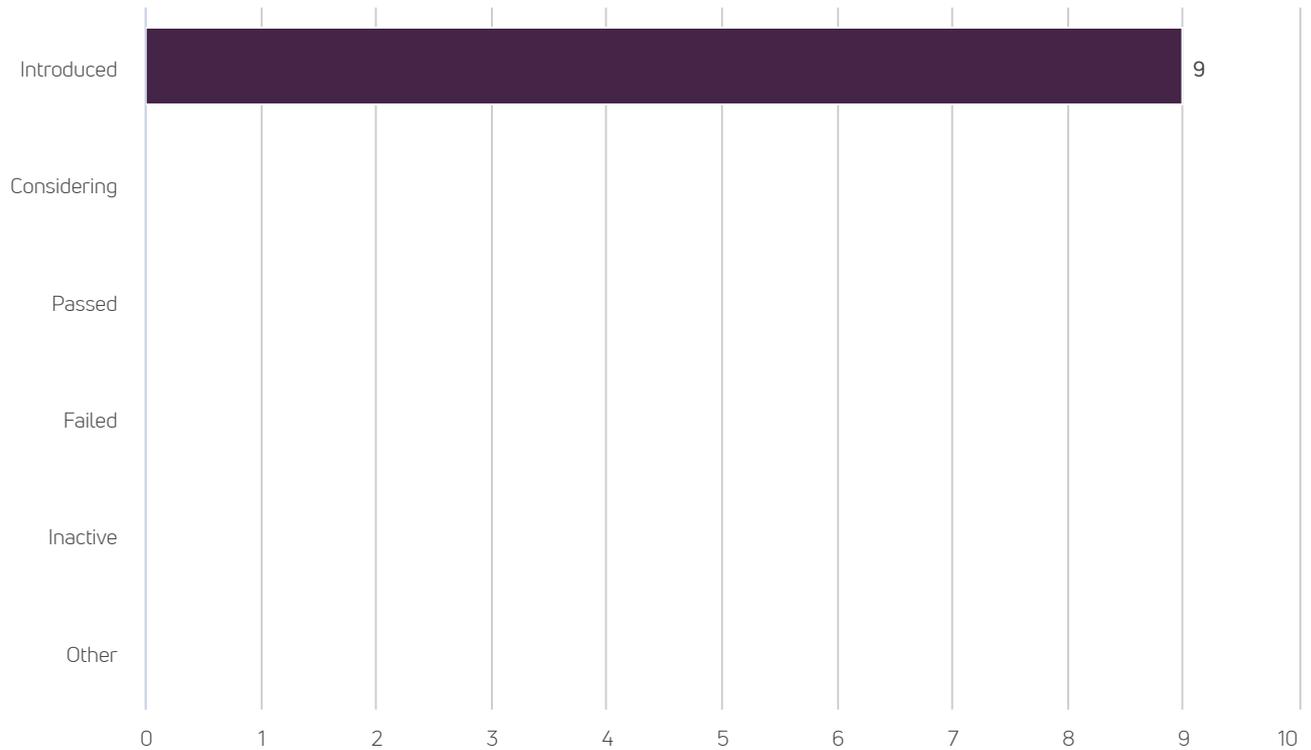
OCWD Federal Policy Update - Mar 25, 2025

Pending Legislation

The following summarizes legislation introduced of direct or indirect interest to OCWD

Bills by Status

■ Bills by Status



Highcharts.com

Orange County Water District Bills

9 Bills

US HR 2093

Title: To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to permitting terms, and for other purposes.

Current Status: In House

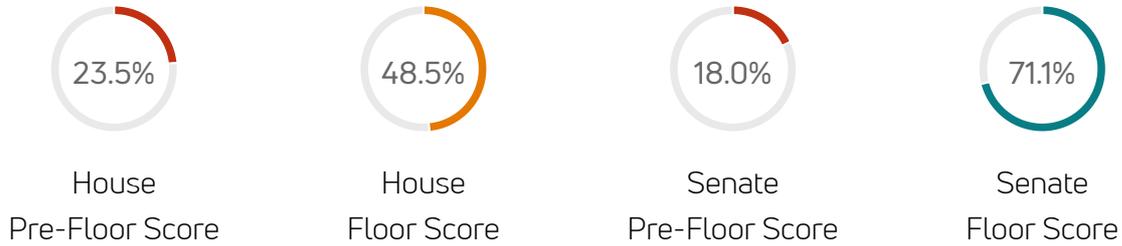
Introduction Date: 2025-03-14

Last Action Date: Introduced in House. 2025-03-14

Summary: H.R. 2093 would amend the Clean Water Act's permitting provisions to allow for delegated states or USEPA to issue ten year National Permit Discharge Eliminate System (NPDES) permits. The bill, if enacted, would extend current terms from five years.

Location: United States

Floor Forecast Scores



US HR 1871

Title: Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2025-03-05

Last Action Date: Introduced in House. 2025-03-05

Location: United States

Floor Forecast Scores



US S 857

Title: A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for certain conservation subsidies to include subsidies for water conservation or efficiency measures, storm water management measures, and wastewater management measures.

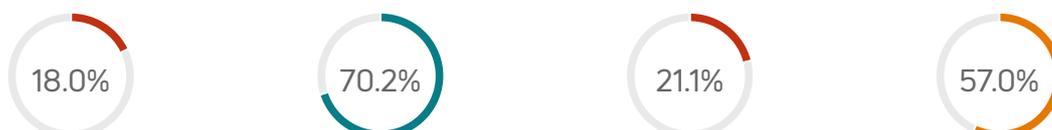
Current Status: In Senate

Introduction Date: 2025-03-05

Last Action Date: Introduced in Senate. 2025-03-05

Location: United States

Floor Forecast Scores



Senate
Pre-Floor Score

Senate
Floor Score

House
Pre-Floor Score

House
Floor Score

US HR 302

Title: Water Rights Protection Act of 2025

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2025-01-09

Last Action Date: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology..
2025-02-14

Summary: H.R. 302, would require regulation on how the federal government handles water rights in relation to land use permits and agreements. The key points: Prohibition on Conditioning Permits: The bill prohibits the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from conditioning any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States. Protection of Water Rights: Would ensure that individuals and entities retain their water rights without being forced to transfer them as a condition for receiving federal permits or leases

Description: Water Rights Protection Act of 2025 This bill limits the transfer of water rights from water users to the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture (USDA). First, the bill prohibits Interior and USDA from conditioning the issuance or renewal of land use or occupancy agreements (e.g., permits and leases) on the transfer of any water right to the United States. Next, it prohibits Interior and USDA from requiring water users, including Indian tribes, to acquire water rights in the name of the United States as a condition of the issuance or renewal of a land use or occupancy agreement. Finally, it prohibits Interior and USDA from conditioning or withholding the issuance or renewal of land use or occupancy agreements on (1) limiting the date, time, quantity, location of diversion or pumping, or place of use of a state water right beyond any applicable limitations under state water law; or (2) modifying the terms and conditions of groundwater withdrawal, guidance and reporting procedures, or conservation and source protection measures established by a state. Interior and USDA must also ensure that federal action imposes no greater restriction or regulatory requirement than under applicable state water law. Further, Interior and USDA must not take actions that adversely affect state authority in permitting water usage or in adjudicating water rights.

Location: United States

Floor Forecast Scores



House
Pre-Floor Score



House
Floor Score



Senate
Pre-Floor Score



Senate
Floor Score

US HR 1267

Title: Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2025-02-12

Last Action Date: Introduced in House. 2025-02-12

Summary: H.R. 1267 is a reintroduction of last Congress' legislation to provide the water sector with explicit liability protection from liability under Superfund due to USEPA's rule to designate PFAS as a hazardous substance that could impose liability upon the water sector due to the law's strict, joint and several liability standard.

Location: United States

Floor Forecast Scores



House
Pre-Floor Score



House
Floor Score



Senate
Pre-Floor Score



Senate
Floor Score

US HR 331

Title: To amend the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act to clarify a provision relating to conveyances for aquifer recharge purposes.

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2025-01-13

Last Action Date: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Discharged. 2025-02-12

Location: United States

Floor Forecast Scores



House
Pre-Floor Score



House
Floor Score



Senate
Pre-Floor Score



Senate
Floor Score

US S 322

Title: Improving Atmospheric River Forecasts Act

Current Status: In Senate

Introduction Date: 2025-01-29

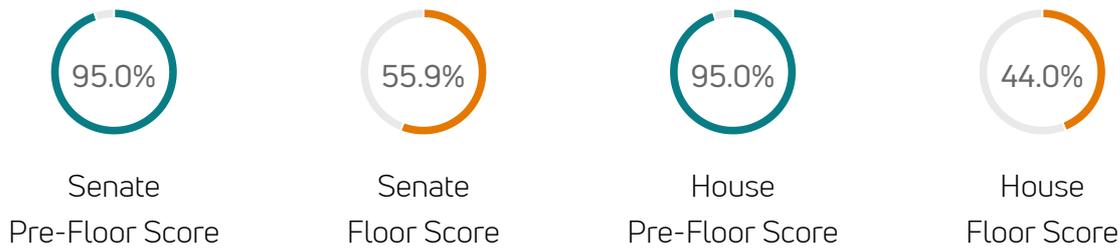
Last Action Date: Introduced in Senate. 2025-01-29

Summary: S. 322 is a reintroduction from the past Congress when it was number S. 5361. The bill would establish an Atmospheric River Forecast Improvement Program that would be in collaboration with educational institutions. Program priorities include: 1. Minimize loss of life,

property damage, and economic losses through improved forecasts and warnings. 2. Use of dynamical modeling, data assimilation, and machine learning to improve probabilistic forecasts of landfall locations, extreme weather events, and their impacts. 3. Provide seasonal to short-range forecasts, including predictions of snow accumulation and other hydrologic components. 4. Improve understanding of atmospheric rivers' roles in precipitation patterns and predictions. 5. Enhance use of tools and products to predict periods of active or inactive atmospheric river landfalls and potential for inland impacts relative to coastal communities. 6. Target the transition of research findings to operational use through NOAA testbeds. 7. Include social, behavioral, risk, communication, and economic sciences to improve public response to forecasted storm events.

Location: United States

Floor Forecast Scores



US S 324

Title: Smarter Weather Forecasting for Water Management, Farming, and Ranching Act of 2025

Current Status: In Senate

Introduction Date: 2025-01-29

Last Action Date: Introduced in Senate. 2025-01-29

Summary: S. 324 would improve weather forecasting for agriculture and water management. The key points: Pilot Projects: Requires the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (NOAA) to carry out pilot projects to enhance subseasonal to seasonal forecasting. Focus Areas: Forecasting priority projects would target: improving forecasts for agriculture and water management, and helping stakeholders make better-informed decisions

Location: United States

Floor Forecast Scores



US HR 337

Title: To provide technical and financial assistance for groundwater recharge, aquifer storage, and water source substitution projects.

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2025-01-13

Last Action Date: Introduced in House. 2025-01-13

Summary: H.R. 337 would permit funding made available through the WIN Act to support technical assistance to promote groundwater recharge. However, funding would be limited to \$3MM per year for each of fiscal years 26 through 31. Funding currently is unavailable.

Location: United States

Floor Forecast Scores



House
Pre-Floor Score



House
Floor Score



Senate
Pre-Floor Score



Senate
Floor Score

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: May 8, 2025

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: \$265,000

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 RECAP

SUMMARY

The 28th annual Children's Water Education Festival (Festival) took place on April 23-24, 2025, at Oak Canyon Park (Silverado). Staff will provide a verbal recap of the event.

RECOMMENDATION

Informational

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 its inception, approximately 158,000 students have experienced the Festival and all it has to offer.

The 2025 Festival took place Wednesday, April 23 and Thursday, April 24 at Oak Canyon Park. It welcomed approximately 6,000 students, 60 presenters and 300 volunteers. The event also raised more than \$100,000 in sponsorship.

Staff will provide a 2025 event verbal recap.

PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTION(S)

N/A

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: May 8, 2025

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

From: John Kennedy

Staff Contact: G. Ayala/C. Nettles

Budgeted: N/A

Budgeted Amount: N/A

Cost Estimate: N/A

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: PUBLIC AFFAIRS OUTREACH REPORT (APRIL 2025)

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: April 2025 Media Clips Report

RECOMMENDATION

Informational

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Tours

April tours:

- April 1 – Suez Australia
- April 4 – Rosary Academy
- April 10 – Reno Delegation
- April 10 – Hazen and Sawyer
- April 11 – Coastkeeper/Santiago High School
- April 14 – Guests of Assemblyman Tri Ta's Family
- April 15 – Moulton Niguel Water District and Denmark Contingency
- April 21 – Lee Yoo Associates (Lab)
- April 23 – Senator Tony Strickland's Staff
- April 25 – Brown & Caldwell
- April 28 – McCarthy
- April 29 – OC Public Works
- April 29 – LADWP (FHQ and GWRS)
- April 30 – Cypress College

Scheduled May tours:

- May 2 – Michael Baker International (Prado)
- May 6 – CSU Fullerton Nursing
- May 7 – Servite High School (2 tours)
- May 7 – CMUA
- May 9 – Public Tour
- May 12 – UCI Environmental Engineering
- May 14 – LG Nano H2O
- May 15 – WSTB/NAS
- May 16 – UCI Engineers for a Sustainable World
- May 19 – Estancia High School
- May 23 – Newport Mesa Adult Education
- May 29 – Reata Glenn Senior Living
- May 29 – CalWEP
- May 30 – CWEA SARBS

The GWRS [on-demand technical virtual tour](#), in all forms, has been viewed more than 15,000 times. The [on-demand general virtual tour](#), in all forms, has been viewed more than 6,300 times. An on-demand tour of OCWD's surface recharge operations has garnered more than 800 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.

April Speakers Bureau:

- April 3 – Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala and Communications Specialist Dani Berch presented on artificial intelligence at the CAPIO Annual Conference
- April 15 – General Manager John Kennedy provided an OCWD overview and GWRS virtual tour during the Measurement Science Conference
- April 17 – Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala spoke on the panel "Should We Call It Pure Water?" during a meeting of the Orange County WaterReuse chapter
- April 23-24 – Staff from eight OCWD departments hosted activities at the Children's Water Education Festival
- April 24 – Director of Recharge and Wetland Operations Ben Smith spoke on the panel "Real-Time Water Resources Data" at the California Infrastructure Symposium

Upcoming Speakers Bureau:

- Public Works Summit

Media Clips

In April, there were 42 global news hits for OCWD, the GWRS and other District programs and projects with a total reach of 13.86 million. The media clip report for April is attached.

Social Media

The District posts regularly to the following social media channels: X, Facebook, Instagram, Linked In, Tik Tok, Threads, and YouTube. Below are statistics for OCWD's social media for April (as of April 30). Impressions refer to the total number of times a post shows up on a user's feed. Engagement refers to the number of users who interact with a post.

- Followers: 19,119
- Impressions: 17,593
- Engagement & video views: 4,151

A sampling of top performing April social media posts:



Website Analytics

Below are April analytics for OCWD's website (as of April 30):

- Users: 8,852 (~1,500 more than March)
- Page views: 23,980 (~4,000 ,more than March)
- Top five pages (not including homepage):
 - Careers
 - Meeting agendas and minutes
 - RFP and contracts
 - GWRS
 - About

Electronic Publications

Staff wrote and distributed the April issue of Hydrospectives, OCWD's monthly e-newsletter.

Staff wrote and distributed the press release [Three Eaglets Hatch in Lucy & Ricky's Nest at the Prado Wetlands](#).

Staff continued updating District materials with current branding, including PowerPoint templates and social media templates.

Construction Outreach

Staff monitored the construction hotline for questions regarding three current construction projects.

Events

On April 23-24, OCWD hosted its signature event, the Children's Water Education Festival. Now in its 28th year, the Festival has become a "must-do" field trip for many schools in Orange County. This year's event welcomed approximately 6,000 students, featured 60 activities, welcomed the help of hundreds of volunteers, and raised more than \$100,000 in sponsorship.



Awards

OCWD received two awards from the California Association of Public Information Officials

1. An EPIC Award for our Next Generation Water Leaders video
2. An Award of Distinction for our Prado bald eagles public outreach campaign

OCWD BRAND MEDIA CLIPS
APRIL 2025

	Date	Source Name	Title	Country	URL	Reach
1	4/28/2025	Missouri University of Science and Technology	Missouri S&T Academy of Civil Engineers inducts eight new members	United States	https://news.mst.edu/2025/04/missouri-st-academy-of-civil-engineers-inducts-eight-new-members/	196,936
2	4/23/2025	Coastal View News	Water recycling delivers a key resource for the future	United States	https://www.coastalview.com/news/water-recycling-delivers-a-key-resource-for-the-future/article_de4a4c6a-7b64-44f0-8be0-7753db4df3db.html	9,495
3	4/22/2025	JD Supra	The Latest on PFAS: What Policyholders Need to Know Now	United States	https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/the-latest-on-pfas-what-policyholders-3099972/	382,055
4	4/21/2025	Al Bawaba Business	Tender Are Invited For On-call Environmental Services the Orange County Water District (ocwd Or District) Is Seeking Statement Of qualifications (soq) From Qualified Firms With Experience And Expertise In Preparing documents And Analyses Related To The	Jordan	moodys:publicid:MENA_REPORT:TTb1_CVxd0eV7fJOKixQZkaRBMo	2,898
5	4/21/2025	Voice of OC	Watching Your Water	United States	https://voiceofoc.org/2025/04/watching-your-water/	102,565
6	4/10/2025	WXVT (CBS)	The Delta News Morning - Thu, 10 Apr 2025 05:50:00 -0500	United States	https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/oQIsHeoh-RRZTou8Kb3XE99yAMM?keywords=%22drinking%20water%22,%22john%20kennedy%22,%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22&cid=cfd688fc-4855-4113-87ce-	868
7	4/9/2025	WABG2 (FOX)	The Delta News @ 5.30 - Wed, 09 Apr 2025 17:42:46 -0500	United States	https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/P3582Kc5fVnj5wnxQStTqyTGi94?keywords=%22drinking%20water%22,%22john%20kennedy%22,%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22&cid=cfd688fc-4855-4113-87ce-	700
8	4/9/2025	WNBD-LD (NBC)	The Delta News Late Night - Thu, 10 Apr 2025 00:57:20 -0500	United States	https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/Z1luj18HMPyNceMk3w3AcAbvrEI?keywords=%22john%20kennedy%22,%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22&cid=cfd688fc-4855-4113-87ce-c83ff3a9878e&productType=app-	774

**OCWD BRAND MEDIA CLIPS
APRIL 2025**

9	4/9/2025	WABG2 (FOX)	The Delta News at 9 PM - Wed, 09 Apr 2025 21:27:17 -0500	United States	https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/Orn8g - 7GEA00TzHbeZrNC05tzs?keywords=%22john%20kennedy%22,%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22&cid=cfd688fc-4855-4113-87ce-c83ff3a9878e&productType=app-	1,320
10	4/9/2025	WXVT (CBS)	Delta News at 10 - Wed, 09 Apr 2025 22:17:45 -0500	United States	https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/LIBic_npRojzDkDRIEvYKMcGSak?keywords=%22drinking%20water%22,%22john%20kennedy%22,%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22&cid=cfd688fc-4855-4113-87ce-	2,046
11	4/9/2025	WXVT (CBS)	Delta News at 5 - Wed, 09 Apr 2025 17:17:59 -0500	United States	https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/-eaMIkrmufcfgJK8BeihWsqHR-o?keywords=%22john%20kennedy%22,%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22&cid=cfd688fc-4855-4113-87ce-c83ff3a9878e&productType=app-	2,066
12	4/9/2025	WABG (ABC)	Delta News at 10 - Wed, 09 Apr 2025 22:17:48 -0500	United States	https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/lkZa7opYfvJ2rgn-y6O03zBF8LY?keywords=%22john%20kennedy%22,%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22&cid=cfd688fc-4855-4113-87ce-c83ff3a9878e&productType=app-	2,144
13	4/9/2025	WNBD-LD (NBC)	Delta News at 5 - Wed, 09 Apr 2025 17:17:59 -0500	United States	https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/e74sTkieygpPFFDypmazlJjV_E?keywords=%22john%20kennedy%22,%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22&cid=cfd688fc-4855-4113-87ce-c83ff3a9878e&productType=app-	2,766
14	4/9/2025	WNBD-LD (NBC)	Delta News at 5 - Wed, 09 Apr 2025 17:10:00 -0500	United States	https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/Lu9uC98pXZ-XFwHuL-xhoR36IH4?keywords=%22john%20kennedy%22,%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22&cid=cfd688fc-4855-4113-87ce-c83ff3a9878e&productType=app-	2,766

**OCWD BRAND MEDIA CLIPS
APRIL 2025**

15	4/9/2025	WNBD-LD (NBC)	Delta News at 10 - Wed, 09 Apr 2025 22:17:14 -0500	United States	https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/kZDzM8BpHay-tlo5OTkcvuPDN10?keywords=%22john%20kennedy%22,%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22&cid=cfd688fc-4855-4113-87ce-c83ff3a9878e&productType=app-	2,768
16	4/9/2025	WABG (ABC)	Delta News at 5 - Wed, 09 Apr 2025 17:17:47 -0500	United States	https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/tJQInHdSrNz5pCsy-9oalwUgQgc?keywords=%22john%20kennedy%22,%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22&cid=cfd688fc-4855-4113-87ce-c83ff3a9878e&productType=app-	3,035
17	4/9/2025	WABG (ABC)	Delta News at 5 - Wed, 09 Apr 2025 17:10:00 -0500	United States	https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/m3fvUgFT4mFIIA2RTt2gDpyb12s?keywords=%22john%20kennedy%22,%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22&cid=cfd688fc-4855-4113-87ce-c83ff3a9878e&productType=app-	3,035
18	4/8/2025	Pooler Magazine	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://lifestyle.poolermagazine.com/story/52676153/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	63
19	4/8/2025	Entrepreneurship Reporter	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://www.entrepreneurshipreporter.com/article/800953050-california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	67
20	4/8/2025	KLXS-FM	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://lifestyle.pierrecountry.com/story/52676153/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	212
21	4/8/2025	1045 The Dan.com	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://lifestyle.1045thedan.com/story/52676153/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	215
22	4/8/2025	WWZW - Lifestyle	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://lifestyle.3wzfm.com/story/52676153/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	252

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23	4/8/2025	Journal of Cyberpolicy	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://journalofcyberpolicy.com/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions/	305
24	4/8/2025	East Hanover FlorHam Park	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://lifestyle.easthanoverflorhamparklife.com/story/52676153/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	496
25	4/8/2025	Newark Life	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://lifestyle.newarklifemagazine.com/story/52676153/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	630
26	4/8/2025	Effingham Magazine	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://lifestyle.effinghammagazine.com/story/52676153/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	1,391
27	4/8/2025	Constructionlinks.ca	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	Canada	https://constructionlinks.ca/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions/	1,653
28	4/8/2025	KCLO (CBS)	KELOLAND News at Five - Tue, 08 Apr 2025 15:15:38 -0700	United States	https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/joioY_eGf1e26feeknBmLi7UQMo?keywords=%22drinking%20water%22,%22john%20kennedy%22&cid=cfd688fc-4855-4113-87ce-c83ff3a9878e&productType=app-export	1,838
29	4/8/2025	KCLO (CBS)	KELOLAND News at Five - Tue, 08 Apr 2025 15:10:00 -0700	United States	https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/nsIfG59bRHJIU005YctnXflhVSw?keywords=%22drinking%20water%22,%22john%20kennedy%22&cid=cfd688fc-4855-4113-87ce-c83ff3a9878e&productType=app-export	1,838
30	4/8/2025	Today's Family Magazine	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://lifestyle.todaysfamilymagazine.com/story/52676153/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	2,834

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31	4/8/2025	The Hood Magazine	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://lifestyle.thehoodmagazine.com/story/52676153/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	6,287
32	4/8/2025	Kalkine Media	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	Australia	https://kalkinemediacom/news/world-news/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	17,638
33	4/8/2025	Water Online	California American Water Awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal Contract To Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://www.wateronline.com/doc/california-american-water-hexavalent-chromium-removal-technical-solutions-0001	22,681
34	4/8/2025	WCNN-AM	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://lifestyle.680thefan.com/story/52676153/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	35,053
35	4/8/2025	Einnews	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://biotech.einnews.com/pr_news/800953050/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	101,405
36	4/8/2025	The Middle East North Africa Financial Network	California American Water Awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal Contract To Covenant Technical Solutions	Jordan	https://menafn.com/1109403915/California-American-Water-Awards-Hexavalent-Chromium-Removal-Contract-To-Covenant-Technical-Solutions	134,438
37	4/8/2025	EIN Presswire	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	moody's:publicid:EIN_PRESSWIRE:ppOJpf_UV6N WmAvjtulj1QF2EAA	214,662
38	4/8/2025	EIN Presswire	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://www.einpresswire.com/article/800953050/california-american-water-awards-hexavalent-chromium-removal-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	214,662
39	4/8/2025	Associated Press	California American Water awards Hexavalent Chromium Removal contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://apnews.com/press-release/ein-presswire-newsmatics/california-rob-craw-water-quality-3c86e070ee0d32254e75b08df7cf6e65	12,326,124
40	4/7/2025	WDC News 6	Recycled water helps a California community adapt to worsening droughts » Yale Climate Connections	United States	https://wdcnews6.com/recycled-water-helps-a-california-community-adapt-to-worsening-droughts-yale-climate-connections/	2,670

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41	4/7/2025	Today Headline	Recycled water helps a California community adapt to worsening droughts » Yale Climate Connections	United Kingdom	https://todayheadline.co/recycled-water-helps-a-california-community-adapt-to-worsening-droughts-yale-climate-connections/	3,083
42	4/4/2025	Smart Water Magazine	Orange County Water district and Army Corps boost water supply	Spain	https://smartwatermagazine.com/news/orange-county-water-district/orange-county-water-district-and-army-corps-boost-water-supply	49,310
Total Reach						13,858,044