



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 **August 6, 2026 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 **August 19** 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
1454 Madison Steet, Tustin
20 Civic Center, Santa Ana
6148 Baja Drive, Anaheim
19 Cannery, Buena Park
1502 North Broadway, Santa Ana
The Westin, Lobby, 212 E 42nd St., New York

* 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 JULY 2, 2026

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes as presented

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for August 19 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

3. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for August 19 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

4. MULTIPURPOSE CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE

CHAIR DIRECTION AS TO WHICH ITEMS IF ANY TO BE AGENDIZED AS A MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE AUGUST 19 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
July 2, 2026 12:00 p.m.

Director Tran 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
Roger Yoh (arrived 12:15 p.m.)
Steve Sheldon (arrived 12:17 p.m.)
Valerie Amezcua
Erik Weigand

Alternates

Cathy Green
Fred Jung
Dina Nguyen (absent)
Natalie Meeks (absent)
Denis Bilodeau

OCWD Staff

John Kennedy – General Manager
Chris Olsen – Executive Director
Gina Ayala – Director of Public Affairs
Alicia Harasty – Legislative Affairs Liaison
Crystal Nettles – Principal Communications Specialist
Jeremy Jungreis – General Counsel
Christina Fuller – District Secretary

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Weigand and carried [5-0] as follows:

Ayes – Tran, Amezcua, Weigand, Green, Jung

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the June 4, 2026 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.

2. 2027 Children's Water Education Festival

Recommended for approval at July 15 Board meeting: 1) Host the 2027 Festival at Oak Canyon park on April 14 -15, 2) Approve the selection of James Event Productions as the venue and event service provider for the 2027 Children's Water Education Festival for an amount not to exceed \$205,110, 3) Authorize the general manager to negotiate a new agreement with James Productions for additional rentals should attendance exceed forecasted numbers, 4) Authorize the general manager to approve an additional \$25,000 to James Events Productions for a rain contingency plan, should extreme weather warrant it.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

3. State Legislative Update

Legislative consultants provided an update on items of interest to OCWD.

4. Federal Legislative Update

OCWD's federal advocate and staff provided an update on funding for OCWD's projects and other items of interest to OCWD.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Van Tran, Chair

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: August 6, 2026

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: STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SUMMARY

Orange County Water District (OCWD) staff and consultants will provide a status update on items of interest to OCWD.

Attachments:

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

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for August 19 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Please see attached “Joe A. Gonsalves and Son – Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith August Report” for a state legislative update.

UPDATES

	Item	Brief Description	OCWD position/ activity	Status
1.	SB 1153 (Caballero, D-Merced) – Urban Water Suppliers – Disaster Preparedness	Requires public water systems to develop incident-specific response procedures as part of their disaster preparedness plans. The bill also clarifies and limits liability for public water systems related to wildfire response and suppression.	Support	Pending consideration in the Assembly Appropriations Committee
2.	AB 2026 (Aguiar-Curry, D-Winters) – Flood Flow Diversion for	Expand various existing processes under which water may be diverted from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and temporary permits for diversion to groundwater	Watch/Activity: AB 2026 does not impact OCWD, Nevertheless, OCWD has	Pending consideration in the Senate Appropriations Committee

	Groundwater Recharge	storage, among other provisions.	provided “belt and suspenders” amendments to the author to further clarify the bill to ensure no impact.	
3.	AB 2568 (Natasha Johnson, R-Riverside) Water District Directors: Compensation	Water District Directors: Compensation: Authorizes specified water districts to be compensated for up to 15, instead of 10, days a month.	Watch	6/18/26 Senate floor third reading
4.	AB 259 (Blanca Rubio, D-West Covina) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences	Would remove the January 1, 2026, sunset date for alternative teleconferencing provisions. By indefinitely extending this authorization, the bill ensures that legislative bodies of local agencies can continue to accommodate members requesting remote participation due to emergency circumstances.	Support	7/1/26 Dead
5.	AB 794 (Gabriel, D-Encino) California Safe Drinking Water Act: Emergency Regulations	Would direct the State Water Board to adopt an emergency regulation for per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water; however, the bill would skip important steps in California’s regulatory process and would cause large and unnecessary costs to water ratepayers. Upon January 1, 2026, AB 794 would shut down at least 20 additional groundwater wells in the OCWD service area, thereby forcing local public water systems to spend an additional \$75 million for costly replacement imported surface water.	Oppose	2/2/26 Dead
6.	AB 810 Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks) Local government: internet websites and	Would require local agencies that maintain a public-facing website to ensure that it uses a “.gov” top-level domain or a “.ca.gov” second-level domain by January 1, 2029. The bill	Oppose	1/23/26 Dead

	email addresses	would also require that any public email addresses provided to agency employees use a “.gov” or “.ca.gov” domain name by the same deadline. While we understand the bill’s intent to increase public confidence and security through the use of “.gov” domains, it does not provide sufficient resources to help local agencies comply with this unfunded mandate.		
7.	SB 454 (McNerney, D-Stockton) State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program	Would authorize the state board to seek and accept non-state, federal, and private funds, directing those funds into the PFAS Reduction Account within the PFAS Mitigation Fund. The bill would also ensure continuous appropriation of these funds for PFAS mitigation efforts.	Support	10/1/25 Consideration for Governor’s veto 3/2/26 Veto sustained
8.	Senate Bill 496 Hurtado (D-Bakersfield): Advanced Clean Fleets	Addresses the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation and proposes the establishment of an Appeals Advisory Committee to review denied exemption requests and includes provisions to enhance the regulation’s flexibility for local agencies.	Support	1/23/26 Dead
9.	SB 599 Caballero (D-Merced) Atmospheric rivers: research: forecasting methods: experimental tools	Would require the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to include the use of experimental tools that produce seasonal and sub-seasonal atmospheric river (AR) forecasts when researching, developing, and implementing novel forecasting methods to improve predictions of ARs and their impacts on water supply, flooding, post-wildfire debris flows, and environmental conditions. This legislation seeks to enhance precipitation forecasting, which is vital for effective water resource management, especially in regions heavily impacted by atmospheric rivers.	Support	9/10/25 Dead

10.	SB 601 Allen (D-Santa Monica) Water: Waste Discharge	Seeks to address the regulatory gap created by the U.S. Supreme Court's Sackett decision by codifying state protections for waters previously covered under federal law. Rather than restoring the pre-Sackett status quo, the bill would create an unworkable regulatory and legal environment for water agencies and others. SB 601 introduces a private right-of-action, allowing any individual or group to sue local governments over alleged permit violations. The vague definition of "nexus waters" opens the door to abusive lawsuits, which would halt critical projects and have a significant fiscal impact on businesses and governments. The bill would also remove requirements for the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) to consider economic impacts, the need for housing and recycled water use, and the ability to comply when issuing water quality permits.	Oppose	8/20/25 Appropriations Suspense File; No action in 2026
11.	SB 72 (Caballero, D-Merced) The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets 'California Water for All'	Modernizes the California Water Plan to drought proof California and establish long-term water supply targets.	Support	10/1/25 Approved by Governor and chaptered



EDELSTEIN GILBERT ROBSON & SMITH^{LLC}



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Jason A. Gonsalves
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TO: ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

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

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DATE: July 28, 2026

The Legislature will return from its summer recess on August 3. Session must adjourn sine die at midnight on August 31. Afterwards, the Governor will have until September 30 to act on the hundreds of bills the Legislature will send him in the closing weeks of session.

The deadline to adjourn makes August a busy month. There are hundreds of bills currently pending before the Legislature. The vast majority of these are sitting in the Assembly and Senate Appropriations Committees. In theory, these committees are tasked with right sizing the additional cost of legislation to the state's revenue. In practice, the appropriations committees are major bottlenecks for legislation. What does and does not pass is heavily influenced by politics, prioritization of the author, and how "cooked" a bill is. Both committees will meet on August 14 to dispense with all of the legislation pending before them.

Afterwards, the Legislature has only two weeks to consider these bills on the Floors of the Assembly and Senate. It is not uncommon for the Legislature to run short on time in the final days and hours leading up to adjournment.

In addition to all of this anticipated chaos, it is not at all unusual for major last minute priorities to surface from the Governor's Office. Our firms will monitor these activities and keep OCWD informed of anything that is relevant.

SB 1153 (Caballero) – Urban Water Suppliers – Disaster Preparedness

As we've discussed previously, SB 1153 requires public water systems to develop incident-specific response procedures as part of their disaster preparedness plans. The bill also clarifies and limits liability for public water systems related to wildfire response and suppression. As you know, OCWD supports SB 1153.

The bill was heard last month in the Assembly Emergency Management Committee and the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee. It passed unanimously out of both committees and is currently pending consideration in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2026 (Aguiar-Curry) – Flood Flow Diversion for Groundwater Recharge

AB 2026 would expand various existing processes under which water may be diverted from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, including floodflows without an appropriative right, through a minor application to divert water, temporary urgency permits, and temporary permits for diversion to groundwater storage. The bill is sponsored by the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) and the Regional Water Authority (RWA).

According to OCWD's legal counsel, the bill does not impact OCWD. Nevertheless, OCWD has provided "belt and suspenders" amendments to the author to further clarify this.

The bill faces opposition from several environmental groups and several irrigation districts. Nevertheless, the bill passed out of both the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and Senate Natural Resources Committee last month. It is currently pending consideration in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Wildfire Liability Reform

Earlier this year the California Earthquake Authority put forth a set of recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on how to manage costs associated with wildfire liability going forward. While the Legislature has held numerous informational hearings on the subject and working groups formed in the Senate and Assembly to discuss the issue, no legislation has been put into print on this subject to date. This is due, largely, because reforming wildfire liability and costs is a tricky issue politically. It requires the Legislature and the Governor to agree to either place more costs on the backs of electric utility ratepayers, to significantly alter the insurance market, or to limit liability in ways that harms property owners who suffer a loss in a catastrophic wildfire. None are appealing options, especially in an election year.

Nevertheless, the Governor is reported to be working on a proposal that may touch all of those issues in one way or another. While it is late in the session, this is the exact kind of play that we often see late in the year because it is large, complex, and benefits from a less thorough vetting in the Legislature.

At this time, we expect any such proposal to be more relevant to electrical utilities. We will nevertheless stay close to the issue and apprise OCWD of any inadvertent impacts to its producers and their ratepayers.

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Organization	Position
AB 259	Rubio, Blanca	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.	7/1/2026 - DEAD	OCWD	Support
AB 339	Ortega	Local public employee organizations: notice requirements.	10/13/2025 - CHAPTERED	OCWD	Watch
AB 514	Petrie-Norris	Water: emergency water supplies.	1/23/2026 - DEAD	OCWD	Watch
AB 568	Macedo	Tule East Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act.	5/28/2026 - DEAD	OCWD	Watch
AB 794	Gabriel	California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations.	2/2/2026 - DEAD	OCWD	Oppose
AB 810	Irwin	Local government: internet websites and email addresses.	1/23/2026 - DEAD	OCWD	Oppose
AB 961	Ávila Farías	Hazardous materials: California Land Reuse and Revitalization Act of 2004.	10/1/2025 - CHAPTERED	OCWD	Watch
AB 1044	Macedo	Tule East Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act.	2/2/2026 - DEAD	OCWD	Watch
AB 1319	Schultz	Protected species: California Endangered Species Act.	10/11/2025 - CHAPTERED	OCWD	Watch
AB 1413	Papan	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater adjudication.	9/11/2025 - 2 YEAR	OCWD	Watch
AB 1881	Ramos	California Indian Freedom Act of 2026.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	OCWD	Work with Assoc. on Amends.
AB 2026	Aguiar-Curry	Water diversion: groundwater recharge: permit.	7/2/2026 - APPR.	OCWD	Work with Assoc. on Amends.
AB 2218	Kalra	Water policy: California Native American tribes.	7/2/2026 - APPR.	OCWD	Work with Assoc. on Amends.
AB 2568	Johnson	Water district directors: compensation.	6/18/2026 - THIRD READING	OCWD	Watch
AB 2630	Bennett	Water diversion and use: adoption of regulations.	4/23/2026 - DEAD	OCWD	Watch
AB 2739	Soria	Water: affordability and system stabilization.	7/2/2026 - APPR.	OCWD	Watch
SB 31	McNerney	Water quality: recycled water.	10/13/2025 - CHAPTERED	OCWD	Support
SB 72	Caballero	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.	10/1/2025 - CHAPTERED	OCWD	Support
SB 454	McNerney	State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program.	10/1/2025 - VETOED	OCWD	Support
SB 496	Hurtado	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions	1/23/2026 - DEAD	OCWD	Support
SB 599	Caballero	Atmospheric rivers: research: forecasting methods: experimental tools.	9/11/2025 - 2 YEAR	OCWD	Support
SB 601	Allen	Water: waste discharge.	8/28/2025 - 2 YEAR	OCWD	Oppose
SB 682	Allen	Environmental health: product safety: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances	10/13/2025 - VETOED	OCWD	Watch
SB 707	Durazo	Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements.	10/3/2025 - CHAPTERED	OCWD	Watch
SB 978	Pérez	Data centers: labor: electricity rates.	5/14/2026 - DEAD	OCWD	Watch
SB 1153	Caballero	Disaster preparedness: urban retail water suppliers and public water system	6/30/2026 - APPR.	OCWD	Support
SB 1313	McNerney	Drinking water: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.	5/14/2026 - DEAD	OCWD	Watch
SB 1326	Wahab	California Environmental Quality Act: tribal cultural resources: mitigation measures	6/22/2026 - APPR.	OCWD	Work with Assoc. on Amends.
AB 35	Alvarez	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean	7/16/2026 - CHAPTERED	ACWA	Support
AB 259	Rubio, Blanca	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.	7/1/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Support
AB 269	Bennett	Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program.	1/15/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Oppose

AB 362	Ramos	Water policy: California tribal communities.	2/2/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	OUA
AB 372	Bennett	Office of Emergency Services: state matching funds: water system infrastruc	9/11/2025 - 2 YEAR	ACWA	Favor
AB 404	Sanchez	California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: prescribed fire, reforestat	1/15/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Favor
AB 514	Petrie-Norris	Water: emergency water supplies.	1/23/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Favor
AB 532	Ransom	Water rate assistance program.	8/29/2025 - 2 YEAR	ACWA	Favor
AB 660	Wilson	Planning and Zoning Law: postentitlement phase permits: Housing Account	8/29/2025 - 2 YEAR	ACWA	Watch
AB 687	Patterson	Health care coverage: colorectal cancer screening.	7/1/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Favor
AB 717	Aguiar-Curry	Water rights: appropriation: small restoration use.	1/23/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Watch
AB 794	Gabriel	California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations.	2/2/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	OUA
AB 810	Irwin	Local government: internet websites and email addresses.	1/23/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Not Favor
AB 846	Connolly	Endangered species: incidental take: wildfire preparedness activities.	8/28/2025 - 2 YEAR	ACWA	Favor
AB 874	Ávila Fariás	Mitigation Fee Act: development impact fees: qualified residential ownersh	1/23/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Watch
AB 914	Garcia	Air pollution: indirect sources.	2/2/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Watch
AB 929	Connolly	Sustainable groundwater management: managed wetlands.	9/11/2025 - 2 YEAR	ACWA	Oppose
AB 942	Calderon	Electricity: climate credits.	8/29/2025 - RLS.	ACWA	Neutral
AB 1146	Papan	Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs: water release: false pretenses.	8/29/2025 - 2 YEAR	ACWA	Neutral
AB 1276	Carrillo	Housing developments: ordinances, policies, and standards.	8/28/2025 - 2 YEAR	ACWA	Watch
AB 1313	Papan	Water quality: permits.	2/2/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Not Favor
AB 1413	Papan	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater adjudication.	9/11/2025 - 2 YEAR	ACWA	Not Favor
AB 1710	Carrillo	Permit Streamlining Act: housing development projects: conformity with or	7/1/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Not Favor
AB 1754	Pacheco	State general obligation bonds: requirements.	6/23/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Not Favor
AB 1772	Papan	Fish and wildlife: invasive species: invasive mussels.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Support If Amended
AB 1881	Ramos	California Indian Freedom Act of 2026.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	OUA
AB 1893	Gallagher	Wildfire prevention: local assistance grant program: eligible activities.	5/14/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Favor
AB 1895	Hadwick	Surplus Land Act: exemptions: land unsuitable for housing.	4/23/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Favor
AB 1997	Lee	Land use: housing development approvals: timelines and processes.	6/30/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Oppose
AB 2013	Bennett	High and very high fire risk areas: community water systems: preparedness	4/23/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	OUA
AB 2026	Aguiar-Curry	Water diversion: groundwater recharge: permit.	7/2/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Support
AB 2032	Ransom	Fish and wildlife: golden mussels.	7/2/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Favor
AB 2125	Bennett	Groundwater basin adjudication: notice.	7/1/2026 - CONSENT CALEND	ACWA	Watch
AB 2214	Jackson	Government finance: deposits.	4/23/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Not Favor
AB 2216	Aguiar-Curry	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy.	6/23/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Watch

AB 2260	Connolly	Water: restoration management: small restoration use.	6/23/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Watch
AB 2447	Bauer-Kahan	Water: Nitrogen Pollution Reduction Act.	5/14/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Oppose
AB 2469	Papan	Data centers: water use disclosures.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Watch
AB 2568	Johnson	Water district directors: compensation.	6/18/2026 - THIRD READING	ACWA	Favor
AB 2619	Papan	Water resources: data centers.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Not Favor
AB 2630	Bennett	Water diversion and use: adoption of regulations.	4/23/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Oppose
AB 2777	Committee on	State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund program: loans: outdoor eating	6/17/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Favor
SB 223	Alvarado-Gil	The Wildfire Smoke and Health Outcomes Data Act.	1/23/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Favor
SB 239	Arreguín	Crimes: criminal threats.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Favor
SB 350	Durazo	Water Rate Assistance Program.	1/23/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	OUA
SB 599	Caballero	Atmospheric rivers: research: forecasting methods: experimental tools.	9/11/2025 - 2 YEAR	ACWA	Favor
SB 654	Stern	California Environmental Protection Agency: contract: registry: greenhouse	1/23/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Favor
SB 724	Richardson	Public housing: lead testing.	8/28/2025 - 2 YEAR	ACWA	Watch
SB 872	McNerney	Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund.	6/30/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Support
SB 899	Grove	Fire prevention: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force: wildfire smoke.	6/24/2026 - APPR. SUSPENSE	ACWA	Support
SB 910	Sevarto	Municipal water districts: water service: Indian lands.	4/23/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Watch
SB 952	Laird	State Water Project: renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resource	6/10/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Favor
SB 1001	Archuleta	Local agency, public utility, or mutual water company: personnel access: Pe	5/14/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Favor
SB 1081	Laird	Waste discharge requirements: minimum penalties: exception: publicly own	5/14/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Favor
SB 1085	Durazo	Water supply planning: housing developments.	7/2/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Favor
SB 1125	Menjivar	Water Rate Assistance Program.	6/24/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Support If Amended
SB 1139	Laird	Monterey Peninsula Water Management District: nonfunctional turf: nonco	7/13/2026 - CHAPTERED	ACWA	Favor
SB 1153	Caballero	Disaster preparedness: urban retail water suppliers and public water system	6/30/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Support
SB 1313	McNerney	Drinking water: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.	5/14/2026 - DEAD	ACWA	Favor
SB 1326	Wahab	California Environmental Quality Act: tribal cultural resources: mitigation m	6/22/2026 - APPR.	ACWA	Not Favor
SB 1417	Pérez	Mutual water companies: assessments and water charges: notice.	7/2/2026 - SECOND READING	ACWA	OUA
AB 35	Alvarez	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean	7/16/2026 - CHAPTERED	CGC	Support
AB 1894	Rubio, Blanca	Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water.	6/23/2026 - THIRD READING	CGC	Support
SB 599	Caballero	Atmospheric rivers: research: forecasting methods: experimental tools.	9/11/2025 - 2 YEAR	CGC	Support
SB 1062	Ochoa Bogh	Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: fees.	7/1/2026 - APPR. SUSPENSE F	CGC	Support
AB 35	Alvarez	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean	7/16/2026 - CHAPTERED	CMUA	Support
AB 1893	Gallagher	Wildfire prevention: local assistance grant program: eligible activities.	5/14/2026 - DEAD	CMUA	Favor

AB 1894	Rubio, Blanca	Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water.	6/23/2026 - THIRD READING	CMUA	Favor
AB 1941	González, Mar	Organized metal theft.	6/24/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Favor
AB 1997	Lee	Land use: housing development approvals: timelines and processes.	6/30/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Oppose
AB 2013	Bennett	High and very high fire risk areas: community water systems: preparedness	4/23/2026 - DEAD	CMUA	Oppose
AB 2032	Ransom	Fish and wildlife: golden mussels.	7/2/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Support
AB 2180	Ward	Local government: Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act: proportion	6/11/2026 - THIRD READING	CMUA	Support
AB 2215	Calderon	Water rights: permits: State Water Project.	7/1/2026 - DEAD	CMUA	Support If Amended
AB 2218	Kalra	Water policy: California Native American tribes.	7/2/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Oppose
AB 2469	Papan	Data centers: water use disclosures.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Seeking Amendments
AB 2513	Petrie-Norris	Wildfire: Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program: local assistance grant p	6/23/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Favor
AB 2619	Papan	Water resources: data centers.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Seeking Amendments
AB 2630	Bennett	Water diversion and use: adoption of regulations.	4/23/2026 - DEAD	CMUA	Oppose
AB 2633	Gipson	Secondhand dealers.	6/29/2026 - APPR. SUSPENSE	CMUA	Favor
AB 2739	Soria	Water: affordability and system stabilization.	7/2/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Support
AB 2777	Committee on	State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund program: loans: outdoor eatin	6/17/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Favor
SB 872	McNerney	Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund.	6/30/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Favor
SB 1001	Archuleta	Local agency, public utility, or mutual water company: personnel access: Pe	5/14/2026 - DEAD	CMUA	Seeking Amendments
SB 1081	Laird	Waste discharge requirements: minimum penalties: exception: publicly own	5/14/2026 - DEAD	CMUA	Favor
SB 1085	Durazo	Water supply planning: housing developments.	7/2/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Support
SB 1125	Menjivar	Water Rate Assistance Program.	6/24/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Support
SB 1139	Laird	Monterey Peninsula Water Management District: nonfunctional turf: nonco	7/13/2026 - CHAPTERED	CMUA	Watch
SB 1153	Caballero	Disaster preparedness: urban retail water suppliers and public water system	6/30/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Support
SB 1196	McNerney	Small energization projects: electrical service connections.	6/24/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	OUA
SB 1266	Stern	Crimes: theft.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Favor
SB 1297	Allen	Regional wildfire partnerships.	5/14/2026 - DEAD	CMUA	Favor
SB 1313	McNerney	Drinking water: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.	5/14/2026 - DEAD	CMUA	Favor
SB 1417	Pérez	Mutual water companies: assessments and water charges: notice.	7/2/2026 - SECOND READING	CMUA	Watch
SB 1425	Cortese	High-Speed Rail Authority: property: operating right-of-way.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	CMUA	Not Favor
AB 1603	Schultz	Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): Department of Pestic	6/30/2026 - APPR.	SAWPA	Watch
AB 1772	Papan	Fish and wildlife: invasive species: invasive mussels.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	SAWPA	Watch
AB 1821	Pacheco	California Public Records Act: agency response time.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	SAWPA	Watch
AB 1881	Ramos	California Indian Freedom Act of 2026.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	SAWPA	Watch

AB 1894	Rubio, Blanca	Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water.	6/23/2026 - THIRD READING	SAWPA	Watch
AB 2215	Calderon	Water rights: permits: State Water Project.	7/1/2026 - DEAD	SAWPA	Watch
AB 2218	Kalra	Water policy: California Native American tribes.	7/2/2026 - APPR.	SAWPA	Watch
AB 2447	Bauer-Kahan	Water: Nitrogen Pollution Reduction Act.	5/14/2026 - DEAD	SAWPA	Watch
AB 2577	Connolly	Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986: settlements: attorn	7/2/2026 - APPR.	SAWPA	Watch
AB 2619	Papan	Water resources: data centers.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	SAWPA	Watch
AB 2728	Soria	Groundwater: de minimis extractors: fees: exemption.	7/2/2026 - CONSENT CALEND	SAWPA	Watch
AB 2739	Soria	Water: affordability and system stabilization.	7/2/2026 - APPR.	SAWPA	Watch
AB 2777	Committee on	State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund program: loans: outdoor eatin	6/17/2026 - APPR.	SAWPA	Watch
SB 872	McNerney	Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund.	6/30/2026 - APPR.	SAWPA	Watch
SB 935	Choi	Local agency design-build projects: authorization.	7/16/2026 - CHAPTERED	SAWPA	Watch
SB 986	Seyarto	Major regulations.	5/14/2026 - DEAD	SAWPA	Watch
SB 1001	Archuleta	Local agency, public utility, or mutual water company: personnel access: Pe	5/14/2026 - DEAD	SAWPA	Watch
SB 1054	Cabaldon	Unemployment insurance: reporting requirements.	6/24/2026 - APPR.	SAWPA	Watch
SB 1085	Durazo	Water supply planning: housing developments.	7/2/2026 - APPR.	SAWPA	Watch
SB 1153	Caballero	Disaster preparedness: urban retail water suppliers and public water system	6/30/2026 - APPR.	SAWPA	Watch
SB 1313	McNerney	Drinking water: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.	5/14/2026 - DEAD	SAWPA	Watch
AB 1577	Bauer-Kahan	Data centers: reporting.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	WateReuse	Watch
AB 2383	Zbur	Electricity: data centers.	6/30/2026 - APPR.	WateReuse	Watch
AB 2619	Papan	Water resources: data centers.	7/1/2026 - APPR.	WateReuse	Watch
AB 2777	Committee on	State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund program: loans: outdoor eatin	6/17/2026 - APPR.	WateReuse	Watch
SB 601	Allen	Water: waste discharge.	8/28/2025 - 2 YEAR	WateReuse	Oppose
SB 935	Choi	Local agency design-build projects: authorization.	7/16/2026 - CHAPTERED	WateReuse	Watch
SB 1313	McNerney	Drinking water: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.	5/14/2026 - DEAD	WateReuse	Watch

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: August 6, 2026

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 brief the committee on funding for OCWD's projects and other items of interest to OCWD.

Attachments:

- ENS Resources August Update
- Federal Bill Matrix

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for August 19 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate.

Please see attached "ENS Resources August Update," for current updates on federal items of interest to OCWD.

UPDATES

	Item	Brief Description	OCWD position/activity	Status
1.	OCWD Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) request	OCWD is requesting \$7.25 million from the Environmental Infrastructure Authorization to support the build on the existing use of the upper reach of the Santiago Creek above Hart Park by using the lower reach of the Santiago Creek to add a new recharge area for all seasons and move more water out of the Santiago Basins that would ultimately increase storage for stormwater capture.	Support	Submitted 1/20/26 OCWD's language was provided in the Senate WRDA: (611) ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—\$2,222,000 for water, wastewater, and stormwater

				infrastructure, including water supply and groundwater recharge, Orange County Water District, Orange County, California.
2.	PFAS Cleanup Grant Funding	Community Project Funding grants from Orange County (OC) members of Congress from the Environmental Protection Agency STAG—Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Gained: \$700,000 from Congressman Kim; \$746,868 Congressman Correa	Support	Applied to entire OC federal delegation in 2026 for Fiscal Year 2027; Gained funding in House Appropriations; Pending final passage from Congress
3.	H.R.1267 (Perez, WA-03)	Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act Summary: Exempts water and wastewater treatment facilities from CERCLA liability for releases of certain PFAS substances, provided they comply with applicable laws and regulations	Support	Pending passage by Congress
4.	S. 322 (Padilla, CA)	Improving Atmospheric River Forecasts Act Summary: Establishes a program to enhance atmospheric river forecasts through improved modeling, data assimilation, and reconnaissance, aiming to reduce economic and human losses via more accurate and actionable warnings	Support	Pending passage by Congress
5.	S. 3738 (Padilla, CA)	MORE Water Act Summary: Reauthorizes the large-scale water recycling and reuse program, establishes and Water Conveyance Improvement Program, and provides funding for projects that deliver water supply, safe drinking water for low-income communities, and environmental benefits	Support	Pending passage by Congress



TO: Alicia Harasty
FROM: Eric Sapirstein
DATE: July 28 , 2026
SUBJECT: Washington Update

Congressional activities during the past month focused on developing a stopgap spending bill for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) to avoid a government shutdown. PFAS CERCLA liability protection for the water sector and other passive receivers continued to be discussed within the House and Senate. Congressional water committees approved Water Resources Development Act bills, setting the stage for final action later this fall.

The President has yet to nominate Aubrey Bettencourt, to become the next USBR Commissioner. She continues to serve as Acting Commissioner. On the regulatory front, the Administration continued to advance proposals to rewrite the authority to terminate awarded grants and to impose new processes for grant awards across the federal bureaucracy.

Last, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Inspector General issued a report critical of the agency's obligation of congressionally directed project assistance noting that in FY 22 and 23 more than a billion dollars of funding remains unobligated.

The following summarizes details issues of interest.

House and Senate Committees Approve Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA) and Include OCWD Request

Keeping with the tradition to renew USACE's Water Resources Development Act every two years, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure passed their versions of WRDA. In so doing, the committees took divergent paths. The House approach is a simple USACE centric bill. It would authorize a handful of new water resources projects addressing navigation and flood protection. It also would authorize a limited number of environmental infrastructure projects. The Senate bill, S. 4949, by comparison, is a broader measure. It would authorize flood and navigation projects but also would reauthorize expired EPA wastewater and drinking water infrastructure programs, including the SRF and WIFIA.

S. 4949 provides an explicit authorization for OCWD that would permit a project(s) to be initiated addressing, among other matters, groundwater and water supply. The authorization is \$2,200,000 and is recognized as a first step to plan new projects.

Within the EPA drinking water SRF reauthorization provisions, the committee directed that the SRF would be authorized to fund PFAS related treatment needs by water agencies.

Importance of WRDA

WRDA offers an avenue to fund priority water resources needs. While the funding levels in S. 4949 are less robust compared with prior years, the authorizations are considered a starting point to develop project agreements and related planning and design that would be supplemented in subsequent WRDA bills. The OCWD provision would provide the seed funding, if appropriated, to start such project planning activities.

FY 2027 Appropriations: EPA and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Programs

As noted last month, the effort to pass FY 27 spending bills remains effectively on hold. The House Committee on Appropriations passed all twelve appropriations bills. However, it has been unable to move to floor debate and votes on passage of the EPA, Corps of Engineers and USBR spending bills. The delays is attributable concerns over spending levels. Meanwhile, the Senate remains locked in place. The Committee on Appropriations has failed to agree on overall spending levels that would guide individual agency spending bills and allow for committee consideration.

Given the circumstances in both chambers, a stopgap spending bill is expected to be passed. The House, before recessing for the summer, passed a Continuing Resolution that would fund the government until December 4, 2026. The Senate committee is working on a stopgap measure and is expected to reach an agreement as early as the first week of August. If this materializes, the House and Senate would return to work in September and reconcile the differences between the two bills before October 1, avoiding a shutdown.

Importance of Funding Outlook

As has become an annual event, Congress will use the latter months of the year to finalize year-long spending bills to fund existing and new programs. For OCWD, this means that final passage of congressionally directed spending projects, including Representatives Kim and Correa's PFAS clean-up assistance, will be delayed until after the mid-term elections. However, all indications suggest that congressionally directed project spending is not at risk.

EPA Delays Finalizing Rules and Issues Guidance Related to PFAS

As part of EPA's ongoing review of regulations and guidance issued under the past Administration, the agency issued its mid-year regulatory agenda that sets out priorities and schedules for regulatory actions. Within the agenda, the agency identified that its decision to issue effluent limitation guidelines for industrial PFAS discharges would be delayed until 2027. The agency is also finalizing its decision to extend the compliance date for the 4PPT Maximum Contaminant Level for PFOS and PFOA from 2029 to 2031 on a utility by utility review of an extension. It also reaffirmed its review of additional PFAS chemicals and GEN X for regulation, rolling back the Biden era drinking water rules. It is important to note that the decision to rescind these rules is subject to ongoing litigation

The agency did issue interim guidance on the continued practice of land application of biosolids. The guidance provides recommendations to the public and wastewater utilities on steps that could be taken to protect public health and the environment. The recommendations include avoiding land application "near" waters and recreational areas where children play. The guidance also provided a full throated statement that the Draft Risk Assessment Model with its 1PPB risk benchmark, issued in the final weeks of the Biden Administration, is deeply flawed and relied upon unrealistic assumptions of pathways of PFAS exposure. The guidance also advised that in the absence of final rules or guidance, a tiered approach to assessing risk is an appropriate approach to determine how the management and treatment of PFAS should be addressed.

Importance of Rules and Guidance

The decision to rescind rules and issue guidance delivers clarity on how the agency is expected to proceed on imposing new PFAS standards and management practices in the coming months. However, it remains an open question if the agency will be allowed to proceed with finalization of these rule changes as judicial decisions could overrule the proposed actions.

Water Sector Funding Obligation Delays

The continuing delays by federal agencies in awarding congressionally directed spending to project sponsors remains a top congressional concern. These concerns were validated by an Office of Inspector (IG) report on EPA's progress in awarding funding to project sponsors. The IG found that congressional funding appropriated in FY 22 and 23 has been stalled. EPA has more than a billion dollars in appropriated funds that have not been awarded according to the IG report.

Importance of IG Findings

The detailed study and data confirm the frustrations of grantees that the agency has failed to obligate funding assistance in a timely manner. While isolated to EPA, the findings are consistent with concerns voiced about other agencies' delays. A strong potential exists that when final FY 27 spending bills are enacted in the fall, Congress

will include general directives that agencies and departments obligate and award funding without delays.



August 2026 OCWD Federal Bill Matrix

Summary of Pending Legislation and Regulations

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

S. 4603

Golden Mussel Eradication
and Control Act of 2026

○ No Priority ○ No Stance

AI Summary: The bill establishes a demonstration program to prevent, monitor, and eradicate the golden mussel in affected U.S. waters, including the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and authorizes \$15 million annually from 2026 to 2030 for implementation.

Introduced: 05/20/2026

Sponsor: Sen. Adam Schiff CA

Latest Actions:

05/20/2026 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

05/20/2026 - Introduced in Senate

Committees: Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Why it matters: S.4603 is the Senate approach to the investigation and mitigation efforts to address the invasive Golden Mussel that threatens wastewater and water agencies' infrastructure. S. 4603 is similar to H.R.3717 introduced by Harder (D-CA).

Outlook: Senate action on the bill is considered highly likely either as a stand alone measure or incorporation into a broader Water Resources Development Act or Clean Water/Safe Drinking Water Acts reauthorization.

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

H.R. 9497

Water Resources Development Act of 2026

Pro Title: WRDA Revisions

◦ No Priority ◦ No Stance

AI Summary: The Water Resources Development Act of 2026 authorizes improvements to U.S. rivers and harbors, establishes new offices within the Corps of Engineers for inland navigation, water supply, technical assistance, and alternative delivery methods, and includes provisions for contaminated sediment remediation, categorical permissions, and electronic permit tracking.

Introduced: 06/29/2026

Sponsor: Rep. Sam Graves MO-06

Latest Actions:

07/14/2026 - POLITICO Pro - The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unanimously approved its latest Water Resources D...

07/14/2026 - Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 66 - 0.

07/14/2026 - Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held

Committees: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

S. 4949

Water Resources Development Act of 2026

◦ No Priority ◦ No Stance

AI Summary: The Water Resources Development Act of 2026 authorizes improvements to U.S. rivers and harbors, promotes water resource conservation, and includes provisions for studies, deauthorizations, and infrastructure development across multiple regions.

Introduced: 07/13/2026

Sponsor: Sen. Shelley Moore Capito WV

Latest Actions:

07/15/2026 - POLITICO Pro - The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee unanimously approved legislation Wednesday to authori...

07/15/2026 - Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 457.

07/15/2026 - Committee on Environment and Public Works. Reported by Senator Capito with an amendment in the nature o...

Committees: Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Outlook: The bill is expected to be debated by the Senate in the fall or during the Lame Duck Session and then reconciled with its House counterpart, H.R. 9497. Authorization of future OCWD water infrastructure projects is expected to remain in the final legislation.

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

H.R. 2766

Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act

◦ No Priority ◦ No Stance

AI Summary: The bill requires the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance recognizing special districts as local governments for federal financial assistance eligibility, with agencies required to implement and report on compliance within specified timeframes.

Introduced: 04/09/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Pat Fallon TX-04

Latest Actions:

03/18/2026 - Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 32 - 8.

03/18/2026 - Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held

04/09/2025 - Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Committees: House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

H.R. 3184

PFAS Alternatives Act

◦ No Priority ◦ No Stance

AI Summary: The bill establishes a research and training program to develop PFAS-free turnout gear for firefighters, supporting innovation and safer protective equipment through grants and partnerships.

Introduced: 05/05/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Debbie Dingell MI-06

Latest Actions:

05/06/2025 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

05/05/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transp...

05/05/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transp...

Committees: House Science, Space and Technology Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

H.R. 6075

Water Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2025

◦ No Priority ◦ No Stance

AI Summary: The Water Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2025 reauthorizes a pilot program for alternative water source projects by defining intelligent water infrastructure technology and expanding grant uses to include engineering, design, construction, and implementation of advanced digital and monitoring technologies.

Introduced: 11/18/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Rob Bresnahan PA-08

Latest Actions:

11/19/2025 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

11/18/2025 - Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

11/18/2025 - Introduced in House

Committees: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

H.R. 6626

PFAS Accountability Act of 2025

◦ No Priority ◦ No Stance

AI Summary: The PFAS Accountability Act of 2025 establishes a federal cause of action and medical monitoring remedy for individuals significantly exposed to PFAS, holding manufacturers accountable and encouraging research into their health effects.

Introduced: 12/11/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Madeleine Dean PA-04

Latest Actions:

12/11/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, fo...

12/11/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, fo...

12/11/2025 - Introduced in House

Committees: House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Judiciary Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

H.R. 7845

DROUGHT Act of 2026

○ No Priority ○ No Stance

AI Summary: The DROUGHT Act of 2026 modifies the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act to limit federal assistance for drought-affected water projects to 90% of total project costs, prioritizing projects in severely drought-affected states or counties, low-income areas, or those providing significant public health, environmental, or water reliability benefits.

Introduced: 03/05/2026

Sponsor: Rep. Scott Peters CA-50

Latest Actions:

03/06/2026 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

03/05/2026 - Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ene...

03/05/2026 - Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ene...

Committees: House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

H.R. 1267

Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act

● High Priority ● Support

AI Summary: The Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act exempts water and wastewater treatment facilities from CERCLA liability for releases of certain perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, provided they comply with applicable laws and regulations.

Introduced: 02/12/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez WA-03

Latest Actions:

02/12/2025 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

02/12/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation an...

02/12/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation an...

Committees: House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

Why it matters: H.R. 1267 represents a marker bill to allow for the House to consider the issue of water sector CERCLA liability due to the USEPA's action to designate PFAS as a hazardous substance under CERCLA that exposes water

agencies to potential liability simply because water supplies contain PFAS and treatment residuals that must be disposed of could become subject to third party efforts to attach responsibility for cleanups.

Outlook: Both the House and Senate Members with jurisdiction over CERCLA are have expressed concerns over the potential for water sector liability. Committee consideration of legislation to provide liability protections for water sector could be considered as part of a larger water bill renewing the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts later this spring.

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

H.R. 2344

Water ISAC Threat Protection Act

◦ No Priority ◦ No Stance

AI Summary: The bill establishes a program to enhance drinking water and wastewater system preparedness and resilience by supporting participation in the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center, offsetting associated costs, and improving threat monitoring and response tools.

Introduced: 03/25/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Jan Schakowsky IL-09

Latest Actions:

03/25/2025 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

03/25/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ene...

03/25/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ene...

Committees: House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

Why It Matters: The bill would renew the core federal program that promotes collaboration between the federal government and the water sector to support improved understanding of cyber threats.

Outlook: Since many of the provisions of H.R. 2344 are included in the Senate WRDA legislation, it is anticipated that the House will negotiate on H.R. 2344 with the Senate as part of any final agreement to pass WRDA 2026.

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

H.R. 3898

PERMIT Act

○ No Priority ○ No Stance

AI Summary: The PERMIT Act amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to streamline water quality standards, improve transparency in criteria development, reduce regulatory burdens, and enhance permitting efficiency for infrastructure and agricultural projects.

Introduced: 06/11/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Mike Collins GA-10

Latest Actions:

12/15/2025 - Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

12/11/2025 - Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

12/11/2025 - On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 221 - 205 (Roll no. 330).

Committees: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Why it matters: H.R. 3898 is important because it provides for a comprehensive reform of Clean Water Act permitting and compliance mandates. The bill would, if enacted, statutorily provide an explicit exemption for groundwater recharge from being subject to Waters of the U.S. regulation. It would also mandate ten year NPDES permits.

Outlook: H.R. 3898 is pending in the Senate. It will become part of any final House Senate permit reform bill that is agreed upon by both chambers during the lame duck session. However, if agreement cannot be reached on permit reforms for all projects (i.e., clean energy and fossil fuel projects) the prospects for final passage of H.R. 3898's provisions decrease.

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

S. 3590

Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act of 2026

○ No Priority ○ No Stance

Summary: The bill would provide limited renewal of expired provisions addressing natural disasters and cybersecurity programs. Under the bill, \$50 million would be authorized to support large water agencies' projects to respond to natural disaster resilience needs and cybersecurity threat reduction efforts.

Introduced: 01/07/2026

Sponsor: Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester DE

Latest Actions:

01/07/2026 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

01/07/2026 - Introduced in Senate

Committees: Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Why it matters: S. 3590 represents a water sector directed resilience initiative that stands in addition to general cybersecurity legislation that is pending. As introduced, the bill would renew several federal assistance programs for small and large water and wastewater agencies to address climate related impacts to infrastructure and cyber attacks on such systems. The legislation enjoys support from the water sector including AMWA, ACWA, CASA, AWWA and NACWA.

Outlook: The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works is unlikely to consider the legislation given the approval of WRDA 2026 that contains provisions addressing water infrastructure resilience within WRDA 2026.

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

S. 322

Improving Atmospheric River
Forecasts Act

○ No Priority ● Support

AI Summary: The bill establishes a program to enhance atmospheric river forecasts through improved modeling, data assimilation, and reconnaissance, aiming to reduce economic and human losses via more accurate and actionable warnings.

Introduced: 01/29/2025

Sponsor: Sen. Alex Padilla CA

Latest Actions:

01/29/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Sponsor introducer...

01/29/2025 - Introduced in Senate

Committees: Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

Why It Matters: The legislation would further clarify the use of advanced forecasting of atmospheric rivers relying intelligent water technologies and digitalization of the data to provide water managers and the public with improved understanding of the impacts of such events. The bill would include the authorization of the use of federal planes to better inform on the nature and intensity of such storm events.

Outlook: Prospects for Senate committee consideration and action are uncertain. However, the bill could become part of a larger water resources bill that might be developed during the final months of the 119th Congress.

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

S. 3738

MORE WATER Act

○ No Priority ● Support

AI Summary: The MORE WATER Act reauthorizes the large-scale water recycling and reuse program, establishes a Water Conveyance Improvement Program, and provides funding for projects that deliver water supply, safe drinking water for low-income communities, and environmental benefits.

Introduced: 01/29/2026

Sponsor: Sen. Alex Padilla CA

Latest Actions:

03/17/2026 - Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power. Hearings held.

01/29/2026 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (Sponsor introductory remarks...

01/29/2026 - Introduced in Senate

Committees: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Water and Power Subcommittee

Why it matters: S. 3738 would extend the authorization of the expiring large water recycling projects (\$500 million or greater) program. Authorized funding would be \$450 million and the program would be extended until 2032. It would also modify the Title XVI program increasing federal cost share to \$50 million, providing \$550 million funding authorization and extending program to 2032. A new program authorizing \$250 million to support environmental and habitat restoration projects would be available to support the Great Salt Lake and other inland lakes (priority on Central Utah Project.

Outlook: The legislation received a positive hearing before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. USBR testified positively on the bill. S. 3738 could become part of a larger western water resources bill later in the year. The bill is expected to be marked up in committee prior to the August recess.

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

S. 4153

Forever Chemical Regulation and Accountability Act of 2026

◦ No Priority ◦ No Stance

AI Summary: The Forever Chemical Regulation and Accountability Act of 2026 establishes a phased approach to eliminate nonessential uses and environmental releases of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, with scientific review and public input guiding essential use designations.

Introduced: 03/19/2026

Sponsor: Sen. Dick Durbin IL

Latest Actions:

03/19/2026 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (text: CR S1370-1380)

03/19/2026 - Introduced in Senate

Committees: Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

S. 1118

Water Intelligence, Security, and Cyber Threat Protection Act of 2025

◦ No Priority ◦ No Stance

AI Summary: The Water Intelligence, Security, and Cyber Threat Protection Act of 2025 establishes a program to enhance drinking water and wastewater system preparedness by supporting participation in the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center, offsetting associated costs, and improving threat monitoring and response tools.

Introduced: 03/25/2025

Sponsor: Sen. Ed Markey MA

Latest Actions:

03/25/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

03/25/2025 - Introduced in Senate

Committees: Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Why It Matters: The bill would renew the core federal program that promotes collaboration between the federal government and the water sector to support improved understanding of cyber threats.

Outlook: The Senate WRDA bill contains provisions to renew WaterISAC that includes many of the provisions contained in S.1118. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that S. 1118 would be acted upon.

FEDERAL - PROPOSED RULE

Rescission of Regulatory Determinations and Removal of Related Provisions for Four PFAS Substances (PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX), ...

Office of Water | Environmental Protection Agency

The proposed rule would rollback the Biden era rulemakings to implement drinking water standards for several additional PFAS family chemicals and rely upon a hazard mixture instead of a chemical by chemical drinking water standard as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected to repropose the rules taking into account statutory requirements and current science. EPA is proposing to rescind its regulatory determinations to regulate four per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)—perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid and its ammonium salt (HFPO-DA, commonly known as GenX chemicals), and mixtures of these three PFAS plus perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)—under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The EPA is also proposing to rescind all associated regulatory provisions currently codified in the EPA's 2024 PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) exclusive to these PFAS that were promulgated pursuant to the regulatory determinations that the EPA is now proposing to rescind, including the final Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) that would have required monitoring, and where necessary, treatment by public water systems (PWSs). This proposed action is necessary to correct the unlawful procedure under which these regulations were promulgated. Under the EPA's prior interpretation, the EPA proposed and finalized regulatory determinations and regulations for these PFAS simultaneously and in tandem. Under the best reading of the statute, the EPA is not authorized to take such actions simultaneously and therefore, the Agency proposes to rescind those regulatory determinations, Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) and associated portions of the 2024 PFAS NPDWR. The EPA is seeking public comment on this proposal.

Last Updated: 05/20/2026

Comments Due: 07/20/2026

Legal Authority: 42 U.S.C. 300f

Docket: EPA-HQ-OW-2025-0654

RIN: 2040-AG53

CFR: 40 CFR 469

FEDERAL - NOTICE

Draft Guidance for Reducing Risk From Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS) in Biosolids; Establ...

Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is making available a draft memorandum that would, if finalized, provide guidance to operators of wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and related facilities, landowners and farmers, State and Tribal water agencies, and the public on ways to reduce potential risks posed by perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) in biosolids, as well as seeking feedback on potential next steps. The EPA is soliciting public comments on the draft memorandum and next steps for 60 days. This draft guidance memorandum does not have the force and effect of law, nor does it bind the public in any way. This draft guidance memorandum cannot be relied on by any person in litigation against the United States. The intent of draft guidance memorandum is to provide non-binding or voluntary recommendations for how to mitigate risks from PFOA and PFOS in sewage sludge and biosolids based on information currently available to the EPA.

Last Updated: 07/06/2026

Comments Due: 09/04/2026

Docket: EPA-HQ-OW-2026-2509, FRL-13318-01-OW

POLITICOPRO

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AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: August 6, 2026

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

From: John Kennedy

Staff Contacts: G. Ayala/D. Berch

Budgeted: Yes

Budgeted Amount: \$143,400

Cost Estimate: \$143,400

Funding Source: Gen. Reserves

Program/Line Item No.: N/A

General Counsel Approval: N/A

Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A

CEQA Compliance: N/A

Subject: MULTIPURPOSE CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE

SUMMARY

MOCA Systems, Inc. (MOCA) is performing a feasibility study for a new multipurpose center on the OCWD campus. The study spans three phases over 34 weeks, from June 2026 to January 2027. Staff will provide a verbal update on the work to date, which covers site review, site tests, and early cost and schedule work.

RECOMMENDATION

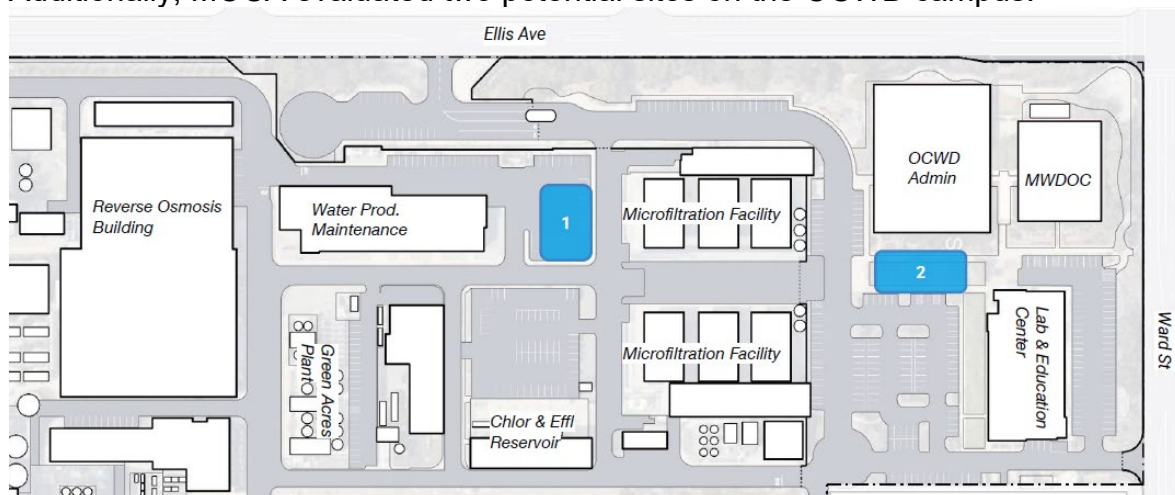
Informational

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The study commenced June 1, 2026, and continues through late January 2027 across three phases: site and program review, design and cost development, and final report.

During Phase I, MOCA conducted a kickoff meeting and a visioning workshop with OCWD staff. At the workshop, staff developed the program through idea generation, prioritization, and the establishment of guiding principles for the new center.

Additionally, MOCA evaluated two potential sites on the OCWD campus:



Site 1 is situated near the Water Production and Maintenance building and comprises 8,030 square feet at 110 by 73 feet. This site brings visitors into the center of campus, establishes a closed-loop tour route with a shorter walking distance, and is adjacent to buildings with a cohesive contemporary style. Its wider proportions also allow for greater programming flexibility.

Site 2 is situated adjacent to the OCWD Administrative Building and comprises 8,040 square feet at 60 by 134 feet. This site brings visitors to one end of campus and establishes a linear tour route with a longer walking distance. It is adjacent to a mixture of architectural styles, and its narrower proportions impose greater restrictions on programming. This site would also require the removal of existing parking stalls, and its proximity to the Administrative Building may necessitate the use of more costly fire-rated materials.

Based on this evaluation, MOCA recommends Site 1 for the center.

Staff will provide a verbal update on next steps.

PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS

4/15/26, R26-4-65: Award of a Professional Services Agreement to MOCA Systems, Inc. for a Multipurpose Center Feasibility Study for an amount not to exceed \$143,400.

12/17/25, R25-12-207: Authorize issuance of Request for Proposals for a Multipurpose Center Feasibility Study