



**COMMUNITY AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY*
AGENCY HEADQUARTERS, CHINO, CALIFORNIA**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017
9:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public may address the Board on any item that is within the jurisdiction of the Board; however, no action may be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by Subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2 of the Government Code. Those persons wishing to address the Board on any matter, whether or not it appears on the agenda, are requested to complete and submit to the Board Secretary a "Request to Speak" form, which is available on the table in the Board Room. Comments will be limited to five minutes per speaker. Thank you.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

In accordance with Section 54954.2 of the Government Code (Brown Act), additions to the agenda require two-thirds vote of the legislative body, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted.

1. ACTION ITEMS

A. MINUTES

The Committee will be asked to approve the Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting minutes of August 9, 2017.

2. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION (WRITTEN)

B. LEGISLATIVE REPORTS (WRITTEN)

1. West Coast Advisors
2. Innovative Federal Strategies
3. Agricultural Resources

- C. CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES MONTHLY REPORT (WRITTEN)
- D. STATE LEGISLATION MATRIX (WRITTEN)
- E. FEDERAL LEGISLATION MATRIX (WRITTEN)
- 3. GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS
- 4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS
- 5. COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
- 6. ADJOURN

*A Municipal Water District

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Board Secretary (909-993-1736), 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting so that the Agency can make reasonable arrangements.

Proofed by: JH

DECLARATION OF POSTING

I, April Woodruff, Board Secretary of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, A Municipal Water District, hereby certify that a copy of this agenda has been posted by 5:30 p.m. in the foyer at the Agency's main office, 6075 Kimball Avenue, Building A, Chino on Thursday, September 7, 2017.



April Woodruff

**ACTION
ITEM
1A**



MINUTES

COMMUNITY AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY* AGENCY HEADQUARTERS, CHINO, CA

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2017
9:00 A.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Steven J. Elie, Chair
Michael Camacho

STAFF PRESENT

P. Joseph Grindstaff, General Manager
Chris Berch, Executive Manager of Engineering/AGM
Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of External Affairs & Policy Development/AGM
Christina Valencia, Executive Manager of Finance & Administration/AGM
Andréa Carruthers, Senior External Affairs Specialist
Michael Dias, Assistant Engineer
Warren Green, Manager of Contracts & Procurement
Jason Gu, Grants Officer
Liz Hurst, Environmental Resources Planner II
Joel Ignacio, Senior Engineer
Sally Lee, Executive Assistant
Sylvie Lee, Manager of Planning & Environmental Resources
Stephanie Riley, External Affairs Analyst
Teresa Velarde, Manager of Internal Audit
April Woodruff, Board Secretary/Office Manager

OTHERS PRESENT

None

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. There were no public comments received or additions to the agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

The Committee:

- ◆ Approved the Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting minutes of June 14, 2017.
- ◆ Recommended that the Board approve the Fiscal Year 2017/18 membership as a founding member for the Southern California Water Committee in the amount of \$25,000;

as a Consent Calendar Item on the August 16, 2017, Board meeting agenda.

- ◆ Recommended that the Board oppose AB 1000 (Friedman) – Water Conveyance, which would impose additional state environmental reviews by unrelated agencies on a project that has already undergone environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act, for water conveyed in California’s water transportation systems;

as a Consent Calendar Item on the August 16, 2017, Board meeting agenda.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following information items were presented or received and filed by the Committee:

- ◆ Public Outreach and Communications
- ◆ Legislative Reports
- ◆ California Strategies, LLC Activity Report
- ◆ State Legislation Matrix
- ◆ Federal Legislation Matrix

GENERAL MANAGER’S COMMENTS

General Manager Joe Grindstaff and Executive Manager of Engineering/AGM Chris Berch gave an overview of an infrastructure report from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Committee member comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Committee member requests for future agenda items.

With no further business, Director Elie adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April Woodruff
Board Secretary/Office Manager

*A Municipal Water District

APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

INFORMATION

ITEM

2A

Date: September 20, 2017

To: The Honorable Board of Directors

Chris Besser for TG
From: P. Joseph Grindstaff, General Manager

Committee: Community & Legislative Affairs

09/13/17

Executive Contact: Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of Ext. Aff. & Policy Dev./AGM

Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

Executive Summary:

This is an informational item that provides highlights of the External Affairs team's monthly outreach, education and communication programs and updates.

The LA County Fair takes place in September. The cities of Chino and Chino Hills have requested IEUA's assistance during the Kids Expo (Chino - September 20; Chino Hills - September 22).

IEUA launched the updated KickWaterWaste.com micro-site. The site highlights the Kick the Habit campaign and focuses on water topics, rebates and water-saving tips.

Staff has received interest from six local high schools to participate in the 2017/18 Solar Cup program year including: Chino High School (Chino), Chino Hills High School (Chino Hills), Jurupa Hills High School (Fontana), Los Osos High School (Rancho Cucamonga), Upland High School (Upland), and Summit High School (Fontana). MWD has allotted IEUA three teams to sponsor. IEUA staff will conduct a lottery drawing to determine teams. Teams will be selected and submitted to MWD by September 7, 2017.

Staff's Recommendation:

This is an informational item for the Board of Directors to receive and file.

Budget Impact: ^N *Budgeted (Y/N):* ^N *Amendment (Y/N):* ^N *Requested Amount:*

Account/Project Name:

Fiscal Impact (explain if not budgeted):

Prior Board Action:

N/A

Environmental Determination:

Not Applicable

Business Goal:

IEUA is committed to providing a reliable and cost-effective water supply and promoting sustainable water use throughout the region.

IEUA is committed to enhancing and promoting environmental sustainability and the preservation of the region's heritage.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Background

Background

Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

September

- September 6, Ontario Day at the LA County Fair, Pomona Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Avenue, Pomona
- September 7, IEUA Water Association Leadership Breakfast (Guest Speaker: Roger Patterson, MWD AGM – Strategic Water Initiatives), Double Tree Hotel: 222 N. Vineyard Avenue, Ontario, 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
- September 7, Rolling Ridge Garden in Every School® Dedication, 13677 Calle San Marcos, Chino Hills, 9:00 a.m.
- September 7, Upland Day at the LA County Fair, Pomona Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Avenue, Pomona
- September 8, Rancho Cucamonga Day at the LA County Fair, Pomona Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Avenue
- September 14, Montclair Day at the LA County Fair, Pomona Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Avenue, Pomona
- September 15, Fontana Day at the LA County Fair, Pomona Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Avenue, Pomona
- September 20, Chino Day at the LA County Fair, Pomona Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Avenue, Pomona, (Kids Expo - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
- September 22, Chino Hills Day at the LA County Fair, Pomona Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Avenue, Pomona, (Kids Expo - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

October

- October 21, Landscape and Water Conservation Festival, CBWCD: 4594 San Bernardino Street, Montclair, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- October 25, IEUA Blood Drive, IEUA HQ-B Blood Mobile, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Outreach/Education - Civic Publications Newspaper Campaign

- IEUA launched the updated KickWaterWaste.com micro-site. The site highlights the *Kick the Habit* campaign and focuses on rebates, water-saving tips and more.
- IEUA distributed an email blast to 250,000 IP addresses (Geo Target: Educators, Families with children ages 5-18 – all within IEUA’s service area) in August focused on *Back to School*, which will highlight the Agency’s free education programs.

Media and Outreach

- IEUA ran ads in the following sections of the *Champion Newspaper*:
 - Football Preview – 8/19/17
 - LA County Fair – 9/2/17
- IEUA continues to run banner ads with *Fontana Herald News*.
- Staff ran a *Kick the Habit* fall-focused ad in September’s issue of Inland Empire Magazine.
- In August, 38 posts were published to the IEUA Facebook page and 38 tweets were sent on the @IEUAwater Twitter handle.

- The top three Facebook posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of August were:
 - 8/21-8/28: Drip Kit Workshop (Ad)
 - 8/2: “Water is Life” Student Art – 6th Grade Student from Wickman Elementary School in Chino Hills.
 - 8/5: Chino Creek Wetlands Animal Feature - Black-Crowned Night-Heron
- The top three tweets, based on reach and engagement, in the month of August were:
 - 8/9: IEUA's Water Quality Laboratory Construction Highlight
 - 8/9: “Water is Life” Student Art – 9th Grade Student from Don Lugo High School in Chino.
 - 8/23: “Water is Life” Student Art – 8th Grade Student from Ruth Musser Middle School in Rancho Cucamonga.
- As part of “August is Water Quality Month”, IEUA shared wastewater treatment information and water quality tips on the IEUA Facebook page and Twitter handle. IEUA also highlighted its new Water Quality Laboratory currently under construction.

Education and Outreach Updates

- Staff has received interest from six local high schools to participate in the 2017/18 Solar Cup program year including: Chino High School (Chino), Chino Hills High School (Chino Hills), Jurupa Hills High School (Fontana), Los Osos High School (Rancho Cucamonga), Upland High School (Upland), and Summit High School (Fontana). MWD has allotted IEUA three teams to sponsor. IEUA staff will conduct a lottery drawing to determine teams. Teams will be selected and submitted to MWD by September 7, 2017.
- Staff is continuing to schedule Water Discovery field trips for program year 2017/18. To date, staff has provided field trips and scheduled approximately 670 students from July 1, 2017 to November 14, 2017.
- Staff has begun school site inspections for the qualifying 2017/18 Garden in Every School® Mini-Grant participants. Staff will be visiting 12 schools with existing water-wise gardens. After site inspections take place and recommendations are made, schools will receive \$1,000 to fund garden materials.

INFORMATION
ITEM
2B



August 28, 2017

To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency

From: Michael Boccadoro
Beth Olhasso

RE: August Legislative Report

Overview:

The Legislature returned to Sacramento August 21 for the final four weeks of the legislative session. All bills still active are now either on the Senate and Assembly floor or in Appropriations Committee. The respective Appropriations Suspense Files will be taken up by the first of September and then there will be two weeks of floor sessions before the September 15 end of session deadline.

Establishing long-term water-use efficiency standards and a drinking water fee are the hottest topics in Sacramento. Senator Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys), chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, has taken control of the water use efficiency process and has amended language into two bills. Stakeholders have a mixed reaction to the proposal and will continue to work with both Senate and Assembly staff to reach a compromise before the end of session.

The long-anticipated drinking water fee has been amended into SB 623 (Monning D-Carmel). The bill proposes a \$0.95 fee per residential water meter, with an increasing scale for larger meters. The Association of California Water Agencies is leading the charge against the fee.

Other hot legislative topics include revising Proposition 218 for stormwater financing and low-income rates, and establishing a 100 percent Renewable Portfolio Standard, which was recently amended to include the State Water Project.

The benefits of California's wet winter have lasted throughout the summer by providing significant supplies through the dry season, keeping most of the state out of drought conditions.

Recently the Little Hoover Commission unanimously adopted its report on special districts, following two public hearings and two advisory committee meetings over the course of the last 12 months. The report is now being formatted and is expected to be formally published soon. A sneak peek at the report shows that there are no recommendations on special district property taxes or reserves.

Following the July announcement of the California WaterFix's compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a flood of lawsuits has been filed in protest of the massive infrastructure project.

The State Water Resources Control Board recently conducted a hearing on mandatory consolidation of failing water districts in disadvantaged communities as a means to provide safe drinking water. The hearing was purely informational, but showed that the SWRCB sees consolidation as a tool to achieving the state mandate to ensure clean drinking water for all Californians.

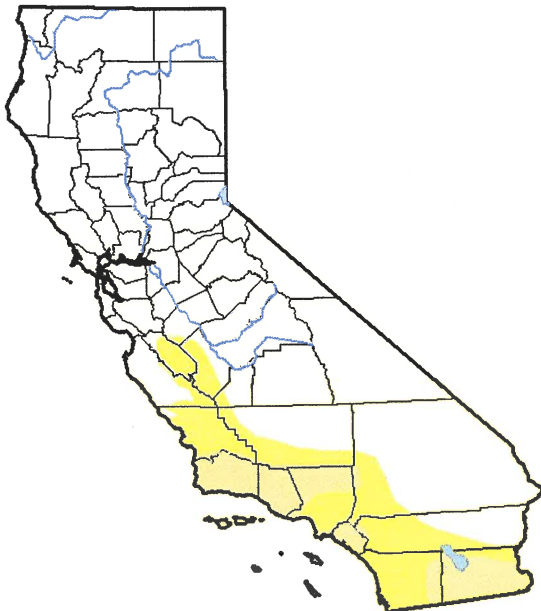
In the first auction since cap-and-trade was reauthorized by the Legislature until 2030, \$935 million was collected. It was one of the most successful carbon permit auctions the state has held to date with all allowances purchased, making it the first complete sellout of carbon permits since November 2015, according to the California Air Resources Board. The Legislature and the Governor will now work to allocate at least \$1.4 billion in auction revenue.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency Status Report – August 2017

Drought Conditions

The benefits of California’s wet winter have lasted throughout the summer by providing significant supplies through the dry season, keeping most of the state out of drought conditions. The images below compare current conditions and conditions exactly one year ago. As we get closer to the start of the wet season, there are high hopes for continued replenishment of storage both above and below ground.

U.S. Drought Monitor California



August 22, 2017
(Released Thursday, Aug. 24, 2017)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	77.88	22.12	8.24	0.04	0.00	0.00
Last Week 08-15-2017	77.88	22.14	8.24	0.04	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-22-2017	78.47	23.53	8.24	1.08	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2017	18.07	81.93	67.61	54.02	38.17	18.31
Start of Water Year 09-27-2016	0.00	100.00	85.59	62.27	42.50	21.04
One Year Ago 08-22-2016	0.00	100.00	85.59	59.02	42.50	21.04

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

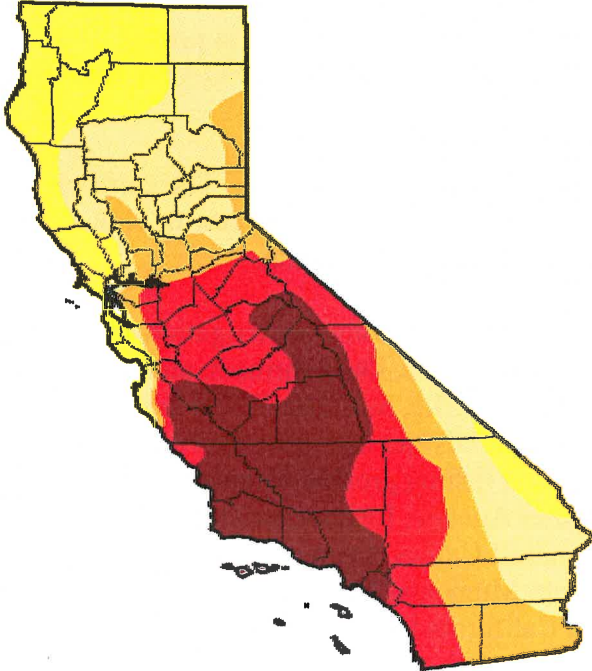
Author:

Chris Fenimore
NOE/NESDIS/NOAA



<http://droughtmonitor.uni.edu/>

August 23, 2016



Little Hoover Commission Adopts Report on Special Districts

Recently the Little Hoover Commission unanimously adopted its report on special districts, following two public hearings and two advisory committee meetings over the course of the last 12 months. The report is now being formatted and is expected to be formally published around Wednesday, August 30. Little Hoover's report offers 20 recommendations for special districts, broken into four categories:

1. Appropriate State Oversight
2. Improving Transparency
3. What Role for Healthcare Districts?
4. Ready California for Climate Change

Notably absent from the list is any recommendations on special district property taxes or reserves. This is largely do to the work of a strong group of special districts educating members that reserves are prudent and responsibly managed, and that property taxes are used to the benefit of the ratepayers in the district. **IEUA's Christina Valencia was an active participant in these discussions and offered important testimony at a Little Hoover Commission hearing.**

In the Commission's cover letter, addressed to Governor Jerry Brown and legislative leaders, Chair Pedro Nava states, "During its study process, the Commission discussed some rather extreme solutions that generated intense interest. Through a very robust public process, however,

the Commission ultimately concluded that local institutions are best served by local decision-making.”

At least 58 lawsuits filed against California WaterFix

Following the July announcement of the California WaterFix’s compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a flood of lawsuits has been filed in protest of the massive infrastructure project. The deadline to file a lawsuit in protest of the CEQA no-harm findings was Monday, August 21st.

The CEQA certification was an important hurdle for the project to clear. The certification essentially states that the project will not harm fish, wildlife, or human health in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta below the current baseline conditions in the region.

At least 58 parties to file lawsuits, including: Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District; City of Antioch; City of Brentwood; Butte County; Delta counties, Delta farmers, etc.; East Bay Municipal Utility District; Cities of Folsom and Roseville, San Juan Water District and Suburban Sacramento Water District; Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and other Sacramento Valley water districts; North Coast Rivers Alliance, commercial fishing groups, Winnemem Wintu tribe; Placer County Water Agency; North Delta Water Agency; Restore the Delta, Friends of Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Save Our Sandhill Cranes, various environmental groups; City of Sacramento; Sacramento County; Sacramento Municipal Utility District; Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District; Save the California Delta Alliance; and City of Stockton.

The various plaintiffs make a variety of claims, all relating to alleged harm to their respective entity which was not adequately captured in the CEQA analysis. There were also claims made that the several hundred-page CEQA document was too lengthy and complicated for the public to review and understand, a requirement of the law. The CEQA process is often used by opponents to slow down or halt projects, and lawsuits are generally expected – especially for large, controversial projects such as the WaterFix.

A likely result of the lawsuit is for the courts to require the project developers to amend the environmental impacts reviews to address some of the plaintiffs’ concerns. It is difficult to tell how long this process could take. For some projects, opponents are able to hold a project up for years, although the WaterFix project has the benefit of considerable resources to expedite the review and any re-writes the court may require.

SWRCB Hearing on Consolidation

The State Water Resources Control Board recently conducted a hearing on mandatory consolidation of failing water districts in disadvantaged communities as a means to provide safe drinking water. The hearing was purely informational and was attended by water board members D’Adamo and Moore, and California Public Utilities Commissioner Martha Guzman-Aceves.

There were presentations about successful consolidations that the SWRCB helped facilitate, the financial assistance available, and the obstacles that arise within a consolidation. They are very clearly looking to get failing water systems absorbed by larger agencies. While they note that there are “too many water agencies in California” they aren’t going to focus on the ones that

actually deliver clean, safe, reliable drinking water, noting they don't have the bandwidth for that type of operation.

There were also presentations on the mutual water company side by representatives from the CPUC. They noted that they will continue to engage the public in how to work through these tricky issues, especially funding and Proposition 218.

Invited guests included Paul Jones from Eastern Municipal Water District. Representing an agency that had to take over a failing water system, he offered a unique perspective on the challenges they faced. He expressed interest in the creation of a regional entity to handle oversight and implementation of consolidations.

There will likely be more informational hearings throughout the year.

Cap-and-Trade Allowance Auction Yields Significant Results

In the first auction since cap-and-trade was reauthorized by the Legislature until 2030, \$935 million was collected. It was one of the most successful carbon permit auctions the state has held to date with all allowances purchased, making it the first complete sellout of carbon permits since November 2015, according to the California Air Resources Board.

The results represented a sign of confidence in the state's cap-and-trade program. Demand for carbon permits had faltered over the past year amid uncertainty whether the Legislature would extend the program past its initial 2020 expiration date.

While total revenue in the auction was \$935 million, only about \$640 million will go to the state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), which is used to finance high-speed rail and other "green" projects. The rest of the proceeds will go to California's electric utilities, where the majority will be returned to ratepayers.

Both the Senate and Assembly Budget Sub Committees that have jurisdiction over the allocation of the GGRF conducted hearings after the auction results were announced to discuss allocations for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year. They are assuming they have \$1.4 billion in discretionary funds for the legislature to appropriate. While neither committee discussed specific funding programs or allocations, the funding for organics diversion has been included in the past and the GHG reduction benefits of such projects rank very high. It is likely that they will continue to be funded in the future. Organics diversion proponents are asking for \$100 million.

In the coming weeks it will be interesting to see how the Governor and the Legislature balance competing priorities. It is believed that the Governor committed significant funds to specific projects or funding categories to secure votes for the cap-and-trade extension. How much funding and the specific allocations have not yet been released.

It should also be noted that at both hearings, there was mention that it is not necessary to allocate the GGRF funds before the end of session. They can wait to act when the Legislature comes back in January.

Legislative Update

The first half of July was a rush of committee hearings and bill amendments before the deadline for bills with fiscal impacts to be out of policy committee by July 14 and all non-fiscal bills by July 21. The legislature went on summer recess on July 21 and returned August 21 for the final four weeks of the 2017 Legislative Session.

In addition to cap and trade, discussed above, there was a flurry of activity on other energy measures, including SB 100, as well as significant activity on establishing long-term water use efficiency standards.

SB 100: 100 Percent RPS

Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon (D-Los Angeles) introduced legislation to establish an accelerated Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) culminating in 100 percent clean power by 2045. The bill accelerates the current 50 percent requirement to 2026 and creates a new 60 percent renewable requirement by 2030.

The Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) are concerned about the renewable electricity mandates and would prefer broader clean energy goals, with a focus on GHG emission reductions providing opportunities for the market to work in the most cost-effective manner, without compromising reliability.

As reported previously, the author surprisingly agreed to take amendments to require the State Water Project to transition to zero-carbon/renewable energy resources by the end of 2045. Metropolitan Water District and the State Water Contractors are worked over the summer recess with the author and committee staff and they have yet to come to a resolution between the two sides.

The bill passed both the Assembly Utilities and Energy and Natural Resources Committees before the summer recess and is now awaiting action by the Appropriations Committee.

Water Financing

Senator Bill Monning (D-Carmel) is pursuing legislation that would create a fund for clean drinking water. SB 623 (Monning), sponsored by the Community Water Center and Western Growers Association, creates the “Safe, Affordable Drinking Water Fund.” Stakeholders representing agriculture and some urban water interests have been working with the proponents of the bill to reach a compromise. The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) continues in fierce opposition to a public goods charge.

Recent amendments added a \$0.95 per month charge on all residential meters to fund the operation and maintenance of failing water systems. Some in the agricultural community has also agreed to the portion of the bill that levees a mill tax on fertilizer and a livestock fee on milk.

The bill was heard in Assembly Appropriations Committee without significant fanfare and placed on the Suspense File. The proponents did not pack the room with supporters in deference to a request from the chair of the committee. Opposition was mostly from urban water agencies

and lead by the ACWA and the San Diego County Water Authority. A large portion of the urban water agencies remain in opposition to the legislation. While they support clean drinking water for all, they note that the General Fund is the more appropriate funding source.

Opposition to SB 623 remains the top priority for ACWA. It is expected that the bill will successfully make it to the Assembly floor where it requires a supermajority (2/3) vote to pass.

Water Use Efficiency Legislation

As previously reported, the Brown Administration released a final report on “Making Conservation a Way of Life” in early April. Shortly after, the Governor released budget trailer bill language to establish a process for creating long-term water use efficiency standards. Many in the water community are concerned with the proposed legislation because it deviates from the final report in that it leaves broad authority for the SWRCB to develop efficiency standards. There are several other aspects of the trailer bill that have caused the water community to be generally concerned.

The Governor’s office hosted meetings throughout the early summer to hear and address the concerns of the water community. They released a revised Trailer Bill in mid June, but indicated they will delay voting so that members of an Assembly working group can attempt to develop an acceptable proposal to move through the legislative process.

The water community, under the leadership of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) has developed their own legislation to establish short and long-term efficiency standards, with only the short-term urban water management plans bill still active.

Finally, Assemblymember Laura Friedman (D-Burbank), a former MWD director, introduced three bills that put the Governor’s original trailer bill language into policy bills that are being considered in the normal legislative process. Only one of her bills is currently moving.

The bills were heard in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on July 11 and Chair Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) took the opportunity to take control of the process. He held all bills and only passed out two, AB 1654 (Rubio) and AB 1668 (Friedman), and stripped them of all language except “intent” language that states *“This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation necessary to help make water conservation a California way of life.”*

Senator Hertzberg set up a process to be run through his committee in coordination with the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee and other Assembly stakeholders, to craft a comprehensive policy over the summer recess. Additionally, he and Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) introduced a Senate version of the same intent language, SB 606.

After several stakeholder meetings SB 606 and AB 1668 were amended with the same exact language to establish water efficiency targets. Stakeholders see this language as a step in the right direction, with many taking a Support if amended position, only looking for a few tweaks. The language gives the SWRCB authority to establish a statewide efficiency standard, however, requiring them to go back to the legislature if they want to revise the standard. Protection of water rights is clearly laid out in the language and Commercial Institutional Industrial customers

are only to implement “performance measures.” However, some stakeholders are still concerned with how recycled water will be treated in the efficiency standards. There is ongoing discussion about whether recycled water should be exempt from any efficiency standard.

Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, the author of AB 1654 declined to take the amendments offered by the Natural resources and Water Committee. It is unclear what the sponsors of her bill, the Regional Water Authority and Irvine Ranch Water District, intend to do with her bill, if anything.

AB 1668 was pulled back to Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee for a special hearing sometime during the last week of August, and it is expected that SB 606 will be reassigned to at least one Assembly committee in the coming week.

AB 869 (Rubio), which would give a full credit for potable reuse and a significant credit for landscape irrigation, had been stalled in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

Proposition 218 Reform

Senator Bob Hertzberg has introduced two bills to address Proposition 218 reform. The bills pick up where the 2016 ACWA effort left off. SB 231 is sponsored by the California Water Foundation and addresses stormwater, specifically how to finance stormwater capture, cleanup and reuse in rates. The bill ran into a little trouble from many California cities worried that the bill might add onto the already onerous new MS4 permit requirements. The bill passed off the Senate floor with 23 votes, just two over the minimum needed. The bill is on the Assembly floor awaiting a final vote.

SCA 4, also by Senator Hertzberg is a constitutional amendment that would address lifeline and conservation rates. ACWA has agreed to sponsor SCA 4, and has been working out the final details about which article of the California Constitution to amend. The compromise position seems to be using Article 17, an empty article of the constitution. Disagreement continues between the author’s office and ACWA, with ACWA wanting complete transparency by referencing Article 13 and Prop 218. Hertzberg’s office prefers the language to be vague, to help the bill gain votes by avoiding Proposition 218. Since the bill is a Constitutional Amendment, it is not subject to the typical legislative deadlines.

Recycled Water

The WaterReuse bill (AB 574, Quirk) which would re-define specific categories of recycled water passed out of both the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. The bill is on the Appropriations Committee Suspense File where it faces a challenge with a hefty price tag. Proponents are working with committee staff and SWRCB staff to re-evaluate the cost associated with implementing the bill.

Innovative Federal Strategies LLC

Comprehensive Government Relations

MEMORANDUM

To: Joe Grindstaff, Kathy Besser

From: Letitia White, Jean Denton, Annie Wake

Date: August 28, 2017

Re: August Monthly Legislative Update

Senate Blocks Trump Recess Appointments; Funding Battle in Fall

The Senate moved to block President Donald Trump from making key appointments during its summer recess, after wrapping up action on Thursday, August 3, until September by confirming dozens of presidential nominees.

The Senate will hold nine “pro forma” sessions during its August recess, which would prevent the president from replacing Attorney General Jeff Sessions and officials in other positions without confirmation.

Before departing for their home states, lawmakers also passed a bill to continue the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) oversight of drugs and medical devices, and confirmed dozens of the President's nominees for top federal positions.

Confirmation of those nominees—particularly a series of deputy secretaries—clears the deck for lawmakers to tend to other matters when they return September 5.

The Senate still has a long list of unfinished business, including work on critical bills to cover federal spending, flood insurance programs and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), as well as a plan to avoid defaulting on federal debt. Current federal government funds expire September 30.

A deal between Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) permitted the Senate to approve an initial batch of 65 President Trump's nominees who had been reported from committee as early as spring. “The Senate has confirmed more executive branch nominees this week than all of the executive branch nominees confirmed this year—combined,” Senator McConnell said.

Innovative Federal Strategies LLC

Nominations Passed

The Senate left until September action on bills to prevent similar disruptions at the FAA and the National Flood Insurance Program, whose authorizations expire at month's end. Instead, Senator McConnell was able to move many nominees in the run-up to the recess, beginning with Christopher Wray to serve as FBI director and many top nominees at the Pentagon. Another focus was to finish confirming deputy secretaries, who often run the agencies on a day-to-day basis.

In one of the few roll call votes Aug. 3, the Senate confirmed Dan Brouillette to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. He was approved on a 79-17 vote.

After that, Senator McConnell was able to confirm dozens of others without a vote. Under a unanimous consent agreement worked out with Schumer, the Senate approved six nominees for Veterans Affairs, including Deputy Secretary Thomas Bowman. Also approved was Small Business Administration Deputy Secretary Althea Coetzee.

The package also included:

- 18 officials for State;
- seven at the Transportation Department;
- six at the Justice Department;
- six at Commerce and Housing and Urban Development;
- three for Homeland Security;
- two for Housing and Urban Development; and
- many others throughout the government.

Senator McConnell said he was particularly pleased that five top nominees at the Treasury Department were confirmed, including David Malpass to be an Under Secretary, Brent McIntosh to be General Counsel, Andrew Maloney to be Deputy Under Secretary, and David Kautter and Christopher Campbell to be Assistant Secretaries. Senator McConnell said they will be important to have on board as the effort to overhaul the tax code ramps up in the fall.

Congress Passes Bill to Fund FDA Drug, Medical Device Reviews

The U.S. Senate cleared the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Reauthorization Act of 2017 (H.R. 2430) to fund U.S. drug and medical reviews by the FDA, sending the measure to President Trump.

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The legislation will raise about \$9 billion in fees from drug and medical device companies over the next five years, funding FDA reviews of new medical products. The bill cleared the Senate by a vote of 94-1 on Thursday, August 3.

New prescription drug applications will generate by far the most revenue, at about \$1 billion a year under the measure. Trump had called for even higher fees on the companies, though he's expected to sign the legislation.

The bill was passed by the House of Representatives last month. After House passage, the White House put out a statement that said industry should be funding 100 percent of the FDA's application reviews, which would almost double the fees. Lawmakers said it was too late in the process to renegotiate the bill.

The FDA legislation had been delayed while Republicans dealt with their now-failed effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Before passing the FDA measure, the Senate passed a bill from Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI), expand dying patients' access to experimental drugs. The vote was part of a deal to get Senator Johnson's vote for the FDA legislation.

Experimental access, often referred to as "right to try," is backed by Vice President Mike Pence. The FDA and drug and device companies hash out an agreement every five years on the fee amounts and the review timelines the agency will meet, which must be approved by Congress. Lawmakers approved the last deal in 2012 and it will expire at the end of September.

Sequester Report Shows Few Good Options for Lawmakers

A White House report showing that across-the-board spending cuts would take place under either the House or Senate approaches to funding the government next year demonstrates how few good options lawmakers have, according to one anti-budget deficit group.

While no appropriations bills have yet reached President Donald Trump's desk, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) found that approaches taken so far in both chambers of Congress would result in busting the annual discretionary spending caps put in place by the 2011 Budget Control Act (Pub. L. No. 112-25). The Office of Management and Budget issued its sequester update report Friday, August 18.

"If the 2018 discretionary caps remain unchanged, this report estimates that, if enacted, the actions to date by the House of Representatives would result in a sequestration of \$72.4 billion in the defense category," the OMB said. "The report also finds that action or funding guidance in the Senate, if enacted, would result in a sequestration of \$2.0 billion in the defense category and a sequestration of \$3.8 billion in the non-defense category under the current 2018 spending limits."

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Lawmakers face a September 30 deadline to pass legislation to fund the government when they return to Washington after their August break. The House passed a bill to fund the Defense Department, congressional operations, military construction, and energy and water programs (H.R. 3219). No bills have made it to the Senate floor yet. A temporary continuing resolution (CR) bill seems the most likely outcome to avoid a government shutdown.

Harder Than Understood

Ed Lorenzen, senior adviser for the bipartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, said the OMB report shows how difficult it will be for lawmakers to comply with the 2018 Budget Control Act caps of \$549.1 billion for defense spending and \$515.7 billion for non-defense. “Complying with the non-defense discretionary caps for fiscal year 2018 will be harder than is generally understood,” he said.

House Republicans have sought to boost military funding beyond the defense cap, while Senate Republicans have taken a more cautious approach of hewing closer to fiscal 2017 appropriations levels in committee. But even the Senate approach would trigger small sequestrations in both the defense and non-defense categories, according to the OMB report.

A continuing resolution would present its own problems, Lorenzen said. “A full-year CR would be even further above the caps, triggering a sequester of over \$9 billion, after various technical factors are taken into account,” he said. A short-term CR would simply delay the pain of the spending cuts until later, and make them deeper as they would be spread out over a smaller portion of the fiscal year.

“A short-term CR would not trigger a sequester, but Congress would have to cut spending below the cap levels for the rest of the year in full year appropriations to avoid a sequester,” Lorenzen said.

In the OMB report, the Trump Administration reiterated its desire to change the caps, something that would require the assent of Senate Democrats. “While this report estimates that congressional action to date would trigger a sequestration, this does not reflect Administration policy. This Administration strongly supports restoring America’s investment in defense,” the OMB said. “To ensure that our military is not rebuilt on the backs of future generations of Americans, however, the Administration strongly supports fiscally responsible reductions to spending elsewhere in the Federal Budget, as outlined in the FY 2018 Budget request.”

Lawmakers Offer DACA, Marijuana Amendments to Spending Package

Proposals on sanctuary cities, medical marijuana laws, and the Obama Administration’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals immigration policy are among the 407 amendments being offered to the House’s eight-bill fiscal 2018 spending package.

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The House Rules Committee has not said when it will meet to vet the proposals and determine which ones will get floor votes when the chamber debates an eight-bill appropriations measure that will be considered as an expanded version of H.R. 3354, referred to as the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018 [Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, 2018].

When the four-bill "minibus" (H.R. 3219) was considered in July, Republican leaders blocked many of the most divisive amendments, including Democratic proposals to block funding for portions of a border wall.

While work proceeds on the omnibus, appropriators also are drafting a temporary spending measure, or continuing resolution, to avoid a government shutdown when the new fiscal year begins October 1. Congressional leaders will have to decide how many weeks the continuing resolution should last.

White House Lays Out Priorities as 'All Money, All the Time' Session Starts

The White House is signaling support for a continuing resolution running into December to fund the government at current levels, with a few exceptions. With money set to run out September 30, House and Senate Appropriations panels are reviewing Office of Management and Budget (OMB) documents outlining how a must-pass bill could be a vehicle to pull along many expiring federal programs, such as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Flood Insurance Program, if Congress can't extend them separately.

Even as President Donald Trump threatens a government shutdown if he doesn't get \$1.6 billion for a border wall, OMB is discussing with appropriators plans to extend current funding and buy time to wrap up work on the 12 unfinished fiscal year 2018 spending bills. OMB said its list of budget 'anomalies'—changes sought in an otherwise across-the-board, current-level spending measure—is for a possible CR 'through mid-December' or December 30.

Spending matters are set to dominate the fall session of Congress, as none of the FY18 appropriations bills have made it past both chambers. Also looming near September 30 is a deadline to raise the federal debt limit to avoid default. Both House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said they support passing a CR to avoid a crisis, and aides have suggested leaders may try to use that CR to raise the debt limit.

Congressional and industry sources said that a CR will be needed even though Speaker Ryan plans to bring up an eight-bill appropriations package the week of September 5 and amend it to include the four other measures passed before the current recess. The

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roughly \$1.1 trillion omnibus he will send to the Senate is not expected to advance there, as it violates the Budget Control Act. But the developments are expected to jump-start talks on modifying the law.

Current-Level Funding and 'Anomalies'

The White House downplayed the arrival of the anomalies and stated that it doesn't mean the administration is actually pressing for a CR into December. "OMB routinely sends anomalies to Congress to help provide technical assistance, and they are not indicative of the administration's overall position with regard to ongoing negotiations," an administration official stated.

But the OMB still signaled it supports maintaining spending over the fall that reflects the fiscal year 2017 omnibus enacted into law in May. The OMB scored base appropriations provided by the omnibus at \$1.068 trillion. When combined with money on top of base discretionary funding, OMB put current funding at \$1.150 trillion. In contrast, the Budget Control Act calls for base appropriations to be cut to the \$1.065 billion level in the fiscal year that starts October 1. President Trump's May budget followed that total and shifted \$54 billion away from domestic programs to boost Defense and other security-related spending.

In sending the list of anomalies OMB also identified the areas where it said extra monies are required. In particular, the budget office said, more funds are needed for agencies within the Department of Homeland Security to carry out border patrol and immigration enforcement activities. It said it wants language in the CR to give the agency an adjustment to carry out the "restructuring" plan it proposed in the President's fiscal year 2018 budget request.

Without the change, it said, Customs and Border Protection and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement could run out of money due to its higher spending and fewer fee collections. However, the list doesn't specify that those funds are to be used to start building the wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. The House has included \$1.6 billion for barriers and other border security upgrades in the four-bill 'minibus' and the Senate Appropriations Committee has increased the allocation for its annual Homeland Security spending bill by an equal amount.

Also requested are tweaks to ensure the continuation of the Transportation Department's innovative finance programs, the Agriculture and Interior departments' recreation fee programs, and the Bureau of Reclamation's ability to provide emergency drought assistance in the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991. The agency also wants language in the CR to extend the expiring authorization for the Market-to-Market program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Besides those, the OMB also said the nation's intelligence programs are at risk if Congress does not include authorizations for them. These include programs at Defense,

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Energy, Treasury, State, Homeland Security, Justice, and more. “Intelligence activities will not continue in the absence of this authority,” the OMB said.

Vehicle for FAA, Flood Programs

Senate aides said leaders may want to keep the CR clean in order to have a better chance to pass it by the deadline. But they acknowledged that in the House there may be more pressure to add items to the CR, and the calendar gives lawmakers little time to pass separate authorization bills—or extensions—for many programs that expire September 30. In total, the House plans only 12 workdays in September.

The OMB listed many programs at Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs that should be included in the CR if not extended in some other way. Also cited for possible inclusion in the CR are Small Business Administration programs for innovative research and technology transfer.

Also on the list of “necessary” extensions are authorizations for the FAA, including its airport grant program and the taxes that support aviation programs. OMB said the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program has to go on the CR if it cannot be extended elsewhere. Multiyear rewrites of both FAA programs and the flood program are working their way through Congress but aren't expected to be passed and signed into law by September 30.

Trump Threatens Government Shutdown Over Border Wall Funding

President Donald Trump threatened Tuesday, August 22 to bring the U.S. government to the brink of a shutdown if needed to pressure Congress into funding the border wall that was a centerpiece of his 2016 campaign. Delivering a warning to Democratic lawmakers who have objected to his plans to construct a wall along the U.S.-Mexico frontier, the President called them “obstructionists” and said that it was time for the U.S. to crack down on illegal immigration.

“If we have to close down our government, we’re building that wall,” President Trump told thousands of supporters gathered in Phoenix for a campaign-style rally. “One way or the other, we’re going to get that wall.” President Trump’s threats about shutting down the government and ending the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) caused U.S. stock-index futures to pare gains and drop as much as 0.3 percent. Dow futures were down 0.2 percent as were E-Mini Nasdaq 100 futures.

Debt Limit

The issue could also get wrapped up with legislation to raise the federal government’s debt limit, which needs to be raised between late September and mid-October to avoid a default.

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One option being considered by Republican leaders is attaching a debt limit measure to the CR spending bill that will likely be considered next month. Under that scenario, President Trump's threat to shut down the government over the border wall could entangle the debt ceiling debate.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said Monday, August 21 in a speech that he sees "zero chance" that Congress won't lift the debt limit. President Trump's Treasury secretary, Steven Mnuchin, said at the same event that he will run out of authority to stay under the limit late next month and his priority when Congress returns in early September is ensuring it's lifted.

Regulatory Activity Dips to New Lows in Trump Administration

The pace of regulatory activity has dipped to new lows in the first six months of the President Trump Administration, bringing welcome relief to businesses beset by rules from the prior administration, but dismaying public safety and civil rights advocates who fear crises are coming.

The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, which reviews all significant federal regulations, processed 67 regulatory actions in the first six months of this administration, including notices, proposals, and final rules, compared with 216 actions by the same point in the Obama Administration, according to government data.

The question now is whether this pace will continue, or inch back up as agencies complete their assessments of existing rules that can be rolled back and new regulations that are required. "I'm not sure that this [initial slowdown] portends a permanent future where we can't effectively process necessary regulations," Neil Bradley, chief policy officer at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, stated. But the majority of the gap in political appointees at agencies are either vacant or are held by acting officials, Bradley announced. As a result, agencies lack critical leadership and are unable to get good regulations out the door, which businesses need, he said.

Biggest Roadblock: Appointees

The "single biggest roadblock at the moment" is the lack of political appointees at the agencies, Bradley said. Roughly 1,200 senior officials must be confirmed by the Senate before they can manage and set policy in various federal agencies and independent commissions. Although the Administration's executive orders have forced agencies to think about the costs and cumulative impact of regulations, the slowdown in regulating has a lot more to do with not having political appointees in place, Bradley said.

'Relief on the Horizon'

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Small businesses have been impressed with the two-for-one executive order, which requires agencies to eliminate two regulations for every new one they issue, said Dan Bosch, senior manager of regulatory policy at the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). “That’s been effective in limiting some of the aggression of some of the agencies,” he said. NFIB members have the sense that the Trump Administration’s intent is to regulate only when necessary, and to do so in a way that’s smart and flexible for businesses to comply, Bosch said.

Small businesses also have seen agencies’ willingness to review some problematic rules from the Obama Administration, such as the Labor Department’s overtime rule and the Environmental Protection Agency’s Waters of the U.S. rule and Clean Power Plan, Bosch said. “They’re going back and looking at those rules to see how they can improve them and make them better for small business to comply with, or getting rid of them entirely,” Bosch said. “So our members are feeling like there’s some relief on the horizon,” he said.

Trump Wants to Shrink Federal Role in Infrastructure Review

The federal government should shrink its environmental oversight role and reduce its permitting timeline to two years for infrastructure projects, President Trump announced when signing an executive order Tuesday, August 15. The executive order also rescinds an Obama Administration order that required federally funded projects to meet flood risk reduction standards. The policy was created based on concerns over climate change effects on infrastructure.

Part of the expedited review would be the creation of a new process involving “one federal decision,” and appointing one federal agency to take the lead on “major” infrastructure projects. “No longer will we allow the infrastructure of our magnificent country to crumble and decay. While protecting the environment, we will build gleaming new roads, bridges, railways, waterways, tunnels and highways,” the President stated in a briefing.

The announcement followed an infrastructure meeting among administration officials, including Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and her deputy, Jeff Rosen. Neither the president nor Secretary Chao provided an update on the status of Trump Administration’s \$1 trillion infrastructure proposal. Gary Cohn, director of the National Economic Council, told reporters the “hope” is to have an infrastructure bill in the House this year, after tax reform.

‘One Federal Decision’

The Trump Administration said that part of the expedited review would be the creation of a new process of “one federal decision” for major infrastructure projects. Projects would be given a schedule and missed deadlines would result in the issue being elevated to senior agency officials. The order also creates a working group to review federal agencies’ environmental assessment processes to identify any inefficiencies.

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The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires government agencies to engage affected communities on major infrastructure projects' potential impacts—from bridge locations to wetland destruction. Secretary Chao said her agency has already identified “more than two dozen policies and rules that will streamline project delivery and environmental permitting.”

The move to change environmental standards was criticized by environmental and watchdog groups. “We can modernize our country without rubber-stamping hazard and fast-tracking harm,” Rhea Suh, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, said in a statement. “Arbitrary decisions and artificial deadlines can lead to costly mistakes we'll all pay for down the line.”

Taxpayers for Common Sense opposed the proposal to rescind the Obama-era flood order. “It would effectively force taxpayers to subsidize construction that puts people and property in harm's way,” Steve Ellis, vice president of Taxpayers for Common Sense, said in a statement. “Taxpayers cannot afford to subsidize high risk construction and then be asked to rebuild that same development when the inevitable disaster strikes.

However, others praised the move for speeding up the process of addressing the nation's infrastructure needs. Retired Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, former head of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said the arbitration-like system with one lead agency worked well when building infrastructure following Hurricane Katrina. Ret. Lt. Gen. Flowers said creating a timeline that agencies agree on will help move major infrastructure projects ahead. “It has a tendency to put a mark on the wall and everyone has to try to achieve it,” he stated. “In general, anything you can do to speed up the process is very worthwhile.”

The President issued a similar order Tuesday, January 24 calling for expedited environmental review of priority infrastructure projects. President Trump also called for federal agencies to expedite project review when he was speaking Friday, June 9 at the Transportation Department. He announced the creation of a council to help infrastructure project managers navigate the federal bureaucracy, in part by creating an online dashboard for project tracking. However, the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council was created under the 2015 FAST Act and implemented by the Obama Administration.

President Trump Ends Formation of Infrastructure Advisory Council

The President decided to halt the formation of the infrastructure advisory council, which he'd called for in a Wednesday, July 19 executive order. The move came as President Trump ended both the Manufacturing Council and the Strategy & Policy Forum in response to the departure of various CEOs over the president's reaction to white supremacists following a violent rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. Yet, infrastructure industry groups continue to press the Trump Administration on promised investments

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in the nation's roads and bridges, regardless of the status of a proposed presidential advisory council on infrastructure.

“With or without an infrastructure council, we urge the administration to follow through on the campaign promise to improve our nation's infrastructure,” Casey Dinges, a senior managing director of the American Society of Civil Engineers, stated. Industry groups want the Trump Administration to maintain its focus on the promised \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, even as details remain sparse.

Industry groups were already engaging with the administration before President Trump called for the advisory council, said Bill Sullivan, American Trucking Associations (ATA) executive vice president. ATA formed its own CEO-level infrastructure task force to identify what they perceive as the most pressing infrastructure needs and task force members communicate with the administration on an “ongoing basis,” according to Sullivan. “Our country's need to improve our infrastructure has not changed, so we don't see why this announcement would affect the chances for this much needed legislation,” Sullivan said.

The American Composites Manufacturers Association said it was “disappointed” that the president scrapped the council, but remained committed to working with the Trump Administration to focus on “resilient” infrastructure investments, the organization's President and CEO, Tom Dobbins.

Dinges reiterated that the nation's infrastructure is graded a D+, based on his organization's 2017 Infrastructure Report Card. He called on the Trump Administration for “increased investment, thoughtful leadership and planning, and an eye to preparing for the future,” to address the nation's infrastructure needs. “We know that the President and the Congress are committed to rebuilding our nation's crumbling infrastructure with new materials that will last longer and perform better,” Dobbins stated.

The President's fiscal year 2017 budget proposal provided an outline of what his administration would like to see in the anticipated \$1 trillion proposal: greater cost-sharing by states and localities, increased private sector investment, a reduction in grants in favor of loans and a focus on rural communities.

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao has told congressional leaders and reporters that her agency anticipates having a bill by the fall. Gary Cohn, director of the National Economic Council, told reporters Wednesday, August 16 that the “hope” is to have an infrastructure bill in the House this year, after tax reform passes around Thanksgiving.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) did not provide an updated comment on a timeline for the bill Friday, August 18 in response to the disbanded infrastructure council, but a DOT spokesperson did announce that: “Secretary Chao remains focused on rebuilding America's crumbling infrastructure and ensuring our nation has the safest, most efficient transportation system that improves the quality of life for all

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American people and increases the productivity and competitiveness of American workers and businesses.”

Merit-Based Visas

President Trump endorsed new legislation on Wednesday, August 2 that would reduce legal immigration to the U.S. and evaluate visa applications based on merit, with a preference for people with higher education or job skills.

The legislation would represent a dramatic overhaul of the current U.S. immigration system, leading to a significant decrease in the number of green cards issued to immigrants and eliminating some benefits enjoyed by prospective immigrants with family members already here. Instead, applicants with advanced degrees, particular skills, or job offers would be given preference.

Top White House adviser Stephen Miller defended Trump’s support for the bill, saying it would help low-income and minority Americans gain jobs. In response to a suggestion that the bill would regulate the racial and ethnic makeup of immigrants, Mr. Miller declared that it was “outrageous, ignorant, insulting and foolish” to believe that was possible.

But the proposal -- sponsored by both Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) and Senator David Perdue (R-GA) -- faces a steep climb on Capitol Hill, where immigration bills have long struggled to gain momentum, even when lawmakers weren’t facing major pushes to raise the nation’s borrowing authority, fund the government, and overhaul the tax code.

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) said the plan “would be devastating to our state’s economy which relies on this immigrant workforce,” in a statement. “I fear this proposal will not only hurt our agriculture, tourism and service economy in South Carolina, it incentivizes more illegal immigration as positions go unfilled,” he added.

DOJ Threatens to Withhold Anti-Crime Aid from Four Sanctuary Cities

Four so-called sanctuary cities won’t be eligible to receive resources to fight crime as part of the Justice Department’s (DOJ) new Public Safety Partnership program unless they cooperate with federal immigration authorities, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced in an August 3 statement. The cities - Albuquerque, New Mexico; Baltimore, Maryland; San Bernardino and Stockton in California - have expressed interest in DOJ’s program, unveiled in June, that seeks to help communities address violent crime.

The DOJ sent letters to each of the cities requesting they help detain and deport people who are in the country illegally in order to be eligible for program aid, and asked the cities’ police departments to show proof of their compliance by Friday, August 18.

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Legislative Report

TO: Joe Grindstaff
General Manager, Inland Empire Utility Agency

FR: David M. Weiman
Agricultural Resources
LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE, IEUA

SU: Legislative Report, August 2017

State of Affairs – Hurricane Harvey

- * As the month comes to a close, a Katrina-like Hurricane – named “Hurricane Harvey” continues to slam the Texas Gulf (especially Houston) and portions of western Louisiana. The storm is being described as a 500-year storm – unprecedented in modern times. Some 20+% of oil production in the Gulf was halted and approximately 10% of the Nation’s refinery capacity is off-line. The storm has stalled over Houston and is expected to dump between 36"-60" of rain and may make a second landfall. Flooding damage is pervasive and extensive. Right now, FEMA and the State are expecting 450,000 assistance claims. Storm assessments are beginning, but likely won’t be completed for a minimum of 30 days. Initial federal relief estimates range between \$20-\$40 Billion. A chemical leak warning was issued for one chemical plant. Pollution from oil and gas production and refineries is already being discovered. By any measuring stick, this is a major catastrophe.
- * Hurricane relief legislation appropriating funds to FEMA will add to the budget and spending crunch and is already controversial.
- * National implications – three separate categories. First, given the concentration of oil and gas production and refining in the Houston area, impacts will be felt nationally. How much – unknown at this time. A spike in gas prices is already occurring. Second, Houston is a port city and the inability to move shipments (in and out) will impact trade. Trucking and shipping is already being rerouted. Third, the Federal cost – relief is already

estimated to cost between \$20-40 billion. Relief legislation – at least a down payment – will assuredly be considered in September (and legislatively, will likely be attached to the debt limit bill, a large CR or a huge package with all of it.

- * The storm may have made landfall in Texas. It will impact the entire country in one or more ways.

State of the Union – All Other Matters

- * August is nearly over. The House and Senate recessed for the month.
- * Both return on September 5.
- * The legislative schedule is packed, yet the House and Senate are only scheduled for 12 days in the September (last month of the fiscal year). New fiscal year begins October 1.
- * While Congress was out of session, usually things slow down and calm down. Not this year.
- * A WH shakeup began at very end of July and continued through August – Reince Priebus, the WH chief of Staff was fired. His replacement, John Kelly, is the retired Four-Star General and current Secretary, Department of Homeland Security. WH advisor/strategist Steve Bannon was then fired. A shake-up continues and others have departed.
- * Homeland Security – No new Secretary named or nominated (yet).
- * The President began a public fight with both Speaker Ryan and Majority Leader McConnell over various issues – health care, taxes, government funding and debt ceiling.
- * President publicly instructed Senate Majority Leader McConnell to consider health care (repeal and replace) a third time. McConnell said no.
- * President is adamant about “Wall” funding – and threatens to veto funding bills or a CR that fails to include it.
- * President Trump openly and repeatedly talked about the likelihood of a Federal Government shut down (back in May, the President suggested that a shut-down would be a good development). Many believe it’s now more likely. If that occurred, regardless of the reason, early October will be uncontrollably chaotic.
- * Meanwhile, the House Freedom Caucus declared that unless legislation to increase the debt ceiling mandates permanent cuts in domestic spending, they will vote against it (possibly forcing a Federal Government shutdown for a different reason). Brinkmanship is the new order of the day.
- * Congress returns on September 5. None of the 12 annual funding bills has been enacted. Government funding must be enacted by September 30. A CR or some similar bill will all but certainly be required. Or, the Leadership may enact a short-term CR – to late December for instance.
- * As August comes to a close, Leadership (H and S), Budget and Appropriations Committees are suggesting (speculating) that hurricane relief, debt ceiling and a CR might get merged into a single package (compelling the Texas and Louisiana delegations to support it in the House and Senate). This is a “to-be-determined” issue.
- * Trump’s public conflict with Attorney General Sessions appears to have subsided, but one with Secretary of State Tillerson continues.
- * House Natural Resources Committee Chair, Rep. Rob Bishop announced that he will run

for reelection in 2018, but that will be his last term.

- * The Burman nomination is pending in the Senate, but it and other nominations were not considered, in part a result of the failure of health care legislation. It is expected to be approved after the Senate reconvenes after Labor Day.

Tax Reform and Municipal Bond Tax Deductibility

- * August was to be the “launch month” for tax reform.
- * The President and Congressional/Senate Rs were to take the issue to the country during the August break.
- * It didn’t happen (at least not as planned).
- * A two-page “tax agenda,” released a few months ago grew to a six-page list of principles agreed to by the President, Treasury, the Speaker and the Senate Majority Leader. Ds were not consulted or included in any part of the process.
- * The only policy issues identified in the list of principles involved the mortgage deduction (some sort of cap will be proposed) and deductibility for State and Local taxes will be repealed (huge negative impact to California). The real estate lobby instantly opposed changes to the mortgage deduction and are mobilizing nationally in opposition to it.
- * Rate reduction numbers remain undefined – but assumed to be reduced to between 15-22%.
- * House Republicans – at the leadership level or on the Ways and Means Committee – have not included Ds in the drafting process or revealed concepts or text. Like health care, the strategy is to “go-it-alone.”
- * The fate of muni bond deductibility? Unknown. Rarely discussed or mentioned by the Administration and/or the House leadership and/or Ways and Means Chair, Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX). Since the election, various leaders have been all over the map. Nothing previously stated can be relied upon.
- * In previous monthly reports, the political and programmatic linkage between health care, infrastructure and tax reform have been discussed in detail and will not be repeated here.
- * As of the end of August – no bill text. No bill summary.
- * The President was to take the case for Tax Reform to the American people.
- * It didn’t happen as planned. A number of major issues and events intervened. The first trip into the heartland to tout tax reform now comes on August 30 in a high profile trip to Missouri.

- * What is clear – the President is engaging in a campaign for a bill that has yet to be seen on poll-tested concepts that will be incomplete if not misleading. Lower rates will be touted, but tax provisions to be eliminated will not be identified.
- * What happens after is unclear, but immediately after is Labor Day followed by the House and Senate reconvening after the month-long traditional August break. When they do, other issues will overwhelm tax reform as the September agenda is packed and the number of days scheduled for sessions are limited.
- * Hearings have not been held, nor are any scheduled. Ways and Means has not released a bill or even a summary. No one knows what's in it.
- * One scenario – the Ways and Means Committee holds a one-morning hearing, marks up the bill and it's immediately passed.
- * Municipal bond deductibility remains “at high risk.”

Drought – Water Conditions

- * When it comes to drought, the key storyline – as stated repeatedly during the last several reports, the lack of “extreme” and/or “extraordinary” drought conditions in California and in the Colorado River Basin. According to the USDA/NOAA Drought Monitor, there are signs of mild dry or drought conditions in Southern San Joaquin Valley and along the coastal areas of Southern California and along the San Diego-Imperial region. Temperatures have been “above normal” in those regions.
- * Severe drought has slammed Eastern Montana and the Dakotas and is spreading westward across the Northern Tier. Drought emergencies were declared in both states.
- * The overriding issue – what happens this Fall and Winter? Another unknown.

Two Other Matters – Both Disruptive

- * **North Korea.** Events are increasingly provocative and tense. Kim Jung Uh is firing test missiles every few weeks, including ICBMs. Some work. Some fail. NK just shot one over Japan's northern islands – and the Japanese are incensed. Japanese PM Abe just called for an Emergency Meeting on the UN Security Council. President Trump instantly responded that “all options are on the table.” NK's ability to launch an attack is far more advanced than previously known. The situation is unstable, dangerous and getting worse.
- * **Russia.** The Mueller Special Prosecutor investigation continues and so do congressional and Senate inquiries. Almost on a daily basis, new revelations emerge. Where this goes and what will happen – not known. The Administration is clearly worried about it. There is endless speculation that Trump will fire Mueller OR give himself and all others a blanket pardon. Almost any course of action could ignite a political firestorm.

Either or both situations have the potential to become totally disruptive.

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INFORMATION
ITEM
2C



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES, LLC

Date: August 28, 2017
To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency
From: John Withers, Jim Brulte
Re: August Activity Report

California Strategies (Calstrat) is pleased to provide consulting services to the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA). In addition to our regular monthly meeting with the senior staff of the Agency, we continue to be available to members of the senior staff and Board Members throughout the month to deliver advice, answer questions or provide services consistent with the mission of IEUA. Here is our monthly activity report:

- We held our regularly scheduled face to face meeting with Agency senior staff on July 10th.
 - Calstrat principals attended and discussed various issues with senior staff including the Regional Contract, water bank planning efforts and Little Hoover Commission.
- We discussed the September 7th Leadership Breakfast with MWD Assistant General Manager/ Strategic Water Initiatives Roger Patterson.
- We continued to review the Chino basin water bank work plan related to the consultant selection and discussed the benefits with various stakeholders not directly associated with the Agency.
- We answered inquiries from IEUA Board members.
- We reviewed and approved final meeting schedule for the remainder of the calendar year.
- We reviewed General Manager recruitment activities and timeline.
- We discussed various pieces of State legislation including SB 49 and AB 1000.
- We monitored Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Board activity that might impact the Agency.
- We monitored the City of Fontana redistricting process.

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State Legislation

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	IEUA Position
AB 574	Quirk	Potable Reuse	Current law required the State Department of Public Health to develop and adopt uniform water recycling criteria for surface water augmentation, as defined, by December 31, 2016, if a specified expert panel found that the criteria would adequately protect public health health. Current law defined the terms “direct potable reuse,” “indirect potable reuse for groundwater recharge,” and “surface water augmentation” for these purposes. This bill would remove certain references to “direct potable reuse,” “indirect potable reuse for groundwater recharge,” and “surface water augmentation,” and would instead specify the four different types of potable reuse projects as “groundwater augmentation,” “reservoir augmentation,” “raw water augmentation,” and “treated water augmentation.”	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>On Senate Appropriations Suspense File</p>
AB 791	Frazier	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: State Water Project and federal Central Valley Project: new conveyance facility.	The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 prohibits construction of a new Delta conveyance facility from being initiated until the persons or entities that contract to receive water from the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project or a joint powers authority representing those entities have made arrangements or entered into contracts to pay for certain costs required for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility and full mitigation of property tax or assessments levied for land used in the construction, location, mitigation, or operation of the facility. This bill would require, before a water contractor enters into a contract to pay for these costs, that the lead agency provide the breakdown of costs for each water contractor entering into a contract and what benefits each contractor will receive based on the proportion it has financed of the proposed conveyance project.	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>Failed in Assm. Appropriations</p> <p>DEAD</p>

AB 792	Frazier	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Delta Plan: certification of consistency.	The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 establishes the Delta Stewardship Council and requires the council to develop, adopt, and commence implementation of a comprehensive management plan for the Delta, known as the Delta Plan. The act requires a state or local public agency that proposes to undertake a covered action to prepare and submit to the council a written certification of consistency with the Delta Plan before undertaking that action. This bill would prohibit the council from granting a certification of consistency with the Delta Plan until the board has completed its update of a specified water quality control plan.	OPPOSE 2 Year Bill
AB 793	Frazier	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: financing.	Would declare it to be state policy that the existing state of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is recognized and defined as an integral component of California's water infrastructure. The bill would state that the maintenance and repair of the Delta are eligible for the same forms of financing as other water collection and treatment infrastructure and would specify the maintenance and repair activities that are eligible are limited to certain cleanup and abatement-related restoration and conservation activities.	OPPOSE 2 Year Bill
SB 231	Hertzberg	Local government: fees and charges.	Articles XIIC and XIID of the California Constitution generally require that assessments, fees, and charges be submitted to property owners for approval or rejection after the provision of written notice and the holding of a public hearing. Current law, the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act, prescribes specific procedures and parameters for local jurisdictions to comply with Articles XIIC and XIID of the California Constitution and defines terms for these purposes. This bill would define the term "sewer" for these purposes. The bill would also make findings and declarations relating to the definition of the term "sewer" for these purposes.	SUPPORT On Assembly Floor

AB 1668	Friedman	An Act Relating to Water	This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation necessary to help make water conservation a California way of life.	WATCH On Senate Appropriations Suspense File
AB 1669	Friedman	Urban water conservation standards and use reporting	Requires the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in consultation with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to adopt long-term standards for urban water conservation and water use by May 20, 2021	WATCH Held in Assembly Appropriations
AB 968	Rubio	Urban water use: water efficiency	Establishes a new 2025 water use efficiency requirement for urban retail water suppliers	WATCH Held Assembly Appropriations
AB 1654	Rubio	An Act Relating to Water	This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation necessary to help make water conservation a California way of life.	WATCH DEAD in Senate Natural Resources and Water
AB 869	Rubio	Sustainable water use and demand reduction: recycled water	Excludes, from the calculation of any water use or water efficiency target established after 2020, recycled water, as specified, delivered within the service area of an urban retail or wholesale water supplier	WATCH Held in Senate Natural Resources and Water
SB 606	Skinner/Hertzberg	An Act Relating to Water	This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation necessary to help make water conservation a California way of life.	On Assembly Floor.

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Federal Legislation of Significance

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status
H.R. 3354		Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, 2018	<p>An omnibus package including the Interior; Homeland Security; Financial Services; Commerce, Science, and Justice; Transportation, Housing and Urban Development; Agriculture; Labour and Health and Human Services, and Education; and State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Acts, fiscal year 2018.</p> <p>Highlighted bills in this package are below.</p> <p>H.R. 3219 was introduced in the House Rules Committee on Wednesday, August 16. It is expected to be considered on the House Floor the first week of September 2017.</p>
H.R. 3219		Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018	<p>A small omnibus package including the Defense, Energy and Water, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, Legislative Branch, and Border Barrier funds from the Homeland Security Bill Appropriations Acts, fiscal year 2018.</p> <p>Highlighted bills in this package are below.</p> <p>H.R. 3219 was introduced in the House Rules Committee on Monday, June 24. It was passed on the House Floor by a vote of 235-192.</p>
	Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA)	Fiscal 2018 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act	<p>This legislation provides \$88.8 billion in discretionary funding, \$6 billion above the fiscal year 2017 level. Within this total, funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs was increased by \$4 billion over the fiscal year 2017 level, and increases access to services for veterans and regulatory oversight within the department. Also within the total, Military construction was increased by \$2.1 billion over the fiscal year 2017 level.</p> <p>This bill was passed out of the Appropriations Committee on June 15th. The Senate's corresponding legislation was reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee in July.</p> <p>This bill was included in H.R. 3219 and passed on the House Floor by a vote of 235-192.</p>
	Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID)	Fiscal 2018 Energy and Water Appropriations Act	<p>The House Appropriations Committee marked up the FY18 Energy and Water Bill in full committee on July 17th.</p>

			<p>Within the bill, the Bureau of Reclamation funding is reduced from the FY17 level but well above what the Administration had requested for FY18. Also, the bill would authorize the EPA and Army to withdraw from the Waters of the United States rule.</p> <p>This bill was included in H.R. 3219 and passed on the House Floor by a vote of 235-192.</p>
	Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)	Fiscal 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act	<p>The House Appropriations Committee today approved the fiscal year 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development funding bill on July 17, 2017.</p> <p>In total, the bill reflects an allocation of \$56.5 billion in discretionary spending – \$1.1 billion below fiscal year 2017 and \$8.6 billion above the request.</p> <p>Within the bill, Community Development Block Grants are funded at \$2.9 billion, \$100 million below fiscal year 2017 level.</p>
	Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)	Fiscal 2018 Energy and Water Appropriations Act	<p>The Senate Appropriations Committee approved their FY18 Energy and Water Bill on July 20th in full committee markup.</p> <p>Within the bill the Committee recommended funding the Bureau of Reclamation at \$1,287,725,000, which is \$190,332,000 above the President’s FY18 budget request. Similar to the House mark, the Senate provided \$34,406,000 for Title XVI and \$24,000,000 for WaterSMART grants. Also, an additional \$98,000,000 for drought resiliency programs authorized in the Water Infrastructure Improvements Act (WIIN Act).</p>
	Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)	Fiscal 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act	<p>The Senate Appropriations Committee marked up the FY18 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Bill in subcommittee on July 25th. At this time the bill and report text has not been released.</p> <p>The FY2018 appropriations bill providing \$60.058 billion in discretionary spending for the U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies. Within the bill, TIGER grants were funded at \$550 million, \$50 million above the FY2017 enacted level; and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula program is funded at \$3 billion.</p>
H.R. 23	Rep. David Valadao (R-CA)	Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017	<p>Among other things the legislation would require regulators to comply with the Bay-Delta Accord and make changes to the state’s Central Valley and State Water projects and streamline permitting processes. The bill included provisions from multiple other bills previously passed by the House that sought to increase the flow of water to areas of California that have experienced drought over the past five years. The measure was</p>

			<p>referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture.</p> <p>By a vote of 230-190, the House passed H.R. 23, as amended, on July 12, 2017.</p>
	<p>Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA) /Sens. Jim Inhofe (R-WY) and Kamala Harris (D-CA)</p>	<p>Infrastructure Package</p>	<p>Throughout the month, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee have held a series of hearings entitled, “Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America,” which have focused on various aspects of infrastructure, from passenger rail service to reauthoring the Federal Aviation Authorization (FAA).</p> <p>On June 7, President Trump outlined that he intends to leverage \$200 billion in direct federal funding over ten years to help stimulate \$1 trillion in investment in infrastructure. This federal funding will consist of 1) grants and loans that seek to privatize the country’s air traffic control system, 2) grants to repair bridges, road, 3) enhanced loan program with the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, and 4) incentive programs with grants to states and municipalities.</p> <p>One part of the president’s plan has already been put into legislation. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster and Aviation Subcommittee Chairman Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ) introduced the FAA’s reauthorization legislation, H.R. 4441, the 21st Century Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization (AIRR) Act, which will transfer air traffic control operations from the FAA to a private, nonprofit, 13-member board. While Representative Shuster said that the bill does not “mirror” President Trump’s infrastructure outline, he said that he considered many aspects of the proposal. Shuster has also voiced his hope that the committee will markup the legislation on Tuesday, June 27 and move to the floor in mid-July.</p> <p>Currently, it is unclear who will champion the bill in the other chamber. Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee Chairman John Thune (R-SD) announced that the Senate’s FAA reauthorization legislation will not include privatizing the air traffic control system. That said, Representative Sam Graves (R-MO), who last year voted against the 2016 FAA reauthorization bill, helped develop the legislation with Chairman Shuster.</p>
<p>H.R. 1663</p>	<p>Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA) / Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA)</p>	<p>Water Resources Research Amendments Act</p>	<p>This legislation would extend a Federal-State partnership aimed at addressing state and regional water problems, promoting distribution and application of research results, and providing training and practical experience for water-related scientists and engineers. H.R. 1663 would authorize \$9,000,000 annually over five years for grants to</p>

			<p>water resources research institutes and require two-to-one matching with non-federal funds. It would also promote exploration of new ideas, expand research to reduce energy consumption, and bolster reporting and accountability requirements.</p> <p>The bill has been introduced in the House Committee on Natural Resources and no actions have yet been scheduled on it.</p>
H.R. 497/ S.357	Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA)/ Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)	Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange Act	<p>This bill directs the Department of the Interior: (1) to quitclaim to the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District in California approximately 327 acres of identified federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and (2) in exchange for such land, to accept from the Conservation District a conveyance of approximately 310 acres of its land.</p> <p>On April 27th HR 497 passed through the House Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent, and was schedule for the House Floor Consideration on June 2nd.</p> <p>This bill was passed by the House on June 27th by a vote of 424-0.</p> <p>The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing on S. 357 on July 26, 2017. No further activity is anticipated until the Fall.</p>
S. 32	Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)	California Desert Protection and Recreation Act	<p>This bill would designate important wilderness in the California desert and protect lands for recreation, wildlife and tourism. Aspects of the bill include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate study and protection of Native American cultural trails along the Colorado River. • Designate 230,000 acres of additional wilderness area between the Avawatz Mountains near Death Valley to Imperial County's Milpitas Wash. • Add 43,000 acres to Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks. • Create a 75,000-plus acre special management area at Imperial County's Vinagre Wash. • Designate Inyo County's Alabama Hills as a National Scenic Area. • Prohibit new mining claims on 10,000 acres in Imperial County considered sacred by the Quechan Tribe. <p>Additionally, the bill protects 140,000 acres of existing off-road vehicle riding areas from mining, energy development, military base expansion or other decisions that would close them to vehicle use.</p>

			The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing on S.32 on July 26, 2017. No further activity is anticipated until the Fall.
H.R. 2510	Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR)	Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2017	<p>This bill would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for State water pollution control revolving funds.</p> <p>This bill has been introduced to the House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee on Water resources and Environment.</p>
H.R. 1654	Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)	Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act	<p>This bill would allow water project sponsors the opportunity to use an expedited permitting process for new or expanded surface non-federal storage facilities through the Bureau of Reclamation, which would be the lead and central agency coordinating the review process.</p> <p>The House Natural Resources Committee approved the bill by a vote of 24-16 on April 27th. The House Rules Committee on June 20th dictated final amendments for passage on the House Floor; this bill passed the House on June 22nd by a vote of 233-180.</p>