



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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018
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 January 10, 2018.

B. SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 68 – THE CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER AND SAFE PARKS ACT

Staff recommends that the Committee/Board support Proposition 68 – The California Clean Water and Safe Parks Act.

2. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION (WRITTEN)

- B. **LEGISLATIVE REPORTS (WRITTEN)**
 - 1. West Coast Advisors
 - 2. Innovative Federal Strategies
- 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**

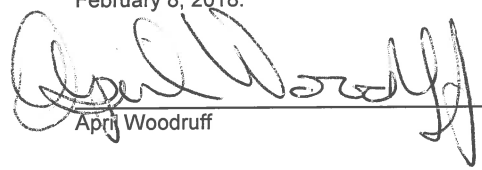
*A Municipal Water District

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: 

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, February 8, 2018.


April Woodruff

**ACTION
ITEM
1A**



MINUTES

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018
9:00 A.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Steven J. Elie, Chair
Michael Camacho

STAFF PRESENT

Halla Razak, General Manager
Chris Berch, Executive Manager of Engineering/AGM
Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of External Affairs & Policy Development/AGM
Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/AGM
Christina Valencia, Executive Manager of Finance & Administration/AGM
Joshua Aguilar, Senior Engineer
Jerry Burke, Deputy Manager of Engineering
Pietro Cambiaso, Environmental Compliance & Energy Supervisor
Andrea Carruthers, Senior External Affairs Specialist
Rick Mykitta, Manager of Operations & Maintenance
Stephanie Riley, External Affairs Analyst
Shaun Stone, Manager of Engineering
Teresa Velarde, Manager of Internal Audit
April Woodruff, Board Secretary/Office Manager

OTHERS PRESENT

None

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 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 November 8, 2017.
- ◆ Recommended that the Board approve the legislative policy principles for Fiscal Year 2018/19;

as a Consent Calendar Item on the January 17, 2018 Board meeting agenda.

- ◆ Recommended that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2018-1-2, authorizing the Agency-wide organizational memberships for Fiscal Year 2018/19;

as a Consent Calendar Item on the January 17, 2018 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
- ◆ Federal Legislation Matrix

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

General Manager Halla Razak had no comments.

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: FEBRUARY 14, 2018

**ACTION
ITEM
1B**

Date: February 21, 2018

To: The Honorable Board of Directors

From: Halla Razak, General Manager

HR

Committee: Community & Legislative Affairs

02/14/18

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

Subject: Support of Proposition 68 - The California Clean Water and Safe Parks Act

Executive Summary:

Introduced by Senator Kevin de León as SB 5 - California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 - the bill was approved by Governor Brown on October 15, 2017, and will be on the June ballot as Proposition 68, and is a general obligation bond totaling \$4 billion.

Proposition 68 funding related to water: (for full breakdown of the bond see attachment 1)

- \$250 million for clean drinking water and drought preparedness
- \$290 million for regional water sustainability
- \$100 million to enhance water supplies by conserving and recycling water
- \$180 million for watershed improvement (line item of \$16 million for the Santa Ana River)

Support for Proposition 68 includes Senator Leyva, Senator Newman, Assemblymember Holden, Assemblymember Reyes, Assemblymember Rodriquez, City of Chino, ACWA, MWD, OCWD, OCSD, SCWC, WateReuse CA, and numerous environmental groups, park districts and community groups.

Through the bond, IEUA would be able to compete for funding for water recycling, groundwater, wastewater, stormwater, conservation, and water quality projects.

Staff's Recommendation:

Support Proposition 68 - The California Clean Water and Safe Parks Act.

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

Account/Project Name:

Fiscal Impact (explain if not budgeted):

Prior Board Action:

Support for Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014;
Support for Proposition 50, the 2002 Water Quality, Supply and Safe Drinking Water Projects Act;
Support for Proposition 13, the 2000 Water Bond Act.

Environmental Determination:

Not Applicable

Business Goal:

Supporting Proposition 68 is in line with IEUA's business practices goal of advocating for development of policies, legislation and regulations that benefit the region.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Investment Priorities Fact Sheet

THE CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER & SAFE PARKS ACT

PROTECTING WHAT MATTERS. PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE.



Ensuring Clean Drinking Water

- + Cleans up and protects our drinking water supplies
- + Protects streams and rivers that provide drinking water from pollution



Preparing for the Next Drought

- + Smart, proven, efficient solutions to secure future water supplies
- + Restores groundwater, which was severely drained in the last drought



Helping Communities That Lack Clean Water

- + Keeps toxic pollution out of our drinking water
- + Provides safe drinking water to communities with contaminated water



Safe Parks for Every Child

- + Improves the safety of neighborhood parks throughout California
- + Helps ensure every California community has access to quality parks



Protecting Our Coastline and Natural Areas

- + Increases access to our coast and beaches
- + Restores and protects our natural areas and implements wildfire protection measures



Increasing Local Water Supplies

- + Cleans up groundwater and funds water recycling projects
- + Captures more stormwater and prevents flooding

THE CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER & SAFE PARKS ACT

Investment Priorities

ENSURING CLEAN DRINKING WATER

- + \$250 million for clean drinking water and drought preparedness
- + \$80 million for groundwater cleanup
- + \$290 million for regional water sustainability, including \$50 million for groundwater sustainability planning
- + \$100 million to enhance water supplies by recycling water and helping farms conserve water

PROTECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES FROM FLOOD

- + \$550 million for flood protection and repair, including \$350 million for flood protection, \$100 million for stormwater, mudslide, and other flood-related protections, and \$100 million for urban multibenefit flood projects

PROTECTING CALIFORNIA'S RIVERS, LAKES AND STREAMS

- + \$162 million for river parkways and urban streams restoration
- + \$30 million to connect habitat areas, including \$10 million for the California Waterfowl Habitat Program
- + \$25 million to restore rivers and streams in support of fisheries and wildlife, including \$5 million for salmon and steelhead projects in Klamath-Trinity watershed
- + \$60 million to improve wildlife and fish passage, including \$30 million for Southern California steelhead habitat
- + \$60 million for upper watersheds protection in the Sierra Nevada and Cascades
- + \$30 million to improve conditions for fish and wildlife in streams

PROTECTING COAST, BEACHES, BAYS, AND OCEANS

- + \$175 million for coastal and ocean resource protection of beaches, bays, wetlands, lagoons, and coastal watersheds and wildlife areas
- + \$40 million to assist coastal communities in adapting to climate change
- + \$20 million for San Francisco Bay restoration

SAFE PARKS FOR EVERY CHILD

- + \$725 million for parks in neighborhoods with the greatest need
- + \$285 million to cities, counties, and local park and open space districts to make local parks safer and improve facilities
- + \$218 million to repair and improve state parks

IMPROVING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

- + \$30 million for innovative farm practices that improve climate resilience
- + \$50 million for forest restoration, fire protection and management for wildfire and climate change
- + \$40 million to restore natural and community resources, including conversion of fossil fuel power plants to green space
- + \$20 million for green infrastructure projects that benefit disadvantaged communities

CONSERVING AND PROTECTING NATURAL AREAS

- + \$160 million to state conservancies, including \$87 million for rivers, lakes and streams, and \$73 million for open green space
- + \$200 million to restore the Salton Sea and prevent toxic air pollution
- + \$137 million to the Wildlife Conservation Board, including \$5 million for regional conservation investment strategies, \$52 million for Natural Community Conservation Plan projects, and up to \$10 million to the UC Natural Reserve System
- + \$200 million to implement habitat restoration
- + \$50 million to repair and improve state fish and wildlife areas

PROMOTING RECREATION AND TOURISM AND SUPPORTING CONSERVATION JOBS

- + \$25 million in grants for rural recreation, tourism and economic enrichment programs
- + \$30 million to improve access to parks, waterways, natural areas, and outdoor recreation areas, including expanding outdoor experiences for disadvantaged youth
- + \$40 million for state and local conservation corps for restoration projects and equipment
- + \$18 million for wildlife and land conservation



Paid for by Californians for Clean Water and Safe Parks, sponsored by Conservation Groups. Committee major funding from The Nature Conservancy
Conservation Action Fund for clean water and parks, sponsored by environmental organizations
Committee for Clean Water Natural Resources and Parks

INFORMATION

ITEM

2A

Date: February 21, 2018

To: The Honorable Board of Directors

From: Halla Razak, General Manager

Committee: Community & Legislative Affairs

GA#12

02/14/18

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.

A Project W.E.T. and Garden in Every School® Workshop is scheduled for February 27. The workshop is mandatory for those schools interested in applying for the 2018/19 Garden in Every School® program for the installation of a water-wise garden on campus. This workshop also provides participants with the Project W.E.T. curriculum guide and training.

March 22 is recognized as World Water Day.

IEUA will be hosting the "Water is Life" Traveling Student Art Exhibit in the Building A lobby from March 20-March 27.

Staff is continuing to schedule Water Discovery field trips for program year 2017/18. To date, staff has provided field trips and/or scheduled approximately 3,642 students from July 2017 to May 2018.

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

February

- February 27, Project W.E.T. (Water Education for Teachers) and Garden in Every School® Workshop, IEUA Building B Event Room, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

March

- March 20 – March 27, MWD’s “Water is Life” Traveling Student Art Exhibit, IEUA Building A Lobby
- March 22, World Water Day

April

- April 5, Blood Drive, Building B (Blood Mobile), 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- April 18, Earth Day Event – Student Day, Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- April 19, Earth Day Event – Community Day, Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- April 22 – Earth Day

Media and Outreach

- Staff ran social media posts highlighting the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park for World Wetlands Day (February 2).
- IEUA ran an ad in the *Champion Newspaper*’s Healthy Living section on January 20.
- IEUA ran an ad in the *Champion Newspaper*’s Chino Connection-Spring Edition on February 3.
- IEUA continues to run banner ads with *Fontana Herald News*.
- IEUA ran an ad for the “Water is Life” poster contest and IEUA’s Earth Day event in the Fontana Chamber E-Newsletter.
- January: 14 posts were published to the IEUA Facebook page and 14 tweets were sent on the @IEUAWater Twitter handle.
 - The top three Facebook posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of January were:
 - 1/4: #ThursdayThoughts
 - 1/11: #ThursdayThoughts
 - 1/21: Chino Creek Wetlands Promo
 - The top three tweets, based on reach and engagement, in the month of January were:
 - 1/19: #fridayfoliage – Rosa California
 - 1/25: #ThursdayThoughts
 - 1/4: #ThursdayThoughts

Education and Outreach Updates

- Staff is continuing to schedule Water Discovery field trips for program year 2017/18. To date, staff has provided field trips and/or scheduled approximately 3,642 students from July 2017 to May 2018.

- Staff celebrated World Wetlands Day (February 2) by having Water Discovery Participants (January 31) take part in a wetlands discussion and participate in a photo shoot holding signage that represented World Wetlands Day.
- Student Earth Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2018. Currently staff has 12 schools, approximately 1,200 students, scheduled to attend.
- Solar Cup teams attended their second technical workshop on February 3. The second technical report is due February 15.
- A Project W.E.T. and Garden in Every School® (GIES) Workshop is scheduled for February 27. The workshop is mandatory for those schools interested in applying for the 2018/19 Garden in Every School® program for the installation of a water-wise garden on campus. This workshop also provides participants with the Project W.E.T. curriculum guide and training. Staff currently has four teachers signed up to attend the workshop.
- Staff is working with past GIES recipients (2004-2017) to conduct site inspections and take updated photos for a comprehensive evaluation report.

INFORMATION

ITEM

2B



February 2, 2018

To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency

From: Michael Boccadoro
Beth Olhasso

RE: January Legislative Report

Overview:

Members returned to Sacramento on January 3 to hit the ground running on two-year bills from 2017. All bills introduced in 2017 must be passed out of their house of origin by January 31, while February 16 is the deadline to introduce new bills. There has been a slow trickle of new bills introduced, with a bulk of the bills expected right before the February 16 deadline.

After multiple water districts, including Westlands Water District, Santa Clara Valley Water District and Kern County Water Agency, balked at the price of Governor Brown's proposed California WaterFix project, the administration has begun to develop a scaled down, phased approach.

The Department of Water Resources abruptly announced the replacement of Director Grant Davis. Karla Nemeth, senior advisor for water policy at the Natural Resources Agency, was appointed to take over the role. Nemeth has also served as deputy secretary and Bay-Delta Conservation project manager at the agency.

California Air Resources Board Chair, Mary Nichols was put on the spot by members at a January 4 hearing by the Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies and the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. She was repeatedly questioned as to the purpose of the state's Cap and Trade Program. She defended the program's statutory goals of meeting long-term emissions targets, not spur conventional air pollution cuts at industrial facilities as some legislators and activists desire.

The February 1 manual snowpack survey revealed disappointing results, showing that the snowpack is only 14 percent of normal. Despite the lack of snow, the State Water Project allocations were raised to 20 percent, thanks to ample storage throughout the SWP system.

As is custom, Governor Brown unveiled his initial budget proposal on January 10th. The proposed \$190.3 billion spending plan includes \$9.8 billion in natural resource related spending. Nearly all of the water related expenditures are contingent on the passage of the parks and water bond, also known as Senate Bill 5 (de Leon, 2017). A few days later, he revealed his \$1.25 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) spending plan. The plan includes \$20 million to CalRecycle for waste diversion.

As is typical with a new session, both legislative leaders made a few changes to the make-up of the committees. More changes are likely to occur after Toni Atkins (D- San Diego) takes over as Pro Tem in March. Below are the new members of key committees.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency Status Report – January 2018

WaterFix Update

After multiple water districts, including Westlands Water District, Santa Clara Valley Water District and Kern County Water Agency, balked at the price of Governor Brown's proposed California WaterFix project, the administration has begun to develop a scaled down, phased approach.

The revised project proposes to build one tunnel, presumably for State Water Project contractors, first with the second coming at a later time. The new proposal reduces the number of intakes on the Sacramento River from three to two and would have capacity for 3,000 – 6,000 cubic feet per second (CFS), instead of the previously proposed 9,000 cfs. It is unclear what the price tag for the new project will be. The administration is currently negotiating with the water districts that would benefit from the project and is expected to release a more detailed proposal within the next month.

To date, project proponents have spent millions of dollars on environmental studies and permits for the original WaterFix proposal. Legal experts speculate that the phased nature of the project will allow the administration to continue with ongoing permitting efforts including the water rights permit modification proceedings the State Water Resources Control Board has been conducting for the last year.

However, those proceedings have been delayed for at least two weeks after Save the Delta Alliance and others filed a complaint claiming that water board staff and the Department of Water Resources staff have been illegally engaging in ex parte communications. Tam Doduck and Felicia Marcus will review the claims and make a determination of their validity before resuming Phase 2 of the proceedings, originally scheduled for January 18, but now delayed until February 8.

DWR Replaces Director, Restructures Department

The Department of Water Resources abruptly announced the replacement of Director Grant Davis. Davis was appointed as Director back in July. Karla Nemeth, senior advisor for water policy at the Natural Resources Agency, was appointed to take over the role. Nemeth has also served as deputy secretary and Bay-Delta Conservation project manager at the agency.

In addition to the shakeup at the department's top post, DWR announced a restructuring of existing executive positions including replacing the Deputy Director for Integrated Water Management position with a Deputy Director for Flood Management and Dam Safety and a Deputy Director for Integrated Water Management and Multi-Benefit Programs. Eric Koch will serve in the first role, overseeing the Division of Flood Management and the Division of Safety of Dams. The second position, yet to be filled, will oversee programs that achieve multiple benefits in the areas of flood control, surface water, groundwater and ecosystem health. Lastly, oversight of the recently established Executive Sustainable Groundwater Management Program is being combined with the existing responsibilities of the Deputy Director for Special Initiatives, Taryn Ravazzini.

The restructuring was announced only a few hours after the Joint Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review and Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife informational committee hearing updating the legislators on Oroville Dam and ongoing dam safety efforts. Davis was absent at the hearing, “due to an emergency.” A report was also released in early January, describing a number of DWR deficiencies that lead to the Oroville Dam catastrophe including design flaws and insufficient maintenance.

ARB Backs Post 2020 Cap and Trade Program Amid Lawmaker Concerns

At a January 4 hearing by the Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies and the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, CARB chair, Mary Nichols defended the purpose of the state’s Cap and trade Program. She noted that the program is designed to meet long-term emissions targets, not spur conventional air pollution cuts at industrial facilities as some legislators and activists desire. She noted that the importance of addressing criteria pollutants but repeatedly stated the Cap and Trade program is not the place to do so.

Chair Nichols highlighted the new responsibilities given to CARB in AB 617 (2017, C. Garcia) to oversee the implementation of air monitoring and mitigation programs to lower criteria pollutants in disadvantaged communities, as a major step forward in achieving the goals outlined by the environmental justice community.

February 1 Sierra Snowpack Survey and SWP Allocation

Despite improved January precipitation in the Sierra Nevada after a dismal December, the February 1 manual snow survey found little snowpack. The measurements taken revealed just 2.6 inches of snow water equivalent, or just 14 percent of the February average. Electronic measurements taken throughout the Sierras revealed a 27 percent average statewide.

Despite disappointing precipitation, the State Water Project (SWP) allocation was raised from 15 percent to 20 percent thanks to abundant storage throughout the SWP system.

Budget Update

As is custom, Governor Brown unveiled his initial budget proposal on January 10th. The proposed \$190.3 billion spending plan includes \$9.8 billion in natural resource related spending. Nearly all of the water related expenditures are contingent on the voter approval of the parks and water bond, also known as Senate Bill 5 (de Leon, 2017).

Highlights include:

- \$4.7 million to set up a safe drinking water fund consistent with the framework of SB 623 (Monning) to provide clean drinking water in some disadvantaged communities;
- \$63 million in bond funding for capital costs for safe drinking water projects in disadvantaged communities;
- \$61.8 million to assist groundwater sustainability agencies operating under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA);
- \$84 million for the State Water Board to support regional groundwater treatment and remediation activities that prevent or reduce contamination of groundwater that is a source of drinking water; and

- \$98.5 million for flood control projects that achieve public safety, along with fish and wildlife improvements.

Also included in the budget is a provision for “Safe Drinking Water Solutions.” A proposal was outlined, expected to be detailed in a budget trailer bill, consistent with the policy framework of SB 623 to establish a program that provides grants, loans, and administrator contracts or services to assist eligible communities and households in securing access to safe and affordable drinking water. The budget proposed \$4.7 million in 2018-19 for the State Water Resources Control Board and California Department of Food and Agriculture to take initial steps toward implementation of this new program. The steps include: developing and implementing fee collection systems; conducting an assessment to estimate the level of funding needed to assist water systems in the state to ensure the delivery of safe and affordable drinking water; and developing and making available a map of high-risk aquifers used as drinking water sources. ACWA and other water interests remain deeply opposed to SB 623 and the establishment of a retail drinking water fee.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)

There was no proposal to spend the \$1.25 billion in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (accumulated as a result of the cap and trade allowance auctions) in the January 10 budget. The Governor outlined his proposal for the expenditure of the funds in his January 25 State of the State Address and a full proposal was released a few days later.

The proposal is focused on four initiatives to solidify the path to deeper GHG emission reductions, and reinforced the Governor’s final-year focus on climate change priorities.

- Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEVs): The Administration is proposing a new eight-year initiative to accelerate sales of zero-emission vehicles through vehicle rebates and infrastructure investments to reach a goal of five million ZEVs by 2025 and 1.5 million by 2030. The funding plan will provide \$2.5 billion over eight years.
- Sequestration and Resilience Initiative: The Administration is proposing a series of actions to increase carbon sequestration and storage and improve resilience:
 - Adoption of targets for reduction of GHG emissions from natural and working lands.
 - Convene an expert group to identify how to protect, restore and maintain California’s native plants and biodiversity to protect habitat and contribute to the state’s climate goals.
 - Develop a Forest Carbon plan, which will serve as a roadmap to firmly establish California’s forests as a more resilient and reliable long-term carbon sink. Convene a task force composed of scientists and knowledgeable forest practitioners to thoroughly review the way the state’s forests are managed and suggest ways to further reduce the threat of devastating fires.
- California Integrated Climate Investment Program: \$20 million to the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) to provide seed funding to accelerate private sector investment in California infrastructure projects that reduce GHG emission and improve climate resilience.
- California Climate Change Technology and Solutions Initiative: Will help to bridge the gap to new technologies, modeling and analysis, leading to deeper GHG emissions

reductions and greater resilience statewide. The proposal will support these priorities by funding activities to:

- Advance the deployment of transformative technologies to reduce GHG emissions.
- Prepare for a changing climate.
- Integrate the social and equity dimensions of climate change policies.
- Support the development of advanced climate data partnerships and initiatives.

In addition to the above four highlighted categories, the following is the initial GGRF expenditure proposal from the Governor:

2018-19 Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan
(Dollars in Millions)

Investment Category	Department	Program	Amount
Air Toxic and Criteria Air Pollutants	Air Resources Board	AB 617 - Community Air Protection	\$250
		Technical Assistance to Community Groups	\$5
Low Carbon Transportation	Air Resources Board	Clean Vehicle Rebate Project	\$175
		Clean Trucks, Buses, & Off-Road Freight Equipment	\$180
		Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program, School Buses & Transportation Equity Projects	\$100
	Energy Commission	Low Carbon Fuel Production	\$25
Climate Smart Agriculture	Air Resources Board	Agricultural Diesel Engine Replacement & Upgrades	\$102
	Energy Commission	Energy Efficiency	\$34
	Department of Food and Agriculture	Healthy Soils	\$5
	Energy Commission	Renewable Energy	\$4
Healthy Forests	CAL FIRE	Healthy & Resilient Forests	\$180
	CalOES	Local Fire Response	\$25
Short-Lived Climate Pollutants	Department of Food and Agriculture	Methane Reduction	\$99
	CalRecycle	Waste Diversion	\$20
Integrated Climate Action: Mitigation & Resilience	Strategic Growth Council	Transformative Climate Communities	\$25
	IBank	California Integrated Climate Investment Program	\$20
	California Conservation Corps	Energy Corps	\$8
Climate and Clean Energy Research	Strategic Growth Council	California Climate Change Technology and Solutions Initiative	\$35
Total			\$1,250

The Waste Diversion allocation to CalRecycle is to “provide financial incentives for infrastructure facilities that divert waste from landfills, which will reduce methane emissions. Projects include composting, anaerobic digestion, and fiber, plastic, and glass recycling facilities.”

Senate and Assembly budget committees will begin review of the Governor’s budget and developing their own proposals in the coming months. In response, the Governor will issue a revised budget in May, known as the “May Revise.” Legislators will then have only a few weeks to put together a final proposal that both houses and the Governor are agreeable to before the June 15th constitutional deadline.

Committee Changes

As is typical with a new session, both legislative leaders made a few changes to the make-up of the committees. More changes are likely to occur after Toni Atkins (D- San Diego) takes over as Senate Pro Tem in March. Below are the makeups of key committees.

SENATE ENERGY, UTILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS: (No changes)

Hueso- D (Chair)	Hill-D	Vidak-R
Morrell-R (Vice Chair)	McGuire-D	Weiner-D
Bradford-D	Skinner-D	
Hertzberg-D	Stern-D	

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER

Hertzberg-D (Chair)	Atkins-D	McGuire-D	Vidak-R
Stone-R (Vice Chair)	Hueso-D	Monning-D	
Allen-D	Jackson-D	Stern-D	

ASSEMBLY UTILITIES & ENERGY

Holden-D (Chair)	Chen-R	Fong-D	Quirk-D	E. Garcia-D
Patterson-R (Vice Chair)	Cunningham-R	C. Garcia-D	Reyes-D	
Chavez-R (Vice Chair)	Dahle-R	Mayes-R	Santiago-D	
Burke-D	Eggman-D	Muratsuchi-D	Ting-D	

ASSEMBLY WATER, PARKS & WILDLIFE

E. Garcia-D (Chair)	Choi-R	Kalra-D	Rubio-D
Gallagher-R (Vice Chair)	Chu-D	Harper-R	Salas-D
Bigelow-R	Friedman-D	Levine-D	Thurmond-D
Carillo-D	Gloria-D	Mathis-R	Wood-D

Legislative Update

Members returned to Sacramento on January 3 to hit the ground running on two-year bills from 2017. All bills introduced in 2017 must be passed out of their house of origin by January 31. February 16 is the deadline to introduce new bills. There has been a slow trickle of new bills introduced, with a bulk of the bills expected right before the February 16 deadline.

As members work in finalizing their 2018 legislation, long-term water use efficiency and funding clean drinking water for all Californians will be hot discussion topics. The proponents of SB 606 (Skinner) and AB 1668 (Friedman) related to water use efficiency, have been meeting during the break and are finalizing language with stakeholders, the authors and other interested legislators, and the Brown Administration. It is expected the water use efficiency package of bills will be taken up for a vote early in the session.

The conversation around SB 623 (Monning) continues, especially after the provisions included in the budget, discussed above. Stakeholder discussions continue, but with much less movement or agreement than the water use efficiency process. The timeline on the next set of amendments is unclear, and opposition from a significant number of urban water agencies and ACWA remains very strong. The Brown Administration released a budget trailer bill with their proposal for implementing a Safe Drinking Water Fee. The language is consistent with SB 623. With a 2/3 vote required for whichever vehicle ends up as the main safe drinking water fee vehicle, and a number of Democratic vacancies, it is unlikely the bill will move anytime soon.

On the energy side focus will remain on a proposal for 100 percent clean energy and the creation of a western-region electrical grid. The Governor will be working to cement his legacy in his final year of office, including getting the final details and permits in place for the California WaterFix. The Governor's State of the State, scheduled for January 25, will help shed some light on his high priority issues in his final year in office.

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Comprehensive Government Relations

MEMORANDUM

To: Halla Razak and Kathy Besser

From: Letitia White, Jean Denton, Shavenor Winters

Date: January 30, 2017

Re: January Monthly Legislative Update

Congress Votes to End Shutdown, Sending Spending Bill to President Trump

Congress voted to end the U.S. government shutdown after three days by passing a temporary spending bill, prolonging the fight over a politically charged immigration proposal for at least another three weeks.

The 266-150 House vote sent the measure to President Donald Trump, who signed it the evening of Monday, January 22. The impasse broke after Senate Democrats accepted a deal from Majority Leader Mitch McConnell(R-KY) that would fund the government through Thursday, February 8. In exchange, Sen. McConnell agreed to address Democratic demands that Congress quickly restore protections against deportation to young undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, which advocates call "Dreamers."

The agreement paved the way to reopen government Tuesday, January 23. The bill, H.R. 195, sets the clock for a showdown between Republicans and Democrats on immigration, one that could potentially end in another standoff over spending. Senator John Thune (R-SD), the chamber's No. 3 Republican, said it's unlikely Congress will be able to pass a final spending bill in three weeks and will probably need a fifth stopgap measure.

"The Republican majority now has 17 days to prevent the dreamers from being deported," Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer(D-NY) said, underscoring the impending deadline. The Senate passed the measure 81-18.

The impasse exposed the Democrats' limits on how far they were willing to go with the fight, at the risk of looking beholden to one part of their base -- activists pushing to allow the so-called Dreamers to stay in the U.S. legally.

At the same time, the debate exacerbated bitter differences within the Republican Party that may prevent Congress and President Trump from reaching a long-term deal on

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immigration, even though President Trump himself has signaled many times that he's open to one.

What both parties did was effectively punt the issue for three weeks, long enough to get past President Trump's State of the Union address on Tuesday, January 30.

Lawmakers also reached a deal to end the shutdown just as federal agencies were beginning to implement it, and when the true pain of a shutdown would be felt by the public.

House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) underscored the differences as Senate leaders negotiated. He promised House Republicans that they would not be bound by any arrangement reached in the Senate on immigration to reopen the government.

Obama-Era Program

Democrats, and some Republicans, wanted language protecting people in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program, as part of the spending bill to ensure it became law. Some Republicans have opposed such a move, calling it amnesty. Trump decided in September to end the Obama-era initiative effective in March, although he said Congress should act to protect them. The U.S. counts 690,000 people currently enrolled in DACA.

The White House refused to negotiate over immigration, one of the Democrats' central issues, while the government remained closed. Trump blamed the Democratic leader for what the White House dubbed "the Schumer Shutdown" while Schumer blamed the president for "the Trump Shutdown."

Political Heat

The fact that enough Democrats still voted to end the shutdown suggests they were starting to feel the political heat put on by the White House, which had posed the shutdown as a fight between Americans who would lose out from the shutdown, including the military, and immigrants.

Especially for some Democrats running in 2018 in states won by President Trump, that wouldn't be an appealing choice to put before their voters.

Five of the most vulnerable Democrats voted with McConnell against a filibuster on Friday, and while Democrats continued to attack Trump and Republicans over the weekend for, among other things, not accepting much shorter bills to keep the government open, many were privately negotiating for a way out before dawn Monday, when it would begin to bite.

Sen. McConnell did firm up his offer for an immigration debate slightly on Monday by agreeing to bring a bill to the Senate floor with a fair amendment process. Democrats also won one other concession -- the immigration debate won't be contingent on

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President Trump's blessing, something that moderate Republicans embraced as a breakthrough.

Even so, Sen. McConnell has said all along he wants to act before the Monday, March 5 deadline for the end of DACA, which grants protections for the 690,000 young immigrants. And there's still no guarantee something acceptable to Democrats will be embraced by the GOP leadership, by the House, or by President Trump by then, all of whom have been negotiating the issue for months.

GOP Divisions

The standoff also leaves Republicans needing to repair ruptures within their own party. While Republican leaders and the White House were largely united on the shutdown fight itself -- insisting on no negotiations on immigration and training all fire on Schumer for the stalemate -- they remain deeply divided internally on immigration. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) of South Carolina at one point launched a personal attack on White House aide Stephen Miller, President Trump's top adviser on immigration, saying there could be no compromise while the hard-line Miller is involved.

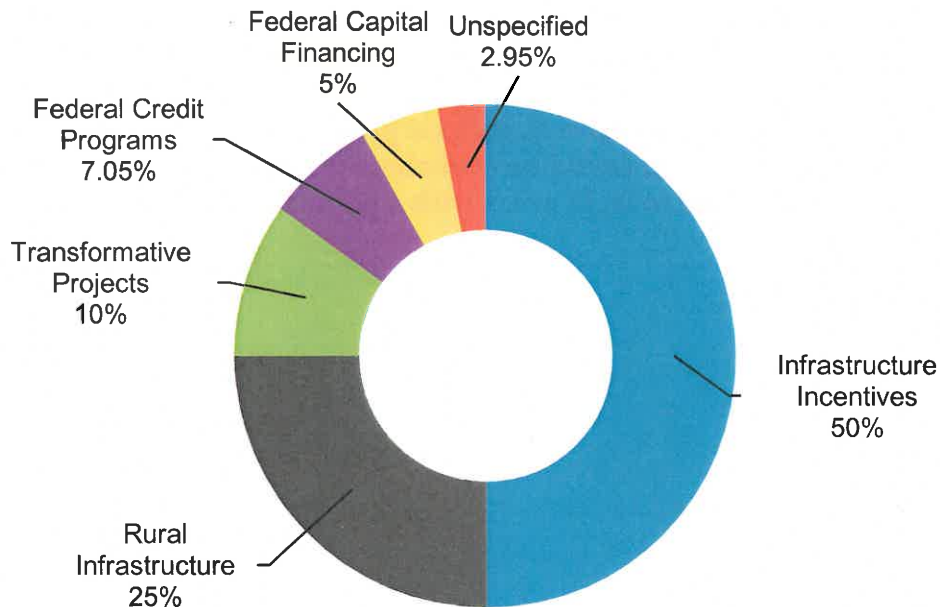
The White House shot back that Graham was the one who's out of step. Graham noted that Democrats still have plenty of leverage given upcoming fights over budget spending caps and other must-pass items.

Fifth Continuing Resolution

There's also the prospect of a fifth continuing resolution to fund the government at fiscal 2017 levels past the Feb. 8 deadline. Despite optimism that they can reach an agreement on spending caps under the Budget Control Act, no lawmakers have said they expect to come up with a final omnibus spending bill by Thursday, February 8.

Leaked Trump Infrastructure Plan

The federal government would provide limited new matching funds for infrastructure projects under by a draft infrastructure plan on leaked Monday, January 22. The plan also proposes new funding for rural infrastructure, expansion of federal credit programs, and



Allocation of appropriation by program

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enhancements to private activity bonds. The White House hasn't confirmed that the draft is official.

The administration has promised to release an infrastructure plan in the coming weeks, with a preview during President Trump's Tuesday, January 30 State of the Union speech.

President Trump has promised to invest \$1 trillion in infrastructure. His fiscal 2018 budget request proposed spending \$200 billion in federal funds over a decade, which would leverage state, local, and private dollars for a total of \$1 trillion. The document doesn't specify a proposed amount or source of funding. Most of the new programs would be subject to appropriation.

It also doesn't address the Highway Trust Fund's long-term insolvency. The fund's outlays for roads and transit exceed the revenue it collects, primarily from the motor fuels tax. It's projected to run out of money in fiscal 2021, after being boosted by a five-year infusion from the general fund in the 2015 FAST Act.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) said infrastructure will be his top priority for 2018.

New Appropriations

Almost half of the plan's proposed new appropriation would be for an "infrastructure incentives initiative" that would cover as much as 20 percent of the cost of a wide variety of projects, including hydropower, flood control, and contaminated site cleanup.

The non-federal partner -- which could include a public utility or non-profit in addition to a state or local government -- would be responsible for finding the rest of the funding. The program would prioritize projects with a new, non-federal, long-term funding source.

Another 10 percent would be available for grants -- ranging from 30 percent to 80 percent of eligible costs based on the project stage -- for "transformative" projects, including commercial space, telecommunications, energy, and water in addition to standard infrastructure.

Projects would have to include private or nonprofit investors. A quarter of the appropriation would be available for rural infrastructure, including broadband. Projects would have to be in areas with a population of less than 50,000.

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The plan proposes additional appropriations to expand existing credit programs, and a new account to manage federal infrastructure.

Program name	Description
Infrastructure incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant for as much as 20% of a project cost• State and local governments, utilities, nonprofits, public-private partnerships can apply every six months
Transformative projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competitive funding and technical assistance for “exploratory and ground-breaking” projects. Grants would cover as much as 80% of eligible costs• Could be used for telecom, commercial space, energy, water, transportation
Rural infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 80% formula-based block grant, 20% performance grant• Given to states for rural transportation, broadband, water, waste, power
Interior maintenance fund	New fund that would use revenue from mineral and energy development for infrastructure on federal lands and waters
Federal real property	Executive order to allow federal government to sell assets
Federal capital financing fund	New revolving fund that federal agencies would use to finance large real property purchases

In addition to new programs that would require appropriations, the plan proposes creating an “interior maintenance fund” that would support public lands infrastructure using revenue from drilling and mineral exploration on federal lands and waters.

It also proposes an executive order that would let the federal government dispose of real property, which would “improve the overall allocation of economic resources in infrastructure investment.”

Changes to Existing Programs

The plan would provide additional funds for existing lending programs for transportation, railroads, water, and rural utilities, which would remain available until 2028. If the plan’s total appropriation was \$200 billion over a decade, it would boost the lending programs’ capacity by \$15 billion.

It would expand the potential uses of private activity bonds, which are issued by state and local governments to finance projects conducted with a private partner. It would also lift issuance caps and allow the bonds to be used for advanced refunding, in which issuers take advantage of lower interest rates by refinancing an existing bond issue with a new one. A refunding bond is considered “advance” if it is issued more than 90 days before the redemption of the refunded bond. It’s not clear how the change would work in light of the 2017 tax overhaul law, which eliminated advance refunding bonds’ tax advantages.

The document lists additional “principles” for infrastructure, which include a variety of suggested modifications to, or expansions of, existing programs. Legislative or regulatory action would likely be required for many of the changes.

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Program name	Description
Federal credit programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase capacity for existing lending programs• Expand TIFIA to airports, more types of ports; WIFIA to flood mitigation, navigation, water supply, site cleanup, water systems acquisitions
Private activity bonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eliminate issuance caps; allow use for advance refunding• Expand to more types of infrastructure projects
Transportation financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow states to impose tolls on interstates, commercialize rest areas• Subsidize short-line and passenger rail improvement financing• Expand state infrastructure bank credit assistance
Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simplify approval, federal contracting processes• Allow utilities to relocate infrastructure before NEPA review completion
Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Require value capture (e.g. sales tax, special assessment) from beneficiaries of transit projects
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand eligibility for Clean Water State Revolving Fund to private treatment works• Authorize non-federal construction and operation of inland waterways
Veterans Affairs	Provide VA with flexibility to sell or exchange facilities
Land revitalization	Replicate brownfield grant/revolving loan fund for Superfund projects

Congress Pushes Broadband Access

Congress is making a push to get rural internet access projects funded through President Trump's promised \$1.7 trillion infrastructure plan.

Lawmakers representing rural areas have argued that many of their constituents are losing out on economic and educational resources due to a lack of broadband access. And as the president teases an infrastructure plan, members are stepping up their calls for increased funding.

Leaders of the bipartisan House Rural Broadband Caucus raised their concerns about the possibility that the plan might not include any funding for rural internet connectivity.

“Rural communities must have adequate broadband infrastructure to attract and retain businesses and human resources, close the homework gap for students and teachers, open innovative and convenient pathways to telemedicine for seniors and providers, and help farmers increase efficiencies in their barns and on their land,” the House members wrote in a letter.

The increasing importance of internet access has turned it into an infrastructure issue that many see as just as vital as roads and bridges.

In a 2016 progress report, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) estimated that 34 million people in the U.S., including 23 million rural Americans, still lack access to broadband internet, which the agency defines as having download speeds of 25 megabits per second.

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President Trump has voiced support for addressing the issue in his infrastructure package. He said he will discuss the \$1.7 trillion plan in his State of the Union speech next week, and it could be released as early as this month.

But details are still light. A leaked draft outline of the infrastructure plan, discussed above, showed that broadband access projects were included as part of the 25 percent of dollars set aside for rural infrastructure spending.

Lawmakers are still looking for assurances that internet access will receive direct funding from the White House plan.

Earlier this month, the bipartisan Senate Broadband Caucus, led by Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), called on the president to set aside deployment funds.

It would cost \$40 billion to expand internet access to cover 98 percent of Americans, a separate FCC report estimated last year. To deliver broadband to 100 percent of the U.S. population could cost another \$40 billion on top of that, according to the report.

Democrats have already seized on that first \$40 billion as a benchmark.

They argue that the problem can only be tackled with a large appropriation. Last year, House Democrats floated an infrastructure proposal that would have delivered \$40 billion for broadband deployment.

While Republicans seem to agree on the need to expand access, the GOP has not yet revealed a sum they're willing to shell out for network expansion projects, and it's unclear whether the two sides will be able to agree on a figure.

'Smart Wall' Could Be Key to Immigration Compromise

A proposed technological solution could help resolve the nation's battle over immigration and border security -- although it may also pit construction contractors against the high-tech sector.

At the heart of the debate is one of President Donald Trump's most controversial campaign promises: a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico. The President and his supporters in Congress insist that any budget deal that includes legal protections for the beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program must also include funding for the wall, along with other border security measures. But the president's plan to build a physical wall along the U.S.-Mexico border at taxpayer expense has proven a nonstarter for Democrats.

A solution to the current impasse may rest with a plan to instead build a "smart" wall that relies on drones and sensors, rather than concrete, to reduce drug smuggling, human trafficking, and illegal immigration.

A 'Smart' Wall?

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A smart wall would consist of interlocking optical, radar, seismic, acoustic, and aerial surveillance systems designed to alert mobile border patrol units to intercept unauthorized border crossings. These technologies could be deployed in conjunction with physical barriers in high-traffic zones, or used independently in regions where rough terrain makes wall construction especially challenging and costly.

One proposal, known as the Secure Miles with All Resources and Technology Act, or SMART, was introduced in July by Rep. Will Hurd (R-TX). The SMART Act would authorize \$550 million from fiscal 2018 through 2022 to assist the Department of Homeland Security in deploying a range of border surveillance technologies, including: Vehicle and Dismount Exploitation Radars (VADER).

Three-dimensional seismic acoustic detection and ranging tunneling detection technology.

Man-portable and mobile vehicle-mounted unmanned aerial vehicles.
Hurd's bill would augment the \$197 million requested by U.S. Customs and Border Protection for surveillance technologies in fiscal 2018.

The SMART Act would also authorize Homeland Security to "deploy the most practical and effective technology available along the United States border for achieving situational awareness and operational control of the border," giving the agency greater flexibility to assess risks and prioritize resources toward the areas of greatest concern.

Proponents claim that a smart wall is preferable, in terms of both cost and effectiveness, to President Trump's plan to build a physical wall. Hurd, relying on an estimate by Anduril Industries, says his plan will cost \$500,000 per mile of border, or about \$1 billion, a fraction of the \$12 billion to \$40 billion President Trump's wall is expected to cost.

Cost considerations aside, some experts warn that much of the \$1.6 billion the Trump administration requested for new wall construction in fiscal 2018 could prove counterproductive if it comes at the expense of technology upgrades and the hiring of new customs agents.

Political Considerations

Although funding for the wall is not the only concession Republicans may seek in exchange for DACA legal protections, it's certainly the most intractable issue in the current negotiations. Both parties have staked their credibility on the wall issue. For President Trump, building the wall represents a top campaign promise to his

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conservative base, while Democrats appear determined to deny the president the political victory the wall represents.

Nevertheless, a solution to the immigration question may be feasible if both sides are able to compromise on replacing some funding for wall construction with increased investment in border surveillance technologies.

Such a deal would offer both parties the chance to claim victory and climb down from the zero-sum positions they've staked out. President Trump and his Republican allies could take credit for securing some, if not all, funding for wall and strengthening border security measures.

Democrats could claim they defeated President Trump's multibillion-dollar wall proposal and resolved the legal jeopardy faced by so-called "Dreamers."

Although this approach may not please hard-liners on both sides when the latest continuing resolution expires, it may prove acceptable enough with moderates to pass with a majority of House Republicans and swing enough Democratic senators to reach 60 votes.

On Thursday, January 25 the White House presented Congress with such a compromise. The immigration reform plan that would satisfy a key Democratic demand - offering a path to citizenship for 1.8 million undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children-in exchange for dramatic restrictions on immigration going forward and a \$25 billion fund for border security. The framework also eliminates the visa lottery and curbs U.S. migration by extended families, a fundamental change to existing immigration policy. New citizens would be able to sponsor their immediate families - spouses and children - to legally enter the country, but other relatives would be excluded.

Supreme Court Speeds Up Timeline on DACA Case

The U.S. Supreme Court is speeding up the timeline for the lawsuit over the Trump administration's termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

The individuals, organizations, and government bodies suing the administration now have until Feb. 2 to file their briefs opposing Supreme Court review. They originally had until Feb. 20.

The expedited schedule allows the court to decide as early as Feb. 16 whether it will hear the case.

The Justice Department Thursday, January 18 asked the justices to determine whether the administration had the authority to end DACA. The next day, the DOJ asked for expedited consideration of the case because of its "imperative public importance" and "urgent need for a prompt resolution."

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The administration originally proposed Jan. 31 as the deadline for a response to its Supreme Court petition, but it agreed to Feb. 2 as long as the later date would still allow time for the justices to consider the case during their Feb. 16 conference.

Justices Already Involved

The justices already have waded into the lawsuit, issuing an order preventing the lower courts from requiring the Department of Homeland Security to turn over documents related to the decision to end DACA.

The DOJ's request goes beyond the documents, asking the court to decide the merits of the case before a federal district court judge has had the opportunity to do so. Questions include whether it was reasonable for the Homeland Security and Justice departments to believe DACA would be struck down by the courts, as well as whether DACA recipients' due process and equal protection rights were violated when the program was terminated.

In a separate lawsuit over driver's licenses for DACA recipients, the justices asked the Trump administration for its views on the matter before determining whether to take the case. The administration never filed a brief, and the court never heard arguments, many of which related to the legality of DACA.

The case essentially could become moot if Congress is able to reach an agreement on the legal status for the young, undocumented immigrants covered by the DACA program. DACA was terminated in September but a federal judge in California 9 ordered that the DHS resume processing DACA renewals. In addition to petitioning the Supreme Court, the DOJ also has appealed that ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The DOJ additionally has appealed to the Second Circuit in a separate case also challenging DACA's termination.

Patchwork Water Pollution Rule Takes Effect After Supreme Court Ruling

Most of the country will be subject to an Obama-era regulation defining the reach of the nation's water pollution law, but the regulation still faces a bevy of legal challenges across the country in a process that promises to be "chaos."

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously held Jan. 22 that litigation over the 2015 Clean Water Rule will be heard in federal district courts across the nation. That means that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit's nationwide hold on the regulation was struck down. However, a 13-state stay issued by the U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota could be revived, leading to a patchwork of regulations across the country. The Trump administration, which is in the process of replacing the Clean Water Rule, is unlikely to enforce the regulation. However, it has not yet completed plans to push back to 2020 implementation of the rule that defines the waters and wetlands protected by the Clean Water Act and subject to regulatory regimes, including federal permits, oil spill prevention requirements, and state water quality certifications.

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However, the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—which co-wrote the rule also known as Waters of the U.S.—expected this decision and put a plan in place to level the playing field and ensure certainty for states and the regulated community.

Additional Challenges Coming

Meanwhile, some industry groups are gearing up to revive the lawsuits in federal district courts that were either stayed or withdrawn and press for more delays in implementing the rule. Others are debating whether to hold off on lawsuits until the Trump administration completes its rewrite, which is not due until June 2019.

High Court Sides With 30 States

The Supreme Court supported the position taken by 30 states and many industry groups that federal district courts are better suited to reviewing such challenges, which have an impact on local waterways, than an appellate court.

Issue Remains Relevant

The issue of which court should review the water rule remains relevant, even as the Obama-era water jurisdiction rule is in the process of being rescinded and replaced by the Trump administration. The Supreme Court's decision will determine where the inevitable legal challenges to an expected replacement regulation will be heard.

Challenges will resume in district courts across the country, including the federal district court in Bismarck, N.D., which has blocked the rule from taking effect in North Dakota, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

While having a single appellate court hear the challenge would have been more efficient, that wasn't Congress's only consideration when it limited federal appellate courts to hearing reviews of specific EPA actions, Sotomayor wrote.

“Had Congress wanted to prioritize efficiency, it could have authorized direct circuit court review of all nationally applicable regulations, as it did under the Clean Air Act,” Sotomayor wrote.

The court didn't buy the government's argument that it would be more efficient for a federal appeals court to hear litigation over the Obama-era Clean Water Rule or any subsequent rewrite, dismissing the government's broad reading of the Clean Water Act.

Army Corps Nominee Clears Hurdle Toward Confirmation

On Thursday, January 25 the Senate confirmed by a vote of 89-1 the White House's pick to lead the Army Corps of Engineers, R.D. James.

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R.D. James, the Trump administration's nominee to be assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works, was approved by the Senate Environment and Public works committee on an unanimous voice vote. The Army Corps is responsible for issuing Clean Water Act dredge-and-fill permits for activities that can affect wetlands and other water bodies and also oversees many types of infrastructure projects such as ports, locks, and dams. It is also the lead agency in charge of flood control and navigation.

James has been a decades-long member of the Army Corps' Mississippi River Commission. In addition to having jurisdiction over the federal government's flood control projects, James would also have a major role in shaping the administration's waters of the U.S. Rule, which aims to define which bodies of water fall under federal pollution control statutes. His predecessor in the Obama administration was Jo-Ellen Darcy.

Lawmakers Want Earmarks in Spending, Infrastructure Bills

Lawmakers in both parties are lobbying House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) to allow Congress to resume earmarking project funding, beginning with the annual spending bills that fund the government and this year's infrastructure development plan.

Senior Republicans and Democrats said the earmark moratorium imposed by former House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) wrongly ceded lawmakers' control of as much as \$15 billion in spending to the executive branch and hamstrung their ability to address needs in their districts. Lawmakers said they want Speaker Ryan to initiate a change in House rules to get rid of the ban, and some said they intend to force a vote on the matter if the leader doesn't act soon.

The calls to reinstate projects are coming primarily from members of the House Appropriations Committee and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, who want to begin inserting them into the fiscal year 2019 spending bills and infrastructure legislation as soon as this spring.

Rules Chairman Pete Sessions (R-TX) said he doesn't plan to go back to the earmark excesses that led Boehner to impose the ban. But Sessions acknowledged lawmakers' "intense interest" in taking back their authority over spending. Among others, he has called the Texas Department of Transportation to testify Thursday, January 18 on how Congress can better help address states' needs.

Hoyer Offers Support

House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD) said the move would be controversial but offered Democrats' support. He said Democrats won't make it a "gotcha issue."

Lawmakers said Ryan so far has avoided taking a firm stance on the matter. He said that he isn't inclined to restore earmarks but also didn't rule them out.

The change Boehner forced was to the rules of the House Republican Conference, lawmakers said. No changes were actually made to the official House rules and they still

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reflect earmark changes Democrats imposed when they controlled the chamber, Hoyer said.

Bridge to Bipartisanship

Rep. Young, a former chairman and current member of the Transportation Committee who is well known for sponsoring the controversial “Bridge to Nowhere” project in Alaska, said he had the votes to change the conference rules over a year ago when Ryan decided revisiting earmarks wasn't consistent with President Donald Trump's stated goal to “drain the swamp.” However, President Trump himself recently indicated support for projects and said they could build bipartisanship.

Rep. Young said Congress “neutered” itself when it went along with Boehner's plan and now should ignore warnings from the Club for Growth that the move could cost the GOP its majority this fall. He and current Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) also refuted charges that the projects will run up the deficit.

While Young and Shuster said they want to direct spending for all infrastructure projects, Rep. Tom Rooney (R-FL) said his plan focuses on funds the Army Corps of Engineers controls. Rep. John Culberson (R-TX), an Appropriations “cardinal,” also called for lawmakers to direct money for flood control projects.

Rooney also said he believed he had the votes to force the change last year but agreed to stand down. Now, he said, he's still being told it's not “a good time” to push the matter because Congress is struggling to even pass a continuing resolution to fund the government.

Surface Transportation Threats and Challenges – Senate Hearing

The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security held a hearing to examine current and emerging threats to surface transportation security, including efforts to enhance surface transportation security for passenger and freight railways, mass transit, highways, and ports. Subcommittee Chairwoman Deb Fischer (R-Nebraska) focused her remarks on the need to improve security for America's surface transportation systems, highlighting recent tragedies and attacks that have occurred on railways and in subway stations. Chairwoman Fischer addressed the need to improve America's surface transportation security, since the U.S. Government's focus has primarily stayed on aviation security.

David Pecoske, Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), was among the panel of witnesses. In his statement, Mr. Pecoske addressed the need to revive security measures undertaken for America's surface transportation systems. The majority of TSA's focus and budget revolves around aviation security, but Mr. Pecoske stated surface transportation has been primarily a partnership among TSA and surface transportation owners and operators because the owners and operators are primarily responsible for their own security operations. The interconnected, expansive scope of

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the surface transportation system creates a unique security challenge. In his closing remarks, Mr. Pekoske stated "I believe a reinvigorated strategy is an essential foundation for success in our mission, and I have engaged my executive staff to re-examine and re-envision TSA's strategy and to place a much greater emphasis on surface transportation.

What to Watch Next Week: State of Union, 'Dreamers,' Defense

President Donald Trump travels to Capitol Hill next week to deliver a State of the Union address to a Congress deeply divided over immigration policy and spending priorities.

Republicans want to increase defense spending caps under the Budget Control Act and Democrats are insisting on matching boosts for domestic programs. They're working a short week, with Republicans and Senate Democrats departing Wednesday for annual policy retreats.

President Trump said he plans to announce during his State of the Union address a \$1.7 trillion infrastructure investment. The devil will be in the details: whether, and how much, federal money is involved.

Immigration

Watch for a preview of President Trump's latest stance on immigration Monday with the release of a White House legislative framework. The president will support a path to citizenship for as many as 1.8 million undocumented immigrants brought into the U.S. as children, doubling the number of people covered by current protections from deportation.

EPA Oversight

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt is scheduled to testify before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Tuesday. Look for Democrats to grill him about his directive barring scientists who receive EPA funding from serving on its advisory boards. The agency has removed six university researchers from its advisory board and replaced them with advisers more friendly to industry. The Union of Concerned Scientists, a nonprofit advocacy group, filed a lawsuit this week calling the directive "an attempt to delegitimize science."

Monument Split

The House Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee plans to hold a Tuesday, January 30, hearing to discuss H.R. 4532, which would establish Bears Ears as the first tribally managed national monument. President Trump trimmed the size of the Utah monument in December and divided it into two units renamed the Shash Jáa National Monument and Indian Creek National Monument. Lawmakers will consider testimony by Rep. John Curtis (R-UT) and Utah Republican Gov. Gary Herbert, as well as local tribal members.

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A coalition of tribes and environmental groups sued the Trump administration in December, calling its decision to shrink and split Bears Ears unconstitutional and unprecedented. The administration is urging the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, where the lawsuits were filed, to send them to Utah's district court. The local court or jury could be more sympathetic to President Trump's decision.

INFORMATION
ITEM
2C



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES, LLC

Date: January 31, 2018
To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency
From: John Withers, Jim Brulte
Re: January Activity Report

1. This month Senator Brulte and John Withers held their monthly meeting on January 9th with General Manager Halla Razak and the senior staff of the agency. John Withers participated by phone due to the flu.
2. Water Bank
 - The fact sheet is currently in the process of being approved.
 - Talking points are being prepared for the Board.
 - We are awaiting a date for the Water Commission staff to meet to discuss our project proposal.
 - In addition to talking points and a fact sheet, the General Manager has suggested a video be prepared to better explain our project proposal.
3. Central Basin Proposal
 - We discussed the Central Basin Proposal including the legislators that MET might approach to carry the bill.
 - We discussed the January 25th deadline for language regarding the bill.
4. The meeting ended earlier than normal due to other meetings the senior staff had to attend.

INFORMATION
ITEM
2D

State Legislation

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	IEUA Position
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.	SUPPORT Senate Rules
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 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 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.	SUPPORT Assembly Floor
SB 952	Anderson	Water Conservation: Local Water Supplies	SPOT BILL: Would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would require the State Water Resources Control Board to recognize local water agency investment in water supply and will ensure that local agencies receive sufficient credit for these investments in meeting any water conservation or efficiency mandates.	WATCH
SB 623	Monning	Water Quality: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund	Would establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury and would provide that moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the State Water Resources Control Board. The bill would require the board to administer the fund to secure access to safe drinking water for all Californians, while also ensuring the long-term sustainability of drinking water service and	WATCH Assembly Rules Committee

			<p>infrastructure. The bill would authorize the state board to provide for the deposit into the fund of federal contributions, voluntary contributions, gifts, grants, bequests, and settlements from parties responsible for contamination of drinking water supplies.</p>	
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Federal Legislation of Significance

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status
H.R. 1370	Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)	Vehicle for the Short-Term Continuing Resolution	<p>The continuing resolution(CR) to fund the government through Friday, January 19, passed the House 231-188 and the Senate 66-32 on Thursday, December 21. The CR maintains current levels of spending through Jan. 19 and provide \$4.5 billion in emergency funding for missile defense work as well as other Pentagon expenses</p> <p>President Trump signed the legislation into law on Friday, December 22, 2017.</p>
H.R. 4667	Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)	Making further supplemental appropriations	<p>Making further supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, for disaster assistance for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and calendar year 2017 wildfires, and for other purposes.</p> <p>The House passed the legislation by a vote of 251 to 169. The Senate did not take up the legislation and will revisit the issue in January 2018. The Senate read the second time and the legislation was placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders on January 4, 2018.</p>
S.1	Sen. Mike Enzi	Tax Cuts and Jobs Act	<p>This bill provides for the reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018. Tax rates would be reduced, dozens of breaks would be eliminated, and the individual mandate from the Affordable Care Act would be eliminated. The corporate income tax rate would be set at 20 percent.</p> <p>S.1 was introduced by the Senate Budget Committee on Tuesday, November 28.</p>
	Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS)	Fiscal 2018 Appropriations Act	<p>On November 21, 2017, the Senate Appropriations Committee released funding bills for Defense, Homeland Security, Financial Services and the Interior for fiscal year 2018. We expect the Senate to go straight to conference on these bills.</p> <p>The remaining eight FY18 bills were approved by the committee prior to November.</p>
H.R.1	Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX)	An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to titles II and V of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.	<p>This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to reduce tax rates and modify policies, credits, and deductions for individuals and businesses. Tax rates would be reduced, dozens of breaks would be eliminated, and the individual mandate from the Affordable Care Act would be eliminated. The corporate income tax rate would be set at 20 percent.</p> <p>H.R.1 was introduced on Thursday, November 2 buy the Committee on Ways and Means. The House voted 227-205 and passed the bill on Thursday, November 16. On December 2, the Senate passed an amendment by the Yeas and Nays: 227-207. On December 19, the conference report was agreed in the House with a vote of 227-203.</p>

			<p>The House agreed to the Senate amendment on December 20 with a vote of 224-201. The legislation became Public Law No: 115-97 on December 22, 2017.</p>
H. Con. Res. 71	Rep. Diane Black (R-TN)	<p>Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027</p>	<p>Legislation that would change the tax code and increase the deficit by as much as \$1.5 trillion over a decade could be passed with simple majorities in both chambers under the Senate amendment to H. Con. Res. 71.</p> <p>The House agreed to the Senate Amendment and voted 216-212 to resolve. The proposed fiscal 2018 budget resolution would direct the tax-writing panels -- House Ways and Means and Senate Finance -- to produce reconciliation legislation by Monday, November 13, 2017.</p> <p>The plan calls for spending \$3.13 trillion in fiscal 2018, while bringing in \$2.49 trillion in revenue, for a deficit of \$641 billion. Those figures don't include "off-budget" items such as Social Security, which would bring total spending to \$3.99 billion in fiscal 2018. It would seek about \$5.1 trillion in spending reductions over the next decade and \$1.6 trillion in tax cuts.</p> <p>The House adopted its version of H. Con. Res. 71 by a vote of 219-206 on Thursday, October 5. The Senate adopted an amended version by a vote of 51-49 on Thursday, October 19. And, the House passed the Senate amended bill on Thursday, October 26 by a vote of 216-212. It now goes to the White House for the President's expected signature.</p>
H.R. 2266	Rep. John Conyers	<p>Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017</p>	<p>Hurricane and wildfire relief efforts would receive an additional tranche of emergency supplemental funding under a House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2266.</p> <p>The \$36.5 billion aid package would: Appropriate \$18.7 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund (DRF). As much as \$4.9 billion could be transferred to FEMA's Community Disaster Loan (CDL) program to help local governments and U.S. territories provide essential services. Cancel \$16 billion in loans to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which reached its borrowing limit after hurricanes Harvey and Irma. And allow as much as \$1.27 billion in previously appropriated funding to be transferred for emergency nutritional assistance in Puerto Rico.</p>

			The Senate agreed to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2266 by 82-17. On October 26, 2017, the bill became Public Law No: 115-72.
H.R. 3711	Reps. Lamar Smith (R-TX)/Ken Calvert (R-CA) /Bob Goodlatte (R-VA)	The Legal Workforce Act	<p>A bill that would require all U.S. employers to use the E-Verify electronic employment verification system. The requirement would be phased over a two-year period, starting with the largest employers. The agriculture industry would have an additional six months (or 30 months total) to come into compliance.</p> <p>H.R. 3711 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce on Friday, September 8th. On Wednesday, September 27th, H.R.3711 was referred to Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security. Judiciary Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session was held on Wednesday, October 25th. H.R. 3711 was ordered and reported (amended) by the yeas and nays: 20-10 on October 25, 2017.</p>
H.R. 601	Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)	Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 and Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017	<p>\$15.25 billion dollar bill for disaster aid following the destruction caused by Hurricane Harvey and anticipated by Hurricane Irma. This bill will also raise the debt limit and includes a continuing resolution funding the government until December 8th.</p> <p>H.R. 601 was passed in the Senate on Thursday, September 7 will additional Hurricane funding and the deficit reduction until December provisions. The House passed the bill on Friday, September 8, 2017, and was signed by the President on the same day (Public Law 115-64).</p>
H.R. 3354	Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)	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. The House-passed version of H.R. 3354 includes all 12 appropriations bills, including four that were previously passed in H.R. 3219.</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. was considered and passed by a vote of 211 to 198 on the House Floor on September 14, 2017. The Continuing Resolution, H.R.195, will run until February 8, 2018.</p>

H.R. 3219	Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX)	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 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. H.R. 23 was received in Senate, read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on July 18, 2017.</p>
	Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA) /Sens. Jim Inhofe (R-WY) and Kamala Harris (D-CA)	Infrastructure Package	<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</p>

			<p>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>
H.R. 1663	Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA) / Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA)	Water Resources Research Amendments Act	<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 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 referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans on March 27, 2017.</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. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 28th and no further action has been taken.</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> <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.</p>
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 on May 19, 2017.</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 27. The House Rules Committee on June 20th dictated final amendments for passage on the House Floor; this bill passed the House on June 22 by a vote of 233-180. H.R. 1654 was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 26 and not further action has been taken.</p>
H.R. 195	Rep. Steve Russell (R-OK)	Continuing resolution through Feb. 8 & CHIP reauthorization	<p>The measure would extend funding for most federal agencies at the reduced fiscal 2017 spending levels initially provided by Public Law 115-56 to keep spending in line with the fiscal 2018 caps. It would be the fourth continuing resolution passed since the fiscal year began on Oct. 1.</p> <p>The legislation also would extend most anomalies and program extensions from the previous continuing resolutions, such as the National Flood Insurance Program.</p> <p>The measure would allow emergency missile defense funding provided under the last CR to be used for intelligence activities that haven't been specifically authorized by Congress.</p> <p>It also includes other anomalies that would allow funding for summer food programs for kids, NASA space exploration, the Energy Department inspector general, and small-business loans, to be apportioned at the rate needed to maintain operations and meet scheduling and other requirements. Additionally, the Housing and Urban Development Department could adjust funding for public housing agencies to administer Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers in areas where the president declared a disaster in 2017 or 2018.</p> <p>The measure would provide \$21.5 billion for fiscal 2018 for CHIP, increasing to \$25.9 billion by fiscal 2023. The fiscal 2023 amount would come from two semiannual allotments of \$2.85 billion and an additional \$20.2 billion for the first half of the year that would remain available until expended.</p> <p>This House voted 230-197 to pass the legislation on January 18, 2018. The Senate amended the bill and voted 81-18. This legislation was resolved in the House on January 22, 2018 and passed with a vote of 266-150. The President signed the bill into law (Public Law 115-120) on January 22, 2018.</p>