



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

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019
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 three 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 November 13, 2019.

2. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION (WRITTEN)

B. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND MATRIX – WEST COAST ADVISORS (WRITTEN)


C. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND MATRIX – INNOVATIVE FEDERAL STRATEGIES (WRITTEN)

D. CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES MONTHLY REPORT (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/Office Manager 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 and the IEUA Website at www.ieua.org on Thursday, December 5, 2019.


April Woodruff

**ACTION
ITEM
1A**



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

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019
9:00 A.M.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Jasmin A. Hall, Chair
Paul Hofer

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager
Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of External Affairs & Policy Development/AGM
Christiana Daisy, Executive Manager of Engineering/AGM
Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/AGM
Christina Valencia, Executive Manager of Finance & Administration/AGM
Jerry Burke, Acting Manager of Engineering
Andrea Carruthers, Manager of External Affairs
Sylvie Lee, Manager of Planning & Environmental Resources
Cathleen Pieroni, Manager of Government Relations
Daniel Solorzano, Technology Specialist I
Wilson To, Technology Specialist II
Teresa Velarde, Manager of Internal Audit
April Woodruff, Board Secretary/Office Manager

OTHERS PRESENT

Kati Parker, IEUA

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

ACTION ITEMS

The Committee:

- ◆ Approved the Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting minutes of August 14, 2019.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- ◆ Public Outreach and Communications

Director Hall inquired about the MWD Solar Cup team limitations and interest. Manager of External Affairs Andrea Carruthers stated that there has been high interest and the Agency is typically limited to three teams. The Agency reached out to MWD regarding the high interest and MWD was able to allot the Agency one more team. Ms. Carruthers stated she will confirm the number of teams the MWD Solar Cup is limited to and inform the Board.

Director Hall inquired about notifications for new items sent to our member agencies similar to a newsletter. Ms. Carruthers stated there is an E-Basin newsletter sent annually and the Agency shares information during member agency meetings. General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh stated that the Agency is working on communication protocols with the Agency's direct customers: member agencies and retailers as well as stakeholders: superintendents, schools, communities, etc. and the general public.

- ◆ State Legislative Report and Matrix – West Coast Advisors

President Hofer requested an Energy Management Plan Workshop.

- ◆ Federal Legislative Report and Matrix – Innovative Federal Strategies
- ◆ California Strategies Monthly Report

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh stated that he and the Executive Manager of External Affairs & Policy Development/AGM Kathy Besser will travel to Washington D.C. on November 18-19 to meet with congressional staff and discuss federal funding opportunities.

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 Hall adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April Woodruff
Board Secretary/Office Manager

*A Municipal Water District

APPROVED: DECEMBER 11, 2019

INFORMATION
ITEM
2A

Date: December 18, 2019

To: The Honorable Board of Directors

From: Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

Committee: Community & Legislative Affairs

12/11/19

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

Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

Executive Summary:

- December 11, MWD Water is Life Poster Contest Recognition Event, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., MWD Headquarters
- December 18, IEUA Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Los Serranos Country Club: 15656 Yorba Avenue, Chino Hills
- The Water Discovery Program has reached 821 students and 17 schools for this current school year. We currently have a total of 52 schools and 2,409 students scheduled for the 19/20 school year.
- IEUA has been working on developing partnerships with local water providers to continue obtaining busing grants/sponsorships for schools outside of IEUA's service area for the Water Discovery Program. To date, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District has partnered with IEUA to sponsor schools within their area to participate in the Water Discovery Program.

Staff's Recommendation:

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

Budget Impact Budgeted (Y/N): Y Amendment (Y/N): N Amount for Requested Approval:

Account/Project Name:

Fiscal Impact (explain if not budgeted):

Prior Board Action:

N/A

Environmental Determination:

Statutory Exemption

N/A

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

December

- December 11, MWD *Water is Life* Poster Contest Recognition Event, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., MWD Headquarters
- December 18, IEUA Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Los Serranos Country Club: 15656 Yorba Avenue, Chino Hills

January

- January 16, 3rd Annual Women in Water Symposium, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Cuyamaca College: 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, El Cajon (IEUA to host booth)
- January 24, IEUA's Leadership Lunch (in partnership with Southern California Water Coalition) – Speaker TBD, 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., DoubleTree Hotel: 222 N. Vineyard Avenue, Ontario

Media and Outreach

- Staff is finalizing the Regional Water Recycling Facility No. 5 video, which explains the wastewater treatment process.
- The website redesign project is on schedule with a targeted launch date of late December 2019.
- IEUA staff promoted Agency education programs by highlighting 2020 Solar Cup participants, recognizing National STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Day and promoting the Water Discovery Field Trip Program through social media channels.
- On November 13, IEUA launched the first of a series of posts dedicated to spreading awareness about FOG (fats, oils and greases) and the proper disposal of it.
- New “IEUA is Hiring” social media channel post debuted on November 18, 2019.
- IEUA recognized November 19 as World Toilet Day and highlighted the role of wastewater treatment facilities in making it possible to provide a sanitary and effective method of disposal for human waste.
- IEUA reminded residents to take advantage of the first rain of the season to promote water-efficient habits by social media outreach.
- IEUA published the South Heritage Circle road closure on Nextdoor on November 21. The post targeted only surrounding neighborhoods located within one mile of the Fontana closure. As of November 26, the post received 465 impressions and two “thank you” messages.
- November: 16 posts were published to the IEUA Facebook page, 16 posts were published to IEUA's Instagram and 22 tweets were sent on the @IEUAwater Twitter handle.
 - The top three Facebook posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of November were:
 - 11/4 IEUA is Hiring

- 11/20 First Rain of The Season
 - 11/9 Food Bank Partnership with CAPSB and Bloomington JROTC
 - The top three tweets, based on reach and engagement, in the month of November were:
 - 11/2 High School Students Build Hulls for Solar Cup 2020
 - 11/6 IEUA General Manager on Panel for World Water Tech
 - 11/20 First Rain of The Season
 - The top three Instagram posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of November were:
 - 11/9 Food Bank Partnership with CAPSB and Bloomington JROTC
 - 11/7 IEUA Board President at RP-1
 - 11/20 First Rain of The Season
- A *Kick the Habit* ad ran in the *Champion's Winter Connection* section on November 2.
 - A *Kick the Habit* ad will run in the *Champion's Thanksgiving* section on November 26.
 - A *Kick the Habit* ad will run in the *Champion's Holiday Greetings* section on December 15.
 - A Sustainable Living spadea will run in the *Daily Bulletin* in December.
 - A *Kick the Habit* ad will run in the *La Opinion* on December 9.
 - The *Kick the Habit* digital banner ad continues to run in the *Fontana Herald News*.

For the month of November, there were 5,775 searches for a park in IEUA's service area on Yelp, where Chino Creek Wetlands and Education Park was viewed 787 times on a mobile device.

Education and Outreach Updates

- The Water Discovery Program has reached 821 students and 17 schools for this current school year. We currently have a total of 52 schools and 2,409 students scheduled for the 19/20 school year.
- IEUA has been working on developing partnerships with local water providers to continue obtaining busing grants/sponsorships for schools outside of IEUA's service area for the Water Discovery Program. San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District has partnered with IEUA to sponsor schools within their area to participate in the Water Discovery Program.
- The participating Garden in Every School® sites are currently in the design phase. St. Joseph School in Upland has applied for a turf removal rebate through SoCal WaterSmart. Randall Pepper Elementary will receive a grant from Fontana Water Company to assist with the cost of removing turf. Loving Savior in Chino Hills is preparing their garden site for planting in early January 2020.
- IEUA staff attended MWD's "Water is Life" recognition event with the Agency's recognized student winner, Adrian Wisely from Magnolia Elementary School in Upland, and parents.

INFORMATION
ITEM
2B



November 27, 2019

To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency

From: Michael Boccadoro
Beth Olhasso
Maddie Munson

RE: November Report

Overview:

California enters the holiday season with over 80 percent of the state experiencing abnormally dry conditions. Water managers remain hopeful that the recent patterns of larger late winter/spring storms will arrive to provide the snowpack needed. Above average reservoir storage is also helping keep worries and concerns from reaching a “panic” level among water managers. A series of storms are expected to blanket California just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The state announced that they will be suing the federal government over the Biological Opinions (BiOps) on the grounds that the BiOps will fail to adequately protect ESA listed species affected by CVP operations. The 2008 and 2009 BiOps were also mired in years of litigation, so lawsuits over the most recent BiOps do not come as a surprise. The state has not yet formally filed the lawsuit, so it is unclear whether or not they will be seeking an injunction on the federal government’s new operating rules that could go into effect for the current water year.

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) recently released an online mapping tool designed to help implement the state’s “human right to water” policy. The tool, and associated report, are the first step toward developing a baseline “from which to comprehensively track challenges in water quality, accessibility, and affordability that individual California water systems face,” according to the report. ACWA and CMUA have raised some concerns with the tool and report and hope to work on some changes before final action is taken.

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) released a [draft 5 year plan](#) recently, which includes a provision to set a target date by 2022 for phasing out coastal discharges into the ocean, with the intent of achieving an 80-100% reduction in ocean discharges by 2040.

The Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee recently held a marathon eight-hour hearing on Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). The hearing was well attended by legislators, including the President pro Tem. All three IOUs testified as did the Governor’s new Energy Czar Ana Matosantos. Members voiced frustrations with all the IOUs, particularly PG&E.

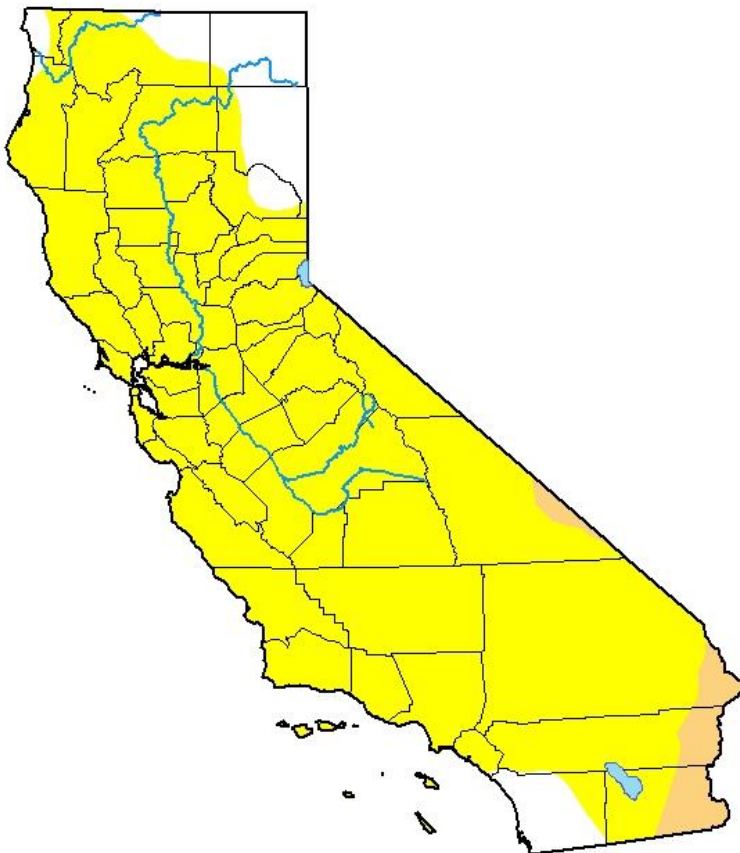
November and December are the two quietest months in the Capitol. Final bill action was taken by Governor Newsom in October and members remain in their districts until January. Some work is being done in preparation for the second year of the two-year session, but work will begin in earnest in January. It is believed that the Governor’s Water Resilience Portfolio will be released in early December, at which time discussions on a water bond will likely intensify.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency Status Report – November 2019

Water Supply Conditions

A high-pressure ridge has kept any significant precipitation away from California throughout the fall. As has been the case over the past several years, California enters the holiday season with over 90 percent of the state experiencing abnormally dry conditions. Water managers remain hopeful that the recent patterns of larger late winter/spring storms will arrive to provide the snowpack needed. Above average reservoir storage is also helping keep worries and concerns among water managers at bay for now.

U.S. Drought Monitor California



November 26, 2019
(Released Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	9.22	90.78	3.31	0.01	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>11-19-2019</i>	18.55	81.45	3.59	0.01	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>08-27-2019</i>	90.94	9.06	1.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-01-2019</i>	7.77	92.23	75.17	14.12	2.10	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>10-01-2019</i>	95.29	4.71	2.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>11-27-2018</i>	0.00	100.00	83.66	18.33	3.78	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Newsom Administration Responds to BiOps

The [Newsom Administration has finally responded](#) to the federal government's proposed operational rules for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP). The federal government last month released the update to the 10-year old rules and associated environmental documents that dictate how the massive water projects can be operated. Since their release, environmentalists have been highly critical of the federal government's announcement, saying that the new rules are less protective of endangered species such as Chinook salmon and Delta smelt.

Because both the SWP and CVP projects go through endangered and threatened Chinook salmon and Delta smelt habitat, the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires in depth scientific review of how proposed project operations will affect these species. This review is detailed in lengthy documents called Biological Opinions (BiOps). Water users have been calling for an updated review incorporating more recent scientific studies of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem since the adoption of the 2008 and 2009 BiOps.

Traditionally, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) have used the same rules to operate the CVP and SWP, which run parallel to each other and each have pumping facilities in the South Delta. For the first time ever, [DWR is developing their own operating rules](#) to run the SWP as they are unhappy with the Bureau's new rules. Governor Newsom and DWR had hinted at this unprecedented action earlier this year, but made it official last week when they released a 600 page [draft environmental impact report](#) that begins to lay out how DWR proposes to operate the SWP in a way that will meet the requirements of the California Endangered Species Act and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Most are still reviewing the lengthy technical document to determine exactly how DWR's plan will differ from Bureau's plan, but SWP water users are concerned that DWR could develop more stringent operational rules that will over compensate for Bureau's differing approach, resulting in greatly reduced water deliveries for SWP contractors. For now, however, there are some key notes to be taken from the Draft EIR, most notably that the proposed project is proposed to be very similarly operated as the federal CVP and would "result in less than significant impacts" on aquatic biological resources and water quality. Some are starting to wonder why the Newsom Administration is so distraught by the BiOps when their own Draft EIR is so similar. More to come as the details emerge.

In addition to this announcement, the state also announced that they will be suing the federal government over the Biological Opinions on the grounds that the BiOps will fail to adequately protect ESA listed species affected by CVP operations. The 2008 and 2009 BiOps were also mired in years of litigation, so lawsuits over the most recent BiOps do not come as a surprise. The state has not yet formally filed the lawsuit, so it is unclear whether or not they will be seeking an injunction on the federal government's new operating rules that could go into effect for the current water year.

In the wake of these two actions by the Newsom Administration, many have called into question the viability of the voluntary agreements that the state has been attempting to broker with water users and other stakeholders affected by the State Water Resources Control Board's ongoing efforts to update the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan. The parties to the voluntary agreements are both CVP and SWP contractors, and so there is speculation that the uncertainty created by the state's actions against the federal government will be too much to overcome as negotiations continue.

OEHHA “Human Right to Water” Mapping Tool Causing Concern

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) recently released an online mapping tool designed to help implement the state’s “human right to water” policy. The tool, and associated report, are the first step toward developing a baseline “from which to comprehensively track challenges in water quality, accessibility, and affordability that individual California water systems face,” according to the report.

ACWA and CMUA have raised concerns that the tool and report have technical issues and have urged OEHHA hold a public meeting to discuss comments prior to finalization of the report. Additionally, they would like the raw data used in the creation of the tool, and an ongoing collaboration process to address future changes. Finally, they raised significant concern about the “exposure subcomponent” indicator in the tool. They note that the indicator “does not accurately represent water quality contamination at the household tap.”

Ocean Protection Council Releases Plan to Eliminate Ocean Discharge

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) released a [draft 5 year plan](#) recently, which includes a provision to set a target date by 2022 for phasing out coastal discharges into the ocean, with the intent of achieving an 80-100% reduction in ocean discharges by 2040, in conjunction with the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards (see pages 17-18). The goal is included as part of Objective 1.2 which seeks to “Minimize Causes and Impacts of Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia.” The draft plan was up for adoption November 13th, but after significant pushback from statewide agencies including CASA, WaterReuse, ACWA and CMUA, the OPC decided to make the November hearing “information only.” They will consider the plan for adoption in February.

In the interim, the water agencies listed above will be engaging with the OPC to talk about this very ambitious goal.

PSPS Hearing

The Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee recently held a marathon eight hour hearing on Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). In a rare move underscoring the issue’s importance, the leader of the Senate pro Tem Toni Atkins, attended the hearing and made opening comments, even though she does not sit on the Senate Energy Committee. Additionally, she published an op-ed prior to the hearing titled “[California needs an action plan to confront wildfires and provide reliable electricity](#).” The committee hearing was also open to all Senators, even those who do not sit on the committee and was well attended by numerous Senators and even a few Assemblymembers. In addition, the Governor sent his top advisors to testify — again demonstrating that this is one of — if not his top — priorities.

The most captivating moment of the hearing was when PG&E’s CEO, Bill Johnson, faced the panel of Senators. While several of the Senators grilled him on the company’s handling of PSPSs, the panel of Senators didn’t appear to have a consistent set of thoughts about what to do next. Most explicit was Senate Pro Tem Atkins, who urged the development of a comprehensive action plan.

State officials — including high-level members of the Governor’s team — outlined a host of problems stemming from PSPS events, especially poor stakeholder coordination. It was plainly clear all impacted stakeholders — ranging from local governments to businesses — have a very dim view of a utility choosing to utilize a PSPS. Senator Mike McGuire summarized it nicely: People are exhausted, and they deserve better. There was not much positive said about using PSPSs. There appeared to be broad agreement that PSPSs cannot be a long-term solution.

Several themes emerged as potential legislation for 2020.

- ***Grid hardening as a long-term solution.*** Legislators were eager to talk about and ask questions about grid hardening efforts. The IOUs each discussed their hardening efforts, such as targeted undergrounding, installing covered conductors and new sectionalizing equipment, and positioned them as long-term solutions that will help avoid the need to initiate PSPS events. The Senate Pro Tem said a realistic timeline for grid hardening is needed. It wouldn't be surprising to see legislation to hold IOUs accountable for their grid hardening efforts.
- ***Legislators are highly interested in backup generation, particularly distributed energy resources (DERs) and microgrids.*** The issue of customer backup generation was brought up time and time again, and each IOU said it is open to looking at microgrids and DERs as solutions.

Edison senior VP of transmission and distribution defended use of PSPS and system upgrades. Like SDG&E's COO, the Edison executive discussed the utility's sectionalizing devices and grid hardening efforts. In particular, Edison is installing more than 10,000 fast-acting fuses and has four sectionalizing devices on each circuit, so the utility doesn't have to shut off the entire line. At the height of the PSPS event that Southern California Edison (SCE) initiated, only two percent of customers were without power. The Edison executive defended PSPS, saying that it serves a vital purpose: Safety patrols after the PSPS revealed branches on lines that could have sparked fires.

There are expected to be more hearings when the legislature comes back in January.

Legislative Update

November was a quiet month in the Capitol. With members back in their districts and all final action on bills taken by the Governor in October, there isn't much to report on the legislative front. Attention is slowly turning to new bill ideas for January. Discussions of a water bond continue, but remain very general as stakeholders await the release of the Water Resilience Portfolio, which will likely serve as an outline for water bond discussions.

IEUA BILL POSITIONS—October 31, 2019--- FINAL 2019 ACTION

Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary	IEUA Position
AB 292	Quirk WateReuse	Recycled water: raw water and groundwater augmentation	This bill would eliminate the definition of “direct potable reuse” and instead would substitute the term “groundwater augmentation” for “indirect potable reuse for groundwater recharge” in these definitions. The bill would revise the definition of “treated drinking water augmentation.”	SUPPORT 2-year bill
AB 405	Rubio	Sales and use taxes: exemption: water treatment	Would exempt from Sales and Use Tax the gross receipts from the sale in this state of, and the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of, chemicals used to treat water, recycled water, or wastewater regardless of whether those chemicals or other agents become a component part thereof and regardless of whether the treatment takes place before or after the delivery to consumers.	SUPPORT Held in Approps
AB 533	Holden MWD	Income taxes: exclusion: water conservation or efficiency programs: water runoff management improvement programs	This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, and before January 1, 2024, would provide an exclusion from gross income for any amount received as a rebate, voucher, or other financial incentive issued by a water service provider for any water conservation or efficiency program or water runoff management improvement program, as provided.	SUPPORT Held in Approps
AB 557	Wood	Atmospheric Rivers: Research, Mitigation, and Climate Forecasting Program	Would appropriate \$9,250,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Water Resources in the 2019–20 fiscal year to operate the Atmospheric Rivers: Research, Mitigation, and Climate Forecasting Program.	SUPPORT Held in Approps
AB 654	Rubio	Public records: utility customers: disclosure of personal information	Would authorize a local agency to disclose the name, utility usage data, and home address of utility customers to an officer or employee of another governmental agency when the disclosure is not necessary for the performance of the other governmental agency’s official duties but is to be used for scientific, educational, or research purposes, and the requesting agency receiving the disclosed material agrees to maintain it as confidential in accordance with specified criteria.	SUPPORT 2- year bill

AB 756	Christina Garcia	Public water systems: perfluoroalkyl substances and polyfluoroalkyl substances.	Would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to order a public water system to monitor for perfluoroalkyl substances and polyfluoroalkyl substances. The bill would require a community water system or a nontransient noncommunity water system, upon a detection of these substances, to report that detection, as specified. The bill would require a community water system or a nontransient noncommunity water system where a detected level of these substances exceeds the response level to take a water source where the detected levels exceed the response level out of use or provide a prescribed public notification.	OPPOSE Signed by Governor
AB 841	Ting	Drinking water: contaminants: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances	Would require the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to adopt and complete a work plan within prescribed timeframes to assess which substances in the class of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances should be identified as a potential risk to human health, as provided. The bill would require the office, as part of those assessments, to determine which of the substances are appropriate candidates for notification levels to be adopted by the state board. The bill would require the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, by January 1, 2022, to provide to the Legislature an update on the assessment.	SUPPORT 2- Year Bill
AB 1180	Friedman WateReuse	Recycled Water	The California Safe Drinking Water Act requires the State Water Resources Control Board to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health. Current law requires, on or before January 1, 2020, the state board to adopt standards for backflow protection and cross-connection control through the adoption of a policy handbook, as specified. This bill would require that handbook to include provisions for the use of a swivel or changeover device to supply potable water to a dual-plumbed system during an interruption in recycled water service.	SUPPORT Chaptered

AB 1194	Frazier	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Delta Stewardship Council	Would increase the membership of the Delta Stewardship Council to 13 members, including 11 voting members and 2 nonvoting members	OPPOSE 2-year bill
AB 1204	Rubio ACWA	Public water systems: primary drinking water standards: implementation date.	Would require the adoption or amendment of a primary drinking water standard for a contaminant in drinking water not regulated by a federal primary drinking water standard or that is more stringent than a federal primary drinking water standard to take effect 3 years after the date on which the state board adopts or amends the primary drinking water standard. The bill would authorize the state board to delay the effective date of the primary drinking water standard adoption or amendment by no more than 2 additional years as necessary for capital improvements to comply with a maximum contaminant level or treatment technique.	SUPPORT 2-year bill
AB 1588	Gloria	Drinking water and wastewater operator certification programs	Current law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to issue a water treatment operator certificate and water distribution operator certificate by reciprocity to any person holding a valid, unexpired, comparable certification issued by another state, the United States, prescribed territories or tribal governments, or a unit of any of these. Current law requires the board to classify types of wastewater treatment plants for the purpose of determining the levels of competence necessary to operate them. This bill would require the board to evaluate opportunities to issue a water treatment operator certificate or water distribution operator certificate by reciprocity, or a wastewater certificate by examination waiver, to persons who performed duties comparable to those duties while serving in the United States military, as specified.	SUPPORT Signed by Governor
AB 1672	Bloom CASA	Product labeling: flushable products	Current law regulates the labeling requirements on various consumer products. This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to prohibit the sale or advertisement of any nonwoven disposable product labeled as "flushable" or "sewer and septic safe" if that product fails to meet specified performance standards.	SUPPORT 2-Year Bill

ACA 1	Aguilar-Curry	Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval	The California Constitution prohibits the ad valorem tax rate on real property from exceeding 1% of the full cash value of the property, subject to certain exceptions. This measure would create an additional exception to the 1% limit that would authorize a city, county, city and county, or special district to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing, or the acquisition or lease of real property for those purposes, if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of the voters of the city, county, or city and county, as applicable, and the proposition includes specified accountability requirements.	SUPPORT Assembly Floor- first vote failed, can be acted upon Jan 2020
SB 1	Atkins Defenders of Wildlife	California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act of 2019	Current state law regulates the discharge of air pollutants into the atmosphere. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act regulates the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the state. The California Safe Drinking Water Act establishes standards for drinking water and regulates drinking water systems. The California Endangered Species Act requires the Fish and Game Commission to establish a list of endangered species and a list of threatened species, and generally prohibits the taking of those species. This bill would require specified agencies to take prescribed actions regarding certain federal requirements and standards pertaining to air, water, and protected species, as specified.	OPOSE UNLESS AMENDED VETOED
SB 200	Monning	Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund	Would establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury to help water systems provide an adequate and affordable supply of safe drinking water in both the near and the long term. The bill would authorize the board to provide for the deposit into the fund of federal contributions, voluntary contributions, gifts, grants, and bequests and would provide that moneys in the fund are available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the board to fund grants, loans, contracts, or services to assist eligible recipients.	SUPPORT Chaptered

SB 204	Dodd Delta Interests	State Water Project: Contracts	Would require the Department of Water Resources to provide at least 10 days' notice to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and relevant policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature before holding public sessions to negotiate any potential amendment of a long-term water supply contract that is of project-wide significance with substantially similar terms intended to be offered to all contractors, or that would permanently transfer a contractual water amount between contractors.	WATCH 2- year bill
SB 307	Roth National Parks Conservation Association	Water conveyance: use of facility with unused capacity	This bill would prohibit a transferor of water from using a water conveyance facility that has unused capacity to transfer water from a groundwater basin underlying desert lands, as defined, that is in the vicinity of specified federal lands or state lands to outside of the groundwater basin unless the State Lands Commission, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, finds that the transfer of the water will not adversely affect the natural or cultural resources of those federal and state lands.	OPPOSE Chaptered
SB 332	Hertzberg NRDC	Ocean Discharge	Would declare, except in compliance with the bill's provisions, that the discharge of treated wastewater from ocean outfalls is a waste and unreasonable use of water. The bill would require each wastewater treatment facility that discharges through an ocean outfall and affiliated water suppliers to reduce the facility's annual flow as compared to the average annual wastewater discharge baseline volume, as prescribed, by at least 50% on or before January 1, 2030, and by at least 95% on or before January 1, 2040. The bill would subject the owner or operator of a wastewater treatment facility, as well as the affiliated water suppliers, to a civil penalty of \$2,000 per acre-foot of water above the required reduction in overall volume discharge for the failure to meet these deadlines.	OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED Held in Approps
SB 414	Caballero	Small System Water Authority Act of 2019	Would create the Small System Water Authority Act of 2019 and state legislative findings and declarations relating to authorizing the creation of small system water authorities that will have powers to absorb, improve, and competently operate noncompliant public water systems. The bill, no later than March 1, 2020, would require the	SUPPORT 2- year bill

	<i>Eastern MWD/ CMUA</i>		<i>state board to provide written notice to cure to all public agencies, private water companies, or mutual water companies that operate a public water system that has either less than 3,000 service connections or that serves less than 10,000 people, and are not in compliance, for the period from July 1, 2018, through December 31, 2019, with one or more state or federal primary drinking water standard maximum contaminant levels, as specified.</i>	
<i>SB 667</i>	<i>Hueso</i>		<i>Would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to develop, on or before January 1, 2021, and would authorize the department to amend, a 5-year needs assessment to support innovation and technological and infrastructure development, in order to meet specified organic waste reduction and recycling targets, as provided. The bill would require, on or before June 1, 2021, the department, in coordination with the Treasurer and the California Pollution Control Financing Authority, to develop financial incentive mechanisms, including, among other mechanisms, loans and incentive payments, to fund and accelerate public and private capital towards organic waste diversion and recycling infrastructure.</i>	<i>SUPPORT IF AMENDED</i> <i>2-year bill</i>
<i>SB 669</i>	<i>Caballero</i> <i>ACWA/CMUA</i>	<i>Safe Drinking Water Trust</i>	<i>Would establish the Safe 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 state board to administer the fund to assist community water systems in disadvantaged communities that are chronically noncompliant relative to the federal and state drinking water standards and do not have the financial capacity to pay for operation and maintenance costs to comply with those standards, as specified.</i>	<i>Held in Approps</i>
<i>AJR 8</i>	<i>Quirk</i>	<i>Invasive species: federal Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003</i>	<i>Would urge the United States Congress to specifically add California to the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 and to authorize an appropriation of \$4,000,000 to help the state implement a nutria eradication program.</i>	<i>SUPPORT</i> <i>Chaptered</i>

**INFORMATION
ITEM
2C**

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Comprehensive Government Relations

MEMORANDUM

To: IEUA Community & Legislative Affairs Committee

From: Letitia White, Jean Denton, Drew Tatum, Shavenor Winters

Date: November 29, 2019

Re: November Monthly Legislative Update

Congress Passes Legislation to Avoid Shutdown, President Signs

President Donald Trump signed a four-week spending bill on Thursday, November 21 before a continuing resolution (CR) that had been in effect expired, putting off a possible government shutdown until December 20.

The Senate cleared the measure earlier Thursday in a 74- 20 vote, after it passed the House on a 231-192 vote Tuesday, November 19.

The stopgap measure is necessary because Congress has yet to complete action on the 12 annual spending bills needed to keep agencies operating during the current fiscal year that began on October 1, 2019.

During debate on the CR, the Senate rejected an attempt by Senator Rand Paul, a Republican from Kentucky, to cut the level of spending under the bill by 1 percent and to direct the savings toward highway and environmental spending.

The measure approved by Congress extends through March 15 the elements of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that are set to expire on December 15.

The measure also keeps the Export-Import Bank open until December 20 as lawmakers attempt to negotiate a long-term re-authorization of the export finance agency. It gives members of the military a 3.1% pay increase, allows the Census to spend more money and averts a funding cliff for transportation spending next year. Community health centers and other health programs also receive funding through December 20.

House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) had made negotiating the 302(b) subcommittee allocation topline numbers a top priority over the last several weeks, but a final agreement was not reached until Saturday, November 24.

The final agreement has not been made public, and likely will not be until individual bills or minibus appropriations packages are released. Chairwoman Lowey and Chairman Shelby have said that the major sticking points, such as how to address funding for the southern border, will

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be debated by the subcommittees. Any issues that have not been resolved by December 6th are to be passed back to the full committee front offices.

Among the most problematic issues that remains outstanding is how much funding, if any, to provide for a southern border wall in the Homeland Security Appropriations bill and how to backfill funds in the Military Construction-VA Appropriations bill that have been diverted to pay for the wall in the current fiscal year.

With an agreement in place on topline spending numbers, many appropriations subcommittee chairmen have expressed optimism that their subcommittees will be able to finalize their spending bills in a matter of weeks. Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) said that his subcommittee, the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, should have its bill finalized before the current CR expires on December 20.

While Senator Blunt and others have expressed optimism that their spending bills will be completed, another CR will likely be necessary to allow some of the more controversial bills to be finalized. Additionally, the House and Senate have a handshake agreement that they will not bring large omnibus appropriations packages to the floor. With a compressed floor schedule remaining in December, the House and Senate will only have three working weeks to complete work before the CR expires.

Any bills that cannot be completed before that time will likely be funded into the new year by a CR that is attached to the last appropriations bill to move before the end of the calendar year.

Senate Holds Hearing on Section 401 of Clean Water Act

In late November, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing to analyze S. 1087, the Water Quality Certification Improvement Act of 2019, and other potential reforms to the implementation of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires that an applicant for a federal license or permit provide a certification that any discharges from the facility will comply with the act, including state-established water quality standard requirements.

In his opening statements, Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman John Barrasso (R-WY) stated that Section 401 was created to give states a seat at the table, but recently states have “weaponized” the provision to stop energy projects from moving forward.

Witnesses and members in support of S.1087 stated that the legislation seeks to establish a modernized approach to Section 401- to reduce uncertainty and prevent misuse. Opponents of the legislation maintain that the measure would erode states’ rights to benefit special interests.

Concerns that stemmed around EPA’s proposed rule include restricting the time that states must make 401 decisions and grant federal agencies veto authority over state decisions. A point of disagreement centered on what role states versus federal government should play.

House Judiciary Committee Approves Marijuana Legalization Bill

The House Judiciary Committee passed a bill Wednesday, November 27 that would effectively make marijuana legal.

The Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act of 2019 advanced out of committee by a vote of 24-10.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, introduced the bill and has gathered more than 50 co-sponsors of the bill in the House.

Under the MORE Act, marijuana would be removed from the Controlled Substances Act, federally legalizing cannabis across the country. Additionally, past federal cannabis criminal convictions would be required to be expunged.

The bill would also establish the Cannabis Justice Office, an organization that would introduce a 5 percent tax on state-legal cannabis sales, among other things. Marijuana -related businesses, such as dispensaries, would be able to apply for loans and grants through the Small Business Administration.

Moreover, Veterans Affairs doctors would be allowed to prescribe medical marijuana in accordance with individual state cannabis laws.

The vote marks the first time that a congressional committee has voted in approval of the legalization of marijuana.

Senate Panel Approves Trump Energy Nominees

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, through bipartisan support, approved two of President Trump's energy nominees on Tuesday, November 26.

The committee voted 16-4 for Dan Brouillette to replace Rick Perry as Secretary of the Energy Department, with five Democrats crossing over to join Republicans in approving him. Brouillette is currently the deputy energy secretary, working as Perry's second-in-command.

The Committee also advanced the nomination of James Danly as a Republican commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) by 12-8 vote. Danly has been the FERC general counsel since 2017 and is a former lawyer at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.

Their nominations will now be considered before the full Senate, where they are both expected to be confirmed. This week Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell(R-KY) filed cloture on Brouillette's nomination and the full Senate is scheduled to vote on cloture on his nomination on Monday, December 2, with a final confirmation vote expected the following day.

The committee also approved Katharine MacGregor to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior Department, the second-in-command position to Secretary David Bernhardt.

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Anti-Robocall Agreement Reached

House and Senate negotiators reached an agreement on bipartisan legislation to combat illegal robocalls and anticipate a vote on the measure this year.

The House and Senate passed separate legislation earlier this year with broad bipartisan support, and staff have been working since August to reach agreement on provisions from the two anti-robocall bills.

The Senate in May passed the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence (TRACED) Act (S. 151) by a vote of 97-1. The House in July passed the Stopping Bad Robocalls Act (H.R. 3375) in a 429-3 vote.

The House is expected to soon take up the amended Senate bill, and the Senate would then vote on the House-passed version. The earlier bipartisan support indicates the revised measure could clear both chambers.

Nearly 47.8 billion robocalls were made in 2018, an increase of 17 billion over the previous year. These are often illegal phone calls that can lead to scams of consumers. The bill would require phone carriers to implement call authentication technology so consumers can trust caller identification.

The legislation would also increase the authority for the Federal Communications Commission and law enforcement to go after people who intentionally flout telemarketing restrictions.

Impeachment Inquiry Enters New Phase

The impeachment inquiry into alleged wrongdoings by President Donald Trump entered a new phase during the week of November 11 with the first public hearings in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

In a memo on hearing procedures sent to House members prior to the hearing, Chairman Adam Schiff (D-CA) said that he would not allow lawmakers to use the sessions to pursue questions about the “sham investigations” that Trump is accused of pressuring Ukraine to conduct. “Nor will the committee facilitate any efforts by President Trump or his allies to threaten, intimidate, or retaliate against the whistle-blower” whose complaint led to the investigation, he wrote.

The House adopted a new set of rules for the Trump impeachment inquiry that shifted most of the focus to the House Intelligence Committee first rather than the Judiciary Committee where past impeachments have originated.

Democrats are attempting to make a case that Trump put pressure on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to conduct investigations targeting former vice president Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden’s ties to a Ukrainian company, Burisma Holdings, and into a conspiracy theory that Ukraine, not Russia, had interfered in the 2016 U.S. election.

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They contend Trump sought to leverage an Oval Office meeting desired by Zelenskiy and the release of nearly \$400 million in U.S. military assistance to Ukraine to get a commitment to open investigations into those subjects.

Republicans argue no such investigations were undertaken by Ukraine and the aid was released. Additionally, Republicans noted that none of the witnesses that have publicly testified to date have direct knowledge of the alleged request for an investigation, nor were they on the phone during a phone call between the two leaders.

The House has signaled that the inquiry could be over before the end of the year, with a potential vote on the articles of impeachment sometime in December.

The House Intelligence Committee has likely finished its part of the investigation with Chairman Schiff indicating that while he was open to additional depositions or open hearings, work had already begun on the report ahead of Thanksgiving. Schiff has indicated the report will be transferred to the Judiciary Committee shortly after lawmakers return from their Thanksgiving recess.

Once that report is completed, it will be sent to the House Judiciary Committee which will decide whether or not to send articles of impeachment to the floor. The Judiciary Committee has already announced its first public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, December 4 titled: The Impeachment Inquiry into President Donald J. Trump: Constitutional Grounds for Presidential Impeachment.

The hearing on Wednesday aims to explain high crimes and misdemeanors, the constitutional grounds for impeachment, and how the evidence collected by numerous House committees applies. Nadler sent Trump a letter notifying him of the hearing and giving him until Sunday, December 1 to say whether he or his attorney plan to participate. Officials who briefed reporters said that no final decision has been made on whether to push for testimony from witnesses who have so far refused to appear.

The White House this week said it's reviewing the invitation to testify. White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham made the comment in an emailed statement and reiterated that Trump hasn't done anything wrong.

If the House does pass articles of impeachment, it would also need to hold a separate vote to send them to the Senate and to appoint "messengers" to try the case in the Senate on behalf of the House.

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr (R-NC) predicted the Senate's handling of potential articles of impeachment could take up to two months and should the House vote to impeach the President the Senate would likely begin its trial in January with an approximate timeline of 5-6 weeks of consideration.

Unless new rules are agreed to, the Senate would be in session six days per week with the trial beginning a noon daily. Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) has said he expects Senate

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Democrats who are seeking the party's nomination for president to be present every day of the trial, noting that their constitutional duties came first. A protracted Senate trial could take those members off the campaign trail for weeks.

House Committee Approved Far-Reaching PFAS Package

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce approved a legislative package late November 20 that would radically change the way the federal government regulates “forever chemicals” known as PFAS. The legislation, H.R. 535, combines 12 different bills and passed 31-19, largely on party lines.

Two Republicans, Representative Fred Upton (R-MI) and David McKinley (R-WV) crossed party lines to support the legislation.

The consolidated version of H.R. 535 would place these chemicals on the Superfund hazards substances list from the Environmental Protection Agency, force the agency to set nationwide drinking water standards for PFAS, and block companies from producing new chemicals in this class.

PFAS, also known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are nonstick agents used to make some cookware and are also found in firefighting foam. They have seeped into groundwater aquifers in many areas and are very difficult to remediate.

Committee Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-OR) said he is concerned about the potential consequences for industry if all PFAS are regulated as a single group and expressed concerns that the package would not move in the Senate.

“We still have significant concerns and we know this package will not make it into law,” Walden said. “Let’s not politicize this critical environmental issue.”

Walden opposed the measure’s attempt to regulate PFAS under the Superfund law by triggering a “hazardous” designation under the Clean Air Act. He also said the legislation would hamper efforts to find alternatives to the most concerning chemicals in the class.

Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI) said the committee’s Democratic leaders made a “good faith” effort to address Republican concerns, and that many of the provisions have “good, bipartisan support.”

“While I am disappointed that we did not get a deal in time for today’s markup, I am going to remain optimistic,” Dingell said.

Republicans sought to include a measure that would set drinking water standards for the two most studied PFAS chemicals— perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). Neither are still manufactured in the United States but can leak into surface waters and groundwater from landfills and other areas.

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The EPA also said it would to release this month a notice of proposed rulemaking on adding PFOA and PFOS to the list of hazardous substances under the Superfund program, a month behind its prior schedule. That's according to the White House's biannual regulatory agenda out on November 20.

The Republican measure would also require water utilities to monitor unregulated PFAS and allow for a five-year grace period before enforcement actions could begin. It would have mandated reporting of new PFAS on the Toxics Release Inventory and as well as regulation of new long-chain chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act.

House Energy and Commerce Chairman Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ) panned the measure, saying the standard wouldn't be protective enough of children, wouldn't ban incineration of PFAS, and wouldn't provide guidance for firefighters who use PFAS-containing firefighting foam.

Upton, who broke with his party to back the Democratic package, also supported the Republican amendment because it had a better chance of becoming law.

"We don't want to end up with an empty cup of water," Upton said. "We'd rather have half a glass than none of it."

Many of the provisions in H.R. 535 are also included in an annual defense authorization bill that has passed both the House and Senate.

Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA), Chairman of the House Armed Services committee, said that lawmakers are torn over whether to add PFAS to the Superfund hazardous substances list. Doing this could force the Pentagon to pay potentially billions of dollars to clean up sites where firefighting activity on military bases caused PFAS contamination.

EPA Announces Availability of \$4.8 Million in PFAS Research Funding

At the 2019 Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau on November 22, 2019, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Regional Administrator Ken McQueen announced the availability of \$4.8 million in funding to expand research on managing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in rural America and the agricultural sector.

EPA says this funding is part of its extensive efforts to help communities address the larger issue of PFAS nationwide. In a memorandum issued in February 2019, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler called for the agency to prioritize new federal research that will help farmers, ranchers, and rural communities by generating new scientifically-driven information on PFAS, potential PFAS impacts in agricultural settings, and actions people can take to address PFAS in their communities.

"EPA is following through on our commitment under the PFAS Action Plan and the memo to close the gaps in the science around PFAS as quickly as possible by supporting cutting-edge research that will help manage PFAS issues in agricultural and rural economies," said EPA

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Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “We want to make sure that decision makers at the federal, state, and local levels have the best science available to make informed decisions. These new research grants will help identify potential impacts of PFAS to farms, ranches and rural communities.”

“While our scientific understanding of PFAS continues to develop, the people of New Mexico, especially farmers and ranchers, already know how it can affect the water resources that are so critical to the state’s environmental and economic wellbeing,” said Regional Administrator Ken McQueen. “With this funding, EPA is committing to finding solutions to the challenges PFAS presents and bringing relief to rural communities.”

EPA is seeking grant applications that help improve the agency’s understanding of the potential impacts of PFAS on water quality and availability in rural communities and agricultural operations across the United States. Specifically, the agency is seeking research on PFAS occurrence, fate, and transport in water sources used by rural communities and agricultural operations and new or improved PFAS treatment methods appropriate for small drinking water and wastewater systems including influents, effluents, and biosolids/residuals. Some of the questions EPA hopes to answer include:

How do serial biosolids applications impact PFAS concentrations and accumulation over time?
What are the impacts of factors such as soil type, crop type, and landscape traits, such as topography, that may influence PFAS concentration and accumulation?
How do we treat and clean up PFAS from water, soil and biosolids used in agricultural settings?

EPA is accepting applications through February 11, 2020.

EPA Defends “Secret Science” Rule

An EPA official defended the agency’s proposed “secret science” rule but declined to answer questions about the basis for the rule, which has drawn criticism from environmental groups and other agency watchers in an appearance before the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee on Wednesday, November 13.

Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, principal deputy assistant administrator for science at the Environmental Protection Agency and a career employee with a doctorate in wildlife science and public health, testified before the committee.

The EPA’s April 2018 proposal, also known as the “secret science” rule, would bar the EPA from using scientific research that isn’t or can’t be made public, marking a change from the EPA’s decades-old approach to using science in rulemaking. Under a proposed tiered approach, the EPA would use different strategies for handling individuals’ data based on varying disclosure risks.

Democrats grilled her about a leaked draft of the EPA’s Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science proposal (RIN:2080-AA14), in which the agency said its authority for

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issuing the rule stems from the Federal Housekeeping Statute, which authorizes heads of federal agencies to issue regulations on their internal governance and operations.

Critics have said the proposal is a bid to sideline the science that the EPA uses in regulations, because the agency wouldn't be able to rely on epidemiological studies that often rely on private medical information.

In the leaked draft, first reported by the New York Times, the EPA referenced language from the housekeeping statute that says the head of an executive department “may prescribe regulations for the government of his department, the conduct of its employees, the distribution and performance of its business, and the custody, use, and preservation of its records, papers, and property.”

Several Democrats said they didn't understand how that language gives the EPA the authority to issue the proposal.

Orme-Zavaleta said those questions are beyond her area of expertise and offered to provide fuller answers later.

She also said that draft isn't the most current version of the proposal, which was submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review on November 8. She neither confirmed nor denied that the language about the housekeeping statute is included in the latest version.

Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK), the panel's ranking member, said the hearing was “about attacking the EPA under the current administration,” and questioned why Congress was scrutinizing the proposal when it's still being finalized.

The EPA is working on a supplemental proposal, to be appended to the original “secret science” proposal and set to be released in early 2020, in response to some 600,000 comments the agency has received about the plan.

According to her testimony, the rule wouldn't be applied retroactively.

BLM Reaffirms Commitment to Fast Tracking Major Projects, Continues Move West

In a Thanksgiving note to staff, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Acting Director William Pendley said he was thankful for the agency's achievements, including changes to the environmental review process that allows for fast-tracking of major projects on public lands.

Projects on government land like logging, mining, and pipelines cannot proceed without an environmental impact statement (EIS) — something critics have said unnecessarily slow down projects as government experts weigh how it would impact the environment and ecosystem.

The Trump administration has vowed to speed the process.

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“The average EIS once ran for 1,485 pages and took over four years to complete. This year, those numbers dropped to 151 pages within 15 months. Similarly, the average [environmental assessment] length prior to 2017 was 42 pages written over one year. This year, those numbers dropped to 27 pages in just three months,” Pendley wrote of “streamlining the environmental review process.”

Environmentalists have complained that the Trump administration is speeding ahead on reviews without doing their due diligence.

In 2017, the Department of the Interior, which oversees BLM, announced a new process for doing environmental reviews, centralizing the process with some of the highest-level staff at Interior. Those who review National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses include the chief of staff, the deputy secretary, and the deputy solicitor for Interior.

The move has broad support from industry and entities constructing projects under BLM authority.

In other Bureau of Land Management (BLM) efforts, employees were given reassignment letters Tuesday, November 12 as the agency marches forward with its relocation Westbound relocation, giving staff 30 days to accept the move or face being booted from the federal workforce.

The delivery of the letters means BLM employees will begin moving over the next four months, cementing a controversial plan that spreads about 300 Washington-based staffers across various offices out West and leaves just 61 of the bureau's 10,000 employees in the nation's capital.

The Public Lands Foundation, a group of BLM retirees, said the agency "will be effectively kneecapped" by the relocation as teams are split up and spread across different offices.

The letter suggests that employees who do not choose to move could lose their jobs. Current BLM employees said the agency has not done enough to help employees who wish to remain in D.C. find another job elsewhere within the Department of the Interior as promised.

"If you do not accept this directed geographic reassignment, you may be subject to a removal from federal service," the letter reads.

In other emails and appearances, BLM Acting Chief William Pendley has been less direct, instead focusing on a desire to retain current staff as the agency shifts resources west.

At an appearance before the House Natural Resources Committee in September, Pendley said BLM would help those who do not want to take "more fulfilling jobs out West" by finding them roles elsewhere within Interior.

In response, Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, sent two letters Thursday, November 14 asking for answers about the Interior Department's (DOI) anticipated plan to ship the majority of its Washington, D.C.-based Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employees to new offices in the West.

In his letter to Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, Grijalva asks for the analysis and documents justifying the move, which critics argue could silence career employees by moving them further away from the political action in the nation's capital.

In a separate letter, Grijalva also asked the Government Accountability Office to look into the process that Interior is using to move its employees, with a specific emphasis on how congressional funding is being used, how staff were consulted and whether their goals are actually in line with their stated reasoning.

House Seeks to Expand EV, Solar Tax Incentives

House Ways and Means Democrats called for the expansion of an electric vehicle tax credit and the extension of tax credits for solar energy in a draft package released November 19.

The package is meant to open the door for industry feedback—it already has support from energy groups like the Alliance to Save Energy, according to a release. Democrats hope to fine tune the measure once they get buy-in from industries involved. The package does not include details of how to pay for the expanded incentives.

Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA), chairman of the Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, said the package is a “starting point.”

“We are waiting to hear back from my colleagues both on the committee and off the committee who have an interest in this. And from outside stakeholders,” he said.

The push will now begin to include some of these energy provisions in a year-end tax bill that could be attached to must-pass legislation. The bill's expansion of the electric vehicle credit and battery storage credits, and its extension of credit for offshore wind facilities have the best chance of ending up in year-end legislation.

Currently a \$7,500-per-vehicle credit for electric vehicles begins to phase down once a manufacturer sells 200,000 vehicles. Tesla and General Motors have already surpassed the 200,000-vehicle threshold. The bill would make a \$7,000-per-vehicle credit available for vehicles sold above that limit, up to 600,000.

Senate Finance Committee member Bill Cassidy (R-LA) raised concerns about an expansion of the electric vehicle tax credit in remarks made on November 19.

“You have to realize that electric car vehicles are being bought by the well-off and being subsidized by those who are less well off,” he said.

The measure would extend through 2024 a credit for electricity produced from renewable energy sources, such as qualified hydropower, and a 30% investment tax credit for solar energy property, a perk that would be phased down in later years. The measure would also extend for

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one year a credit for carbon oxide sequestration facilities that begin construction before the end of 2024.

A credit for wind energy would be preserved at 60% for 2018 and 40% for 2019 and extended through 2024 at 60%.

A credit for biodiesel at \$1 per gallon would be extended through 2021, before phasing out through 2024.

Bill Number (linked to the legislation on Congress.gov)	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
n/a		Status of the 12 annual appropriations bills in the House	<p>The House has passed 10 of its 12 annual appropriations bills in three pieces of legislation. The first 9 passed in 2 separate minibus packages and the final bill went on its own.</p> <p>The two remaining bills have advanced through the House Appropriations Committee and await action by the full House.</p>	<p>H.R.2740, First minibus (passed 226 - 203): Defense; Energy and Water: Labor-HHS; and State-Foreign Operations.</p> <p>H.R.3055, Second minibus (passed 227 - 194): Agriculture; Commerce-Justice-Science; Military Construction - VA; Interior-Environment; and Transportation-HUD.</p> <p>H.R.3351, Stand alone legislation (passed 224-196): Financial Services.</p> <p>Not yet completed: Homeland Security and Legislative Branch.</p>
n/a		Status of the 12 annual appropriations bills in the Senate	The Senate has not yet introduced or passed any of its twelve annual appropriations bills.	<p>In total the Senate Appropriations Committee has advanced ten of its twelve bills, leaving only the Military Construction-VA and Labor-HHS bills to be advanced by the Committee.</p> <p>On September 18 the Senate attempted to begin consideration of the first House minibus consisting of the following appropriations bills: Defense; Energy and Water: Labor-HHS; and State-Foreign Operations. The attempt failed to gain enough votes for cloture and Senate consideration.</p> <p>During the week of October 28, Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) offered a substitute amendment allowing the Senate to use H.R. 3055- a House passed bill- as the legislative vehicle for the fiscal 2020 Commerce-Justice-Science, Agriculture-FDA, Interior-Environment, and</p>
H.R. 1695	Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)	Community Services Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2019	The legislation would amend the Community Services Block Grant Act to reauthorize and modernize the Act.	<p>The measure was introduced in the House on March 12, 2019 to the House Committee on Education and Labor.</p> <p>The legislation has bipartisan cosponsorship.</p>
S. 2356	Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN)	Define WOTUS Act of 2019	The measure would create a new WOTUS definition the void the previous Obama era definition that is currently	The legislation was introduced on July 31 and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.
H.R. 1764	Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)	The bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Act	The legislation would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to permitting terms, and for other purposes.	<p>Introduced on March 15 and then referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.</p> <p>This legislation has bipartisan cosponsorship.</p>
S. 1790	Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK)	National Defense Authorization Act, 2020 Note: Included a rider on PFAS	<p>The National Defense Authorization Act, 2020 is the annual authorization for Defense programs.</p> <p>This year, the legislation included language aimed at addressing the risks and challenges associated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This provision will ensure that the EPA sets a national drinking water standard for PFAS and PFOA. It will also require industrial manufacturers and users to notify the public when PFAS chemicals are released into the environment. The EPA will also have to issue guidance on how to dispose of and destroy PFAS. The legislation also provides authorization</p>	<p>Passed the Senate on Thursday, June 27, 2019, though an amendment vote was held the following day.</p> <p>Both chambers have proceeded to conference on their respective measures, with the House and Senate naming conferees to reconciled differences.</p> <p>Note: Senator Jim Inhofe has released a separate "skinny" authorization bill that he said could be advanced if talks break down. The new legislation does not include language related to PFAS chemicals.</p>

H.R.1497	Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR)	Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019	<p>Requires a report to Congress on the current and future workforce needs for publicly owned treatment works and information on steps taken to meet those needs.</p> <p>Reauthorizes sections of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act that provide grants to States and interstate agencies, including: State Management Assistance: Section 106(a); Watershed Pilot Projects: Section 122(c); Alternative Water Source Projects Pilot Program: Section 220(d); Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants: Section 221(f)1); and State Water Pollution Control Revolving Funds.</p> <p>Changes the length of permits for NPDES permits to not exceeding 10 years in certain circumstances.</p>	<p>Introduced on March 6 and referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment of the House Transportation Committee.</p> <p>The Committee marked up the legislation and reported it with an amendment in the nature of a substitute--expanding the scope of the legislation.</p>
H.R. 1508 / S. 146	Rep. Blumenauer (D-OR) / Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)	Move America Act of 2019	The measure would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for Move America bonds and Move America credits.	<p>The House bill was introduced on March 5 and then referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.</p> <p>Note: All tax issues are likely to be addressed as part of a larger tax package. The Ways and Means Committee is considering forming a tax extenders package, which would be the most likely venue for this legislation.</p> <p>The Senate bill was introduced in the Senate on January 16th and</p>
H.R. 1744	Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA)	S.T.O.R.A.G.E. Act (Storage Technology for Operational Readiness And Generating Energy Act) Energy Storage Systems by Electric Utilities	The bill would provide for the consideration of energy storage systems by electric utilities as part of a supply side resource process, and for other purposes.	The bill was introduced on March 13 and the referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.
H.R.1162	Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)	Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act	This legislation would create a competitive grant program for the funding of water recycling and reuse projects by raising the authorization cap for the Title XVI program from \$50 million to \$500 million. The legislation would also raise the authorization cap from \$20 million	<p>Introduced in the House on February 13.</p> <p>The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing on the legislation on June 13.</p>
H.R.579	Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO)	Water Rights Protection Act of 2019	This bill would prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and for other purposes.	<p>Introduced in the House on January 15th. Referred to the Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee of the Agriculture Committee on 2/7 and to the Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee on 2/4.</p> <p>A similar amendment was submitted to the House Rules Committee for consideration in the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill, but was</p>

H. R. 855	Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)	STRONG (Strengthening the Resiliency of our Nation on the Ground Act) Act	The bill would work to minimize the economic and social costs resulting from losses of life, property, well-being, business activity, and economic growth associated with extreme weather events by ensuring that the United States is more resilient to the impacts of extreme weather events in the short- and long-term, and for other purposes.	Introduced in the House and referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management of the House Transportation Committee on February 7th.
S. 361/H.R. 807	Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) / Rep. Ken Buck (R-CO)	Water and Agriculture Tax Reform Act of 2019	The measure would work to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency.	Introduced and referred to the Committee on Finance (Senate) and Ways and Means Committee (House).
H.R. 420	Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)	Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act	The bill would decriminalize marijuana and sets up legal framework to regulate marijuana.	Introduced in the House on January 9th and referred to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Natural Resources, and
S.420 /H.R. 1120	Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) / Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)	Marijuana Revenue and Regulation Act	A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the taxation and regulation of marijuana products, and for other purposes.	The bill was introduced in the Senate on February 7th and was referred to the Finance Committee. Introduced in the House on February 8th and was referred to the Committees on Judiciary, Agriculture, and Natural Resources.
H.R.34	Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)	Energy and Water Research Integration Act of 2019	The legislation would ensure consideration of water intensity in the Department of Energy's energy research, development, and demonstration programs to help guarantee efficient, reliable, and sustainable delivery of energy and clean water resources.	The bill was introduced in the House on January 3rd. It was marked up and ordered to be reported by the House Science and Technology Committee on May 1, 2019 and was passed by the House on July 23, 2019 by voice vote. On July 24, the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
H.R. 2313	Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)	Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act	The measure would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for certain conservation subsidies to include subsidies for water conservation or efficiency measures and storm water management measures.	The bill was introduced in the House on April 12 and then referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Note: All tax issues are likely to be addressed as part of a larger tax package. The Ways and Means Committee is considering forming a tax extenders package, which would be the most likely venue for this
H.R.1747	Rep. Rob Whittman (R-VA)	National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act	The measure aims to achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships that lead to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities, establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investment by Fish Habitat Partnerships, broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation, fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and the associated	A hearing has been held in the House Natural Resources Committee on the legislation and the legislation was ordered to be reported out of committee on September 25.

S.1419	Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)	Early Participation in Regulations Act	The legislation would direct agencies to issue advanced notices for rules costing more than \$100 million annually. The bill would require agencies to outline the problem the rule intends to solve and listen to the public's input on the subject.	<p>On May 13, the bill was introduced in the Senate. It was then referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Hearings on the bill were held in both the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Small Business. On July 19 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs ordered the measure to be reported favorably with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.</p> <p>On September 10, the bill was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.</p> <p>The legislation has bipartisan cosponsorship.</p>
H.R. 3794	Rep. Paul A. Gosar (R-AZ)	Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2019	The bill would work to promote the development of renewable energy on public lands	<p>The measure was introduced in the House on July 17, 2019 and was then referred to both the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture. A hearing on the bill was held on July 25 by the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources. On August 9th, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Energy of the House Agriculture Committee.</p> <p>The measure was later referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources where a hearing was held on the legislation. On November 20th, a mark-up session was held and the bill was ordered to be reported by voice vote.</p>
S. 1344	Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Tim Scott (R-SC)	Reinstate Opportunity Zone Data Mandates	<p>The bill would require the Secretary of the Treasury to collect data and issue a report on the opportunity zone tax incentives enacted by the 2017 tax reform legislation.</p> <p>The reporting requirements were part of the original legislation as introduced, but they were not incorporated in H.R.1 (the tax package) when it was advanced in the</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced in the Senate on May 7, 2019 and referred to the Finance Committee.</p> <p>The legislation has bipartisan cosponsorship.</p>

H.R.355	Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI)	PFAS Action Act of 2019	<p>The legislation combines 12 different bills that had previously been introduced into one legislative package that would change the way the federal government regulates “forever chemicals” known as PFAS.</p> <p>The consolidated version of H.R. 535 would place these chemicals on the Superfund hazards substances list from the Environmental Protection Agency, force the agency to set nationwide drinking water standards for PFAS, and block companies from producing new chemicals in this class.</p>	The legislation was reported out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee on November 20, 2019 by a vote of 31 to 19, largely along party lines.
Discussion Draft (not yet introduced)	Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)	Legislation to Address the Global Plastic Waste Crisis	<p>Sen. Tom Udall and Rep. Alan Lowenthal have released a discussion draft of legislation that seeks to address the global plastic waste crisis.</p> <p>They are currently seeking feedback on the legislation before introducing a bill.</p> <p>The draft would require plastic producers to take responsibility for collecting and recycling materials, require nationwide container deposits, ban certain pollutant products, impose a fee on the distribution of non-reusable carryout bags, create a new minimum recycled content requirement, protect state and local governments by allowing them to enact more stringent standards, requirements, and additional product bans,</p>	Open comments were taken until November 21, 2019. A final bill has not yet been introduced.
Enacted Legislation				
H.R. 3055	Rep. Jose Serrano (D-NY)	Continuing Resolution (CR) Extends funding through December 20	<p>Funding would generally be at levels provided under fiscal 2019 appropriations laws.</p> <p>However, the CR contains a number of program extensions that will now run through December 20 (or another date as noted), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -National Flood Insurance Program -Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program -EB-5 regional investor visas, the E-Verify program, and other immigration authorities -An extension of FISA section 215 authorities (through March 15, 2020) 	<p>The House amended the original version of the bill which, was serving as an appropriations minibus, to remove the appropriation bills and proceeded to lay in language for the continuing resolution.</p> <p>On November 19 the House passed the measure with a vote of 231-192.</p> <p>The Senate considered the measure on November 21 and passed it by a vote of 74-20. Immediately following, the vote the President signed the bill into law.</p>
H.J.Res.31	Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Conference Reports for the Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, Financial Services-General Government, Interior-Environment, State-Foreign Operations, and Transportation-HUD Appropriations bills).	The House and Senate came to an agreement on a Conference Report for the 7 remaining FY19 appropriations bills after holding an official conference on the FY19 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. The Homeland Security section contained approximately \$1.3 billion for border fencing in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas and slight reduction in funding for ICE detention beds. The other 6 appropriations bills contained conference reports similar to those that had been	The bill was introduced on January 22nd and was passed by both the Senate and the House before being signed into law on February 15th. This bill's enactment finalized full year funding for all federal agencies for fiscal year 2019 through September 30, 2019.

S.47	Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	<p>Natural Resources Management Act (renamed the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act)</p> <p>Included the following provisions: California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2019</p> <p>Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act</p> <p>Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange Act</p>	<p>This bill sets forth provisions regarding various programs, projects, activities, and studies for the management and conservation of natural resources on federal lands. Specifically, the bill addresses: Land conveyances, exchanges, acquisitions, withdrawals, and transfers; the Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange Act; national parks, monuments, memorials, wilderness areas, other conservation and recreation areas; and federal reclamation projects. For California, the legislation included the Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange Act and the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2019, which was a compromise between individual bills introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Paul Cook in previous Congresses.</p>	<p>Introduced in the Senate on January 8th. The legislation passed the Senate by a vote 92 - 8 on February 12th. The measure was then taken up by the House and passed by a vote of 363-62. The bill was signed into law by President Trump on March 12, 2019.</p>
H.R. 2157	Rep. Nita Lowey (D- NY)	Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019	<p>This bill provides \$19.1 billion in FY2019 supplemental appropriations to several federal departments and agencies for expenses related to the consequences of recent wildfires, hurricanes, volcanos, earthquakes, typhoons, and other natural disasters.</p> <p>The funding provided by this bill is designated as emergency spending, which is exempt from discretionary spending limits and other budget enforcement rules.</p>	<p>The Senate rejected the underlying legislation by failing to invoke cloture on the legislation as well as a substitute amendment due to disagreements over Puerto Rico and, after several attempts, later passed an alternative supplemental measure totaling \$19.1 billion.</p> <p>The House passed the \$19.1 billion disaster relief package by a vote of 354-58 on June 3. The measure was signed into law on June 6.</p>
H.R. 3877	Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY)	Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019	<p>The measure would amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 and to temporarily suspend the debt limit for two years-through July 31, 2021. Once the debt ceiling suspension lifts in 2021, the measure would not prohibit the Treasury Department from utilizing extraordinary measures.</p> <p>The 2-year proposal calls for increasing the discretionary spending caps for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 above the levels set in the Budget Control Act of 2011. The compromise would increase fiscal 2020 spending limits on non-defense programs by \$24.5 billion over current levels, to \$621.5 billion. Defense spending caps for fiscal</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced in the House on July 23, 2019 and then referred to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and Ways and Means.</p> <p>The measure was then considered and passed the House with a vote of 284 to 149. The Senate followed suit and passed the measure on August 1, 2019 with a vote of 67 to 28. The President signed the measure into on August 2, 2019.</p>
S.1689	Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)	A bill to permit States to transfer certain funds from the clean water revolving fund of a State to the drinking water revolving fund of the State in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.	<p>Allows States to transfer certain funds from the clean water revolving fund of a State to the drinking water revolving fund of the State in certain circumstances, and for other purposes. The authority is valid for one year and must be requested by states in consultation with the EPA administrator to transfer no more than 5% of the clean water funds to drinking water funds after a determination that available funds in the clean water revolving fund of the State are necessary to address a</p>	<p>Passed the House and Senate. Legislation has been signed into law by the President on October 4.</p>

<p>H.R. 4378</p>	<p>Rep. Nita Lowey (D- NY)</p>	<p>Continuing Resolution</p>	<p>The legislation includes several temporary extensions that run the length of the Continuing Resolution (CR), including the National Flood Insurance Program, the Export-Import Bank, the E-verify program, and other immigration authorities.</p> <p>The legislation also includes anomalies related to the Census Bureau, Secret Service, reimbursement for farmers under the Commodity Credit Corporation, among others.</p>	<p>The House introduced a Continuing Resolution (CR) with limited anomalies to extend federal government funding through November 21 and avoid a government shutdown.</p> <p>The House passed the measure by a vote of 301 to 123 on September 19, and the Senate proceeded to pass the legislation on September 26.</p> <p>The legislation was passed into law on September 27.</p>
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INFORMATION
ITEM
2D



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES, LLC

Date: November 28, 2019
To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency
From: John Withers, Jim Brulte
Re: November 2019 Activity Report

1. This month Jim Brulte and John Withers participated in the monthly senior staff meeting which was attended by senior Executive Management Team members on November 14th.
2. Regional Contract
 - Good progress meeting with Subgroups (Santa Ana River issues, Governance issues, Wastewater rates)
 - Received various stakeholder proposals and will consider alternatives
 - Chuck Hays raised property tax allocation issue
3. Biennial Budget
4. Chino Basin Program
 - Progress slowing. IEUA staff to meet with stakeholders on feedback
 - Stakeholder issues:
 1. Resistance to give state water for 25 years (Ontario)
 2. Value of improvements
 3. Water quality in the future
5. Rate Study (Carollo)
 - IEUA is recommending that the Board adopt the 2-year monthly EDU rates to allow Agency time to collect the flow and loading samples
 - Introduction of a fixed fee component to offset capital costs for recycled water program
 - Recycled water workshop on December 16, 2019
6. Discussed regional personnel changes
7. Member Questions and Answers
 - Answered questions from IEUA Board members and the GM since the meeting including ongoing leadership changes at City of Fontana