



**COMMUNITY AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY\***

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020  
9:00 A.M.**

**INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY\*  
Telecon: (415) 856-9169/Conference ID: 670 582 351#**

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER N-25-20 ISSUED BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM ON MARCH 12, 2020, AND EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 ISSUED BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM ON MARCH 17, 2020 ANY BOARD MEMBER MAY CALL INTO THE BOARD MEETING WITHOUT OTHERWISE COMPLYING WITH ALL BROWN ACT'S TELECONFERENCE REQUIREMENTS.

**TELECONFERENCE ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC:**

In all efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, until further notice, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency will be holding all Board and Committee meetings by teleconferencing.

The meeting will be accessible at: (415) 856-9169 / Conf Code: 670 582 351#

This meeting is being conducted virtually by video and audio conferencing. There will be no public location available to attend the meeting; however, the public may participate and provide public comment during the meeting by calling into the number provided above. The public may also view the meeting live through the Agency's website. Alternatively, you may email your public comments to the Interim Board Secretary/Office Manager Laura Mantilla at [lmantilla@ieua.org](mailto:lmantilla@ieua.org) no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time. Your comments will then be read into the record during the meeting.

**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 email the Board Secretary no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time or address the Board during the public comments section of the meeting. 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. PRESENTATION**

- A. **UPDATE ON AB 1672 (BLOOM) SOLID WASTE: NONWOVEN DISPOSABLE WIPES – Presented by Jessica Gauger, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Public Affairs, California Association of Sanitation Agencies**

### **2. ACTION ITEMS**

A. **MINUTES**

The Committee will be asked to approve the June 10, 2020 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

### **3. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION (WRITTEN)**

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

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

D. **CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES MONTHLY REPORT (WRITTEN)**

### **4. GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**


### **5. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

### **6. COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **7. 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 Interim Board Secretary (909-993-1944), 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting so that the Agency can make reasonable arrangements.

Proofed by: 

**DECLARATION OF POSTING**

I, Laura Mantilla, Interim 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 on Thursday, July 2, 2020.



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Laura Mantilla

ACTION  
ITEM  
**2A**



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

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020  
9:00 A.M.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT via Teleconference**

Steven J. Elie, Chair  
Kati Parker

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**STAFF PRESENT**

Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager  
Daniel Solorzano, Technology Specialist I  
Wilson To, Technology Specialist II  
April Woodruff, Board Secretary/Office Manager

**STAFF PRESENT via Teleconference**

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, Manager of Engineering  
Andrea Carruthers, Manager of External Affairs  
Sally Lee, Executive Assistant  
Sylvie Lee, Manager of Planning & Environmental Compliance  
Scott Oakden, Manager of Operations & Maintenance  
Cathleen Pieroni, Manager of Government Relations

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Drew Tatum, Innovative Federal Strategies  
Letitia White, Innovative Federal Strategies

Committee Chair Steven Elie called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. He stated that the meeting is being conducted virtually by video and audio conferencing. He added that there will be no public location available to attend the meeting; however, the public may participate and provide comments during the meeting by calling into the number provided on the agenda. He further added that the public may also view the meeting live through the Agency's website. He then gave the public the opportunity to comment and gave instructions for unmuting the conference line.

There were no public comments received or additions to the agenda.

### **PRESENTATION**

Letitia White and Drew Tatum of Innovative Federal Strategies presented the Federal Legislative Report and Matrix. Discussion ensued regarding future meetings with legislators given the current situation with COVID-19.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

The Committee:

- ◆ Approved the Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting minutes of May 13, 2020.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

- ◆ Public Outreach and Communication
- ◆ State Legislative Report and Matrix – West Coast Advisors
- ◆ California Strategies Monthly Report

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh stated that S&P has upgraded the Agency's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan from AA to AA+ in alignment with the Agency's long-term credit rating. Some of the key factors cited by S&P for the credit enhancement include: 1) the proposed 2020A Refunding which will leave the 2017A Revenue Bonds as the only debt on the Agency's most senior lien, 2) diversified financing plan for the RP-5 Expansion project which is a good balance of low interest debt and pay-go, and 3) the proposed issuance of the 2020B Notes to further reduce the borrowing costs for the Project.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Director Elie complimented staff on the WIFIA loan and for continuously looking for ways to save the taxpayers money.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no Committee member requests for future agenda items.

With no further business, Director Elie adjourned the meeting at 9:47a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April Woodruff  
Board Secretary/Office Manager

\*A Municipal Water District

**APPROVED: July 8, 2020**

INFORMATION  
ITEM  
**3A**

**Date:** July 15, 2020

**To:** The Honorable Board of Directors

**From:** Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

**Committee:** Community & Legislative Affairs

07/08/20

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

**Subject:** Public Outreach and Communication

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**Executive Summary:**

- July, Smart Irrigation Month
- July 26, National Intern Day

On June 25, staff coordinated a virtual RP-5 tour for Cucamonga Valley Water District Board Member Kevin Kenley and his boy scout troop. During the virtual tour, the RP-5 video was shown to provide an overview of the facility and the wastewater treatment process. General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh welcomed Director Kenley and the scout troop. Jesse Pompa, Manager of Grants, participated by leading the Q&A discussion and Justin King, Wastewater Operator III, provided on-site, real-time visuals and explanations of the treatment plant processes for the scouts. The scouts are working on completing requirements to earn their soil and water conservation badge.

Staff hosted online voting for the Water is Life Poster Contest, which concluded on June 16. The top three winners from each category will be sent to MWD to be entered into their regional contest.

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**Staff's Recommendation:**

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

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

*Account/Project Name:*

*Fiscal Impact (explain if not budgeted):*



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**Prior Board Action:**

N/A

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**Environmental Determination:**

Not Applicable

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**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.

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**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 - Background

## Background

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Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

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### July

- July, Smart Irrigation Month
- July 26, National Intern Day
- July 28, World Nature Conservation Day

### August

- August 1, National Water Quality Month Begins

### Media and Outreach

- On June 25, staff coordinated a virtual RP-5 tour for Cucamonga Valley Water District Board Member Kevin Kenley and his boy scout troop. During the virtual tour, the RP-5 video was shown to provide an overview of the facility and the wastewater treatment process. General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh welcomed Director Kenley and the scout troop. Jesse Pompa, Manager of Grants, participated by leading the Q&A discussion and Justin King, Wastewater Operator III, provided on-site, real-time visuals and explanations of the treatment plant processes for the scouts. The scouts are working on completing requirements to earn their soil and water conservation badge.
- The Agency continues to remind the public of what can/cannot be flushed down the toilet through social media posts and videos.
- Staff is currently working on implementing a “Guess the Animal” feature on the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park Instagram page.
- The Agency recognized World Oceans Day and World Environment Day on social media for the month of June.
- The Agency recognized June as Great Outdoors Month by highlighting features of the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park on the Chino Creek Wetlands Instagram page.
- The Agency celebrated 70 years of service to the region through a series of posts featuring the past and present of IEUA. The celebration wrapped up with a video to highlight the Agency’s history, innovation and community service to the region.
  - The Agency’s 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video received more than 1,200 impressions and was viewed over 800 times across all social media platforms.
- The Agency recognized the first day of summer and promoted water saving practices for the summer.
- The *How to draw Owl* video became the second highest viewed video on the Agency’s Instagram account, generating 240 views.
- The Agency highlighted philanthropic efforts made by IEUA staff who organized a virtual walk-a-thon and raised \$2,854 for Meals-on-Wheels.
- June: 14 posts were published to the IEUA Facebook page, 14 posts were published to IEUA’s Instagram and 13 tweets were sent on the @IEUAWater Twitter handle.

- The top three Facebook posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of June were:
  - 6/6 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Video
  - 6/9 IEUA Hiring: Board Secretary/Office Manager
  - 6/3 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Expansion
- The top three tweets, based on reach and engagement, in the month of June were:
  - 6/17 Water Word Wednesday “Springs”
  - 6/3 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Expansion
  - 6/4 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Carbon Canyon Recycling Facility
- The top three Instagram posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of June were:
  - 6/3 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Expansion
  - 6/1 News Release: IEUA Receives Loan from U.S. EPA
  - 6/9 IEUA Hiring: Board Secretary/Office Manager
- A Water Discovery Education ad ran in the *Daily Bulletin* on June 14.
- A Water Discovery Education ad ran in the *Fontana Herald* on June 19.
- A *Kick the Habit* ad ran in the *Chino Valley Champion’s Chino Connection Magazine* section on June 20.
- A *Kick the Habit* ad ran in *La Opinion* on June 21.
- A Don’t Flush Wipes ad ran in the *Daily Bulletin* on June 28.
- The *Kick the Habit* digital banner ad continues to run in the *Fontana Herald News*.

For the month of June, there were 1,303 searches for a park in IEUA’s service area on Yelp, where Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park was viewed 1,223 times on a mobile device.

#### Education and Outreach Updates

- The Water Discovery Program reached 1,669 students and 33 schools during the 2019/2020 current school year. As of March 12, the Water Discovery field trip program has been put on hold. Currently, staff is working on “At-Home Activities” for the Agency’s education programs, which continue to be posted on the website and social media.
- Staff is finalizing a virtual summer program education guide as well as a virtual scout “fun” badge program.
- Participating Garden in Every School® sites have been placed on hold until fall.
- Staff hosted online voting for the *Water is Life* Poster Contest, which concluded on June 16. The top three winners from each category will be sent to MWD to be entered into their regional contest.
- Solar Cup 2.0 virtual challenges are complete. MWD will announce recognitions in July.

INFORMATION  
ITEM  
**3B**



**June 25, 2020**

**To:** Inland Empire Utilities Agency

**From:** Michael Boccadoro  
Beth Olhasso  
Maddie Munson

**RE:** June Report

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Overview:

With summer in full swing, carryover storage in California's reservoirs is holding just below average after dismal precipitation and snowpack this winter. San Luis Reservoir, the main south-of-Delta storage facility for the State Water Project, is at 83 percent of average and 56 percent capacity for this time of the year. Oroville is at 77 percent of average and 64 percent capacity.

The U.S. can deliver 90% of its electricity from carbon-free sources by 2035, according to a new report from UC Berkeley. Most policy proposals for near-complete decarbonization target a 2050 deadline, according to the Berkeley report, but the falling costs of solar, wind and battery storage makes a 90% carbon-free grid by 2035 feasible.

After the latest dismal Cap and Trade auction, the Legislative Analyst's Office issued a report suggesting that the legislature reconsider the continuous appropriations and discretionary spending in the state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). 60 percent of the funds are automatically allocated to high speed rail, housing and other transportation measures. A change in this funding formula could open up significantly more funding to other water-energy-climate nexus projects, perhaps.

Legislation is circulating in the Capitol that would require the California Air Resources Board to open a rulemaking to consider changes to the program. According to the proponents, the program, as it currently operates, is overly generous to the fossil fuel industry and other special interests. They claim that the "pollution caps are too high, the auction prices are too low, and the program doesn't work." Any lowering of the cap or increase in allowance prices could increase IEUA's electricity and natural gas costs significantly.

Also affecting natural gas prices are efforts to close the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility. Environmentalists and activists have been trying to close the facility since the massive leak in late 2015. Governor Newsom has continued former Governor Brown's efforts to close the facility, but regulators are struggling to reconcile the gas needs of Southern California with available supplies, conveyance and storage, while trying to create a plan to close the facility.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has been busy lately on several fronts. The Board finalized a definition of "microplastics" that will be used to further study how to effectively prevent microplastics from entering the environment. Additionally, they adopted the Intended Use Plan for the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The IUP drew sharp criticism for using a new model to calculate the amount of funding available. The model is "proprietary" at this time and stakeholders are frustrated with the significant declines in available loan funding. Finally, the Board is looking to get information on the impacts of the COVID crisis on water agency budgets. Their good intentions are

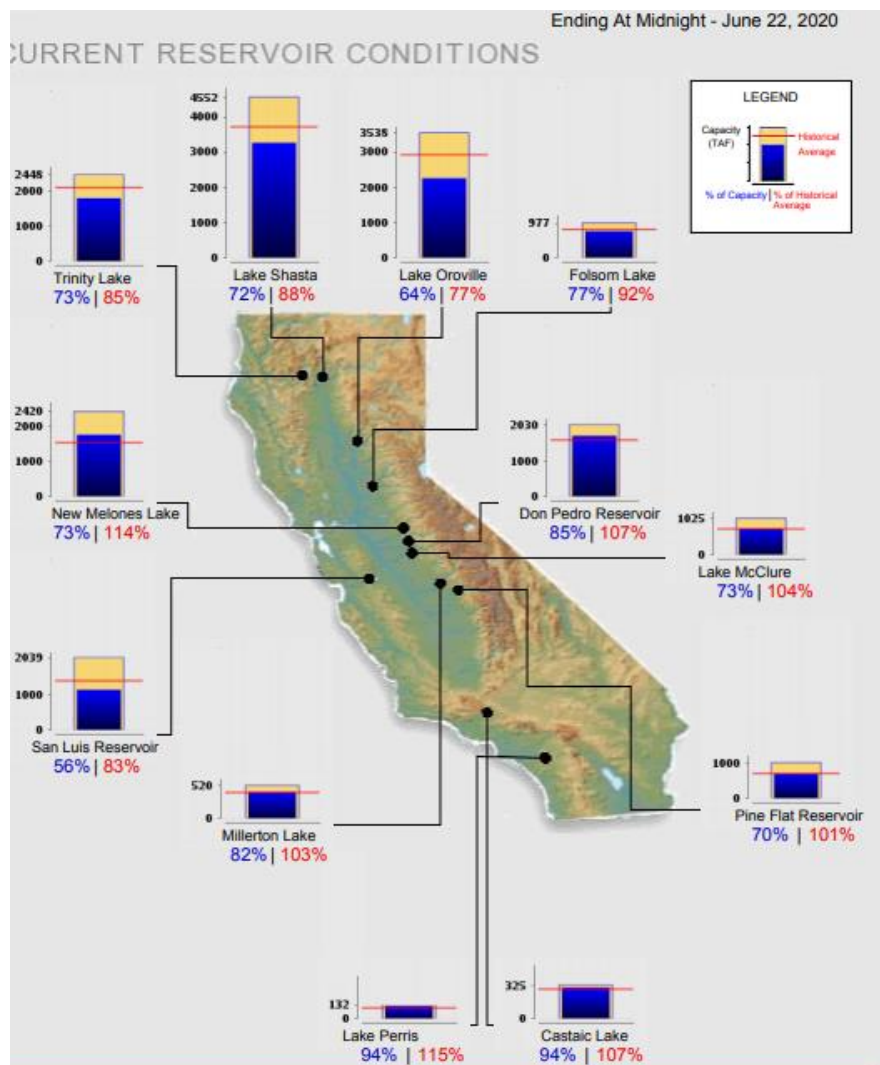
lauded, but there are significant concerns about what is going to be done with the information provided, especially with information on special district reserves.

The Legislature has been working on their significantly reduced legislative packages while also grappling with passing a budget during a time of uncertain revenue, uncertain help from the federal government, and shifting policy priorities. While the health care, welfare and education communities are facing the brunt of the budget cuts, state workers have agreed to two furlough days per month. This could cause some delay of regulations, especially in the recycled water sector, where they are already struggling with staffing at the SWRCB.

## Inland Empire Utilities Agency Status Report – June 2020

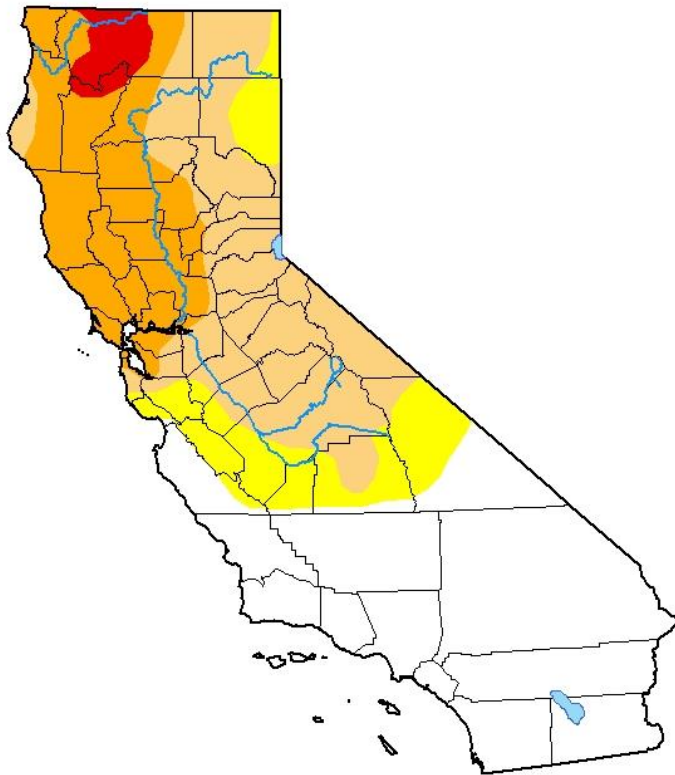
### *Water Supply Conditions*

With summer in full swing, carryover storage in California's reservoirs is holding firm after dismal precipitation and snowpack this winter. San Luis Reservoir, the main south-of-Delta storage facility for the State Water Project, is at 83 percent of average and 56 percent capacity for this time of the year. Oroville is at 77 percent of average and 64 percent capacity.



## U.S. Drought Monitor California

**June 23, 2020**  
(Released Thursday, Jun. 25, 2020)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	41.79	58.21	46.74	20.84	2.45	0.00
Last Week 06-16-2020	41.79	58.21	46.74	20.84	2.45	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-24-2020	24.86	75.14	40.42	1.30	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	96.43	3.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	95.29	4.71	2.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 06-25-2019	95.68	4.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	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:

Adam Hartman  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

### ***New UC Berkeley Study Claims U.S. Can Deliver 90 Percent of Renewables from Carbon-Free Sources by 2035***

The U.S. can deliver 90% of its electricity from carbon-free sources by 2035, according to a new report from UC Berkeley.

Most policy proposals for near-complete decarbonization target a 2050 deadline, according to the Berkeley report, but the falling costs of solar, wind and battery storage makes a 90% carbon-free grid by 2035 feasible.

Achieving that target will require retiring all coal plants by 2035 without building more fossil fuel plants, retaining existing hydropower and nuclear capacity, and reducing generation from natural gas plants to 10% of total annual electricity generation.

Within that mix, renewables and battery storage will provide 70% of annual generation, while hydropower and nuclear will provide another 20%. This portfolio will reduce wholesale electricity costs by about 10% by 2035, according to the report.

Building out renewables to achieve this target will add more than 500,000 jobs per year as well as \$1.7 trillion in investments into the economy, without raising customer bills, the report found.

The country is experiencing a cost-crossover, as clean energy resources become cheaper than continuing to run existing fossil fuel resources according to the report.

### ***Legislative Analyst Office Recommends Reprioritizing GGRF Funds***

After the latest dismal Cap and Trade auction, the Legislative Analyst's Office issued a report suggesting that the legislature consider the continuous appropriations and discretionary spending in the state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF).

Currently, about 60 percent GGRF funds must be appropriated to four different areas; 25 percent for high-speed rail; 20 percent for affordable housing and sustainable communities; 10 percent for intercity rail capital projects; and five percent for low-carbon transit operations. The remainder of the funds are up for appropriation yearly by the Governor and the legislature.

The report softly suggests that high-speed rail could be one of the projects that lawmakers deprioritize based on an increasingly apparent lack of funding needed to complete the project.

The May 20 GHG allowance auction, held on May 20, only generated \$25 million for the state—compared with over \$600 million generated by the previous auction in February, with many experts projecting revenue to continue to be lower in the coming years, than the previous years.

The Governor has proposed a “pay as you go” strategy that would prioritize specific programs within GGRF to receive funding as it comes in. At this time, his proposal does not include changing the continuously appropriated allocations. The legislature and the Governor have deferred including GGRF allocations in the June budget, and are expected to address the issue in August before adjourning for the year.

### ***Changes to Cap and Trade Program Considered***

Legislation is circulating in the Capitol that would require the California Air Resources Board to open a rulemaking to consider changes to the program. According to the proponents, the program, as it currently operates, is overly generous to the fossil fuel industry and other special interests. They claim that the “pollution caps are too high, the auction prices are too low, and the program doesn't work.”

The ultimate goal of the proponents is that the rulemaking will yield a higher floor price for allowances and fewer free allowances to large emitters. This is very concerning for energy and natural gas users because if utilities are forced to buy more allowances at a higher price, it will raise the cost of electricity to commercial and industrial users. While residential customers get a “climate rebate” to cover the increased costs, commercial and industrial customers do not. On the natural gas side, facilities that use significant amounts of natural gas could also be forced to buy allowances at higher prices.

### ***Aliso Canyon Update***

Ever since the October 2015 leak of natural gas from Aliso Canyon in Southern California that lasted four months and caused the largest known release of methane in U.S. history, SoCalGas has had to balance razor thin supply and demand margins using tools such as Operational Flow Orders and require commercial customers to reduce usage or face penalties.

Further complicating the situation, in 2017 a key SoCalGas pipeline exploded in the desert, taking it out of service for several years. Without Aliso, or the alternative pipeline, natural gas and electricity prices soured and the CPUC gave SoCalGas greater leeway to withdraw gas from Aliso, much to the disapproval of environmentalists throughout the state. The line that exploded in the desert, Line 235, is still having safety issues to this day and is only sporadically in use.



Before leaving office, Governor Brown called the California Energy Commission (CEC) to create a plan to shut down Aliso Canyon by 2027. Governor Newsom called for a “fast track” shutdown, though the CPUC is still studying a 2027 closure option, with a 2045 backup option. Environmentalists are critical of the process at the CPUC, arguing that the CPUC is planning for natural gas usage to remain flat. They contend that the CPUC needs to start by assuming Aliso Canyon is not an option and then develop strategies to lower natural gas usage to levels consistent with what is available. The CPUC is also looking at options for reducing natural gas demand.

With razor thin margins of natural gas storage in Southern California, any changes made could have profound impacts on natural gas prices.

A very comprehensive article recently ran in the LA Times that expands on the history and current status of natural gas in Southern California. It can be found here: [SoCalGas ramps up use of Aliso Canyon, site of worst gas leak in U.S. history](#)

### ***Micro/Nano Plastics***

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) recently adopted a definition of microplastics, as required by SB 1422 (Dodd, 2018). Additional legislation requires adoption of a Statewide Microplastics Strategy to protect coastal waters and the State Water Board is collaborating with the Ocean Protection Council and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Program to lead an ambitious, international effort to standardize methods for monitoring microplastics in drinking water, surface water, sediment and fish tissue.

Microplastics are plastic particles less than 5 millimeters in length – a size that has long concerned scientists due to its potential ingestion by animals. Many of these particles are much smaller and can only be seen through a microscope. While other state, national and international agencies have defined microplastics, California’s definition is the first to focus specifically on microplastics in drinking water.

Staff and board members responded to concerns about the definition by indicating that the definition would be a “working definition” that would have revisions as the process towards microplastic detection and regulation continue.

### ***State Water Resources Control Board approves Intended Use Plan for Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds***

Recently, the SWRCB adopted planning and funding documents for the clean water and drinking water state revolving fund programs for Fiscal Year 2020-21 and a total of more than \$1.2 billion in potential new funding. The respective revolving fund programs and plans, referred to as “intended use plans,” are adopted annually and provide millions of dollars of low interest and principal forgiveness loans to dozens of communities throughout California.

- The [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#) finances infrastructure improvements to reduce drinking water risks and support the human right to water. It provides funding for drinking water projects such as well rehabilitation and replacement, tank/reservoir replacement, transmission and distribution pipeline replacement, drinking water treatment for primary contaminants and water meters. There are also a few projects on source development/desalination.
- The [Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\)](#) includes recycled water and stormwater projects and addresses wastewater discharge violations or enforcement orders issued by the

regional water boards. Specifically, wastewater projects include the rehabilitation of existing facilities that treat wastewater, new wastewater treatment facilities, pump station rehabilitation and replacement and sewer pipeline rehabilitation and replacement. Recycled water projects consist of recycled water treatment facilities, pump stations, distribution systems and storage facilities. Storm water projects include projects that prevent, abate, reduce, transport, separate, store, treat, recycle, or dispose of pollutants arising or flowing in storm drainage that is transported in pipes, culverts, tunnels, ditches, wells, channels, conduits, from urban or rural areas to surface or groundwaters of the state and the reuse or disposal of storm water determined acceptable for reuse or disposal.

There was significant concern about the amount of funding authorized, specifically for the Clean Water SRF only offering \$308 million for 2020-2021, significantly less than in prior years. A new funding formula is the cause of the decrease, and the lack of transparency of that formula was brought up by many stakeholders at the hearing. WateReuse and CASA are leading the discussions with SWRCB members and staff to understand why the funding is so much lower and how to increase the total loan amount. The Board shared the concerns but was unwilling to increase the amount at the hearing.

### ***SWRCB Looking for Information on how COVID is Impacting Water Agencies***

The SWRCB has sent a survey to all California water agencies asking several questions about how the pandemic is impacting water agency budgets. The board is seeking this information so they can formulate a relief plan should agencies have significant negative impacts because of deferral of payments from customers.

While most water agencies understand why the Board is seeking this information, there are some significant concerns. First, the questionnaire is mostly “yes” or “no” with no room to explain or offer alternatives to the two choices. Second, many are concerned that the Board will take this “snapshot in time” and create policy around it. Threats that if agencies do not respond an executive order mandating reporting will be issued have not been well received. Finally, questions about special district reserves are causing significant consternation among water agencies as attempts to access special district reserves have been attempted in the past.

### ***Legislative Update***

The Legislature has been working in a reduced capacity since returning to the Capitol in May. As mentioned in previous reports, members have dramatically reduced their bill packages for the year. We are nearing the point where all bills must be out of their house or origin. Legislators and the Governor seem to have reached an interim deal on the 2020-2021 budget.

On the budget front, the Legislature and the Governor have been unable to agree on how to tackle the estimated \$54 billion budget shortfall that the state will face in the new fiscal year. The Legislature passed a budget by the June 15 Constitutional deadline that assumes the federal government will come through with funding for states, while the Governor assumes the funding does not come through and proposed significant cuts in categories such as education and health care. Legislative leadership and the Governor are reported to have reached a compromise. The major sticking points in the discussions were not water or resource related issues, focusing more on funding for health care and education.

AB 3256 (E. Garcia) Update: Assembly resilience bond proposal passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, but has not been moved to the Assembly floor by Assembly leadership. The budget compromise eliminates the bond for the November ballot.

There are discussions about other stimulus measures that do not require a public vote. Tom Steyer is leading the Governor's Economic Recovery Task Force that is rumored to be having conversations about a stimulus package, however no details have materialized in any significant form and there is little information about where the funding would come from, but WCA continues to monitor the discussions.

*Bills still active:*

AB 1672 (Bloom): CASA has been working on a flushable products labeling measure for several years. They are finally getting close to reaching an agreement with the industry that will not just remove the opposition to the bill, but bring the flushable products manufacturers on as a co-sponsor of the legislation to require specific "DO NOT FLUSH" labeling on wipes. The measure is already over in the Senate, so no action is expected until mid-August.

AB 2560 (Quirk) is CMUA and OCWD's bill on procedures for establishing notification and response levels at the SWRCB. The measure has easily moved through the Assembly committee and full house process and is in the Senate awaiting assignment to a committee.

SB 1099 (Dodd) is CMUA and Las Virgenes' bill addressing run times for backup generators during public safety power shutoffs, or PSPS events. The bill took amendments from the air pollution control districts that would require any agency that uses the run-time exemption to have to upgrade their generators to cleaner generators within a certain timeframe. The author and proponents are not pleased with these provisions and will work to soften the language over in the Assembly.

SB 1386 (Moorlach) is the bill addressing the class action lawsuit on the how water from fire hydrants is treated under Prop. 218. IEUA has joined a very long list of supporters of this legislation and the bill is moving easily through the process.

**IEUA BILL POSITIONS—June 25, 2020**

Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary	IEUA Position
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  Senate Rules Committee
AB 2093	Gloria	<i>Public records: writing transmitted by electronic mail: retention</i>	<i>Would, unless a longer retention period is required by statute or regulation, or established by the Secretary of State pursuant to the State Records Management Act, require a public agency, for purposes of the California Public Records Act, to retain and preserve for at least 2 years every public record, as defined, that is transmitted by electronic mail.</i>	OPPOSE  FAILED Assembly Appropriations Committee
AB 2182	Rubio  ACWA Sponsored	<i>Emergency backup generators: water and wastewater facilities: exemption</i>	<i>Would exempt the operation of an alternative power source, as defined, to provide power to a critical facility, as defined, from any local, regional, or state regulation regarding the operation of that source. The bill would authorize providers of essential public services, in lieu of compliance with applicable legal requirements, to comply with the maintenance and testing procedure set forth in the National Fire Protection Association Standard for Emergency and Standby Power System, NFPA 110, for alternative power sources designated by the providers for the support of critical facilities.</i>	SUPPORT  Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee  DROPPED BY AUTHOR
AB 2560	Quirk  OCWD/CMUA Sponsored	Water quality: notification and response levels: procedures	The California Safe Drinking Water Act requires the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt drinking water standards for contaminants in drinking water based upon specified criteria and requires any person who owns a public water system to ensure that the system, among other things, complies with those drinking water standards. The act requires a public water system to provide prescribed notices within 30 days after it is first informed of a confirmed detection of a contaminant found in drinking water delivered by the public water system for human consumption that is in excess of a maximum contaminant level, a notification level, or a response level established	SUPPORT  Senate Environmental Quality Committee

			by the state board. This bill would require the state board to comply with specified public notice and comment and peer review procedures, as prescribed, when establishing or revising notification or response levels.	
ACA 1	Aguiar-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.	SUPPORT  Assembly Floor- first vote failed, can be acted upon Jan 2020
SB 414	Caballero  Eastern MWD/ CMUA	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 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.	SUPPORT  2- year bill  Assembly Approps
SB 667	Hueso	Greenhouse Gasses: Recycling Infrastructure and Facilities	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.	SUPPORT IF AMENDED





INFORMATION  
ITEM  
**3C**



# INNOVATIVE FEDERAL STRATEGIES, LLC

*Comprehensive Government Relations*

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** IEUA Community & Legislative Affairs Committee

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

**Date:** June 26, 2020

**Re:** June Monthly Legislative Update

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### ***House Democrats Unveil \$1.5 Trillion Infrastructure Plan***

House Democrats unveiled a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure plan Thursday, June 18 that calls for a huge increase in funding to repair roads and bridges while expanding broadband access in rural areas. They followed up with the release of the legislative text on Monday June 22, with plans to bring it to the floor during the week of June 29. The House Rules Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, June 29 to determine which amendments will be made in order for floor consideration. As of Friday, June 26, the legislation had attracted 347 amendments that have been submitted to the House Rules Committee.

Democrats described the bill as the biggest legislative effort to fight climate change, with Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) saying the package would “make real the promise of building infrastructure in a green and resilient way.”

“It’s job-creating in its essence, but it’s also commerce-promoting. So, it grows the economy of our country,” she said.

The legislation is the latest attempt to advance an infrastructure package that has been discussed since the early days of the Trump administration but continuously fails to gain traction.

Though Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has said he does not want to include infrastructure with coronavirus relief, passage of the House measure could put added pressure on the upper chamber to take action in July.

GOP lawmakers have introduced a highway bill of their own in the House, and a package in the Senate was approved at the committee level.

As for the infrastructure bill as a whole, Republicans have raised concerns about the cost of the legislation.

Democrats have yet to outline how they will pay for the bill, but Pelosi said, “with the interest rates where they are now there’s never been a better time for us to go big.”

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The Federal Reserve this month voted to keep interest rates near zero, and Fed Chairman Jerome Powell has insisted throughout the crisis that there is “no limit” to the central bank’s willingness to offer cheap lending.

A vote on the legislation is expected before the Fourth of July recess. While the bill is likely to pass the Democrat-led House, it will unlikely garner sufficient support in the Senate.

The 2,309-page package combines a \$500 billion surface transportation bill that the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved June 18 with other clean energy, infrastructure, and education funding proposals already unveiled by Democrats in recent months.

The infrastructure bill also includes \$25 billion for drinking water, \$100 billion for broadband, \$70 billion for clean energy projects, \$100 billion for low income schools, \$30 billion to upgrade hospitals, \$100 billion in funding for public housing and \$25 billion for the postal service. But its largest component is a \$500 billion Democrat-led bill from the House Transportation Committee that has sparked Republican complaints of exclusion.

The measure would authorize \$8 billion per year from fiscal 2021 through 2025 for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program, which provides money for states to subsidize water pollution control projects.

The bill would require states to use at least 15% of Clean Water SRF capitalization grants for projects to address green infrastructure or improvements to water or energy efficiency.

States could use the Clean Water SRF to make grants to water utilities and other funding recipients. At least 10% of each state’s capitalization grants would have to be used to provide additional subsidies such as grants or loan forgiveness.

The measure would authorize \$200 million annually from fiscal 2021 through 2025 for the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants to publicly owned treatment works to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), sometimes called “forever chemicals,” and other emerging contaminants. The bill would also authorize \$400 million per year from fiscal 2021 through 2025 for EPA grants to treat and manage combined sewer overflows and other stormwater, \$300 million annually for fiscal 2021 through 2025 for EPA pollution control grants to states, \$200 million per year for fiscal 2021 through 2025 for grants to states to address nonpoint sources, \$1 billion for technical assistance and grants related to sewer discharge management and resilience and also \$600 million for grants to carry out projects to conserve, manage, reclaim, or reuse water or wastewater.

The legislation would reauthorize capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund through fiscal 2025 at increased annual levels. The fiscal 2021 level, set by current law, is \$1.95 billion. Under the bill, the fiscal 2022 level would be \$4.14 billion increasing to \$5.5 billion in fiscal 2024 and 2025.

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The bill would authorize \$500 million per year through fiscal 2025 for an EPA grant program to pay for community water systems' capital costs for treating drinking water contaminated with PFAS.

The measure would also provide \$10 billion for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilian water projects.

The legislation combines the 5-year transportation reauthorization bill that was reported out of the House Transportation Committee. The roughly \$500 billion bill was combined with \$1 trillion in spending from legislation previously introduced by House Democrats.

Tensions on the Transportation Committee flared largely over the green measures included in the bill, which requires states to account for climate change before undertaking projects and also requires states to meet certain greenhouse gas emission goals when they receive funding.

Republicans on the committee have nicknamed the legislation the "my way or the highway bill," airing frustrations that they were excluded from its crafting.

### ***Congress Faces Tight Schedule for 2021 Spending Bills***

House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) on Thursday, June 4 announced an ambitious schedule to mark up and pass all 12 fiscal year 2021 spending bills over a four-week period in July.

The 12 subcommittees and full committee will mark up the bills in the first two full weeks of July, and work to pass all the bills in the latter two weeks of the month. While all twelve appropriations bills will likely be advanced out of the House Appropriations Committee, it is unlikely that all twelve will be passed by the full House. As has been the case over the last few years, with the Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

"It will be an extremely busy month, which is nothing new for our committee," Lowey wrote in a letter to fellow appropriators.

The House bills are likely to advance along party lines, setting up a standoff with the Senate, which needs bipartisan support to advance its spending bills.

The Senate, however, has not yet laid out a timeline for its FY21 appropriations schedule. Last year, it was significantly delayed as it waited for overall spending levels to be set. That process laid out caps for both 2020 and 2021, but differences often surface in how the committees allocate the funds among the 12 bills, and how much extra spending is tucked in through various budget gimmicks.

In addition, the Senate Appropriations Committee is delaying the start of markups for funding the government for fiscal year 2021 over partisan disagreements on police reform and COVID-19 spending.

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In the aftermath of the death of George Floyd, Democrats are eager to fund programs they say will promote racial justice. They also want to add funding to help tackle the COVID-19 outbreak into appropriations bills.

That disagreement is delaying the sides from reaching bipartisan consensus to markup bills. Democrats are looking to offer amendments on the issues, which Republicans say should be addressed in other legislation like the JUSTICE Act -which Democrats blocked from coming to the floor in a procedural vote on Wednesday, June 24.

In recent years, the Senate has moved appropriations bills on agreement that they would be bipartisan while excluding controversial "poison pill" riders.

"Funding the government is a serious responsibility, and I will not allow the appropriations process to be hijacked and turned into a partisan sideshow," Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) said. Meanwhile, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), the committee's top Democrat, said that offering amendments was a key concern for Democrats.

"There is bipartisan agreement that we need to address the COVID-19 pandemic. And if we want to truly address the issues of racial injustice that George Floyd's tragic death has brought to the surface, we need more than symbolism, we need to appropriate money for programs that advance these issues," Leahy said.

Markup notices for the bills had originally been expected in mid-June, but the disagreements made it impossible to forge bipartisan bills. Markups are now not expected in the Senate Appropriations Committee until at least after the July 4th recess.

Senate Republicans are growing concerned that rising tensions between President Trump and Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) could lead to a shutdown fight.

There is widespread anxiety among GOP senators that Trump picking fights is a liability as his response to nationwide protests against police brutality appears to be the cause of his declining approval ratings.

Republicans are now worried that he could pick a fight with Pelosi in September over government funding for the next fiscal year.

In response, some Senate Republicans are discussing moving legislation that would prevent a government shutdown even if the annual appropriations bills have not been passed. The GOP senators say they have received a commitment from GOP leaders for a vote in the coming weeks.

Some moderate Democrats have expressed support in the past for legislation to prevent future shutdowns.

Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) last year introduced the Stop Stupidity Act, which would renew government funding at the same levels as the previous fiscal year, except for the legislative branch and the executive office of the president.

Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) and a group of Senate Republicans have proposed the End Government Shutdowns Act, which would set up an automatic continuing resolution for any regular appropriations bill or existing stopgap spending measure to keep “the federal government open when negotiations falter before key spending deadlines,” according to an official summary of the proposal.

Another measure, The No Budget, No Pay Act, introduced by Republican Senators would require Congress to pass an annual budget and meet appropriations bill deadlines or forgo their own salaries until those goals are met. It passed out of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee last year.

Congress has until the end of September to fund the government for fiscal 2021, which begins October 1, to prevent a funding lapse or shutdown. But it seldom succeeds in getting that job done on time, and some or all of the funding areas require temporary extensions to keep the government running.

In election years, the issue is frequently punted beyond the November election.

### ***Senate Advances Conservation Fund Bill, House to Consider in July***

The Senate passed a major public lands bill on Wednesday, June 17 voting to set aside hundreds of millions of dollars each year for conservation efforts.

The Great American Outdoors Act, which passed in a 73-25 vote, would permanently provide \$900 million in oil and gas revenues for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which helps secure land for trails and parks.

It would make available without separate appropriations more than \$2.5 billion annually for spending on land acquisition and deferred maintenance for park land. It would convert money in the \$900 million-per-year Land and Water Conservation Fund into mandatory funding. The LWCF is funded by a portion of offshore oil leasing revenue, among other sources, and used to add land to national parks, wildlife refuges, ball fields, and city parks.

“Permanent LWCF funding will help improve access to public lands, including providing important access for hunting and fishing opportunities, and will ensure the program remains an important contributor to a strong and growing outdoor recreation economy that will benefit state and local economies throughout our nation,” Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), who was part of a bipartisan group that introduced the bill, said in a floor speech.

The bill, which had broad bipartisan support and now heads to the House. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) has told lawmakers that the House will take up the bill during the July work period, which is scheduled to start the week of July 20. While there had been hope that the legislation would pass on the suspension calendar, Hoyer said the legislation will be brought to the floor under a rule, which only requires a simple majority vote.

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While the legislation is expected to enjoy bipartisan support. Some Republicans have threatened to withhold support unless they are able to vote on amendments to the legislation. Bringing the legislation to the floor under a rule means the House Rules Committee can bring it to the floor without allowing for the consideration of amendments.

The legislation also recently secured the backing of President Trump, who has indicated he will sign the legislation when it comes to the White House.

### ***Senate Committee Advances Deputy Energy Secretary Nominee***

In June the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a business meeting to consider the pending nomination of Mr. Mark Menezes, nominated to be the Deputy Secretary of Energy. On Tuesday, June 9 the committee advanced the nomination of President Trump's pick for the second-in-command role at the Energy Department.

Mark Menezes's nomination to be deputy energy secretary received opposition from just one senator on the chamber's Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), over the Trump administration's reported consideration of nuclear testing.

"Reports are suggesting that this Administration is prepared to jeopardize the health and safety of Nevadans, undercut our nation's nuclear nonproliferation goals, and further weaken strategic partnerships with our global allies just to flex its muscles on the global stage," Cortez Masto said in a statement submitted to the congressional record.

"I look forward to receiving assurances that Nevada will not be used, once again, for explosive nuclear testing," she added.

The senator also referenced tests that took place at the Nevada National Security Site between 1945 and 1992.

"Each one of those tests made a lasting mark on Nevada, surrounding states, test site workers, and individuals downwind from the blasts," her statement said.

"Since then, the United States has certified the deployed nuclear stockpile annually without nuclear explosive testing...and has found no issues that require us to resume underground testing," she said. "NNSA maintains the readiness to conduct an underground nuclear test within 24 to 36 months, if required, to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the Nation's stockpile."

Following the voice vote, Menezes waits to be considered by the full Senate.

Since 2017, he has served as Under Secretary of Energy and has advised the department on policy and technology. Before that, he worked as an executive with Berkshire Hathaway Energy and has also lobbied for several energy companies.

### ***Senate Could Consider Coronavirus Relief Bill in July***

The next relief package aimed at responding to the coronavirus pandemic likely will not be passed by the Senate until at least mid-July, Senator John Thune (R-SD), the second highest-ranking Republican in the upper chamber said.

The bill could be considered likely after the Senate returns to Washington from its scheduled July 4th recess currently slated to take place between July 3 and July 17.

Thune said the Senate has a packed calendar for the remainder of June, with the upper chamber set to vote on two of President Trump's nominations to the federal courts of appeals and bipartisan legislation. The Senate Armed Services Committee has also advanced the 2021 defense authorization bill, and several Senate panels are convening for hearings focused on the coronavirus pandemic and nominations.

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro signaled that President Donald Trump is looking for at least \$2 trillion in the next relief package being considered to help buoy an economy devastated by the coronavirus pandemic while Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has stressed to Trump that he would prefer a smaller package to the tune of \$1 trillion. However, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has signaled that the Trump administration is considering another round of stimulus checks as many Americans continue to feel the economic sting of the coronavirus pandemic.

“It’s something that we’re very seriously considering,” Mnuchin said. He said that a final decision would be coming on whether President Trump would push for the checks in Congress's next stimulus package.

The initial round of stimulus checks was part of Congress's \$2 trillion-plus CARES Act passed in March. Qualifying American adults received a one-time payment of \$1,200 (\$2,400 for married couples who file taxes jointly), receiving an additional \$500 for every dependent claimed under the age of 17.

The IRS has said that it has paid all eligible Americans that it has enough information on to have received their checks. The total paid out is \$267 billion, according to the agency.

In its latest \$3.5 trillion stimulus package proposal, the Democratic-led House included another round of stimulus checks. These checks would be larger, offering an additional \$1200 each for up to three children claimed instead of \$500.

The most recent jobs report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that the economy actually gained jobs in May, though more than 40 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits since the onset of the pandemic.

The Senate will still need to conference its final bill with the \$3 trillion package the House passed HEROES Act with a major focus on providing direct relief to American families and state, local and tribal governments. The House bill contained roughly \$1 trillion for state and local governments. The funding, which could be used to patch shortfalls, is a priority for



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Democrats in the next response bill. While assistance for state and local governments is expected to be included in a future package, bipartisan consensus seems to be gathering around providing \$500 billion for states and local governments.

The nation's economic recovery from the coronavirus recession could stall if Congress fails to provide substantial federal aid to local governments, the National League of Cities said Tuesday. Citing a survey of 1,100 municipalities, the league said 65% have been forced to delay or cancel infrastructure projects and capital expenditures because of the pandemic's toll on local government finances. That could have a ripple effect throughout the already-battered economy by stalling tens of billions of dollars in spending and halting job growth.

While the Senate works toward another relief bill on Thursday, June 18 a bipartisan group of Senators introduced legislation to establish a \$120 billion fund for independent food service or drinking establishments devastated from the coronavirus pandemic.

The bill, dubbed the Real Economic Support that Acknowledges Unique Restaurant Assistance Needed to Survive Act, or Restaurant Act, would provide grants to restaurants that are not publicly traded and have \$1.5 million or less in revenue under normal circumstances.

The grant can be used to cover payroll, benefits, mortgage, rent, protective equipment, food, or other costs. It provides an addition or substitute to loans provided through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which Congress passed in the \$2.2 trillion coronavirus relief package in March, for restaurants to spend more on overhead costs, as well as payroll.

### ***House, Senate Release Police Reform Bills as Trump Signs Executive Order***

House Democrats and Senate Republicans have rolled out police reform bills in the wake of George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police, an incident that sparked mass protests against police brutality and led to a national debate about racism in America.

The goals of the competing bills are the same: to halt excessive force and other bad behavior by police officers.

There is some common ground between the two bills -both provide more funding for police body cameras and make lynching a federal crime.

The Democratic legislation creates a much stronger role for the federal government, through bans and mandates. The GOP bill relies on federal incentives to encourage state and local police to reform their departments, keeping with Republicans' belief in a limited federal government.

There are several key differences between the measures.

While both measures include language aimed at stopping officers from using chokeholds, but the House Democratic bill makes them outright illegal.



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The Democratic bill would outlaw chokeholds or any maneuver to restrain an individual that restricts blood or oxygen flow to the brain, or impedes breathing.

That would apply to the chokehold a New York police officer used on an African American man, Eric Garner, before he died in 2014. A Minneapolis police officer pinned Floyd to the ground by kneeling on his neck for nearly nine minutes; that officer now faces second-degree murder charges.

The Senate Republican bill would not outright ban chokeholds. Instead, it prevents state and local law enforcement departments that do not ban chokeholds from receiving critical federal grants.

The GOP legislation also has a much narrower definition of a chokehold, calling it “a physical maneuver that restricts an individual’s ability to breathe for the purposes of incapacitation.” It directs the attorney general to come up with new policies to limit chokeholds “except when deadly force is authorized.”

The Democrats’ bill would effectively end the practice of no-knock warrants, which allow police officers typically working drug cases to enter a house or other premises without announcing their presence.

Democrats have pointed to the March killing of Breanna Taylor, a 26-year-old black emergency medical technician who was shot eight times by Louisville police officers who were executing a no-knock search warrant in a drug case that did not center on Taylor.

The GOP legislation would require states and localities to report the use of no-knock warrants to the attorney general at the federal level on an annual basis. The attorney general would then publish the information in a public report. Departments that fail to comply would see a 20 percent reduction in their normal federal funding.

The Democratic bill would change the legal doctrine known as qualified immunity, which now shields police officers from being sued by citizens who believe their constitutional rights have been violated. The legislation would make it easier for victims of police brutality to take legal action against officers and seek civil damages.

Top Republicans have said that any changes to qualified immunity is a non-starter however separate legislation has been introduced that would offer more legal options for individuals who have had their constitutional rights violated by police.

Qualified immunity could serve as one of the biggest sticking points between Democrats and Republicans — and the biggest obstacle to a bipartisan deal.

The Senate attempted to move to its bill on Wednesday, June 24 after all but two Democrats voted against proceeding to the legislation. Senate Democrats have called for having more input on the legislation before it comes to the floor.

The House passed its measure on Thursday, June 25 by a vote of 236 to 181. Only three Republicans and Republican turned Independent Justin Amash (I-MI) voted for the legislation. No House Democrat voted against the legislation.

Ahead of action in both the House and Senate, President Trump signed an executive order aimed at incentivizing police reforms. The order would create federal incentives through the Justice Department for local police departments that seek “independent credentialing” to certify that law enforcement is meeting higher standards for the use of force and de-escalation training. Trump specifically noted that those standards would include banning the use of chokeholds — an especially controversial tactic that has led to the high-profile deaths of multiple African-American men — “except if an officer’s life is at risk.”

Trump's order would also incentivize local departments to bring on experts in mental health, addiction, and homelessness as “co-responders” to “help officers manage these complex encounters.” And it would encourage better information sharing to track officers with “credible abuses” to prevent them from moving from one department to the next.

The text of the order directs the Justice Department to create and maintain a database to track when officers have been terminated or decertified, have been criminally convicted for on-duty conduct or faced civil judgments for improper use of force. It notes that information-sharing related to use-of-force complaints would not apply in “instances where a law enforcement officer resigns or retires while under active investigation related to the use of force,” and emphasizes that the database would track only episodes in which an officer was “afforded fair process.”

### ***Trump Signs Order Aiming to Speed Infrastructure Permits***

President Donald Trump signed an executive order that would expedite permitting for infrastructure projects, building on earlier orders to ease regulations for industry. The White House contends the move will help speed the nation’s recovery after the coronavirus pandemic.

The order directs federal agencies, including Interior, Agriculture and Defense departments and the Army Corps of Engineers, to hasten the permitting processes required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act.

Trump signed the order in June at the Oval Office, a day after House Democrats released a \$494 billion infrastructure bill that includes climate change provisions.

“From the beginning of my Administration, I have focused on reforming and streamlining an outdated regulatory system that has held back our economy with needless paperwork and costly delays,” Trump wrote in the order. “The need for continued progress in this streamlining effort is all the more acute now, due to the ongoing economic crisis.”

The order sparked backlash from environmental justice advocates, who slammed both the substance of the order and its timing, which comes amid nationwide protests over police brutality.

“This administration is removing phantom barriers that are at their essence protections for the very communities that are struggling most from the health impacts of air and water pollution,” Christy Goldfuss, who headed the White House Council on Environmental Quality under the Obama administration and now works at the Center for American Progress, said in a statement.

“They’re trying to divert attention away from the crisis of racial injustice happening around the country, by giving agency heads the excuse to ram through polluting projects that will prop up the dying fossil fuel industry while destroying the very same communities that are dying at higher rates from COVID-19 and police violence, as well,” she added.

Trump’s order comes on the heels of one signed last month that directs agency heads to “identify regulatory standards that may inhibit economic recovery.”

The latest order goes further, directing agencies to use their own emergency authorities and the emergency provisions of environmental laws to skip over standard requirements.

Agencies will now have 30 days to report which projects will be expedited under the order, but there is no requirement for that list to be publicized.

Republicans, including Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman John Barrasso (R-WY) have applauded the White House’s efforts that provide for the “modernizing” of America’s infrastructure and streamlining the permitting process. Barrasso’s highway and infrastructure bill (S.2302) would make the permitting less stringent.

The order was widely criticized by congressional Democrats.

“Let’s be clear, this executive order is not about providing immediate relief to the American people and boosting our economy. If President Trump was interested in anything other than expanding his power, there are a number of things he and his Administration could do to help our country combat this deadly epidemic and spur economic growth,” Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), ranking member on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said.

NEPA has an emergency provision that allows speedy construction of projects. Lifting the requirements of the law means cutting out a number of steps.

The laws altered under the order have been targeted by industry groups for years, which argues that endangered species laws are too restrictive and NEPA reviews can stall projects.

The Trump administration rolled back the Endangered Species Act in August, followed by a January proposal from the Council on Environmental Quality that would limit NEPA's scope.

That proposal excludes some projects, particularly those that receive little federal funding, from undergoing an environmental review. It also would open the door for more industry involvement in reviewing the environmental impact of their projects.

The rule is undergoing a review by the White House Office of Management and Budget.

Environmental groups hinted they would take legal action to block the order.

### ***EPA to Allow Use of Weed Killer***

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Monday, June 8 said it will allow farmers to continue to use a weed killer chemical for about two months after a court ruling overturned the agency's approval of the chemical for certain uses.

A federal court has ruled that the EPA "substantially understated risks that it acknowledged and failed entirely to acknowledge other risks" when in 2018 it approved the use of dicamba for genetically modified soybean and cotton farming.

The dicamba weed killer has been linked to certain cancers and the herbicide has also been shown to damage certain types of trees and other plants.

After the ruling, the EPA canceled an order that allowed farmers to use three products containing dicamba, but the farmers are allowed to use the products until July 31.

Advocates said this violated the court order and that these uses of dicamba must be stopped now.

"They don't have the legal authority to do that. The court said what it said and held what it held and now they're trying to relitigate that, which is improper," said George Kimbrell, the legal director of the Center For Food Safety, which was one of the groups who challenged the approval in court.

"In the face of clear evidence that this stuff drifts offsite and has caused damage to crops and other plants, EPA's just pushing forward to continue to allow that to happen," said Stephanie Parent, a Center for Biological Diversity attorney who is co-counsel in the case.

Both Parent and Kimbrell have said they will challenge the EPA's new order in court.

The agency, however, said in a statement that its order provided "clarity" for farmers.

"At the height of the growing season, the Court's decision has threatened the livelihood of our nation's farmers and the global food supply," EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said in a statement.

"Today's cancellation and existing stocks order is consistent with EPA's standard practice following registration invalidation, and is designed to advance compliance, ensure regulatory certainty, and to prevent the misuse of existing stocks," he added.

The EPA estimated in its ruling that about four million gallons of dicamba could be "in the channels of trade."

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### ***EPA Passes on Perchlorate Regulations***

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced in June that it will not regulate a chemical used in rocket fuel that has been linked to developmental damage.

The agency said in a statement that the chemical, perchlorate, “does not meet the criteria for regulation as a drinking water contaminant” under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The EPA has found that up to 620,000 people might be consuming water that has a perchlorate concentration higher than “levels of concern.”

It said in a draft final action that this number was too small to present a “meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction.”

“Today’s decision is built on science and local success stories and fulfills President Trump’s promise to pare back burdensome ‘one-size-fits-all’ overregulation for the American people,” EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said in a statement.

“State and local water systems are effectively and efficiently managing levels of perchlorate. Our state partners deserve credit for their leadership on protecting public health in their communities, not unnecessary federal intervention,” he added.

Agency documents have stated that exposure to perchlorate can cause issues with the thyroid gland, which is critical for growth and development of fetuses, babies and children.

Critics say the move by the EPA defied a court-ordered consent decree requiring the administration regulate the chemical.

“Today’s decision is illegal, unscientific, and unconscionable,” said Erik Olson, Senior Strategic Director for health at the Natural Resources Defense Council, in a statement.

### ***Supreme Court Addresses Landmark Cases***

The Supreme Court on Monday, June 15 affirmed that sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination are prohibited under Title VII, meaning a person cannot be fired for being LGBTQ.

While the case garnered less attention than the showdown five years ago that led to the court's landmark decision finding a constitutional right to same-sex marriage, the latest ruling could have far reaching impacts.

In writing for the majority, Supreme Court Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch said Congress may not have intended to ban discrimination against gays, lesbians and transgender individuals, but that the logic of their protection by the statute was inescapable.

"Those who adopted the Civil Rights Act might not have anticipated their work would lead to this particular result. Likely, they weren't thinking about many of the Act's consequences that

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have become apparent over the years, including its prohibition against discrimination on the basis of motherhood or its ban on the sexual harassment of male employees," Gorsuch wrote.

"But the limits of the drafters' imagination supply no reason to ignore the law's demands," he continued. "When the express terms of a statute give us one answer and extratextual considerations suggest another, it's no contest. Only the written word is the law, and all persons are entitled to its benefit."

In another case, on Thursday, June 18 the Court rejected the Administration's efforts to end the DACA program based on the administration's current actions, handing a major victory to about 650,000 immigrants — most of whom who entered the U.S. illegally as children more than a decade ago. The ruling keeps intact a program that is open to an estimated 1.3 million noncitizens who are eligible for DACA by virtue of having been brought to the U.S. as children and who have maintained residency and who meet the education or military service requirements and other criteria.

Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court's Democratic appointees in a 5-4 decision that found the Trump administration's move to wind down the Obama-era program for Dreamers lacked a sound legal basis. The decision does not foreclose future moves to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, but it seems unlikely the administration will be able to put in place a new framework to end DACA before November's presidential election.

The high court decision averts that kind of a political scramble in the coming months but does not extinguish the future of the Dreamers as a political issue. Given the pathways the court's action leaves open to ending DACA in the future, it offers no long-term guarantee that the program will remain in place.

"While today's decision provides some clarity for the thousands of DACA recipients who call Colorado home, Congress still needs to reach a long-term solution for Dreamers in the United States—including a pathway to citizenship," said Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO), "that's why I support immediate passage of the Dream Act and would also support the House-passed Dream and Promise Act. The Senate should act quickly to provide permanent relief for Dreamers. I will continue to work across the aisle with my colleagues in Congress to deliver certainty for Dreamers in a way the Court cannot."

### ***Supreme Court Skips Case on California Sanctuary Law***

The Supreme Court on Monday, June 15 turned down an appeal from the Trump administration seeking to challenge a California "sanctuary law" leaving intact rules that prohibit law enforcement officials from aiding federal agents in taking custody of immigrants as they are released from jail.

The Court did provide any details on its decision to not hear the case; although, Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr. said they would have granted the administration's petition seeking review.

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The California law prohibits state officials from telling federal ones when undocumented immigrants are to be released from state custody and restricts transfers of immigrants in state custody to federal immigration authorities.

A unanimous three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, in San Francisco, ruled that the federal government is not entitled to commandeer a state's resources to further its immigration agenda.

In a petition seeking the Supreme Court review of the case, *United States v. California*, No. 19-532, lawyers for the Trump administration wrote that the state law conflicted with federal ones and posed a risk to public safety. In response, lawyers for California said in their brief that the federal government was not entitled to take over the state's resources.

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 2	Rep. DeFazio (D-OR)	INVEST in America Act	<p>The bill combines multiple pieces of legislation to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit program.</p> <p>The measure includes \$25 billion for drinking water, \$100 billion for broadband, \$70 billion for clean energy projects, \$100 billion for low income schools, \$30 billion to upgrade hospitals, \$100 billion in funding for public housing and \$25 billion for the postal service and allocates approximately \$500 billion to further green efforts.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced in the House on June 11, 2020.</p> <p>On June 17, 2020 the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit discharged the measure and the bill for consideration by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.</p> <p>Following the mark up the bill was ordered to be reported out of committee. On Monday, June 29, 2020 the Rules Committee will meet to discuss the procedure and rules for the bill's consideration on the House floor.</p>
H.R. 6622	Rep. David McKinley (R-WV)	Assuring Quality Water Infrastructure Act	<p>The bill amends the Safe Water Drinking Act to establish a grant program for improving operational sustainability by small public water systems.</p> <p>The bill would authorize \$5 million to execute this program for each of the fiscal years 2021 - 2025.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on April 24, 2020, and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.</p>



H.R.6800	Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)	The HEROES Act	<p>The bill provides over \$3 trillion to federal agencies, state and local governments, small businesses, and individuals.</p> <p>The measure also would authorize and provide \$5 billion for the Housing and Urban Development Department's Community Development Block Grant program. The grant funds would have to be allocated to state and local recipients within 30 days of the bill's enactment according to an existing formula. Emergency grants could be made over 121 consecutive months, instead of three months, for entities that provide families with food, clothing, housing, and more.</p> <p>In addition, outlined within the legislation, and some would say key to successfully reopening, the measure would authorize and appropriate \$75 billion for a Covid-19 National Testing and Contact Tracing initiative.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on May 12, 2020.</p> <p>On May 15,2020 the measure passed the House by a vote of 208 - 199.</p> <p>The bill has not been well received in the Senate. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell(R-KY) has indicated that a Senate version will likely be notably different that the House passed version. The Senate is expected to consider a measure after the July 4th recess.</p>
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<p>S.3752 / H.R.6954</p>	<p>Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) / Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)</p> <p>Reps. Mikie Sherril (D- NJ) / Rep. Peter King (R-NY)</p>	<p>SMART Act</p>	<p>The State and Municipal Assistance for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Act targets \$500 billion in emergency funding to every state, county and community in the country, while prioritizing assistance to the areas with the greatest need.</p> <p>These funds could be used to help state and local governments meet the current demand, expand testing capacity and contact tracing, provide further assistance to residents, local hospitals, small businesses and schools, in addition to maintaining critical services residents depend upon. The funding would be divided into equal thirds to provide funding based on population size, infection rates, and revenue losses.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on May 18 in the Senate and on May 19 in the House.</p> <p>Either a substitute amendment or new legislation negotiated by the bipartisan group of Members is expected to be introduced reflecting updated provisions agreed to by the coalition.</p> <p>The legislation has been referred to the respective committees of jurisdiction in the House and Senate.</p> <p>The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs held a hearing on the legislation on June 2.</p>
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H.R.7073	Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)	Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act	<p>The legislation would provide special districts access to the Coronavirus Relief Fund established in the CARES Act (H.R.748). The Coronavirus Relief Fund, as enacted, provided \$150 billion for the remainder of fiscal year 2020, which ends on September 30, 2020, for State and Tribal governments and units of local governments.</p> <p>Special districts would also be determined “eligible issuers” for the Federal Reserve’s Municipal Liquidity Facilities Program.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on June 1, 2020 and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and Committee on Financial Services.</p>
S.3591	Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) / Tom Carper (D-DE)	America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2020	<p>Provides roughly \$17 billion in new federal authorizations to invest in infrastructure projects across the country, sets a 2-year goal for completing feasibility studies for potential projects by the Corps, and reauthorizes the WIFIA program administered by the EPA.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on May 4, 2020, and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.</p> <p>On May 11, 2020, the legislation was reported by Senator Barrasso with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, and placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.</p> <p>The legislation has bipartisan cosponsorship.</p>

S.3590	Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) / Tom Carper (D-DE)	Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020	<p>The measure would provide roughly \$2.5 billion in authorizations, including reauthorizing a Safe Drinking Water Act emergency fund, and \$300 million in grants for cleaning drinking water of emerging contaminants, particularly toxic PFAS.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on May 4, 2020, and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.</p> <p>On May 11, 2020, the legislation was reported by Senator Barrasso with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, and placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.</p> <p>The legislation has bipartisan cosponsorship.</p>
S.1932	Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) / Sen. Dianne Feinstein( D-CA)	Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act	<p>This legislation would authorize and/or reauthorize surface and groundwater storage and supporting projects, water recycling and reuse projects, and desalination projects. It would also establish an infrastructure finance and innovation pilot program at the Bureau of Reclamation. The legislation would also establish a process to deauthorize Bureau of Reclamation projects that have failed to receive a minimum federal investment or initiate construction.</p> <p>The bill would increase support for water infrastructure projects that are likely to provide a more-reliable water supply and increase the water management flexibility and water reliability.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on June 20, 2019. The Water and Power Subcommittee of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee held hearings on July 18, 2019.</p> <p>A markup has not been scheduled due to disagreements between the Ranking Member and Sponsors of the legislation.</p> <p>Senator Dianne Feinstein is expected to release an updated version of the bill.</p>

H.R. 1957 (previously S.3422)	Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO)	Great American Outdoors Act	<p>The legislation would create a National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund with income from 50% of the energy development revenues from oil, gas, coal, or alternative renewable energy from Federal land from fiscal years 2021 to 2025 for deferred maintenance projects in the National Park System, National Wildlife Refuge System, on BLM Public Lands, BIA Schools, or the National Forest.</p> <p>The legislation would also establish permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund that would not require further appropriations from Congress.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on 3/9/2020 in the Senate. The legislation has 59 cosponsors, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) who has indicated he plans to fast track the legislation in the Senate. While there were initially plans to consider the legislation in March, the Senate's schedule was changed to consider the third coronavirus response bill.</p> <p>The legislation passed the Senate by a vote of 73-25 on June 17.</p> <p>The House is expected to pass the legislation in July, 2020. Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) has indicated the legislation will go through the House Rules Committee before coming to the floor.</p>
Draft Legislation	Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)	FUTURE Drought Act	<p>Representative Huffman's draft legislation includes three titles on: Infrastructure Development, Improved Technology and Data, and Ecosystem Protection and Restoration. The draft legislation would create a water storage program, includes authorization of funding for desalination projects, created a water infrastructure fund, and extends and expands the WaterSMART program.</p>	<p>Much of this legislation was incorporated into H.R.2 (information above).</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 tied up in litigation.	The legislation was introduced on July 31, 2019 and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.
S. 1087	Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)	Water Quality Certification Improvement Act of 2019	The measure would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to make changes with respect to water quality certification.	<p>The measure was introduced in the Senate on April 19, 2019 and was referred to Committee on Environment and Public Works.</p> <p>On November 19, 2019 the committee held a hearing to discuss impacts of the act if implemented.</p>
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, 2019 and then referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.</p> <p>This legislation has bipartisan cosponsor ship and hearings were held on the measure in November 2019.</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, 2019 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>
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H.R. 1508 / S. 146	Rep. Blumenauer (D-OR) / Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)	Move America Act of 2019	<p>The measure would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for Move America bonds and Move America credits which would be applicable to projects relating to flood diversions, inland waterways, sewage facilities.</p>	<p>The House bill was introduced on March 5, 2019 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 referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.</p>
H.R.1162	Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)	Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act	<p>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 to \$30 million for the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act.</p>	<p>Introduced in the House on February 13, 2019.</p> <p>The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing on the legislation on June 13, 2019.</p> <p>On March 11, 2020, the House Natural Resources Committee held a mark-up on the legislation and it was ordered to be reported out of Committee by a vote of 19-12.</p>
S. 361/H.R. 807	Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) / Rep. Ken Buck (R-CO)	Water and Agriculture Tax Reform Act of 2019	<p>The measure would work to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency.</p>	<p>Introduced and referred to the Committee on Finance (Senate) and Ways and Means Committee (House). Neither chamber has recently engaged on the measures.</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 not made in order by the Committee for floor consideration.</p>
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 3, 2019. 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.	<p>The bill was introduced in the House on April 12, 2019 and then referred to the 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>

H.R.1747	Rep. Rob Wittman (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 database of the National Fish Habitat Assessment, and communicate to the public and conservation partners.	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, 2019.
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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 must 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 into 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. However the bill has yet to be considered on the Senate floor.</p> <p>The legislation has bipartisan cosponsor ship.</p>
S. 1087	Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)	Water Quality Certification Improvement Act of 2019	The measure would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to make changes with respect to water quality certification.	<p>The measure was introduced in the Senate on April 19 and was referred to Committee on Environment and Public Works.</p> <p>On November 19 the committee held a hearing to discuss impacts of the act if implemented.</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 cosponsor ship.</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, 2019 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.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.	Introduced in the House on January 15th. Referred to the Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee of the Agriculture Committee on February 7, 2019 and to the Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee on February 4, 2019.
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 purpose	Introduced in the House and referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management of the House Transportation Committee on February 7, 2019.
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 9, 2019 and referred to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Natural Resources, and Agriculture.

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.	<p>The bill was introduced in the Senate on February 7, 2019 and was referred to the Finance Committee.</p> <p>Introduced in the House on February 8, 2019 and was referred to the Committees on Judiciary, Agriculture, and Natural Resources.</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 20, 2019, a Mark-up session was held and the bill was ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote.</p> <p>The legislation has bipartisan cosponsorship.</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 House and Senate.</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 cosponsor ship.</p>
H.R.535	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>	<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. The bill passed the House on January 10, 2020 by a vote of 247 - 159. The bill was received in the Senate on January 13, 2020 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. The legislation is not expected to be considered in the Senate in its current form.</p>

H.R.4236	Rep. Quigley, Mike (D-IL)	Reducing Waste in National Parks Act	The legislation would encourage recycling and reduction of disposable plastic bottles in units of the National Park System,	<p>The bill was introduced on September 6, 2019 and was referred to the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.</p> <p>The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held hearings on the legislation on February 27, 2020.</p>
S.3263 / H.R.5845	Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)	Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act of 2020	This legislation 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, and give environmental agencies the valuable time needed to investigate the cumulative impacts of new plastic-producing facilities on the air, water, and climate.	<p>The bills were introduced in the House on 2/12/2020 and in the Senate on 2/11/2020. In the House, the legislation has been referred to the following committees: Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>In the Senate, the legislation has been referred to the Finance Committee.</p>
Enacted Legislation (removed from report after 2 months)				

H.R.266	Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)	Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (Coronavirus 3.5 response legislation)	<p>The nearly \$500 billion coronavirus rescue package that delivers emergency aid to small businesses and hospitals. The measure includes an immediate \$321 billion infusion for the Paycheck Protection Program, the small business rescue fund that ran out of money last week. The package also provides another \$60 billion in economic disaster loans for small businesses, \$75 billion in emergency relief for hospitals and \$25 billion to ramp up coronavirus testing</p>	<p>Passed unanimously by the Senate April 21, 2020.</p> <p>Passed by the House with a vote of 388-5-1 on April 23, 2020.</p> <p>The President signed the legislation on Friday, April 24, 2020.</p>
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INFORMATION  
ITEM  
**3D**



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES, LLC

Date: June 25, 2020  
To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
From: John Withers, Jim Brulte  
Re: California Strategies, LLC June 2020 Activity Report

1. This month Jim Brulte and John Withers participated in the monthly senior staff meeting June 1st via Teams due to the Coronavirus.
2. California Strategies is providing the General Manager and senior staff daily updates on the Governors' press conferences through Kathy Besser. California Strategies is also providing information from other leading agencies related to the Covid 19 response.
3. California Strategies is also providing current information on the State Budget and activities of the Governor and Legislature related to it.
4. Chino Basin Program
  - There was a discussion about the Chino Basin Program. The Program will still need to do projects to meet permit requirements.
  - Did some local info gathering for the Senior Staff
5. Discussed regional personnel changes and potential impacts at IEUA.
6. Member Questions and Answers
  - Answered questions from IEUA Board members and the GM since the meeting.