



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

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020
9:00 A.M.**

**INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY*
VIEW THE MEETING LIVE ONLINE AT IEUA.ORG
TELEPHONE ACCESS: (415) 856-9169 / Conf Code: 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 AND IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, THERE WILL NO PUBLIC LOCATION FOR ATTENDING IN PERSON.

The public may participate and provide public comment during the meeting by dialing into the number provided above. Alternatively, you may email your public comments to the Board Secretary/Office Manager Denise Garzaro at dgarzaro@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/Office Manager 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. **ACTION ITEM**

A. **MINUTES**

The Committee will be asked to approve the September 9, 2020 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

2. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

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

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

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

3. **GENERAL MANAGER’S COMMENTS**

4. **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

5. **COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

6. **ADJOURN**

7. A Municipal Water District

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

Proofed by: SR

DECLARATION OF POSTING

I, Denise Garzaro, 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, October 8, 2020.



Denise Garzaro, CMC

ACTION
ITEM
1A



**MINUTES
COMMUNITY AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY*
AGENCY HEADQUARTERS, CHINO, CA
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020
9:00 A.M.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT via Teleconference

Steven J. Elie, Chair
Kati Parker

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Christiana Daisy, Executive Manager of Engineering/AGM
Joseph Cundiff, Network Administrator
Laura Mantilla, Interim Board Secretary/Office Manager
Wilson To, Technology Specialist II

STAFF PRESENT via Teleconference

Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager
Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of External Affairs & Policy Development/AGM
Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/AGM
Jerry Burke, Manager of Engineering
Andrea Carruthers, Manager of External Affairs
Javier Chagoyen-Lazaro, Manager of Finance & Accounting
Robert Delgado, Manager of Operations & Maintenance
Don Hamlett, Acting Deputy Manager of Integrated System Services
Jennifer Hy-Luk, Acting Executive Assistant
Sylvie Lee, Manager of Planning & Environmental Resources
Scott Oakden, Manager of Operations & Maintenance
Cathleen Pieroni, Manager of Government Relations
Teresa Velarde, Manager of Internal Audit

OTHERS PRESENT

Pete Aguilar, U.S. Congressman
Michael Camacho, Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Jean Denton, Innovative Federal Strategies
Drew Tatum, Innovative Federal Strategies
Letitia White, Innovative Federal Strategies
Wendell White, U.S. Congressman Pete Aguilar's Office

Committee Chair Steven Elie called the meeting to order at 9:01 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

U.S. CONGRESSMAN PETE AGUILAR, REPRESENTING CALIFORNIA'S 31ST DISTRICT

Letitia White with Innovative Federal Strategies introduced U.S. Congressman Pete Aguilar, representing California's 31st District, stating that Congressman Aguilar has been a champion for IEUA and Southern California water issues since he took office in 2015. Congressman Aguilar serves as Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, where he sits on the Defense, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Homeland Security subcommittees. Ms. White thanked him for his hard work on behalf of the Agency, especially for his advocacy on the WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) application for the Montclair Basin Improvement Project and the Turf Replacement Water Efficiency Residential Smart Irrigation and Water Efficiency Program.

Congressman Aguilar gave an update on current issues and his team's priorities. He stated he has been focusing on providing COVID-19 relief in multiple bipartisan packages such as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act. He added that the decrease in economic activity shouldn't penalize state and local services and highlighted that state and local assistance was a key part of the HEROES Act. Aside from COVID-19 relief, Congressman Aguilar stated he's been working on H.R. 2: Moving Forward Act, which is an infrastructure bill, and WRDA (Water Resources Development Act), which passed in July. He stated he continues to advocate for WaterSMART & State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans.

Director Parker expressed her appreciation of Congressman Aguilar's support. Chair Elie asked Congressman Aguilar how Congress interaction is currently. Congressman Aguilar stated it's been challenging but a lot of interaction is happening via text or a phone call. Chair Elie reiterated his appreciation of Congressman Aguilar's support and lead on water and wastewater topics.

Ms. White thanked Congressman Aguilar for spearheading the collection of signatures from IEUA's congressional delegation in support of our most recent WaterSMART grant.

ACTION ITEMS

The Committee:

- ◆ Approved the Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting minutes of August 12, 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
- ◆ Federal Legislative Report and Matrix – Innovative Federal Strategies
- ◆ California Strategies Monthly Report

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh noted that currently San Bernardino, Riverside and Los Angeles counties are in the Purple Tier of California's four tier benchmark system and stated that he extended the next assessment to October 31, 2020. General Manager Deshmukh reiterated that this does not mean that the Agency will go back to work on that date but provides the Agency a new date to conduct the assessment on employee telework status based on current data surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

General Manager Deshmukh stated he is looking forward to the presentation of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Award from the U.S. Department of Defense and Guard and Reserve, recognizing IEUA for going above and beyond at the next Board meeting. The Agency received the awards in March, but the presentation was delayed as staff was hoping to present the awards in person. General Manager Deshmukh stated that Maintenance Planner Mike Frazier facilitated the award previously. Mr. Frazier will be presenting the awards to staff and General Manager Deshmukh stated that the Board meeting will be safe and only minimal personnel will be present in compliance to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Committee member comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Committee member requests for future agenda items.

With no further business, Committee Chair Elie adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Mantilla
Interim Board Secretary/Office Manager

*A Municipal Water District

APPROVED: October 14, 2020

INFORMATION
ITEM
2A

Date: October 21, 2020

To: The Honorable Board of Directors

SD
From: Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

Committee: Community & Legislative Affairs

10/14/20

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

Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

Executive Summary:

- October, National Energy Awareness Month
- October 1, New Water Year
- October 5, Water Professionals Appreciation Week
- October 21, Imagine A Day Without Water
- October 24, National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
- October 29, RP-5 Expansion Project Virtual Groundbreaking Event

The Agency celebrated Water Professionals Appreciation Week the week of October 3. Staff distributed a video short for social media platforms, launched an employee recognition feature of LinkedIn, hosted daily staff drawings, and implemented Teams' backgrounds that highlight this recognition.

Wally's Water Conservation Camp was highlighted as Sensor Industries' "Water Agency Superheroes Program" for the current quarter.

Staff's Recommendation:

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

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

Account/Project Name:

Fiscal Impact (explain if not budgeted):

Prior Board Action:

N/A

Environmental Determination:

Not Applicable

Business Goal:

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

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

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Background

Background

Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

October

- October, National Energy Awareness Month
- October 1, New Water Year
- October 5, Water Professionals Appreciation Week
- October 5, World Teachers' Day
- October 15, International ShakeOut Day
- October 21, Imagine A Day Without Water
- October 24, National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
- October 29, RP-5 Expansion Project Virtual Groundbreaking Event

Media and Outreach

- The Agency celebrated Water Professionals Appreciation Week beginning the week of October 5. Staff distributed a video short for social media platforms, launched an employee recognition feature on LinkedIn, hosted daily staff drawings, and implemented Teams' backgrounds that highlight this recognition.
- The Agency recognized September as National Emergency Preparedness Month and shared a series of posts about emergency preparedness techniques and creating a family emergency plan.
- The Agency recognized Protect Your Groundwater Day on September 1 with a short video about the importance of groundwater and groundwater preservation tips. The video received over 1,500 impressions across all social media platforms.
- The Agency continues to remind the public of what can/cannot be flushed down the toilet through social media posts and videos.
- Staff continues to implement Reels into the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park Instagram grid featuring 15-second fun facts about the park. Reels is a function that provides tools for the creation of videos to share with page followers. It allows you to record and edit 15-second multi-clip videos with audio, effects and creative tools.
- The Agency implemented the use of Linktree on IEUA's Instagram channel. Linktree is a single link that houses multiple links. When clicked, it navigates users directly to a list of important web pages. This tool is a great way for the Agency to optimize traffic and increase engagement by eliminating the need for hyperlinks in Instagram posts while also tracking analytics.
- The Agency congratulated Chino Hills High School for their first-place achievement in MWD's Solar Cup 2.0 competition.
 - Staff sent first place medals to Chino Hills High School participants and sent certificates of recognition to participating teams, including Chino High School, Upland High School, and Los Osos High School (Rancho Cucamonga).

- IEUA Director Steve Elie participated in the Chino Hills City Council meeting and congratulated the participants of Chino Hills High School on their achievement.
- The Agency continues to thank essential staff for their contributions to the Agency during the COVID-19 pandemic through posts on social media.
 - The Agency recognized National IT Professionals Day, Finance and Accounting Appreciation Week and World Gratitude Day with posts on social media commending essential staff for their dedication to the Agency and the community.
- The Agency celebrated Online Learning Day with social media posts announcing the release of the Plant Factory YouTube how-to video. This video serves as an interactive supplement to the Plant Factory at-home activity featured on the Agency's website and has generated a 17.5% click-through rate since being published.
- The Agency celebrated World Water Monitoring Day on social media by reminding followers to make efforts to preserve our precious water resources.
- The Agency recognized California Climate Action Day as part of Climate Action Week with a post on social media restating IEUA's commitment to environmental stewardship, water resources, and biodiversity.
- The Agency educated the public on the importance of rivers in our ecosystem on World Rivers Day with a post on social media.
- The Agency continues to educate the public on key terms in the water industry through the Water Word Wednesday campaign.
- The Agency continues to publish content on LinkedIn and has gained 50 followers since August 2020 with 649 page views in the last 30 days.
- September: 28 posts were published to the IEUA Facebook page, 28 posts were published to IEUA's Instagram, 28 tweets were sent on the @IEUAWater Twitter handle, and nine posts were published to the IEUA LinkedIn page.
 - The top three Facebook posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of September were:
 - 9/1 Compost Sales Representative, Financial Analyst I and Senior Project Manager Hiring
 - 9/21 World Gratitude Day
 - 9/28 Deputy Manager of Operations and Principal Engineer Hiring
 - The top three Twitter tweets, based on reach and engagement, in the month of September were:
 - 9/1 Protect Your Groundwater Day
 - 9/21 World Gratitude Day
 - 9/16 Above and Beyond Award Presentation
 - The top three Instagram posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of September were:
 - 9/28 Deputy Manager of Operations and Principal Engineer Hiring
 - 9/1 Compost Sales Representative, Financial Analyst I and Senior Project Manager Hiring
 - 9/21 World Gratitude Day
 - The top three LinkedIn posts, based on impressions and reactions, in the month of September were:
 - 9/16 Above and Beyond Award Presentation

- 9/1 Compost Sales Representative, Financial Analyst I and Senior Project Manager Hiring
- 9/3 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting News Release
- A Water-Wise Education ad ran in the *Chino Valley Champion's Chino Connection Magazine* section on September 12.

For the month of September, there were 8,906 searches for a park in IEUA's service area on Yelp, where Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park was viewed 1,014 times on a mobile device.

Education and Outreach Updates

- Wally's Water Conservation Camp was highlighted as Sensor Industries' "Water Agency Superheroes Program" for the current quarter.
- The Garden in Every School® program has been placed on hold. Staff will be sending out a survey to program participants at the end of October inquiring as to interests and needs of service area schools. Following the analysis of responses and school teaching environments/locations, staff will determine whether to incorporate mini grants for School Year 20/21, implement new garden grants or keep the program on hold.

Agency-Wide Membership Updates

- Richard Lao attended (virtually) the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Water Regulatory Working Group Committee Meeting and the Santa Ana River Dischargers Association (SARDA) meeting on September 17.
- Richard Lao attended (virtually) the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Air Quality, Climate Change & Energy Workgroup Meeting on September 24.
- Richard Lao attended (virtually) the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Air Quality Committee meeting on September 28.

INFORMATION
ITEM
2B



October 1, 2020

To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency

From: Michael Boccadoro
Beth Olhasso
Maddie Munson

RE: September Report

Overview:

While it is officially fall, summer temperatures continue to persist throughout the state causing water demand to remain at high, summer levels. Carryover storage in California's reservoirs has gotten the state through the record breaking heat this summer and could really use a strong winter snowpack to replenish supplies after a dismal winter of 2020. San Luis Reservoir, the main south-of-Delta storage facility for the State Water Project, is at 102 percent of average and 48 percent capacity for this time of the year. Oroville is at 75 percent of average and 46 percent capacity.

Governor Newsom recently announced a series of climate related goals and objectives aimed at transitioning the state to zero emission vehicles and away from fossil fuel based energy resources. He asked CA agencies to look at how the state and speed up transition to zero-carbon resources ahead of the state's 2045 carbon neutrality goal. Additionally, he signed an Executive Order that would mandate the sale of new electric-only passenger vehicles starting in 2035. Provisions regarding off-road equipment and heavy-duty and trucks are confusing and concerning in the EO and require further discussion with the administration and regulators.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) recently released a report "Co-Digestion Capacity in California" that found that at least half of the state's landfill bound food waste could be diverted to POTWs for co-digestion.

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is looking to add PFOA to the Proposition 65 list of carcinogens warning list. Such an addition could open up sources of PFOA to litigation. With research on how PFOA moves through POTWs, there could be a concern about possible consequences should the chemical be listed.

The election is just around the corner and the IEUA delegation is assured of at least one new member to its delegation. Senator Mike Morrell is termed out and his seat will be filled with somebody new. There are also a number of close races within the IEUA service territory that many will be closely watching on Election Day and the days following.

The 2019-2020 Legislative session ended late into the night of August 31. The session was significantly disrupted by the pandemic and concluded with a small number of water-related bills making it to the Governor's desk. IEUA was able to help play great defense on bills that were late gut and amends that would have had some significant adverse impacts on the agency. SB 1386 (Moorlach) on ratepayer assessment of water from fire hydrants and AB 2560 (Quirk) on notification and response level establishment procedures at the SWRCB were both signed by the Governor.

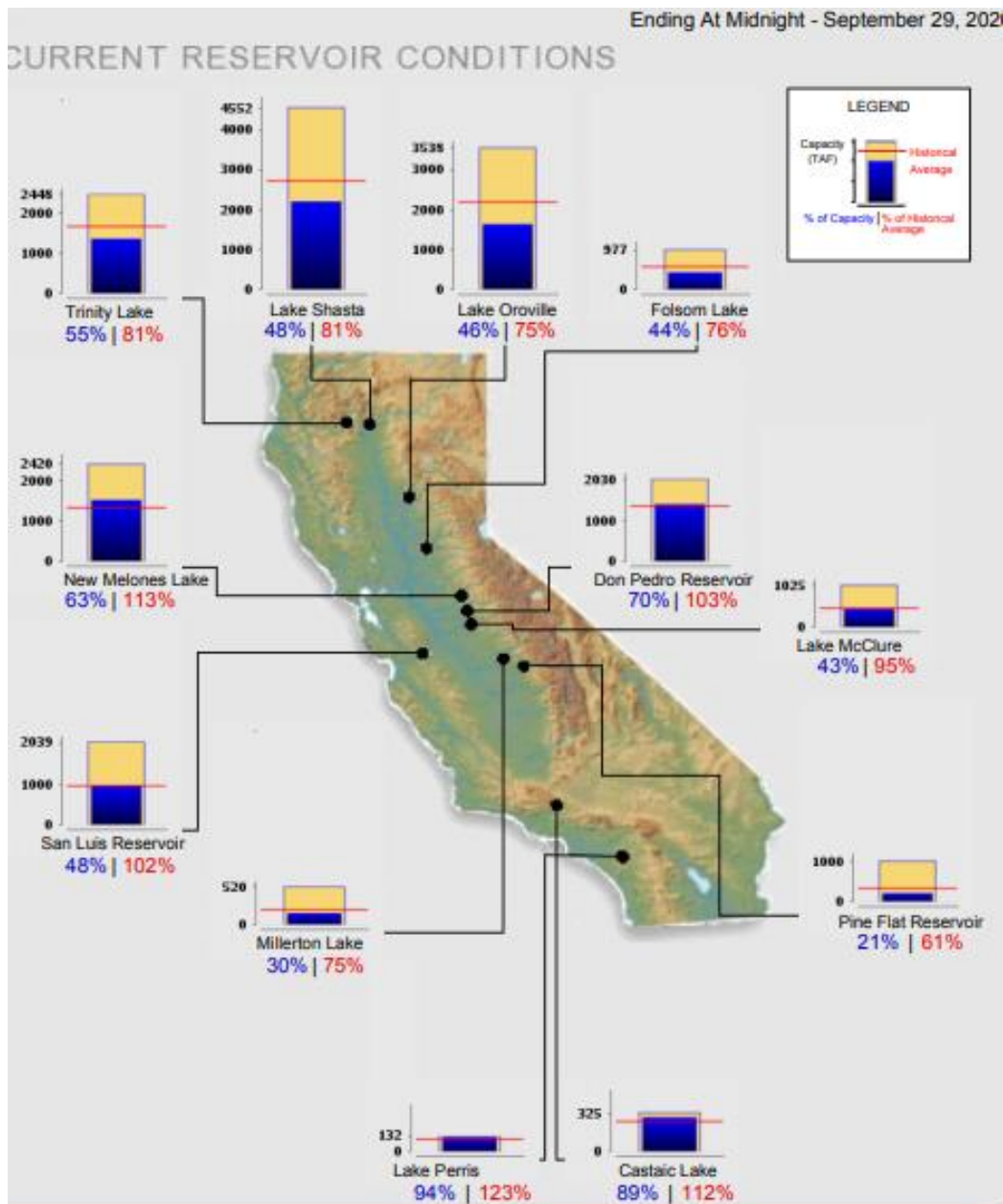
Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Status Report – September 2020

Water Supply Conditions

While it is officially fall, summer temperatures continue to persist throughout the state causing water demand to remain at high, summer levels. Carryover storage in California's reservoirs has gotten the state through the record breaking heat this summer and the state could really use a strong winter snowpack to replenish supplies after a dismal winter of 2020. San Luis Reservoir, the main south-of-Delta storage facility for the State Water Project, is at 102 percent of average and 48 percent capacity for this time of the year. Oroville is at 75 percent of average and 46 percent capacity.

Drought conditions are about normal for this time of the year, with about 84 percent of the state experiencing at least abnormally dry conditions. Surprisingly, it is the northern portion of the state that is struggling with more serious drought conditions, where normally Southern California is more dry.



Governor Focuses on Climate Issues

Executive Order on Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV)

On September 23 Governor Newsom issued an executive order directed at transitioning California away from gas/diesel based transportation. EO N-79-20 sets forth the following goals:

1. Transition to zero-emissions vehicles and equipment by type by the following timelines:
 - a. Passenger cars and trucks by 2035,
 - b. Drayage trucks by 2035,
 - c. Off-road vehicles and equipment by 2035, and
 - d. Medium- and heavy-duty vehicles by 2045.

The EO directs CARB to develop and propose regulations to implement and ultimately meet the aforementioned goals/timelines. The EO also states CARB shall act consistently with technological feasibility and cost-effectiveness.

The EO is unclear on the regulations for off-road and medium and heavy-duty vehicles. A plain reading of the text reads that all vehicles will have to be replaced by 2035 and 2045, respectively. WCA staff has conferred with the administration who have hinted that this was an error that will be clarified in the rulemaking process.

2. CARB, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), and other state agencies shall develop a Zero-Emissions Vehicle Market Development Strategy by January 31, 2021, and update that strategy every three years.
3. CARB, the California Energy Commission (CEC), and other state agencies shall use their existing authority to accelerate deployment of fueling and charging options for ZEVs, which an emphasis on equitable deployment in all communities including low-income and disadvantaged communities.
4. By July 15, 2021, CalSTA, Caltrans, and the California Transportation Commission (CTC) shall identify near term actions, and investment strategies, to improve clean transportation, sustainable freight and transit options, while continuing a “fit-it-first” approach to our transportation system.
5. The Labor and Workforce Development Agency in consultation of other state agencies and departments shall, by July 15, 2021, develop and implement a “Just Transition Roadmap” for transitioning fossil fuel dependent jobs into the clean/green economy and opportunities created by the transition to zero-emission vehicles.
6. Related to the transition away from fossil fuels, California Environmental Protection Agency shall expedite regulatory processes to repurpose and transition up-and downstream oil facilities; develop and pursue strategies to continue to reduce carbon intensity of fossil fuels; and manage and expedite the closure and remediation of former oil extraction sites.

Acceleration of Climate Goals

With the backdrop of wildfire behind him, Governor Newsom asked officials at the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency to look through the list of the state's prescriptive goals and "dust off our current processes, our current strategies, and accelerate all of them across the board." This includes broad decarbonization policies as well as measures to electrify transportation, land use efforts, and industrial and agricultural policies.

The Governor specifically references SB 100 (de Leon 2018), which sets the state on a path to achieve 100 percent renewable and zero-carbon electricity by 2045, as a nice goal, but states it is “inadequate to meet the challenges of the state.”

Between the ZEV EO and the request to accelerate zero-carbon electricity goals, 2021 will likely have a significant number of bills dealing with these issues, in addition to regulatory action.

SWRCB Report on Co-Digestion at POTWs Released

The SWRCB recently released a [report](#) by Carollo Engineers, “Co-Digestion Capacity in California” that finds that at least half of California’s landfill-bound food waste could be processed through wastewater treatment plants throughout the state. The study also finds that POTWs could profit by processing food waste while reducing GHGs by an estimated 2.4 million metric tons of CO₂-equivalent per year. The report also noted that it will likely take around one billion dollars of statewide capital investment to adequately upgrade facilities.

PFOS Proposed to be Added to CA Prop 65 Cancer Listing

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is preparing to prioritize a list of seven chemicals for potential addition to the state’s Proposition 65 warning law carcinogen list, including perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). The Carcinogen Identification Committee’s (CIC) consideration of PFOS is facing significant concern from the chemical industry, whose representatives state that there is not enough data to show the substance is carcinogenic. A recent technical report by the National Toxicology Program found rare evidence of carcinogenic activity in lab rats exposed to PFOA. A Prop 65 listing could bolster tort suits.

Comments are due to the committee on October 19, ahead of their November 17 virtual meeting.

Election Preview

The November 3 General Election is just about one month away and IEUA will see some changes in its legislative delegation. Below is a preview of the races in the IEUA delegation:

AD 40 (Rancho Cucamonga)

Registration:

42% D

30% R

21% no party preference

Candidates:

James Ramos (D)- Incumbent

Ricardo Benitez (R)- Contractor/Business Owner

AD 41 (Upland)

Registration:

47% D

25% R

22% no party preference

Candidates:

Chris Holden (D)- Incumbent

Robin Hvidston (R)- Organization Director

AD 47 (Fontana)

Registration:

50% D

18% R

25% no party preference

Candidates:

Eloise Gomez Reyes (D)- Incumbent

Matthew Gordon (R)- SB County Sheriff's Sargent

AD 52 (Ontario)

Registration:

48% D

21% R

24% no party preference

Candidates:

Freddie Rodriguez (D)- Incumbent

Toni Holli (R)- Account Technician

AD 55 (Chino Hills)

Registration:

35% D

34% R

26% no party preference

Candidates:

Philip Chen (R)- Incumbent

Andrew Rodriguez (D)- Walnut City Council

SD 23 (Rancho Cucamonga)- Mike Morrell termed out

Registration:

37% D

35% R

20% no party preference

Candidates:

Abigail Medina (D)- School Board President

Rosilicia Ochoa Bogh (R)- School Board Member

SD 25 (Upland)

Registration:

45% D

24% R

24% no party preference

Candidates:

Anthony Portantino (D)- Incumbent

SD 29 (Chino Hills)

Registration:

38% D

31% R

25% no party preference

Candidates:

Ling Ling Chang (R)- Incumbent

Josh Newman (D)- Veterans' Advocate/former Senator

New Members of the California Water Commission

On September 30, Governor Newsom appointed two new members to the California Water Commission. Both will need Senate confirmation when the Legislature returns, but they can serve until their confirmation.

Samantha F.V. Arthur, 35, of Sacramento, has been appointed to the California Water Commission. Arthur has been Working Lands Program Director at Audubon California since 2019, where she has held multiple positions since 2014, including Conservation Project Director and Conservation Project Manager. She was a Strategic Planning and Policy Intern at the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts from 2013 to 2014 and a Land Protection Specialist at Big Sur Land Trust from 2010 to 2012. Arthur earned a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science and Management from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Alexandre B. Makler, 52, of Berkeley, has been appointed to the California Water Commission. Makler has been Senior Vice President, West Region of Calpine Corporation since 2014, where he has held multiple positions since 1999, including Vice President of Strategic Origination and Development and Vice President/Assistant General Counsel. He was an Associate at Pillsbury Winthrop from 1998 to 1999 and at Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle from 1995 to 1998. He earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.

Legislative Update

As reported last month, the Legislature concluded the 2019-2020 Legislative Session late into the night on August 31. The COVID-19 pandemic drastically altered business in the Capitol with members asked to shelve any bills not related to the pandemic, homelessness, economic recovery or wildfire. Members also had to grapple with the estimated \$54 billion budget shortfall facing the state due to the COVID-19 crisis. The Legislature ultimately passed a budget that assumes significant funding from the federal government, but has "trigger cuts" included should the funding not materialize. Even with the trigger cuts, should federal funding fail to appear, the Legislature and the Governor will have to make some significant cuts either in a special session or in January when they return. The Governor has not indicated he is going to call a special session. On September 30, the Governor issued a statement about the latest federal package. He noted that if passed and signed by the President, the \$436 billion in assistance for state and local governments, if provided by October 15, would "help California avoid difficult reductions in the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Ultimately, members were unable to craft an economic stimulus package before the end of session and no climate resilience bond was passed for the November ballot. The next opportunity for a bond will be on the March of 2022 ballot.

The Governor had until September 30 to act on all of the measures sent to him by the Legislature-IEUA was only waiting on the final results of two measures:

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 and Senate committee and full house processes and is on the Governor's desk for signature. The SWRCB voiced some concerns over the bill, but ultimately, the Governor signed the measure.

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 moved easily through the Assembly and the Senate and was signed by the Governor.

Barring no special session, members will return to their districts for the fall campaign season and return to Sacramento in December for a swearing in ceremony and in January to begin the 2021-2022 Legislative Session.

IEUA BILL POSITIONS—October 1--- FINAL OUTCOMES

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 FAILED in Senate Appropriations Committee
AB 1659	Bloom	Large electrical corporations: wildfire mitigation: securitization	Would enact the Wildfire Prevention and Community Resilience Act of 2020 and would require the Natural Resources Agency, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, to adopt an interim expenditure plan and an expenditure plan that are focused on reducing wildfire risk on the ground and in communities through activities such as defensible space implementation, home hardening, improved public safety, including expenditures to add trained emergency medical technicians to the workforce, and other authorized activities, as well as to prepare residents for wildfires through public education and outreach, as provided. The bill would establish the Wildfire Prevention and Community Resilience Fund and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, would require moneys in the fund be used for the implementation of those plans.	OPPOSE Not taken up for a vote on Senate Floor
AB 2093	Gloria	Public records: writing transmitted by electronic mail: retention	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.	OPPOSE FAILED Assembly Appropriations Committee
AB 2182	Rubio	Emergency backup generators: water and wastewater facilities: exemption	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	SUPPORT Assembly Utilities and

			<i>property for those purposes, if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of the voters.</i>	
<i>SB 414</i>	<i>Caballero</i> <i>Eastern MWD/ CMUA</i>	<i>Small System Water Authority Act of 2019</i>	<i>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.</i>	<i>SUPPORT</i> <i>2- year bill</i> <i>FAILED passage in Assembly Approps</i>
<i>SB 667</i>	<i>Hueso</i>	<i>Greenhouse Gasses: Recycling Infrastructure and Facilities</i>	<i>Would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to develop, on or before January 1, 2021, and would authorize the department to amend, a 5-year needs assessment to support innovation and technological and infrastructure development, in order to meet specified organic waste reduction and recycling targets, as provided. The bill would require, on or before June 1, 2021, the department, in coordination with the Treasurer and the California Pollution Control Financing Authority, to develop financial incentive mechanisms, including, among other mechanisms, loans and incentive payments, to fund and accelerate public and private capital towards organic waste diversion and recycling infrastructure.</i>	<i>SUPPORT IF AMENDED</i> <i>2-year bill</i> <i>FAILED passage in Assembly Appropriations</i>

SB 996	<p>Portantino</p> <p>MWD/CMUA</p>	SWRCB: Constituents of Emerging Concern	<p>Would require the State Water Resources Control Board to establish by an unspecified date and then maintain an ongoing, dedicated program called the Constituents of Emerging Concern Program to support and conduct research to develop information and, if necessary, provide recommendations to the state board on constituents of emerging concern in drinking water that may pose risks to public health. The bill would require the state board to establish the Stakeholder Advisory Group and the Science Advisory Panel, both as prescribed, to assist in the gathering and development of information for the program, among other functions. The bill would require the program to provide opportunities for public participation, including conducting stakeholder meetings and workshops to solicit relevant information and feedback for development and implementation of the program.</p>	<p>Bill Dropped by Author to keep focus on emergency measures.</p>
SB 1052	<p>Hertzberg</p> <p>CASA/CA Coastkeeper</p>	Water Quality: Municipal Wastewater Agencies	<p>Would establish municipal wastewater agencies and would authorize a municipal wastewater agency, among other things, to enter into agreements with entities responsible for stormwater management for the purpose of managing stormwater and dry weather runoff, to acquire, construct, expand, operate, maintain, and provide facilities for specified purposes relating to managing stormwater and dry weather runoff, and to levy taxes, fees, and charges consistent with the municipal wastewater agency's existing authority in order to fund projects undertaken pursuant to the bill. The bill would require the exercise of any new authority granted under the bill to comply with the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000.</p>	<p>Bill Dropped by Author to keep focus on emergency measures.</p>
SB 1099	<p>Dodd</p> <p>CMUA/Las Virgenes Sponsored</p>	Emergency backup generators: critical facilities: exemption	<p>Would, consistent with federal law, require air districts to adopt a rule, or revise its existing rules, to allow critical facilities with a permitted emergency backup generator to use that emergency backup generator during a deenergization event or other loss of power, and to test and maintain that emergency backup generator, as specified, without having that usage, testing, or maintenance count toward that emergency backup generator's time limitation</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Bill dropped- Administrative solution with SCAQMD under discussion</p>

			<i>upon appropriation by the Legislature, would require moneys in the fund be used for the implementation of those plans.</i>	
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Note: Bills in *ITALICAS* are no longer active.

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INNOVATIVE FEDERAL STRATEGIES, LLC

Comprehensive Government Relations

MEMORANDUM

To: IEUA Community and Legislative Affairs Committee

From: Letitia White, Jean Denton, Drew Tatum, and Sarah Persichetti

Date: October 2, 2020

Re: September Monthly Legislative Update

Continuing Resolution Passes House, Senate, Signed into Law by President Trump

Early Thursday morning, President Trump signed legislation into law that would extend current levels of government funding into the new fiscal year. While appropriations authority technically expired at midnight, the very brief lapse in appropriations didn't trigger a government shutdown. The legislation, H.R.8337—the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021, and Other Extensions Act (CR), received bipartisan support in the House and Senate.

On Tuesday, September 22, the House passed the CR by a vote of 359 to 57 under suspension of the rules, and the Senate passed the legislation on Wednesday, September 30, the last day of the fiscal year, by a vote of 84 to 10.

The CR will provide continued funding for federal government operations through December 11, 2020, and provide various authorization extensions, including the National Flood insurance program and federal surface transportation programs (i.e. the FAST Act), through the end of fiscal year 2021.

Before passing the CR, House leaders were forced to delay the vote on the original legislation because members were concerned that the funding provisions for the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and the Pandemic EBT program, which provides food to low-income children, had not been included in the final negotiations even though both parties were nearing an agreement. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) likely pulled the original legislation from the floor to avoid an embarrassing loss on a procedural vote known as the “motion to recommit,” which is viewed as the minority party’s last chance to amend legislation before it is passed.

The agreement struck between the two parties adds \$8 billion in nutrition assistance programs and allows for the farm aid distributed through the CCC to continue but with measures sought by Democrats to prohibit payments to fossil fuel refiners and importers. It expands the expiring program providing low-income children with meals to include child care centers impacted by pandemic-related closures and gives states continued flexibility for food stamp requirements for another year.

House Democratic leadership had also faced pushback from some members of their own caucus about excluding the farm aid from the initial stopgap bill. Representative Cindy Axne (D-IA)

stated in response to the exclusion of the aid “I am deeply frustrated that once again Washington is playing games with the vital aid that Iowa’s farmers need as they continue to struggle with the long-term effects of a public health crisis, an economic downturn, a trade war, and recent natural disasters.”

Expedited consideration of the CR in the Senate may have been held up by Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) who wanted to change the must-pass government funding bill to provide more money for the Lost Wages Assistance Program created to help those unemployed during the pandemic. Senator Portman indicated he would seek to offer an amendment to CR to ensure \$300 per week payments continue, proposing \$86.6 billion in extra spending to replenish the Disaster Relief Fund, which he said has been “tapped out” by natural disasters and for use in providing payments as part of the economic stimulus plans approved by Congress. Portman said the amendment would provide \$44 billion to states to ensure payments to unemployed and other funds would be used for disasters. Senator Portman did not have the opportunity, given procedural steps taken by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), to offer his amendment before the legislation passed.

Senators Debate SCOTUS Next Steps After Death of Ginsberg

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg passed away on Friday, September 18 due to complications with metastatic pancreatic cancer. Justice Ginsberg, who was 87 years old at time of her death, spent 27 years on the nation’s top court and was the second woman to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Seen as a moderate when President Bill Clinton nominated her to the bench in 1993, Justice Ginsburg went on to leave a lasting mark in the realm of gender equality, civil liberties and pay equity, and grew to achieve improbable late-in-life recognition as a pop culture icon and hero of the progressive movement.

The late Justice Anton Scalia, with whom Justice Ginsburg shared a great friendship despite their political differences, considered her the Thurgood Marshall of women’s rights, a reference to the legendary civil rights lawyer who helped end racial segregation before becoming the nation’s first African American Supreme Court justice.

Following a private ceremony for family, close friends and fellow justices in the morning on Wednesday, September 23, Justice Ginsburg lay in repose at the Supreme Court on Wednesday and Thursday and lay in state on Friday, September 25 in Statuary Hall in the Capitol.

Justice Ginsburg’s death came 46 days before the election, with many members of Democrat leadership calling for her seat to be filled next year. However, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell vowed following the announcement of Justice Ginsburg’s death that Republicans will move to fill the Supreme Court vacancy saying, “President Trump’s nominee will receive a vote on the floor of the United States Senate.”

On Saturday, September 25, President Donald Trump officially nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett to fill the vacant seat left by Justice Ginsburg’s death. President Trump said in his

announcement from the White House Rose Garden that Judge Barrett “is a woman of unparalleled achievement, towering intellect, sterling credentials and unyielding loyalty to the constitution.”

Judge Barrett, a former clerk for late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, was nominated by President Trump and confirmed in a 55-43 vote by the Senate to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit in 2017. Judge Barrett is a favorite among conservatives and was included on the shortlist to succeed former Justice Anthony Kennedy prior to President Trump nominating now-Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

In her remarks following her nomination, Judge Barrett pledged to model her judicial approach after that of Justice Scalia, whose emphasis on the meaning of legal text is now a pillar of conservative jurisprudence. “Judges are not policymakers, and they must be resolute in setting aside any policy views they might hold,” she said, noting that Justice Scalia had an “incalculable influence on my life.”

Judge Barrett also acknowledged the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, describing her as a trailblazer for women, noting that the late justice began her legal career at a time when women were not welcome into the profession. “She not only broke glass ceilings, but she smashed them,” Barrett continued. “She was a woman of enormous talent and consequences and her life of public service serves as an example to us all.”

Judge Barrett’s nomination, which had been expected, sets up what promises to be a dramatic confirmation process before the November presidential election.

Following declarations from Majority Leader McConnell’s announcement that the seat left vacant by the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg would be filled by the end of the year, President Trump stated on Monday, September 21 that the Senate should vote to confirm his forthcoming Supreme Court nominee before Election Day, sending his clearest signal yet on the timing of a possible vote. “I think the vote, the final vote, should be taken, frankly, before the election. We have plenty of time for that,” Trump said.

Following announcements by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) after Justice Ginsburg’s death that they would vote against a nominee brought before the Senate prior to the election, Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT), who was also considered a potential swing vote, confirmed that he would be open to consideration of sending a new judge to the high court before the election.

Republicans can afford three senators to oppose a vote before Election Day and still confirm Trump’s eventual nominee, assuming all Democrats in the upper chamber are against a vote. With Senator Romney’s expressed support for a vote, if the rest of the GOP caucus votes yes, Majority Leader McConnell will have 51 votes to confirm a nominee.

Tensions were high on the Senate floor in the debate on next steps for the court as Senate Minority Leader Schumer challenged Majority Leader McConnell’s statements regarding an existing precedent for confirming a Supreme Court nominee during an election year when both

the Senate and the White House have been held by the same party. The last time a Supreme Court nominee was confirmed during an election year was in July 1916.

Minority Leader Schumer stated on the Senate floor on Wednesday, September 23, that "July is long gone. August is over. We're now at the end of September. And as you just heard, not from the Democratic Leader, but from the records in the Senate [after asking if the Secretary of the Senate shows records of a precedent] as spoken by the Chair, there is no precedent for confirming a Supreme Court Justice between July and Election Day."

Minority Leader Schumer also added concern over the nomination, stating the move was an assault on the ACA. "By nominating Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, President Trump has once again put Americans' healthcare in the crosshairs," he said. Later, he added that he will not meet with Judge Barrett stating "why would I meet with a nominee of such an illegitimate process and one who is determined to get rid of the Affordable Care Act?"

Judge Barrett was on Capitol Hill on Monday to meet with key Republican Senators, including Majority Leader McConnell and Senate Judiciary Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-SC). Additional Democrats have stated they will not meet with Judge Barrett, including Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), both of whom serve on the Senate Judiciary Committee. While meeting with the President's nominee is not required, it provides senators a first shot at questioning the Supreme Court nominee ahead of a high-profile hearing.

Republican senators said last weekend that they believe Judge Barrett will be confirmed by November. Additionally, Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) acknowledged there is little Democrats can do to halt the confirmation of Trump's nominee. "We could slow it down perhaps a matter of hours, maybe days at the most, but we can't stop the outcome," he stated. "What we should do is to address this now respectfully."

The Senate Judiciary Committee is expected to start a four-day hearing for Judge Barrett's nomination on October 12th, followed up a possible floor vote before the end of October, just days before the November 3rd election.

The Supreme Court began its next term with opening conference on Tuesday September 29, with the first arguments of the term coming on Monday, October 5th. As a reminder, in the event of a 4-4 split vote amongst the justices before a new justice is confirmed, the lower court's ruling is effectively upheld.

Covid Relief Legislation

On Thursday October 1, the House passed a massive \$2.2 trillion package of coronavirus relief, lending political cover to party centrists in tough races while putting fresh pressure on Senate Republicans to move another round of emergency aid before the coming elections.

The vote arrived only after last-ditch negotiations between Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Thursday failed to yield a bipartisan agreement — after the two had talked numerous times throughout the week to try and find a deal.

The legislation has almost no chance of becoming law – with a final vote in the House of 214 to 207, every Republican and 18 Democrat members voted against the legislation, and Senate Republicans and the White House both oppose the measure.

House Democrats released the updated \$2.2 trillion HEROES Act on Monday, claiming that the legislation served as a “proffer to Republicans to come to negotiations to address the health and economic catastrophe in our country,” in a last-ditch effort to pressure White House negotiators to come back to the table and strike a bipartisan deal before the election.

Republicans had made it clear they are not happy with the House Democrats’ new proposal. House Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) called on Republicans to oppose the bill in a whip notice to his conference on Tuesday. The memo called the bill a “messaging exercise” that “recycles the same socialist wish list that was offered” in Democrats’ earlier \$3.4 trillion proposal in May.

This pared-down HEROES Act — \$1.2 trillion less than the original bill passed by the House last spring — includes \$436 billion in emergency aid for state and local governments; \$225 billion for schools and child care; an additional round of \$1,200 stimulus checks for most Americans; money to restore \$600 expanded unemployment payments through January; \$75 billion for testing, contact tracing and other health care efforts; billions for housing assistance; and funding to shore up the census, U.S. Postal Service and elections.

HEROES Act 2.0 also includes a key provision backed by President Trump and Republican lawmakers - \$25 billion to stave off thousands of layoffs at passenger airlines, as well as \$3 billion for airline contractors. The beleaguered restaurant industry would receive \$120 billion in aid under the Democratic plan.

The latest COVID relief proposal by House Democrats comes after the White House and Congress restarted discussions on covid relief during the month of September, however little progress was made. Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi restarted discussions by phone on Tuesday, September 1st for the first time since August 7th.

In the Senate, after weeks of disagreement within the Republican party on a COVID relief plan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) unveiled the roughly \$500 billion legislation, the Delivering Immediate Relief to America’s Families, Schools, and Small Business Act, on Tuesday, September 8th.

Senators voted 52-47 on Thursday, September 10th on the Republican bill, failing to reach the 60 votes necessary to invoke cloture on the legislation, which was offered as a substitute amendment. The vote marked the first coronavirus-related legislation the chamber has considered since it passed a \$484 billion package in April. GOP leadership worked behind the scenes to lock down 51 votes, a U-turn from August when Majority Leader McConnell predicted that up to 20 Republican senators would not vote for any additional coronavirus relief legislation. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) was the only Republican to vote against the bill.

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After the failed vote in the Senate, lawmakers have been growing increasingly pessimistic about passing another coronavirus relief package ahead of the November election.

Despite Senate Republicans' dismal outlook on reaching an agreement with House Democrats after their "skinny" bill failed to pass, President Trump shook up the high-stakes debate over coronavirus relief in a tweet on Wednesday, September 16th by encouraging Republicans to "go for the much higher numbers" adding that "it all comes back to the USA anyway (one way or another!)".

Minutes after Trump's tweet, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, who has been key negotiator throughout discussions over COVID relief legislation, said he was more "optimistic" about a potential for a deal than he had been in quite some time and characterized a \$1.52 trillion relief plan proposed by the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus (PSC) on Tuesday, September 15th as a "thoughtful suggestion" adding "It provides a foundation for us to come back to the table. ... It's not a show stopper".

Speaker Pelosi, as well as several members of House leadership, has pegged the PSC's proposed plan as "insufficient", despite at least 75% of PSC members supporting the package. Various members of Democrat leadership released a statement critical of the PSC plan saying it "falls short of what is needed to save lives and boost the economy."

During the second half of the month, COVID negotiations stalled with lawmakers' attention turned towards passing a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government open after the end of the fiscal year. Secretary Mnuchin stated that after the Senate passes a CR, he would discuss additional COVID aid with Speaker Pelosi.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell weighed in on the debate in September when he appeared before Congress to testify on the Federal Reserve's response to the pandemic, and the need for additional stimulus. During a hearing before the House Oversight Committee's special coronavirus subcommittee, Chairman Powell faced a partisan group of members who presented questions and discussion out of the Federal Reserve's domain. Chairman Powell rebuffed questions about the size and scope of another fiscal stimulus deal, voicing support for some form of aid but leaving the details to lawmakers to hash out.

Despite the overall tenor of the hearing, Powell did face several questions about what the Fed could do to help smaller businesses beyond the scope of its current emergency lending programs. Some Democratic members of the panel asked Powell to consider lowering the minimum loan threshold for the Fed's Main Street Lending Program (MSLP), a facility designed to help mid-sized businesses weather the pandemic. But Powell said the MSLP has seen virtually no demand for loans less than \$1 million and that the Fed is not well equipped to underwrite a flood of smaller loans that could lead to substantial taxpayer losses.

On Thursday, September 24th, Chairman Powell, in addition to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, appeared before the Senate Banking Committee. Secretary Mnuchin told Senators during the hearing that he has spoken to Speaker Pelosi "15 or 20 times in the last few days on

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the [Continuing Resolution] CR” and they had “agreed to continue to have discussions about the CARES Act.”

“We are encouraged that after months of the Senate Republicans insisting on shortchanging the massive needs of the American people, President Trump is now calling on Republicans to ‘go for the much higher numbers’ in the next coronavirus relief package,” Speaker Pelosi and Senator Schumer said in a joint statement after Trump’s tweet.

Additionally, on Thursday, September 24th, a group of House Democrats began circulating a new letter calling on Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer to hold a vote on a bipartisan coronavirus relief package before Election Day.

The letter, led by Problem Solvers Caucus (PSC) Co-Chair Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) and freshman Representatives Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) and Dean Phillips (D-MN) states “Passing a bipartisan COVID-19 relief package should be our number one priority in the coming days. It is our request that you continue to negotiate towards a bipartisan deal, and we stand ready to work with you to ensure that Americans can receive the urgent relief they need as quickly as possible.” The letter called for “much needed relief in the areas of: COVID-19 testing, state and local aid, unemployment insurance, direct stimulus payments, support for small businesses and non-profits, food security, broadband, funding for schools and child care, housing, and agriculture support”

Interior Secretary Will Lead Bureau of Land Management

The Department of the Interior will not name a new acting director to lead the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) after it’s leader was ousted by a federal judge. Instead the job will be left to Interior Secretary David Bernhardt.

A Montana-based U.S. district judge on Friday, September 25 ruled William Perry Pendley, the controversial acting director of BLM, "served unlawfully ... for 424 days" and enjoined him from continuing in the role.

The decision was in response to a suit from Montana Gov. Steve Bullock (D), who argued Pendley, whose nomination to lead the BLM was pulled by the White House last month, was illegally serving in his role through a series of temporary orders.

“I understand there may be some questions about the ruling on Friday regarding William Perry Pendley’s leadership role at the Bureau of Land Management,” Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Land and Minerals Management Casey Hammond wrote in an email to BLM staff.

“Secretary Bernhardt leads the bureau and relies on the BLM’s management team to carry out the mission. Deputy Director for Programs and Policy, William Perry Pendley, will continue to serve in his leadership role.”

Putting Bernhardt at the helm of the agency appears to comply with the court order, critics say the move centralizes power for the agency in the highest political circles after relocating more

than 200 Washington, D.C.,-based positions to Grand Junction, Colorado in order to bring employees closer to the lands they manage. The move leaves just 61 BLM employees in Washington, D.C.

Close observers of the BLM have complained the Trump administration has changed an organization that largely flew under the radar in previous administrations, responsible for balancing recreation and conservation on the nation's nearly 250 million acres of public lands with energy development and grazing interests.

"Mr. Pendley didn't sign off on as many decisions as he could have, probably because he knew this day would come," House Natural Resources Chairman Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) said, whose committee oversees the BLM.

"We're still assessing the policy impacts of his tenure, but it's already clear that no user of public lands should have put any faith in this administration or Mr. Pendley to provide them with any certainty about anything," he said.

EPA Questions Legality of California's Attempt to Phase Out Sales of Gas-Powered Cars

The federal government is raising legal and practical questions about a recent California executive order attempting to end sales of gas-powered cars in the state by 2035.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler wrote to California Governor Gavin Newsom on Monday, saying he believes California would need to request a waiver from his agency for the order to be implemented and implying that the state's electricity infrastructure is insufficient for a shift toward electric vehicles.

"While the [executive order] seems to be mostly aspirational and on its own would accomplish very little, any attempt by the California Air Resources Board to implement sections of it may require California to request a waiver to U.S. EPA," Administrator Wheeler wrote.

In a brief filed in the D.C. Circuit on Wednesday, September 9, the Trump administration said that California's rules limiting vehicle emissions won't reduce climate change and do nothing more than "disrupt orderly functioning of the national program."

In November, eleven environmental groups launched a lawsuit in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, challenging the Environmental Protection Agency's September 2019 rescission of a waiver under the Clean Air Act that allows the Golden State to chart its own course on auto rules. The waiver announcement came as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued a rule saying California's standards were preempted by federal law because they are related to fuel-economy standards.

State emissions standards requiring a greater fuel economy, such as greenhouse gas emissions standards, interfere with NHTSA's ability to make determinations on a national level, the agency said in its respondent brief filed Wednesday in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Though California can seek waivers for emissions standards, it does not need

state-specific greenhouse gas vehicle emissions standards to meet “compelling and extraordinary conditions,” the NHTSA said in the brief.

Ian Fein, an attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council, which joined the lawsuit, disputed that assertion in a statement citing the ongoing wildfires in the state. “No sane person would look at the blood-red sky outside my home and doubt that we are facing ‘compelling and extraordinary’ air quality conditions as a result of greenhouse gas emissions,” Fein said.

California, 22 other states, and electric carmakers and supporters have also sued over the waiver revocation. Many are also involved in separate litigation that targets the Transportation Department.

GOP Lawmakers Seek to Cement Administration NEPA Rollback

House Republicans are seeking to advance a bill that would legislatively cement many of the Administration’s controversial changes to a bedrock environmental law while adding additional provisions that would make it tougher to sue over major construction projects.

The new Republican bill, the Builder Act, includes many identical or similar provisions, capping environmental reviews to one or two years and limiting what sorts of alternatives could be considered before proceeding with a highway or pipeline.

Representative Garret Graves (R-LA), the sponsor of the legislation, said codifying Trump’s NEPA regulation would stop the “pendulum swinging back and forth between administrations.”

The bill follows the White House’s July rollback of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which for 50 years has required the government to weigh environmental and community concerns before approving pipelines, highways, drilling permits or any major action on federal lands.

“I applaud the administration’s monumental steps to produce a new final NEPA rule that’s going to have some advantages, but it needs to be codified,” said Representative Rob Bishop (R-UT), ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee. “Congress got it wrong when they wrote it and has refused to change it, and now’s the time for Congress to get it right,” he added.

The Administration’s NEPA rollback is considered sweeping in its own right. The rewrite removes requirements to consider climate change before proceeding on a project, and protocols for weighing concerns from nearby communities — often communities of color — would become far more complex. It also opens the door for more industry involvement in reviewing the environmental effects of projects or nixing reviews entirely for some projects that receive little federal funding. President Trump has repeatedly called NEPA the “single biggest obstacle” to major construction projects.

The Administration’s new NEPA regulation has been widely criticized by environmental groups because of the barriers it put in place for those seeking to comment as major infrastructure projects are proposed. Those comments will now have to be more technical in nature, something

that could require the often poor, often majority-minority communities where many projects are built to hire lawyers or environmental scientists.

Representative Graves said he believed his measure limiting suits would still encourage people to participate at the least burdensome stage of the process. “This actually requires participation in the process. This is a really important fix because you oftentimes can actually resolve issues through the NEPA process. There's much flexibility in looking at mitigation or looking at alternatives, and so what that does is it prevents, in many cases, items from ever even going before the courts,” he said, something that will prevent additional delays and expenses.

The Republican bill has almost no chance of advancing in the Democratic-led House, where this week lawmakers are instead expected to advance legislation that would boost research and development funding for most types of energy, and will be focused on potential covid relief legislation.

Lawmakers Dismiss Talk of Expanding Supreme Court, Nixing Filibuster

Senate Democrats are tamping down talk of expanding the Supreme Court if Republicans fill the seat held by the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Following Justice Ginsburg’s death on Friday, September 18th, and discussion among Senate Republicans of filling the vacancy prior to the election, progressive activists and some lawmakers have raised the idea of expanding the court, arguing the party needs to be ready to take bold steps if they have the Senate majority and the White House next year while facing a 6-3 conservative court.

The effort would tie together two controversial ideas: nixing the 60-vote legislative filibuster and then passing legislation to add seats to the Supreme Court, which has been set at nine justices since 1869. But several Democratic senators, including senior members of the caucus, are shooting down the idea altogether or warning that debating it now is a distraction from the fight over Ginsburg’s seat.

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), current Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee who would likely chair the Committee if Democrats win back the majority, is against nixing the legislative filibuster, which would be a necessary first step to adding seats to the court.

“Well, I don’t believe in doing that, I think. I think the filibuster serves a purpose. ... I think it’s part of the Senate that differentiates itself,” Senator Feinstein stated.

What to do about the legislative filibuster has been a point of rolling debate for Senate Democrats as they’ve seen increasing odds that they will win the majority in November. But the debate was turbocharged by Justice Ginsburg’s death and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s near-immediate vow that Republicans would hold a vote on the Senate floor this year on whomever President Trump nominates, with supporters claiming that the high court should be expanded to balance out seats they believe were “stolen” by Republicans since 2016.

House Readies Bill to Legalize, Tax Marijuana

The House could take up a measure this year to legalize and tax marijuana at the federal level, marking the first time one of the chambers has voted to decriminalize the drug according to a letter from Senate Majority Leader Steny Hoyer.

While 11 states and Washington, D.C., allow recreational use, and many more states make allowances for medicinal purposes, it is still a federally outlawed substance. Lawmakers have floated various measures to aid cannabis companies, and to resolve the conflict between state laws and the federal ban.

H.R. 3884, the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act of 2019 or MORE Act of 2019, sponsored by House Judiciary Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-NY), would remove marijuana from federal drug schedules under the Controlled Substances Act and expunge convictions for marijuana offenses. It also would impose a 5% federal excise tax on the sale price of cannabis products and use the revenue to support people arrested for drug offenses, including past offenders who want to participate in the cannabis.

The bill would also change any references to “marijuana” or “marihuana” in federal statutes to “cannabis.”

The bill would require the Small Business Administration (SBA) to carry out a Cannabis Opportunity Program that would provide loans to cannabis businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged people. The measure also would amend several SBA programs to ensure that state-approved cannabis businesses and service providers qualify for small business aid. The provision would cover small business development centers, women’s business centers, the SCORE program, veterans business outreach centers, 7(a) loans, disaster loans, microloans, and state and local development company loans.

The legislation faces long odds in the GOP-led Senate where similar legislation, S. 2227 has been introduced by Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA). “I am fervently committed to getting this done,” Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said about the legalization, but said he needs a Democratic Senate to make it happen.

Earlier this month, the House Energy and Commerce Committee advanced a separate measure that would reduce barriers for marijuana research. House Democrats have also passed legislation to expand pot companies’ access to the banking system. While the House had hoped to consider the legislation during the week of September 21st, disagreements within the Democratic Caucus have temporarily delayed the legislation from coming to the floor, though Majority Leader Steny Hoyer has promised the bill’s sponsors that he will bring the legislation to the floor before the end of the year.

Senate Legislation to Provide Disaster Tax Relief for Individuals, Businesses

A bipartisan group of senators on Wednesday, September 16th, offered legislation to provide tax relief to individuals and businesses affected by natural disasters, such as August's derecho in the Midwest, the wildfires in western states, and Hurricanes Laura and Isaias.

The bill was introduced by Senators Joni Ernst (R-IA), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and John Kennedy (R-LA) — all of whom represent states impacted by disasters in recent months.

The bill includes several tax provisions that would apply to individuals and businesses in regions that are designated as presidentially declared disaster areas from July 1 through 60 days after the bill's enactment.

It includes provisions to remove penalties on early withdrawal from retirement accounts, suspend limits on deductions for certain charitable contributions and provide an employee retention tax credit. It would also allow low-income individuals to use their previous year's income when claiming certain tax credits, so that they don't receive smaller credits for 2020 if their incomes declined as a result of the disaster.

Congress has enacted similar disaster tax relief provisions in the past. An omnibus spending package enacted in December included provisions to provide tax relief for individuals and businesses affected by disasters that occurred in 2018 and 2019.

Senator Grassley encouraged Congress to pass the bill before the 2021 tax filing season begins “so that families, farmers and businesses have enough time to use this relief for a swift recovery.”

Senators Reach Agreement on Stalled Energy Bill

On Thursday, September 10, Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman John Barrasso (R-WY), Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-DE), and Senator John Kennedy (R-LA) agreed to change an amendment offered last winter to S. 2657, the American Energy Innovation Act (AEIA). The bipartisan amendment would authorize a 15-year phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), greenhouse gases found in refrigeration and air conditioning.

“With this agreement, we now have a clear path in Congress to enact and implement a nationwide phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons,” Carper said of the amendment.

The energy package, offered by Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Joe Manchin (D-WV), was temporarily sidelined earlier this year over a dispute on HFCs language related to state authority. The agreement could mean a revival of the energy package in September or before the end of the year, a priority for Murkowski during her last term as head of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee who touted the AEIA at the time of its introduction as the best chance to modernize the country's energy policies.

Prior to the compromise, Barrasso, the White House, and other critics opposed the measure because it did not include language that would have preempted states from setting their own stricter HFC standards. They argued that this would have created uncertainty for manufacturers. The new amendment would prevent state and local government from regulating HFCs for at least five years, though this could be extended to 10 years if there are not sufficient substitute chemicals for an HFC use.

The revised language would require EPA to put in place an 85% phasedown of HFC production and consumption, so they reach roughly 15% of their 2011-2013 average annual levels by 2036. It would protect “essential uses” of HFCs, in equipment and sprays that have no substitute chemicals at the moment.

House Holds Hearing on Financial Aid for States and Territories During Pandemic

Earlier in the month, the House Committee on Financial Services held a virtual hearing titled “The Need for Financial Aid to America’s States and Territories During the Pandemic: Supporting First Responders, Assisting Schools in Their Efforts to Safely Educate, and Preventing Mass Layoffs”.

The hearing, which lasted almost four and a half hours, came as the debate over additional fiscal aid for state and local governments remains one of the biggest hurdles between Republican and Democrats as they seek to pass new COVID relief legislation.

Throughout the various attempts at COVID relief legislation, there have been varying numbers set forth by the White House and lawmakers. The most recent updated HEROS Act provides \$436 billion in emergency aid for state and local governments, although it is unclear if this bill is something that Senate Republicans would consider.

During Chairwoman Maxine Waters’ (D-CA) opening statements, she stated that states and territories need additional financial support for first responders and schools. She criticized COVID relief legislation being considered in the Senate as not having funding for states and territories and denounced the White House response and President Trump’s threat to cut off funding to state governments.

During the hearing, four Democratic governors called for continued fiscal aid for small businesses and assistance to homeowners and renters, and increased support for PPE for schools and essential workers. Minnesota Governor Tim Waltz stated he is incredibly thankful to Congress for the passage of the CARES Act but asked Congress to continue to keep states in mind throughout negotiations.

Other topics that were prevalent among witnesses and members during the question and answer portion of the hearing included specifics about the financial strain states have been burdened with due to the pandemic, and the need for additional aid to combat unemployment. Democrats stated that funding for state and local governments is critical as they are the main actors on the front lines of the pandemic and expressed the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on rural and minority communities.

Despite calls for additional funding from the governors and Democratic members of the committee, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, President of the American Action Forum and the Republican witness, testified that he doesn't believe Congress should be looking to past recessions as to how to address this one – a statement that many Republican members echoed during their time for questions. Republican members also argued that there is a lack of data and analysis for need by states in relation to coronavirus expenses and getting the population back to work, and that getting people back to work is best way to economic recovery.

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 8337	Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)	Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.	This bill provides continuing FY2021 appropriations to federal agencies through December 11, 2020, and extends several programs. The CR funds most programs and activities at the FY2020 levels with several exceptions that provide funding flexibility and additional appropriations to various programs.	<p>The legislation was introduced on September 22, 2020 by Representative Lowey, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee.</p> <p>The bill passed in the House under suspension of the rules by a vote of 359-57 in the evening of September 22nd. The Senate passed the legislation on September 30th, the last day of the fiscal year.</p> <p>President Trump signed the legislation into law late in the early morning hours of October 1, 2020.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 7608	Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)	First House Minibus Appropriations Package: State, Foreign Operations, Agriculture, Rural Development, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2021	<p>The \$259.5 billion four appropriation bill package included \$36.76 billion for the Interior, Environment spending bill in which the Environmental Protection Agency would receive a near-record \$9.38 billion and Interior would get \$13.83 billion in discretionary appropriations under the legislation.</p> <p>The measure includes \$15 billion for a new emergency critical infrastructure fund, \$2.35 billion for the wildfire suppression cap adjustment, and \$12.9 million in additional funds for research on PFAS, “forever chemicals” found in nonstick consumer goods and firefighting foam.</p>	<p>Representative Lowey, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, introduced the first minibus on July 13, 2020.</p> <p>Amendments from members were due to the Committee on July 20, and the legislation passed in the House on July 24 by a vote on 224-189. Republicans voted against the measure unanimously, objecting to the "emergency" spending titles, which they say violates the Bipartisan Budget Act agreed to last year.</p> <p>The spending bills face an unlikely path to the president’s desk before the new fiscal year begins on October 1. Without funding bills or a continuing resolution — a stopgap measure that extends current funding levels — the government would shut down.</p> <p>Moreover, the Senate has yet to introduce their versions of the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bills, and are not expected to do so until after August recess.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 7617	Rep. Pete Visclosky (D-IN)	Second House Minibus Appropriations Package: Defense, Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Homeland Security, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2021	<p>The measure totals over \$1.3 trillion and included \$60 million for WaterSMART Grants; \$2.1 million for Water Conservation Field Services Program; \$4.179 million for Cooperative Watershed Management; \$2 million for Basin Studies; \$5 millions Drought Responses & Comprehensive Drought Plans; \$5 million for Basin Studies and \$63.665 million for Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program and an additional \$300 million in emergency appropriations for WaterSMART grants and \$50 million for the Title XVI program.</p> <p>?</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced in the House on July 16, 2020</p> <p>The measure passed the House by a vote of 217 to 197, with no Republicans supporting the bill and 12 Democrats joining them in opposition.</p> <p>The Senate has yet to introduce their versions of the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bill, and are not expected to do so until after August recess.</p>
H.R. 8406	Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)	The Heroes Act	<p>The legislation introduced by House Democrats is \$1.2 trillion less than the original bill passed by the House last spring — includes \$436 billion in emergency aid for state and local governments; \$225 billion for schools and child care; an additional round of \$1,200 stimulus checks for most Americans; money to restore \$600 expanded unemployment payments through January; \$75 billion for testing, contact tracing and other health care efforts; billions for housing assistance; and funding to shore up the census, U.S. Postal Service and elections.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced by Rep. Nita Lowey, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, on Monday, September 29.</p> <p>The legislation passed the House on Thursday, October 1, by a vote of 214-207 with every Republican member and 18 Democrat lawmakers voting against the legislation.</p> <p>The bill is unlikely to move forward in its current state, as both Republican Senators and the White House have expressed disapproval of the legislation.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 4447	Rep. O'Halleran, Tom (D-AZ)	Expanding Access to Sustainable Energy Act of 2019 [Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act]	The legislation combines several bills that aim to boost green infrastructure and energy efficiency in buildings, and invest in renewable technologies, energy sources, and workforce training. The measure includes provisions to improve the electricity grid and broaden investments and access to electric vehicles. A section on environmental justice includes several grant programs for underserved communities.	<p>The package was originally introduced by Representative Tom O'Halleran on September 20, 2019. A mark-up session on the legislation was held on September 9, 2020, and the legislation passed the House on September 24th by a vote of 220-185.</p> <p>The House vote fell down partisan lines with criticism from House Republicans. The White House has threatened to veto the bill.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 3884/S.2227	Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY)	Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act of 2019	This legislation removes marijuana from the list of scheduled substances under the Controlled Substances Act and eliminates criminal penalties for an individual who manufactures, distributes, or possesses marijuana.	<p>In the House, the legislation was introduced on July 23, 2019 by Rep. Jerry Nadler. On November 21, 2019, the House Judiciary Committee held a mark-up of the legislation.</p> <p>While the House had hoped to consider the legislation during the week of September 21, 2020, disagreements within the Democratic Caucus have temporarily delayed the legislation from coming to the floor, though Majority Leader Steny Hoyer has promised the bill's sponsors that he will bring the legislation to the floor before the end of the year.</p> <p>The Senate legislation was introduced by Sen. Kamala Harris on July 23, 2019 and referred to the Committee on Finance. While the legislation faces long odds in the GOP-led Senate, Senator Minority Leader Chuck Schumer has expressed his commitment to getting the legislation passed.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
S.4596	Sen. Ernst, Joni (R-IA)	Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020	<p>The legislation includes several tax provisions that would apply to individuals and businesses in regions that are designated as presidentially declared disaster areas from July 1 through 60 days after the bill's enactment.</p> <p>The legislation includes provisions to remove penalties on early withdrawal from retirement accounts, suspend limits on deductions for certain charitable contributions and provide an employee retention tax credit. It would also allow low-income individuals to use their previous year's income when claiming certain tax credits, so that they don't receive smaller credits for 2020 if their incomes declined as a result of the disaster.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced by Sen. Joni Ernst on September 16, 2020.</p> <p>The legislation has bipartisan support.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 7575	Rep. DeFazio (D-OR)	Water Resources Development Act of 2020	<p>The legislation would help build, repair, and maintain a wide variety of water infrastructure projects.</p> <p>In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would be authorized to start several navigation, flood control, storm damage, and other water-related infrastructure projects. The bill also directs the Corps to undertake an inventory of water resources development projects and associated properties that are or may be contaminated with PFAS, and to develop a plan to remediate and limit potential human exposure to the contamination. In Southern California, the Corps would be required to expedite a study on the Seven Oaks Dam related to adding additional authorized purposes.</p>	<p>The bill was introduced July 13, 2020.</p> <p>The measure was favorably approved out of committee on July 24, 2020 and passed the House on July 31, 2020 by voice vote.</p> <p>After passing the House the bill is now awaiting consideration in the Senate. Senate EPW Committee Chairman John Barasso (R-WY) has indicated a willingness to consider the House-passed bill.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 6084	Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)	Water Power Research and Development Act	To provide for a program of hydropower, pumped storage, and marine energy research, development, demonstration, and commercial application, and for other purposes.	<p>The legislation was introduced on March 4, 2020 and referred to the Subcommittee on Energy of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.</p> <p>On March 12, 2020, the Subcommittee on Energy held a Mark-up Session, and the legislation forwarded by the Subcommittee to Full Committee for Voice Vote.</p> <p>No actions on the bill have been taken since March.</p>
H.R. 2	Rep. DeFazio (D-OR)	Moving Forward 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 met to discuss the procedure and rules for the bill's consideration on the House floor.</p> <p>The House voted on the measure on Wednesday, July 1 and passed the legislation by a vote of 233 – 188. The Administration opposes the legislation and the President will likely veto the bill in its current form.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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>	The legislation was introduced on April 24, 2020, and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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 than the House passed version.</p> <p>The Senate Committee on Small Business held hearings on the legislation on July 23.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
S.3752 / H.R.6954	Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) / Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) Reps. Mikie Sherril (D- NJ) / Rep. Peter King (R-NY)	SMART Act	<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>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R.7073/ S.4308	Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)/ Sen. Krysten Sinema (D-AZ)	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 House legislation was introduced on June 1, 2020 and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and Committee on Financial Services.</p> <p>Companion legislation was introduced in the Senate on July 23, 2020 and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.</p> <p>The Senate version of the legislation also has bipartisan cosponsorship.</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>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
S.3590	Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) / Tom Carper (D-DE)	Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020	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>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>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
Draft Legislation	Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)	FUTURE Drought Act	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 an water infrastructure fund, and extends and expands the WaterSMART program.	Much of this legislation was incorporated into H.R.2 (information above).
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.	The measure was introduced in the Senate on April 19, 2019 and was referred to Committee on Environment and Public Works. On November 19, 2019 the committee held a hearing to discuss impacts of the act if implemented.
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.	Introduced on March 15, 2019 and then referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. This legislation has bipartisan cosponsor ship and hearings were held on the measure in November 2019.

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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:</p> <p>State Management Assistance: Section 106(a);</p> <p>Watershed Pilot Projects: Section 122(c);</p> <p>Alternative Water Source Projects Pilot Program: Section 220(d);</p> <p>Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants: Section 221(f)1); and</p> <p>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> <p>On September 4, 2020, the legislation was placed on the House Calendar.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 1508 / S. 146	Rep. Blumenauer (D-OR) / Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)	Move America Act of 2019	The measure would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for Move America bonds and Move America credits which would be applicable to projects relating to flood diversions, inland waterways, sewage facilities.	<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 16, 2019 and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.</p>
H.R.1162	Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)	Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act	This legislation would create a competitive grant program for the funding of water recycling and reuse projects by raising the authorization cap for the Title XVI program from \$50 million to \$500 million. The legislation would also raise the authorization cap from \$20 million to \$30 million for the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act.	<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> <p>Elements of the bill were incorporated into H.R.2 (above).</p>
S. 361/H.R. 807	Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) / Rep. Ken Buck (R-CO)	Water and Agriculture Tax Reform Act of 2019	The measure would work to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency.	Introduced and referred to the Committee on Finance (Senate) and Ways and Means Committee (House). Neither chamber has recently engaged on the measures.

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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 2/7 and to the Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee on 2/4. 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.
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, 2019 the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
H.R. 2313	Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)	Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act	The measure would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for certain conservation subsidies to include subsidies for water conservation or efficiency measures and storm water management measures.	The bill was introduced in the House on April 12, 2019 and then referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Note: All tax issues are likely to be addressed as part of a larger tax package. The Ways and Means Committee is considering forming a tax extenders package, which would be the most likely venue for this legislation.

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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.

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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, 2019 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, 2019 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, 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. 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>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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.

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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 cosponsor ship.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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)				

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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 agreed to the Senate amendments on July 22 by a vote of 310 - 107. The legislation was sent to the President on July 24 and signed into law by the President on August 4, 2020</p>

INFORMATION
ITEM
2D



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES, LLC

Date: September 26, 2020
To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency
From: John Withers, Jim Brulte
Re: California Strategies, LLC September 2020 Activity Report

1. This month Jim Brulte and John Withers participated in the monthly senior staff meeting September 8th via Microsoft Meetings due to the Coronavirus. The meeting was limited to 30 minutes due to the GM and Senior Staff needing to participate in another meeting.
2. There was an update to the senior staff regarding a call between the General Manager, Jim Brulte and a community leader.
3. There was a discussion related to the Water Commission and potential requests from IEUA related to the CBP.
4. Regional Issues
 - A suggestion was made that a workshop be scheduled to outline the entirety of the items that need to be included as required by law and regulation related to water quality issues.
 - There was brief discussion regarding the desire by Monte Vista Water District to hook into IEUA's sewer system. Monte Vista's board has voted to study this issue. The staff is, of course, willing to assist our member agency should the issue be brought to IEUA. If and when we get this request, it will require significant study and ultimately approval by the IEUA Board.