



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

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020  
9:00 A.M.**

**INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY\*  
VIEW THE MEETING LIVE ONLINE AT IEUA.ORG  
TELEPHONE ACCESS: (415) 856-9169 / Conf Code: 635 663 326#**

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](mailto: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**

Approve Minutes of the November 11, 2020 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.

**B. 2021 LEGISLATIVE POLICY PRINCIPLES**

Staff recommends that the Committee/Board adopt the draft 2021 Legislative Policy Principles.

**2. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

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

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

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

**3. GENERAL MANAGER’S COMMENTS**

**4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

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

**6. ADJOURN**

\*A Municipal Water District

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

**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. to the IEUA Website at [www.ieua.org](http://www.ieua.org) and outside the Agency's main office, 6075 Kimball Avenue, Building A, Chino on Thursday, December 3, 2020.



Denise Garzaro, CMC

**ACTION  
ITEM  
1A**



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

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020  
9:00 A.M.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Steven J. Elie, Chair  
Kati Parker

**STAFF PRESENT**

Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager  
Christiana Daisy, Executive Manager of Engineering/AGM  
Denise Garzaro, Board Secretary/Office Manager  
Wilson To, Technology Specialist II

**STAFF PRESENT via Teleconference**

Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of External Affairs & Policy Development/AGM  
Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/AGM  
Christina Valencia, Executive Manager of Finance & Administration/AGM  
Jerry Burke, Manager of Engineering  
Andrea Carruthers, Manager of External Affairs  
Jennifer Hy-Luk, Administrative Assistant II  
Sylvie Lee, Manager of Planning & Environmental Resources  
Cathleen Pieroni, Manager of Government Relations  
Jeanina Romero, Executive Assistant  
Teresa Velarde, Manager of Internal Audit

**CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Steven Elie called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. He gave the public the opportunity to comment and provided instructions for unmuting the conference line.

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

**ACTION ITEMS**

The Committee:

- ◆ Approved Minutes of the October 14, 2020 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

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

**GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh stated on behalf of the Agency, his appreciation to Veterans for their service.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Committee Chair Elie commended all Veterans, including a number of IEUA employees and thanked them and their families for their service to the country and the community.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no Committee member requests for future agenda items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Garzaro  
Board Secretary/Office Manager

\*A Municipal Water District

**APPROVED: DECEMBER 9, 2020**

**ACTION  
ITEM  
1B**

**Date:** December 16, 2020

**To:** The Honorable Board of Directors

**From:** Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

**Committee:** Community & Legislative Affairs

12/09/20

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

**Subject:** 2021 Legislative Policy Principles

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**Executive Summary:**

Each year, the IEUA Board of Directors adopts federal and state legislative priorities for the upcoming year. The attached Legislative Policy Principles are consistent with the current mission and business goals of the Agency, and are tailored to fit relevant issues that may be addressed during the 2021 legislative sessions.

As legislation can at times be fast moving, the adoption of the Legislative Policy Principles allows staff to be more efficient and effective when taking positions on legislation. The Legislative Policy Principles provide staff with the necessary guidelines in order to make recommendations if actions need to be taken quickly, as well as making position recommendations to the Community and Legislative Affairs Committee and the Board.

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**Staff's Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the draft 2021 Legislative Policy Principles.

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

*Account/Project Name:*

Not Applicable

*Fiscal Impact (explain if not budgeted):*

Not Applicable

**Prior Board Action:**

January 15, 2020 - the Board adopted the 2020 Legislative Policy Principles

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**Environmental Determination:**

Not Applicable

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**Business Goal:**

Approving legislative policy principles is in line with IEUA's Business Goal of advocating for development of policies, legislation and regulations that benefit the region.

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**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 - Draft 2021 IEUA Legislative Policy Principles



## 2021 IEUA Legislative Policy Principles

### Water Resources and Systems Resiliency

- Support administrative/legislative and/or regulatory activities that preserve IEUA's and the region's ability to pursue water supply options and oppose constraints on supply development.
- Support administrative and legislative actions promoting the resiliency and improved operability of IEUA's systems.
- Support administrative and legislative action to identify and promote the use of salt-less water softening technology. Oppose any efforts to endorse salt-based technologies.
- Support administrative and legislative actions that protect, respond and plan for drought conditions while maintaining the necessary environmental protections.
- Support administrative and legislative actions on water-use efficiency that create and/or improve regulations and mandates recognizing the variations among the different communities, regions and counties with respect to their capability of withstanding the impacts of drought.
- Support administrative and legislative actions that promote and/or improve water quality from various constituents including salinity, perchlorates, nitrates and volatile organic compounds.
- Support alternative efforts to a sustainable approach to ensure every Californian has access to safe, clean and reliable water and oppose efforts to impose a public goods charge.
- Support member agency and regional legislative positions that align with IEUA's current policy principles.

### Organics Recycling/Compost Use

- Support legislation that promotes the use of compost for multiple uses such as erosion control to protect water resources, water conservation, fire ravaged land remediation and healthy soils.
- Support administrative and legislative approaches for connecting carbon sequestration with healthy soils and the use of compost.

### Regulations/Compliance

- Support regulations that restrict the use of uncomposted and contaminated organics in commercial compost products.
- Support administrative and legislative actions for environmental compliance (e.g., air, water, hazardous materials and waste) that provide for regulatory compliance flexibility, promote consistency and reduce regulatory redundancy.
- Support the development of Public Health Goals (PHGs), Response Levels (RLs), Notification Levels (NLs) or Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) that are established in a process affording robust opportunities for scientific review and public comment and that consider feasibility, laboratory capacity, analytical methods and implementation costs.
- Support administrative/legislative actions to improve clarity and workability of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and eliminate other duplicative state processes.
- Actively monitor and participate where appropriate in the development of water-use efficiency regulations.

### Water Quality

- Support legislative and administrative approaches promoting “polluter pays” principles, extending responsibility for contamination to chemical manufacturers and promoting consumer product responsibility.
- Support legislation and administrative actions to achieve tax-exempt status for water treatment chemicals and ensure access to water treatment chemicals.

### Energy

- Promote water-energy nexus administrative/legislative and/or regulatory activities that preserve IEUA’s and the region’s ability to pursue supply options and oppose constraints on supply development.
- Support administrative and legislative actions that remove barriers and encourage energy sector investments in water conservation and energy management programs.
- Support legislation and other programs that would increase the value of the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) generated and sold by wastewater treatment agencies that utilize their renewable energy on-site in California.
- Support legislation and other programs that would facilitate self-generation projects interconnection to the electric grid by reducing interconnection costs, metering requirements, project review process and timeline.
- Support administrative and legislative actions that encourage renewable energy through organics management, including landfill diversion.
- Support legislation, regulations and administrative policies that ensure that power costs reflect the cost of energy procurement, infrastructure, and maintenance.

### Financial

- Support maintaining tax exempt status for municipal debt.
- Support measures to reduce the cost of financing water infrastructure projects.
- Support efforts to reauthorize, increase of the funding cap federal funding, and extension of Title XVI/WIIN grant program, the federal EPA/State Revolving Loan program, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and other funding mechanisms.
- Support funding and incentive programs to promote water-use efficiency, including EPA’s *WaterSense* program, education programs and tax exemptions incentives.
- Support funding programs that promote energy efficiency, increase renewable generation, strengthen local grids and energy reliance.
- Support federal funding for drought relief and adaptive water management opportunities in California.
- Advocate for funding that ensures a fair and equitable financing process for the public.
- Support efforts to reinstate public agency advanced bond refunding.
- Support funding opportunities for local water supply development and water quality improvement projects benefitting IEUA and its member agencies.
- Support legislation establishing an approach that proactively validates that an agency’s rate-setting process conforms with all legal requirements, thereby minimizing uncertainty.

- Support legislation and administrative actions to secure funding for public water systems and laboratories to defray costs associated with COVID-19.
- Support legislation and administrative actions that would provide funding or reimbursement for enhanced physical security and cybersecurity for water and power infrastructure.

#### Administrative/Other

- Support legislative actions that are aligned with the Agency's goals and objectives and support member agency and regional legislative positions.
- Support legislation that encourages collective bargaining.
- Support legislation that increases local control and limits additional financial burdens related to labor relations and collective bargaining that can be appropriately negotiated at the bargaining table.
- Support measure that encourage decision-making at the local level.
- Support local government efforts to establish workforce engagement, succession planning and mentoring programs.
- Support legislation that streamlines the Workers' Compensation system and makes it easier for employers, employees and health care providers to navigate.
- Support reform measures that provide sustainable and secure public pensions and other post-retirement benefits to ensure responsive and affordable public services.
- Support administrative, legislative and regulatory efforts that align with the Agency's commitment to applying the highest standards of fiscal responsibility, integrity, ethical and transparent business practices and principles.

INFORMATION  
ITEM  
2A

**Date:** December 16, 2020

**To:** The Honorable Board of Directors

**From:** Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

**Committee:** Community & Legislative Affairs

12/09/20

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

**Subject:** Public Outreach and Communication

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**Executive Summary:**

- December 5, World Soil Day
- December 16, IEUA End-of-Year Celebration (Virtual), 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- December 17, MWD Water is Life Recognition Event via Zoom, Time TBD

On November 18, staff facilitated a virtual Water Discovery field trip for AP Environmental Science students from Chino Hills High School.

Staff worked with member agencies to submit the 2021 Solar Cup interest form to MWD. Solar Cup 2021 will be an online STEAM-focused program where students will learn skills by working as a team and selecting from a menu of activities that cover a wide range of STEAM fields including robotics, solar power vehicles, utilizing CAD software, building online gaming, social media messaging, visual arts, and dream job skills. At the end of the Solar Cup 2021 program, there will be a virtual competition using the vehicles the students built. To date, Chino Hills High School has confirmed participation.

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**Staff's Recommendation:**

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

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

*Account/Project Name:*

*Fiscal Impact (explain if not budgeted):*

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**Prior Board Action:**

N/A

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**Environmental Determination:**

Not Applicable

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**Business Goal:**

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

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

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**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 - Background

## Background

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Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

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### December

- December 5, World Soil Day
- December 16, IEUA End-of-Year Celebration (Virtual), 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- December 17, MWD *Water is Life* Recognition Event via Zoom, Time TBD

### Media and Outreach

- Staff created outreach content for Military Family Appreciation Month.
- Staff highlighted National STEM/STEAM Day by promoting the Agency's educational activities and videos. The post received approximately 700 impressions on Facebook.
- Staff highlighted Veterans Day by featuring three of IEUA's veterans on social media channels. Combined, the posts received over 3,000 impressions.
- Staff posted an animated video short on the wastewater treatment process, developed in-house, in recognition of America Recycles Day on November 15.
- The Agency continues to publish content on LinkedIn and has gained 35 followers since October 2020 with 550-page views in the last 30 days.
- Staff posted recognition content for the three winners from IEUA's service area that will be featured in Metropolitan Water District's 2021 calendar for the Water is Life Student Art Contest.
- The Agency continues to educate the public on water terminology with the Water Word Wednesday campaign.
- The Agency reminded the public of the proper way to dispose of fats, oils and greases (FOG) for the upcoming holiday season in order to prevent sewer overflows and backups.
- November: 27 posts were published to the IEUA Facebook page, 27 posts were published to IEUA's Instagram grid, 27 tweets were sent on the @IEUAWater Twitter handle, and 8 posts were published to the IEUA LinkedIn page.
  - The top three Facebook posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of November were:
    - 11/8 National STEM/STEAM Day
    - 11/4 Water Word Wednesday
    - 11/4 Project Manager I Hiring
  - The top three Twitter tweets, based on reach and engagement, in the month of November were:
    - 11/15 America Recycles Day Wastewater Treatment Process Animated Video
    - 11/18 California African American Water Education Foundation Event Promotion
    - 11/11 Veterans Day Employee Recognition
  - The top three Instagram posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of November were:

- 11/4 Project Manager I Hiring
- 11/5 Chino Creek Wetlands Amphitheater Throwback
- 11/11 Veterans Day Employee Recognition
- The top three LinkedIn posts, based on impressions and reactions, in the month of November were:
  - 11/11 Veterans Day Employee Recognition
  - 11/5 Project Manager I Hiring
  - 11/17 Collection System Operator I-III (DOQ) Hiring
- A Water-Wise Education ad ran in the *Chino Valley Champion's Chino Connection Magazine* section on November 26.
- A Water-Wise Education ad ran in the *Fontana Herald News* on November 13 through November 19.
- A Water-Wise Education ad ran in *La Opinion* on November 15.
- A Water-Wise Education digital banner ad is featured on the *Fontana Herald News* website.
- An animated education banner ran in *La Opinion* from November 7 to November 22.

For the month of November, there were 5,865 searches for a park in IEUA's service area on Yelp, where Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park was viewed 1,046 times on a mobile device.

#### Education and Outreach Updates

- On November 18, staff facilitated a virtual Water Discovery field trip for AP Environmental Science students from Chino Hills High School.
- Staff worked with member agencies to submit the 2021 Solar Cup interest form to MWD. Solar Cup 2021 will be an online STEAM-focused program where students will learn skills by working as a team and selecting from a menu of activities that cover a wide range of STEAM fields, including robotics, solar power vehicles, utilizing CAD software, building online gaming, social media messaging, visual arts, and dream job skills. At the end of the Solar Cup 2021 program, there will be a virtual competition using the vehicles the students built. To date, Chino Hills High School has confirmed participation. The deadline to submit confirmed schools to MWD is December 2.

#### Agency-Wide Membership Updates

- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Water Regulatory Working Group Committee Meeting on October 15.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Air Quality, Climate Change and Energy Workgroup Meeting on October 22.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Air Quality Committee Meeting on October 27.
- Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/AGM, attended Isle Utilities meetings on November 16 and 17.
- Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/AGM, attended the NWRI Clarke Prize 2020 Virtual Award Ceremony on November 10.



INFORMATION  
ITEM  
2B



**November 22, 2020**

**To:** Inland Empire Utilities Agency

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

**RE:** November Report

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Overview:

Dry conditions continue to persist throughout the state keeping reservoirs in serious need of replenishment. 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 79 percent of average for this time of the year and 45 percent capacity. Lake Oroville is at 64 percent of average and 39 percent capacity.

As part of the implementation of the Water Resilience Portfolio, the California Water Commission has started working on a white paper and recommendations for state policymakers related to water conveyance. Commission staff has made clear that this will not include Delta Conveyance because that has its own ongoing process. The recommendations are slated to be completed mid-2021.

On November 17, the US EPA invited California to apply for \$500 million (of \$695 million available) in Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans through US EPA's new state infrastructure financing authority WIFIA (SWIFIA) program. The funds are exclusively available through the CA State Revolving Fund (SRF).

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) held a three-session virtual conference to "explore ways to boost resilience to multiple stressors while supporting economic recovery and workforce development." The conference panelists offered insight into some of the state's 2021 priorities including Integrated Regional Water Management, Voluntary Agreements, water affordability and others.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) recently received a staff informational report titled "CA's GHG Goals and Deep Decarbonization." The presentation discussed how the state plans to move towards the 100 percent clean energy goal and what tools will be needed to hit that target. Notably the presentation included information about the transition to electric vehicles. The Governor's Executive Order was unclear concerning the transition of medium and heavy-duty vehicles, leaving confusion as to whether the goal was to require complete fleet transition by 2045, or just limiting the new sale of vehicles starting in 2045. The presentation highlights that the 2045 requirement for medium and heavy-duty vehicles is limited to new sales. While this is a welcome clarification, the report was silent on off-road and heavy equipment vehicles leaving significant ambiguity about the EO's goal of 100 percent zero-emission by 2035.

There remains a few races in the Senate that haven't yet been called, but it looks like the scene is set for the 2021-2022 Legislative Session. Democrats maintain their super majorities in both houses and all in Sacramento are eagerly awaiting the announcement of committee chairs and membership in both houses. Legislators will return to Sacramento briefly in December for an "Organizational Session" then

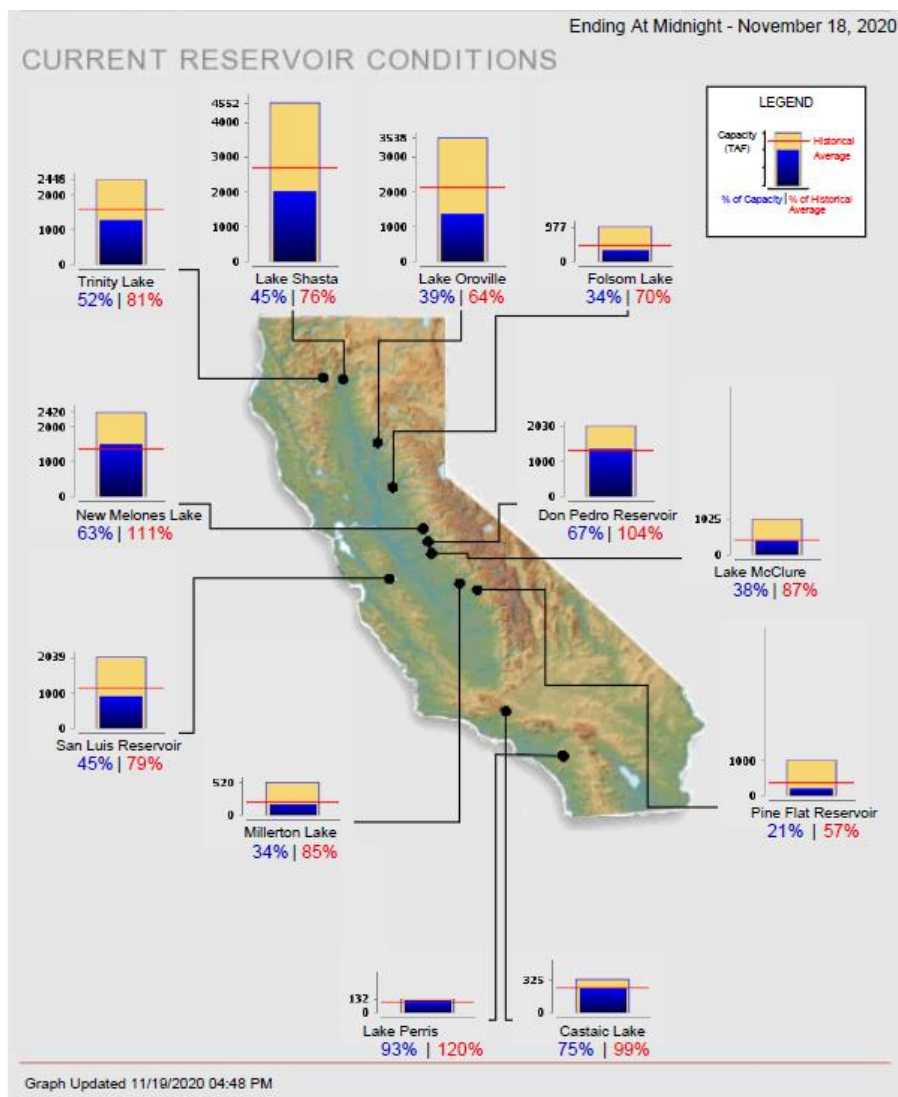
will return in earnest in January. The legislature is expected to start the new year the same way it ended 2020, in a virtual legislative session.

## Inland Empire Utilities Agency Status Report – November 2020

### *Water Supply Conditions*

The first major storms of the winter hit Northern California recently with a good dump of snow in the sierras. The “wildfire season ending storm” was welcome, but many more storms are needed for the state to make up for a dry 2020. 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 79 percent of average for this time of the year and 45 percent capacity. Oroville is at 64 percent of average and 39 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.



## ***CA Water Commission Implements Water Resilience Portfolio in Delta***

As part of the implementation of the Water Resilience Portfolio, the California Water Commission has started working on a white paper and recommendations for state policymakers related to water conveyance. Commission staff has made clear that this will not include Delta Conveyance because that has its own ongoing process. The recommendations are slated to be completed mid-2021. Below is a graphic with the schedule for the effort.

The CWC just completed Phase 1 which included a [policy brief](#) that outlines guiding questions for the eventual white paper. The three main sections included: 1) Resilience and conveyance in the context of climate change; 2) Determining and assessing public benefits; and 3) Assessing financing mechanisms and challenges. To develop the brief, they interviewed stakeholders including disadvantaged communities, tribal nations, growers, NGOs, legislators, state and federal agencies, water agencies, and others.

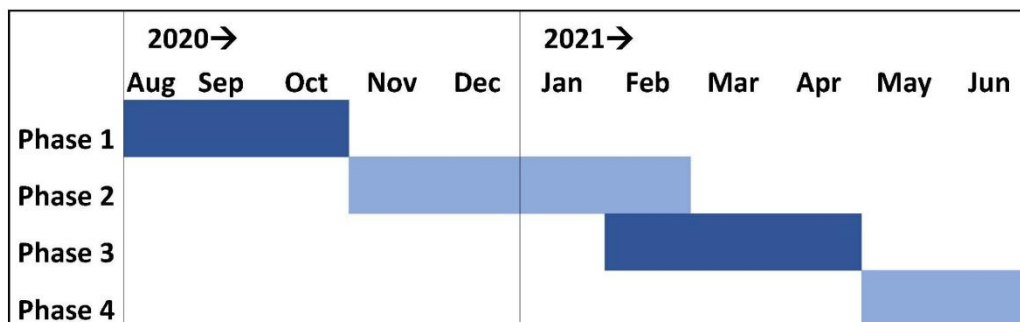
Phase 2 is about to get underway which will include collecting public input through expert panels at upcoming meetings as well as regional workshops held at different locations around the state.

DWR also provided presentations, noting that they are taking steps on Water Resilience Portfolio action 19.3 which directs DWR to conduct a feasibility analysis for improved and expanded capacity of federal, state, and local conveyance facilities to enhance water transfers and water markets and that incorporates climate change projections of hydrologic conditions.

There was another meeting 11/18 with multiple [presentations](#). The next Commission meeting is Dec 16 but the agenda is not yet available so it is unclear if this topic will be covered. More presentations and discussion on the topic are likely in the future.

## **Workplan**

- **Phase 1:** Staff Research and Background Document
- **Phase 2:** Gather Public Input
- **Phase 3:** Draft Paper
- **Phase 4:** Commission Approval



### ***US EPA Invites SWRCB to Apply for \$500M in SRF Funds***

On November 17, the US EPA invited California to apply for \$500 million (of \$695 million available) in Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans through US EPA's new state infrastructure financing authority WIFIA (SWIFIA) program. The funds are exclusively available through the CA State Revolving Fund (SRF).

As IEUA is well aware, there is a tremendous waiting list/backlog in the Clean and Drinking Water SRF programs at the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). While it is unclear how the funds would be administered, including conditions on the federal funding, it will go a long way to help clear the backlog and make way for more projects to receive funding.

In other SRF news, there is significant talk of more funding to the SRF program from the federal government. Matthew Muirragui, majority staff director, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, US House Committee on Natural Resources, mentioned in the 11/19 PPIC session "Priorities for a water-resilient California," that as the federal government considers an infrastructure package, a bipartisan group of members are strongly pushing for significant funding to SRF or the Title 16 program as a means for economic recovery.

As the state budget will remain strained for the coming years, this federal funding would be very welcome because it may likely be difficult to secure voter approval for a resilience bond.

### ***PPIC Holds Virtual Conference***

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) held a three-session virtual conference to "explore ways to boost resilience to multiple stressors while supporting economic recovery and workforce development."

#### **Session 1: Funding water systems while ensuring affordability and equity**

- Gloria Gray, board chair, MWD
- Greg Pierce, UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation
- Kathryn Sorensen, former director, Phoenix water Services

#### **Session 2: Collaborative approaches to foster groundwater sustainability**

- Eric Averett, General manager, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water District
- Paul Gosselin, director, Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation
- Angela Islas, community development specialist, Self-Help Enterprises
- Sandi Matsumoto, director, California Water Program, The Nature Conservancy

#### **Session 3: Priorities for a water resilient California**

- Joaquin Esquivel, chair, State Water Resources Control Board
- Karla Nemeth, director, California Department of Water Resources
- Matthew Muirragui, majority staff director, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, US House Committee on Natural Resources

While all three panels were interesting, the third session is worth watching- it's only an hour long and the video can be found [here](#). Chair Esquivel talked about water affordability by breaking it down into two categories. He noted that there is a short-term emergency assistance need for the pandemic crisis and a long-term water rate assistance program need. He did not get into details about how either of these would be funded.

Director Nemeth, when asked what the most important things her department is doing highlighted two very important efforts for 2021. First, she noted how important collaboration, science and governance

in the Voluntary Agreement process is going to be. She also noted how IRWM 2.0 is going to be a necessary tool to achieve the collaboration necessary to meet the state's water and climate goals. She specifically called out San Bernardino as an example for how to collaborate.

### ***CARB Gets Update on GHG Goals***

In a previous report, a story was included about the Governor's Executive Order to mandate the sale of electric vehicles. The order mandates new light-duty vehicle sales to be all electric by 2035. The order also mandated the transition of medium and heavy-duty vehicles by 2045, but was not specific on if all vehicles had to be electric or if it was new sale like the light-duty part of the order. On November 19, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) heard an information item titled to "CA's GHG Goals and Deep Decarbonization." The [presentation](#) included on slide 16, the line "100% zero-emissions medium and heavy duty vehicle SALES by 2045." While there are still a significant number of steps and regulations to go through before any of this is final, this is a good first step into ensuring that it is the new SALE, and not a total changeover of medium and heavy-duty vehicles that will be required in 2045. CARB has, however, not provided any clarity off-road and heavy equipment (construction).

### ***Election Update***

There are still a few outstanding races, with final election results not due to the Secretary of State until the beginning of December. As shown below, unless something drastic happens, the legislature looks pretty set.

- SD 21(Santa Clarita) Scott Wilk (R-Incumbent) leads Kipp Mueller (D) by about 6,000 votes
- SD 37 (Costa Mesa) Dave Min (D) leads John Moorlach (R-Incumbent) by about 12,000 votes

Within IEUA's service territory:

#### **SD 23 (Rancho Cucamonga)- Ochoa Bogh likely to hold onto lead with a 20,000 vote lead**

Abigail Medina (D)- School Board President- 47.4%

Rosilicia Ochoa Bogh (R)- School Board Member 52.6%

#### **SD 29 (Chino Hills)- Newman likely to hold on to lead with a 10,000 vote lead**

Ling Ling Chang (R)- Incumbent- 48.7%

Josh Newman (D)- Veterans' Advocate/former Senator- 51.3%

There is soon to be a vacancy when Senator Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles) resigns her seat as she is sworn into the LA County Board of Supervisors. Senator Mitchell is the chair of the Senate Budget Committee, so a new chair will be named. This is a big loss because Senator Mitchell is a very well-respected chair and the Senate will miss her leadership.

There could be other vacancies, as there are rumors of several members being considered for posts within the Biden Administration.

### ***Legislative Update***

The Legislature will return to Sacramento in early December for an "Organizational Session" to swear in members. A few bills will be introduced on that day, with additional measures introduced in January when the legislature returns. Committee assignments are expected sometime in December. All of the committee chairs on the committees IEUA frequents have been re-elected or were not on the ballot. There could be some shuffling in the Senate with the departure of Senator Mitchell. Committee shuffling could make room for John Laird to become a chair in Natural Resources and Water. But this is only speculation at this point. More details will be reported when Senate and Assembly leadership make their announcements.

INFORMATION  
ITEM  
2C

# 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:** November 27, 2020

**Re:** November Monthly Legislative Update

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### ***Joe Biden Wins Presidential Race***

Vice President Joe Biden has been projected to win enough votes to serve as the nation's 46th president, defeating President Donald Trump and ending his presidency by winning a series of tight contests across national battlegrounds.

Five major news outlets called the race for Biden around 11:30am on Saturday, November 7 after a grueling vote count that had the country waiting for a result for days after election day.

The projections came seconds after Biden's lead in Pennsylvania grew to more than 30,000 votes after Philadelphia reported about 3,000 ballots. Biden won 85 percent of that count.

In a statement, Biden said he was "honored and humbled."

"In the face of unprecedented obstacles, a record number of Americans voted. Proving once again, that democracy beats deep in the heart of America," Biden said.

"With the campaign over, it's time to put the anger and the harsh rhetoric behind us and come together as a nation. It's time for America to unite. And to heal. We are the United States of America. And there's nothing we can't do, if we do it together," Biden added.

President Trump has refused to concede and has mounted various legal challenges in multiple battleground states.

"The simple fact is this election is far from over. Joe Biden has not been certified as the winner of any states, let alone any of the highly contested states headed for mandatory recounts, or states where our campaign has valid and legitimate legal challenges that could determine the ultimate victor," Trump said in a prepared statement.

On Monday, November 23, the General Services Administration (GSA), the federal agency responsible for many of the federal government's buildings, formerly notified President-elect Biden that the Trump Administration was ready to begin the transition. GSA had refused to make the official ascertainment despite mounting pressure from Democrats and some Republicans.



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Following the announcement by GSA Administrator Emily Murphy, President Trump said he was recommending that his administration begin the transition, though he did not concede his loss to Biden and said he would keep fighting.

Senator Kamala Harris's election as Vice President elevates her to become the highest elected woman in American history, ahead of Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA).

President-elect Biden has begun to name members of his staff and announce members of his cabinet that he plans to formally nominate. Among these officials are Ron Klain, who will serve as Biden's Chief of Staff. Klain served as Biden's Chief of Staff when he was Vice President.

Additionally, Representative Cedric Richmond (D-LA) will serve as Senior Adviser and director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, resigning from his House seat come January.

After the majority of networks called states that made Biden the apparent winner of at least 270 electoral votes, President-elect Biden cited "the battle to save the climate" among his top five priorities.

Early action on climate change from President-elect Joe Biden is likely to start with a series of executive orders reversing President Trump's environmental policies, laying the groundwork for an administration that has vowed to sharply curb emissions.

He certainly faces a monumental task: The Trump administration has rolled back more than 100 environmental regulations and encouraged deregulation of polluting industries.

But his pledge to undo Trump administration rollbacks will likely require lengthy rulemaking of his own, while implementing his ambitious plan for reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 could run up against GOP senators, who appear poised to keep their majority in the Senate.

President-elect Biden has long said he will re-join the Paris climate accord on Day One of his presidency, and that he will move to halt new leases for drilling oil on public lands.

Additionally, in another move that had been discussed during his campaign, Biden announced on Monday, November 23 that John Kerry, former Secretary of State during the Obama Administration, would serve as special presidential envoy for climate.

The position will be embedded on the National Security Council (NSC), a sign of the gravity with which the administration views the issue.

"This marks the first time that the NSC will include an official dedicated to climate change, reflecting the president-elect's commitment to addressing climate change as an urgent national security issue," the Biden transition team said in a statement announcing Kerry's selection among other top security officials.

Biden has consistently framed climate as part of his economic vision, a way to inject as much as \$2 trillion into renewable energy, retrofitting homes and buildings, and investing in infrastructure like public transit and electric vehicle charging stations.

### ***COVID-19 Relief Negotiations Remain at a Standstill as White House Takes Back Seat***

Negotiations between congressional leaders on a fifth coronavirus relief bill are at a standstill, further dimming prospects for an end-of-year deal. White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows said on Wednesday, November 18 that it's up to Congress to proceed with any talks.

Chief of Staff Meadows and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin had been the primary negotiators on COVID-19 relief with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) before the election. His remarks are further evidence that the White House is pulling back from the discussions after Trump's loss to President-elect Joe Biden. He said getting another stimulus deal "has been a priority for the president."

He spoke a day after Speaker Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) wrote Majority Leader McConnell on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> calling for him to engage in talks on a potential deal. Their letter stated they were "encouraged" by Leader McConnell's comments on the importance of another relief package and asked him to return to the negotiating table.

For his part, Majority Leader McConnell dismissed the \$2.4 trillion Democratic bill that Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Schumer have said should be the starting point for negotiations. Majority Leader McConnell, speaking from the Senate floor, said Republicans have had an "entirely consistent" position. "There's no reason why doing right by struggling families should wait until we resolve every difference on every issue," he added. Leader McConnell reiterated that any package be "targeted" and around \$500 billion in new spending.

Leader McConnell hasn't responded to the letter from Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Schumer. However, on Thursday, November 19, Minority Leader Schumer said that McConnell has agreed to resume negotiations with House Democrats yet both sides remain far apart on key issues.

On Friday, November 20, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Senate Majority Leader McConnell discussed the stimulus strategy. Secretary Mnuchin is bidding to revive stalled coronavirus stimulus talks with congressional Democrats by proposing the use of untapped Federal Reserve relief funding as part of a new package of aid. McConnell has backed Mnuchin's proposal to use \$580 billion that was allocated for Federal Reserve loan guarantees, small business aid and other virus relief programs that is unspent.

"Congress should repurpose this money toward the kinds of urgent, important, and targeted relief measures that Republicans have been trying to pass for months, but which Democrats have repeatedly blocked with all-or-nothing demands," he said.

For his part, Mnuchin has asked the Federal Reserve to return the unused money before the end of the year that has gone unspent from programs established in the CARES Act meant to provide

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additional liquidity to financial markets. The funds will be returned to the Treasury's general account—putting it out of easy reach for the next administration, as money spent from the fund requires Congressional approval.

In addition to differences over the price tag, the Democrats and Republicans are still at odds over more help for state and local governments, legal protections against coronavirus related lawsuits and unemployment insurance.

The Senate recessed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Wednesday and will not return until November 30<sup>th</sup>, leaving little hope that an agreement will be reached any time soon.

Additionally, the odds of relief legislation passing before the end of the year remain very unlikely because when both chambers return from the Thanksgiving holiday, efforts will be focused on passing legislation to fund the government prior to the expiration of the Continuing Resolution on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Senate Appropriators Release Fiscal Year 2021 Bills as Funding Deadline Approaches***

On Tuesday, November 10, the Senate Appropriations Committee released the Chairman's recommendations for all 12 of the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bills.

The Committee had not released any of their bills prior to the Chairman's recommendations, and there are no plans to mark up the bills before they are conferenced with the House. These bills serve as the opening offer from Senate Republicans for negotiations with the House on an end of year omnibus or series of minibus packages.

The Republican-led Senate is proposing modest spending increases for environmental agencies compared to last year's budget, diverging from proposed cuts that the Trump White House put forward earlier this year.

In its \$38 billion Interior-environment spending bill for fiscal 2021, the Senate Appropriations Committee proposed giving about \$13.6 billion to the Interior Department and about \$9.09 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including \$2.35 billion for the wildfire suppression cap adjustment funding.

That's up from the \$13.5 billion given to Interior last year and the about \$9.06 billion appropriated for the EPA in the last fiscal year. The Senate has also proposed increasing the Energy Department's budget to about \$42 billion, an approximately \$3.45 billion increase over last year.

While the House bills included a greater funding increase for these agencies, both the House and Senate included more funding than originally proposed by the Administration.

The Senate bill does not include policy provisions in the House-passed bill that would ban fiscal 2021 funds for several administration initiatives that Democrats object to, including an overhaul

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of the National Environmental Policy Act and oil and gas drilling leases on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The bill also did not include language from the House bill that would ban fiscal 2021 money for offshore oil and gas drilling in areas currently off limits.

The Senate bill would fund the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds at \$2.765 billion, billions less than the House figure, though the additional money provided for in the House bill came from “emergency” spending.

The Interior-Environment section of the House package includes \$15 billion for a supplemental critical infrastructure fund, with the bulk of that going toward EPA’s Clean Water and Drinking Water state revolving funds.

The Senate bill would provide \$20 million to the agency to help address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination and remediation.

Under the Senate’s funding bills, the Energy Department would also increase spending on energy efficiency and renewable energy as well as nuclear energy research and development, along with maintaining levels for fossil energy research and development.

Republicans and Democrats have disagreed over how much money to spend in several of the annual funding bills. Those disagreements focus largely on the coronavirus response. House Democrats included \$234.9 billion in emergency spending, exempt from statutory spending limits, which Republicans cast as largely unrelated to the COVID pandemic. Senate Republicans didn’t include any of those spending cap exemptions in their bills, though the two sides did agree on a \$12.5 billion cap exemption for the implementation of the VA MISSION Act.

As a reminder, House Democrats included cap-exempt emergency spending in the following amounts.

- Energy and Water: \$43.5 billion
- Financial Services: \$67 billion
- Interior-Environment: \$15 billion
- Labor-HHS-Education: \$24.4 billion
- State and Foreign Operations: \$10 billion
- Transportation-HUD: \$75 billion

Appropriations staff are also now working on paperwork that will help negotiations, such as side-by-side comparisons of the two chambers’ spending bills. “Side-by-sides” aren’t a required step in negotiations, but are particularly useful to help conferees identify and compare the corresponding House and Senate provisions of large and complex bills.

Congress needs to pass fiscal 2021 spending bills, or a continuing resolution, before the December 11 deadline to fund the government.

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On Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> staff from the offices of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) met in an effort to work on an agreement that would set the topline figures for the 12 individual appropriations bills that would make up the end-of-year omnibus spending bill.

While there had been concerns about where President Trump would come down on an omnibus appropriations package, Republican leaders have indicated that he has expressed a willingness to consider a package. Earlier in his administration, Trump indicated he'd never again sign an omnibus appropriations package—leading Congress to send minibuss packages to the White House over the last several years.

"It's our hope ... that we can come together on an omnibus and pass it," Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said, adding that he believed that was also the "preference of the White House."

One sticking point of the funding negotiations, which led to the shutdown in 2019, is funding for the border wall. The White House in its fiscal year 2021 budget request asked for about \$2 billion to continue building the wall, while Pelosi and House Democrats have countered with no new money for construction.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has recommended \$1.96 billion for 82 miles for the “border wall system,” in their version of the fiscal year 2021 bills released earlier in the month.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) and House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) reportedly agreed to a topline agreement before the Thanksgiving recess—including on some level of emergency spending—but details have not yet been released. Additionally, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) reportedly rejected the agreement framework, leaving questions about the viability of the agreement.

Once lawmakers return on November 30<sup>th</sup>, they will have roughly 10 working days to find a compromise on funding packages before the current CR expires.

### ***House Passes FEMA COVID-19 and Disaster Aid Legislation***

On Tuesday, November 17, the House passed the FEMA Assistance Relief Act of 2020 under suspension of the rules. If the legislation, which is now under consideration in the Senate, becomes law, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would have to provide full federal funding for virus-related emergency aid instead of requiring recipients to cover some costs.

FEMA's cost share would be at least 90% for other emergencies and natural disasters declared in 2020. It typically covers at least 75% of costs for disaster aid under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

The provisions would apply to funds appropriated following the bill's enactment.

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“Our state and local governments in my district and up and down the West Coast have been hit with dual crises – the Coronavirus pandemic with a devastating economic impact and some of the worst fires in our history. The Federal government needs to provide every resource and dollar possible to help with the recovery process.” Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA) said of the legislation.

Additionally, the legislation would:

- Clarify that FEMA could provide assistance for certain costs incurred by state, local, and tribal governments during the Covid-19 crisis, including payments for first responders, remote test sites, personal protective equipment, medical supplies, and food distribution.
- Direct FEMA to help individuals and households pay for disaster-related funeral expenses during the pandemic, subject to appropriation.
- Allow FEMA to provide advance assistance to eligible applicants to ensure they can carry out covered activities. Advance payments would be audited by the Homeland Security Department inspector general.
- Require FEMA to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to convene an expert panel to study the use of federal disaster aid following emergencies that don't cause physical damages, such as the coronavirus emergency.
- Extend by one year, through October 5, 2021, FEMA's authority under a 2018 disaster aid law (Public Law 115-254) to carry out a pilot program establishing a new process for state and tribal governments to administer federal disaster aid for temporary and permanent housing.

While the legislation is unlikely to move as a stand-alone bill, it may be considered in a larger coronavirus relief bill either later this year or in early 2021.

### ***Legislation Introduced to Create Conservation Corps***

On Thursday, November 12, Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL) introduced legislation that would establish a conservation corps in the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture in an effort to boost employment related to outdoor recreation and green infrastructure.

The Restore Employment in Natural and Environmental Work (RENEW) Conservation Corps Act establishes the new conservation corps program at the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture and authorizes more than \$55 billion over a five-year period to put one million Americans to work to address the backlog of deferred conservation projects.

To ensure a diverse workforce, the bill requires participants be reflective of the demographics in the area where the project is being completed. In addition, those participating in the program that complete a full year of work would be eligible to receive up to \$5,500 credit for post-secondary education.

The bill provides anyone 16 years or older at least two weeks of training for positions lasting a minimum of twelve weeks, but no longer than one year. All participants will receive at least \$15 an hour, with some wages determined based on work performed.



A companion bill was introduced by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) in September.

Representative Rush says the legislation “would deliver much-needed workforce training and employment opportunities within our communities by tackling the backlog of deferred conservation projects.”

### ***House Democrats, Republicans Hold Leadership Elections***

House Democrats chose their leadership team last week on the heels of a dispiriting election cycle when they’d expected significant gains to pad their majority in the 117th Congress.

House Democrats voted to nominate current Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) to another term as speaker. Speaker Pelosi said Wednesday that her next term as Speaker will be her last, making good on a promise she’d made in 2018 to relinquish power after the next midterm elections.

To secure the gavel, Speaker Pelosi will still need to secure a majority of the full House in January. Depending on the outcome of the remaining uncalled House races, Pelosi may only be able to lose a handful of Democrats and still secure another term as Speaker.

The caucus on Wednesday also reelected Speaker Pelosi’s top lieutenants, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC). Representative Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) also ran unopposed and won a second term as House Democratic Caucus chairman.

Additionally, Representative Katherine Clark (D-MA), currently Democratic Caucus Vice Chairwoman, was elected as Assistant Speaker. She will succeed current Assistant Speaker Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) who was recently elected to the Senate. To fill Representative Clark’s role as Democratic Caucus Vice Chair, Representative Pete Aguilar (D-CA) was elected on Thursday.

The race for Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) chair has been postponed until the week after Thanksgiving to give the candidates, Representatives Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY) and Tony Cárdenas (D-CA), more time to campaign and lock down votes. Current DCCC Chair Cheri Bustos (D-IL) announced that she would not seek a second term for the post after Democrats underperformed expectations in the elections. Pelosi has announced that she will appoint Bustos to serve as Chair of the Democratic Caucus Steering Committee.

For House Republicans, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) and House Republican Conference Chair Liz Cheney (R-WY) will all remain in the House GOP’s leadership spots. Each ran unopposed for their post.

Three other Republicans ran unopposed for spots in leadership: Representative Mike Johnson (R-LA), head of the conservative Republican Study Committee, will be vice chair of the conference; Representative Richard Hudson (R-NC), a deputy whip, will serve as conference secretary; and Representative Gary Palmer (R-AL) will serve another two-year term as policy chair.

### ***Forest Service Finalizes Rule Weakening Environmental Review of Its Projects***

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on Wednesday, November 18 finalized its decision to weaken environmental analysis of many of its plans, excluding a number of actions from scientific review or community input.

The new rule allows the service to use a number of exemptions to sidestep requirements of the bedrock National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), something critics say will speed approval of logging, roads, and pipelines on Forest Service land.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said the changes “will ensure we do the appropriate level of environmental analysis to fit the work, locations and conditions,” arguing the streamlining could better help the Forest Service aid areas hurt by wildfires, and quickly repair roads, trails and campgrounds.

The White House Council on Environmental Quality also finalized a rule this summer gutting NEPA and setting the stage for additional rollbacks at various agencies.

The Forest Service rule has been scaled back since it was first proposed last year, cutting the scale of projects that are eligible for the so-called categorical exclusions that allow them to proceed with little review.

### ***Colorado River Users Expect Biden Administration to Put Focus on Climate Change***

The incoming Biden administration will lead efforts to craft a new water-management regime for the seven-state Colorado River Basin, and people involved in the process expect any changes to reflect the impact of climate change in the basin.

The Bureau of Reclamation, under the Interior Department, will lead negotiations to replace 13-year-old interim guidelines used to operate the basin’s two major reservoirs, Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The Interior secretary also manages the lower basin, containing all the water below Hoover Dam.

Revisions should reflect ecological values, water rights of American Indian tribes, and the need for more conservation measures by users in the seven states—Arizona, California and Nevada in the lower basin and Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming in the upper basin, those involved in the process said.

Recently, President-elect Biden named someone to his Interior Department transition team who knows about the Colorado River—Tanya Trujillo, a water lawyer who works as a project director for the conservation group Colorado River Sustainability Campaign.

Trujillo was previously the Interior Department’s counselor to the assistant secretary for water and science and senior counsel to the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. She also has served as executive director of the Colorado River Board of California, which represents the state negotiations about the river basin.



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The 2007 guidelines, which expire on December 31, 2025, provide flexibility to conserve and store water in the basin and certainty to water users about the timing and volumes of potential reductions in state water allotments.

Mitchell said the states will need to have negotiations wrapped up by 2023 to allow time to get new guidelines in place by 2026.

The guidelines are one set of principles among the multiple compacts, federal laws, court decisions, decrees, contracts, and regulations known collectively as the “Law of the River,” determining water allotments and governing water use and management by the seven basin states and Mexico. The Endangered Species Act and numerous Native American water rights settlements also influence water use in the basin.

Bureau of Reclamation officials in the Trump administration recently reviewed the 2007 guidelines and will release its final conclusions before the end of the year. Those conclusions will serve as a reference point and source of data for negotiations between the Biden administration, the seven states, and Mexico.

### ***Bipartisan Energy Legislation Close to Moving Ahead in the Senate***

Broad bipartisan energy legislation is close to moving ahead in the Senate but faces one last obstacle in Senator Rand Paul (R-KY).

Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) said the only thing holding up the energy innovation package now is “one recalcitrant and difficult senator from Kentucky.”

Senator Coons, who has four bills included in the American Energy Innovation Act, said lawmakers, including sponsor Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), discussed the legislation on the Senate floor last week. “If we get floor time, we can roll Rand, and that can become law.”

Senator Coons said the bill will resurface and move early next year if it isn’t passed in the lame-duck session. “It is strongly bipartisan, and it has taken years to be put together,” he added.

Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) is the lead Democrat Senator on the bill. The legislation is a compilation of more than 50 energy-related measures considered and individually reported by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last year.

### ***States Can Kill Land Protection Efforts Under New Interior Order***

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on Friday, November 13 signed an order giving states and local counties veto power over land acquired under the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The order requires the affected state governor and the local county government to sign off on any fund-acquired land, effectively giving local jurisdictions authority to kill any individual conservation effort proposed under the fund.

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Secretary Bernhardt's order gives states and local governments veto power as a way to "be a good neighbor," Interior spokesman Ben Goldey said Friday.

"We have lots of needs and opportunities for acquisitions across the country and we want to focus on areas where there are willing sellers and a welcoming community," Goldey said. "This is intended to limit the conflicts between the government and the local communities."

Congressional Democrats quickly condemned the directive.

"This order is a perfect example of why they can't be trusted to protect our environment," Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, said in a statement. "They have no interest in conservation; even with clear direction and guidance from Congress they are doing their best to sabotage the Land and Water Conservation."

Congress approved \$900 million in permanent annual funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund this summer when it passed the bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act. The fund pays for federal land acquisition as well as parks, wildlife refuges, ball fields, and other conservation projects in states and local communities across the country, both rural and urban.

The order says "a written expression of support by both the affected Governor and local county or county government-equivalent (e.g. parish, borough) is required for the acquisition of land, water, or an interest in land or water under the Federal LWCF program."

The order echoes calls by Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), who opposed the bill and proposed amendments that, if they had been included in the final bill, would have required states to approve of LWCF land acquisitions.

Senator Lee said Friday after Bernhardt signed the order that he appreciates the Trump administration's "collaboration" with state and local governments.

"The federal government already controls nearly 70 percent of the land in my state and Utahns deserve a say in whether the federal government acquires yet more land," Senator Lee commented.

The order will likely be rescinded in the incoming administration.

### ***Lawmakers Begin to Map out Priorities for Next Congress***

Lawmakers have begun speculating on priorities for the 117th Congress, potential leadership positions on key committees, and what a new balance of power in the White House and Congress could mean for legislative priorities.

House Democrats this year passed measures on rejoining the Paris climate accord and banning offshore drilling, but the Senate hasn't taken them up and has no plans to do so in the new Congress, especially if they keep majority in the Senate, which is likely that they will unless they lose both runoff elections in Georgia in early January.

This year's COVID-19 relief packages did not include any renewable energy provisions, but with the apparent victory of Vice President Joe Biden, the odds of inclusion in future bills increases if additional legislation is passed in 2021.

The Republican chairs of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and possibly the Environment and Public Works Committee, which review nominees and legislation before floor votes, face a potential leadership shake-up. Senator Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) tenure as chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will come to an end next year under conference rules limiting the number of years Senators can serve as Chair or Ranking Member, freeing up a spot that will be occupied by Senator John Barrasso (R-WY).

Extra coronavirus relief and several reauthorization bills, including for child nutrition programs, lead the list of priorities in January for the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee.

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO), Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry, and Natural Resources Subcommittee said focus in the 117th Congress should be on forest health, wildfire recovery, and climate change. "As a Committee, we should consider how to dramatically increase our investment in broadband, water, and other rural infrastructure," he said.

With Senator Barrasso becoming Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) is in line to become the next Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Senator Capito has stated that a multi-year highway bill is "probably my top priority" and joined Democrats in calling for more stringent regulation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Capito played a major role in the creation of the Water Resources Development Act in the Senate in 2020.

She vowed to push the EPA to speed up the agency's efforts to set limits for the contaminants in drinking water. "I personally am going to hold EPA's feet to the fire until they do a protective standard," Senator Capito. "I don't think we can wait five years to find out what this is doing to our water. I'm going to be on EPA's heels on this—and I don't think I'll be alone in that."

Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), the Senate Environment and Public Works Ranking Member, who will remain the ranking member in the new congress, said he will continue to push for climate action where possible in committee, including making transportation infrastructure more resilient to rising sea level and other climate effects.

He also touted his ability to reach across the aisle to advance water infrastructure; more aggressive regulation of so-called forever chemicals; a still-in-the-works highway bill reauthorization; and a 2015 law that streamlined environmental permitting.

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On the House side, House Energy and Commerce Democrats expect to return to Congress next year with a similar agenda: advance environmental protection and clean energy, strengthen the Affordable Care Act, and protect consumers' data privacy.

Chairman Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ) plans to formally introduce climate legislation that aims to achieve a 100% clean economy by 2050, which some progressives say isn't far-reaching enough.

Chairman Pallone has worked over the last year to refine the CLEAN Future Act with Energy Subcommittee Chairman Bobby Rush (D-IL) and Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee Chairman Paul Tonko (D-NY), both of whom expect to retain their leadership positions in the next Congress.

Democrats and Republicans also will seek to improve energy access, affordability, and reliability—critical issues to the country's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, and to parts of the U.S. that continue to suffer severe natural disasters.

### ***Trump Administration Misses Deadline on Conservation Projects***

On Monday, November 9, the Trump administration submitted a list of projects that will receive funding under a conservation program — a week after it was due to Congress.

The Great American Outdoors Act, bipartisan legislation enacted on Aug. 4, gave the Interior Department 90 days to prepare two lists of projects that would receive money under two separate conservation funds established by the legislation. Interior has failed to provide one of the lists, according to House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ). The deadline for submission was Monday, November 2.

The statute permanently provides \$900 million in annual funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which helps the federal government acquire new land for parks and trails and works to protect sensitive forest and endangered species habitat.

It also provides up to \$1.9 billion annually for five years dedicated to addressing a maintenance backlog at existing national parks.

The new list came as the White House also on Monday, November 9 formally delegated the responsibility to submit the list to the Interior and Agriculture departments and Interior Secretary David Bernhardt said in a letter accompanying the list that it was benign submitted "pursuant to the president's delegation."

The document submitted to Congress on Monday lists 20 Fish and Wildlife Service projects and 26 National Park Service projects that will receive LWCF funding. They're located at places including part of the Everglades in Florida, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio and the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in Alaska.

President Trump's support for funding the LWCF was something of a reversal after previously proposing significant cuts to the fund.

The Interior Department met the deadline for the list of projects that would be prioritized for maintenance, but Chairman Grijalva said officials failed to submit a list of projects that would get funds through the LWCF.

“Congress sent clear instructions to the administration: transmit a detailed LWCF project list 90 days after enactment. This is a routine task the bureaus do every year, so the fact that it’s missing is somewhat perplexing and raises a lot of questions about this administration’s intent,” he said in a statement.

### ***U.S. Officially Exits Paris Climate Accord***

On Wednesday, November 4, the U.S. officially left the Paris Climate Accord. The withdrawal, set in motion by a letter from President Trump exactly one year ago, caps a long-promised move from the president and leaves the U.S. as the only country in the world to withdraw from the landmark climate agreement.

“The Paris Climate Accord is simply the latest example of Washington entering into an agreement that disadvantages the United States to the exclusive benefit of other countries, leaving American workers — who I love — and taxpayers to absorb the cost in terms of lost jobs, lower wages, shuttered factories and vastly diminished economic production,” Trump said at a speech in the Rose Garden in June 2017.

The move was celebrated by many in Republican circles, even as Democrats and environmentalists lament the implications the U.S. exit will have for the climate and the American economy.

Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, however, said the deal “would have disadvantaged the U.S. economy and compromised American competitiveness.”

Former Vice President Joe Biden has said he favors signing the U.S. back up to the Paris Accord. Because the deal was set up as an executive agreement, not a treaty, congressional approval is not required. Vice President Biden has pledged to rejoin the Paris agreement on Day 1 in office if elected, a move that would leave the U.S. out of the deal for a little more than three months.

“I will bring us back into the Paris Agreement. I will put us back in the business of leading the world on climate change. And I will challenge everyone to up the ante on their climate commitments,” Vice President Biden said in a September speech on climate change as wildfires ravaged California.

### ***Administration Transition***

Please see below for a table of potential officials that President-elect Biden may pick for various roles in his cabinet, as well as officials that he has announced his intention to nominate.

Officials already announced by President-Elect Biden:

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<b>Position</b>	<b>Official</b>	<b>Career History</b>
<b>Chief of Staff</b>	Ron Klain	Former Chief of Staff to Joe Biden when he was VP; former Chief of Staff to VP Al Gore
<b>Chief of Staff to Jill Biden</b>	Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon	Partner at the law firm Winston & Strawn; former U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay and deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Obama Administration
<b>Counsel</b>	Dana Remus	General counsel to Joe Biden's campaign; deputy assistant and deputy counsel for ethics to President Obama.
<b>Counselor</b>	Steve Ricchetti	Chief of Staff to Vice President Joe Biden during the Obama administration and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations under President Bill Clinton.
<b>Deputy Chief of Staff</b>	Jennifer O'Malley Dillon	Joe Biden's presidential campaign manager, Former Executive Director of DNC, deputy manager of President Obama's 2012 campaign.
<b>Director of Oval Office Operations</b>	Annie Tomasini	Currently Joe Biden's traveling Chief of Staff. Former deputy Press Secretary for Joe Biden when he was VP.
<b>Director of White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs</b>	Julie Rodriguez	Deputy campaign manager of Joe Biden's presidential campaign. served as special assistant to the president and senior deputy director of public engagement in the Obama Administration.
<b>Senior Adviser</b>	Mike Donilon	chief strategist for the Biden campaign; previously served as a counselor to then-Vice President Biden in the Obama White House
<b>Senior Adviser to Jill Biden</b>	Anthony Bernal	Deputy campaign manager and Chief of Staff to Jill Biden during the presidential campaign.
<b>Senior Advisor and Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement</b>	Cedric Richmond	Currently U.S. Representative to Louisiana's 2 <sup>nd</sup> congressional district who also served as co-chairman of President-Elect Biden's campaign.
<b>National Security Adviser</b>	Jake Sullivan	Former National Security Adviser to VP Biden
<b>Department of State</b>	Antony Blinken	Served in various roles in the Obama Administration including deputy secretary of state, assistant to the president and principal deputy national security adviser
<b>Department of Homeland Security</b>	Alejandro Mayorkas	Deputy secretary of Homeland Security during the Obama administration, and served as the director of the Department of Homeland Security's United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.
<b>Director of National Intelligence</b>	Avril Haines	Former Deputy NSA, Former Deputy Director of the CIA
<b>Special Presidential Envoy for Climate</b>	John Kerry	Former Secretary of State
<b>Treasury</b>	Janet Yellen	Served as the Chair of the Federal Reserve from 2014 to 2018
<b>UN Ambassador</b>	Linda Thomas-Greenfield	Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (2004–2006), Ambassador to Liberia (2008–2012), and Director General of the Foreign Service and Director of Human Resources (2012–2013)
<b>White House Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs</b>	Shuwanza Goff	Currently Deputy Director for Legislative Operations for House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer.

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Officials under consideration for various cabinet positions:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Possible Candidate</b>	<b>Prior Administration Experience / Current Role</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	Heidi Heitkamp	Former U.S. Senator from North Dakota
<b>Agriculture</b>	Karen Ross	Secretary of CDFA
<b>Agriculture</b>	Marcia Fudge	Current U.S. Representative from Ohio's 11th congressional district
<b>Agriculture</b>	David Zuckerman	Lieutenant Governor of Vermont
<b>Agriculture</b>	Cheri Bustos	Current U.S. Representative from Illinois's 17th congressional district
<b>Agriculture</b>	Chellie Pingree	Current U.S. Representative from Maine's 1st congressional district
<b>Agriculture</b>	Amy Klobuchar	Current Senator from Minnesota
<b>Education</b>	Randi Weingarten	President of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
<b>Education</b>	Lily Esklsen Garcia	A former teacher and former president of the National Education Association
<b>Education</b>	Tim Walz	Governor of Minnesota
<b>Education</b>	Michael Bennet	Current U.S. Senator from Colorado
<b>Education</b>	Pete Buttigieg	Former Mayor of South Bend, Indiana
<b>Education</b>	Linda Darling-Hammond	Professor of Education at the Stanford Graduate School of Education
<b>Education</b>	Jahana Hayes	Current U.S. Representative from Connecticut's 5th congressional district
<b>Education</b>	Tony Thurmond	California State Superintendent of Public Instruction
<b>Education</b>	Donna Shalala	Current U.S. Representative from Florida's 27th congressional district
<b>Energy</b>	Jay Inslee	Governor of Washington
<b>Energy</b>	Jennifer Granholm	Former Governor of Michigan
<b>Energy</b>	Mitch Landrieu	Former Mayor of New Orleans
<b>Energy</b>	Katie McGinty	Former Secretary of the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
<b>Energy</b>	Dan Reicher	Former Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Dept. of Energy
<b>Energy</b>	Andy Levin	Current U.S. Representative for Michigan's 9th congressional district
<b>Energy</b>	Ernest Moniz	Former Secretary of Energy
<b>Energy</b>	Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall	Former Deputy Secretary of Energy
<b>Energy</b>	Arun Majumdar	First Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy
<b>EPA Administrator</b>	Jay Inslee	Inslee is the governor of Washington state, and previously served in the US House of Representatives.
<b>EPA Administrator</b>	Heather McTeer Toney	National Field Director for Moms Clean Air Force
<b>EPA Administrator</b>	Mary Nichols	Chair of the California Air Resources Board
<b>EPA Administrator</b>	Jared Blumenfeld	California Secretary of Environmental Protection



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<b>EPA Administrator</b>	Tom Carper	Current U.S. Senator from Delaware
<b>EPA Administrator</b>	Daniel Esty	Former Commission of the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
<b>EPA Administrator</b>	Collin O'Mara	CEO of the National Wildlife Federation
<b>EPA Administrator</b>	Richard Revesz	NYU Law Professor
<b>EPA Administrator</b>	Mustafa Santiago Ali	Vice President at the National Wildlife Federation
<b>HHS</b>	Michelle Lujan Grisham	Former Rep. Grisham served three terms in the U.S. Congress representing New Mexico's 1st congressional district.
<b>HHS</b>	Vivek Murthy	Murthy is the co-chair of Biden's coronavirus advisory board. He previously served as the US surgeon general in the Obama Administration
<b>HHS</b>	Gina Raimondo	Raimondo is the first woman governor of Rhode Island. She previously served as the general treasurer of the state.
<b>HHS</b>	Karen Bass	Current U.S. Representative from California's 37 <sup>th</sup> congressional district
<b>HHS</b>	Nicole Lurie	Former HHS Assistant Secretary
<b>HHS</b>	Ezekiel Emanuel	Vice Provost for Global Initiatives at the University of Pennsylvania, Former Chief of the Dept. of Bioethics, NIH, Former Special Advisor for Health Policy to the OMB
<b>HHS</b>	Andy Slavitt	Former Acting Administrator of CMS
<b>HHS</b>	Jack Markell	Former Governor of Delaware, Former State Treasurer of Delaware
<b>HHS</b>	Andrea Palm	Secretary of the Wisconsin Dept. of Human Services, Former Assistant Secretary for Health and Chief of Staff, HHS
<b>HHS</b>	Mandy Cohen	Secretary of the North Carolina Dept. of Health and Human Services, Former COO and Chief of Staff of CMS
<b>HHS</b>	Chiquita Brooks-LaSure	former HHS official who helped lead the department's steps to carry out the ACA
<b>HUD</b>	Keisha Lance Bottoms	Mayor of Atlanta
<b>HUD</b>	Eric Garcetti	Mayor of Los Angeles
<b>HUD</b>	Karen Bass	Current U.S. Representative from California's 37 <sup>th</sup> congressional district
<b>HUD</b>	Jesus "Chuy" Garcia	Current U.S. Representative from Illinois's 4th congressional district
<b>HUD</b>	Alvin Brown	Former Mayor of Jacksonville
<b>HUD</b>	Maurice Jones	Former Deputy Undersecretary of HUD



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<b>HUD</b>	Diane Yentel	President and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition; Former director of the public housing management and occupancy division at HUD
<b>Interior</b>	Deb Haaland	Current congresswoman from New Mexico, and leads the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.
<b>Interior</b>	Tom Udall	Current U.S. Senator from New Mexico who is retiring at the end of 2020.
<b>Interior</b>	Martin Heinrich	Current U.S. Senator from New Mexico
<b>Interior</b>	Jamie Rappaport Clark	President and CEO of Defenders of Wildlife
<b>Interior</b>	John Berry	Former United States Ambassador to Australia
<b>Interior</b>	Michael Connor	Former Interior Deputy Secretary
<b>Labor</b>	Andy Levin	Current Representative for Michigan's 9th Congressional district
<b>Labor</b>	Bernie Sanders	Current third-term U.S. Senator from Vermont.
<b>Labor</b>	Sara Nelson	international president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA
<b>Labor</b>	Marty Walsh	Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts
<b>Labor</b>	Bill Spriggs	Former Assistant Secretary of Labor for Policy
<b>Labor</b>	Sharon Block	Former Head of Policy at the Department of Labor
<b>Labor</b>	Julie Su	Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
<b>Labor</b>	Tom Perez	Chair of the Democratic National Committee
<b>Labor</b>	Seth Harris	Former Deputy Labor Secretary
<b>Transportation</b>	Rahm Emanuel	Former Chicago Mayor and Chief of Staff in Obama Administration.
<b>Transportation</b>	Eric Garcetti	Los Angeles Mayor
<b>Transportation</b>	John Porcari	Former Deputy Secretary of Transportation
<b>Transportation</b>	Janette Sadik-Khan	former NYC Transportation Commissioner
<b>Transportation</b>	Jay Inslee	Governor of Washington
<b>Transportation</b>	Earl Blumenauer	Current U.S. Representative from Oregon's 3rd congressional district
<b>Transportation</b>	Beth Osborne	Director of Transportation for America
<b>Transportation</b>	Eric Garcetti	Mayor of Los Angeles

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 current continuing resolution — a stopgap measure that extends current funding levels — funds the government until December 11th. At that time, Congress will pass the appropriations packages, or pass another continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown.</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	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>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 current continuing resolution — a stopgap measure that extends current funding levels — funds the government until December 11th. At that time, Congress will pass the appropriations packages, or pass another continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown.</p>
N/A	Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL)/Senator Pat Leahy (D-VT)	Senate Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations bills	The measure included \$55 million for WaterSMART Grants; \$4 million for Water Conservation Field Services Program; \$2.250 million for Cooperative Watershed Management; \$5.2 million for Basin Studies; \$4 million for Drought Responses & Comprehensive Drought Plans; \$63.617 million for Title XCCI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program; and \$20 million for WIIN 4009(c) projects.	The Chairman's marks of the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bills were released by the Senate Appropriations Committee on November 10th. The Committee does not have plans to mark up the legislation before they are conferenced with the House.
H.R.8746/ S.4538	Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL)/Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)	Restore Employment in Natural and Environmental Work (RENEW) Act	The legislation would establish a Restore Employment in Natural and Environmental Work Conservation Corps in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture and authorizes more than \$55 billion over a five-year period to put one million Americans to work to address the backlog of deferred conservation projects.	The House version of the legislation was introduced on November 12, 2020, and the Senate version was introduced on September 8, 2020.

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
S.4862	Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)	Undoing NEPA's Substantial Harm by Advancing Concepts that Kickstart the Liberation of the Economy (UNSHACKLE Act)	The legislation would comprehensively reform the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by combining five other previously introduced NEPA reform acts into one bill.	The legislation was introduced on October 25, 2020.
H.R. 8632	Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)	Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act	The legislation would direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to provide for ocean-based climate solutions to reduce carbon emissions and global warming; to make coastal communities more resilient; and to provide for the conservation and restoration of ocean and coastal habitats, biodiversity, and marine mammal and fish populations; and for other purposes.	<p>The legislation was introduced on October 20, 2020.</p> <p>The Committee on Natural Resources held hearings on the legislation on November 17.</p>
H.R. 8569/ S.4815	Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA)/ Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)	Disaster Learning and Lifesaving Act	The legislation would establish a National Disaster Safety Board (NDSB) modeled after the National Transportation Safety Board. The NDSB would be an independent, non-partisan agency, responsible for studying preparedness and emergency response during natural disasters. It would break down the silos between federal, state, and local government, and private industry to develop better and more complete lessons learned and improve planning for future emergencies.	<p>The legislation was introduced on October 9, 2020 and referred to the House Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce.</p> <p>The bill has bipartisan cosponsorship.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 8406	Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)	The Heroes Act	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>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>
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> <p>The legislation has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in the Senate.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 3884/ S.2227	Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY) / Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA)	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> <p>Lawmakers have expressed support for passing the legislation by the end of the year.</p>
H.R. 6084	Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)	Water Power Research and Development Act	<p>To provide for a program of hydropower, pumped storage, and marine energy research, development, demonstration, and commercial application, and for other purposes.</p>	<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>



Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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>
H.R. 6622	Rep. David McKinley (R-WV)	Assuring Quality Water Infrastructure Act	<p>The bill amends the Safe Water Drinking Act to establish a grant program for improving operational sustainability by small public water systems.</p> <p>The bill would authorize \$5 million to execute this program for each of the fiscal years 2021 - 2025.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on April 24, 2020, and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.</p>

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>
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>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
S.3591	Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) / Tom Carper (D-DE)	America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020	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>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> <p>Senator Barrasso filed a written report on the legislation on November 9, 2020.</p>
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> <p>Senator Barrasso filed a written report on the legislation on October 23, 2020.</p>

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

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
S. 1087	Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)	Water Quality Certification Improvement Act of 2019	The measure would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to make changes with respect to water quality certification.	<p>The measure was introduced in the Senate on April 19, 2019 and was referred to Committee on Environment and Public Works.</p> <p>On November 19, 2019 the committee held a hearing to discuss impacts of the act if implemented.</p>
H.R. 1764	Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)	The bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Act	The legislation would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to permitting terms, and for other purposes.	<p>Introduced on March 15, 2019 and then referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.</p> <p>This legislation has bipartisan cosponsor ship and hearings were held on the measure in November 2019.</p>

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:            State Management Assistance: Section 106(a);            Watershed Pilot Projects: Section 122(c);            Alternative Water Source Projects Pilot Program: Section 220(d);            Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants: Section 221(f)1); and            State Water Pollution Control Revolving Funds.</p> <p>Changes the length of permits for NPDES permits to not exceeding 10 years in certain circumstances.</p>	<p>Introduced on March 6, 2019 and referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment of the House Transportation Committee.</p> <p>The Committee marked up the legislation and reported it with an amendment in the nature of a substitute--expanding the scope of the legislation.</p> <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.
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>

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

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H. R. 855	Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)	STRONG (Strengthening the Resiliency of our Nation on the Ground Act) Act	The bill would work to minimize the economic and social costs resulting from losses of life, property, well-being, business activity, and economic growth associated with extreme weather events by ensuring that the United States is more resilient to the impacts of extreme weather events in the short- and long-term, and for other purpose	Introduced in the House and referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management of the House Transportation Committee on February 7, 2019.
H.R. 420	Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)	Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act	The bill would decriminalize marijuana and sets up legal framework to regulate marijuana.	Introduced in the House on January 9, 2019 and referred to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Natural Resources, and Agriculture.
S.420 /H.R. 1120	Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) / Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)	Marijuana Revenue and Regulation Act	A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the taxation and regulation of marijuana products, and for other purposes.	The bill was introduced in the Senate on February 7, 2019 and was referred to the Finance Committee.  Introduced in the House on February 8, 2019 and was referred to the Committees on Judiciary, Agriculture, and Natural Resources.

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

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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> <p>Note: Senators have pushed for PFAS provisions to be included in the final fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.</p>
H.R.4236	Rep. Quigley, Mike (D-IL)	Reducing Waste in National Parks Act	<p>The legislation would encourage recycling and reduction of disposable plastic bottles in units of the National Park System.</p>	<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>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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.	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.  In the Senate, the legislation has been referred to the Finance Committee.
Enacted Legislation (removed from report after 2 months)				
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.	The legislation was introduced on September 22, 2020 by Representative Lowey, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee.  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.  President Trump signed the legislation into law late in the early morning hours of October 1, 2020.

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
S. 3051	Sen. John Barrasso (D-WY)	America's Conservation Enhancement Act	The bill reauthorizes the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Act and Chesapeake Bay Program through 2025. The bill also authorizes funding to combat invasive species, creates grants to help states and tribes pay farmers for livestock that was attacked by protected species and aims to tackle a neurological disease that impacts deer, elk and moose.	<p>The legislation was introduced on December 12, 2019.</p> <p>It passes the Senate on September 16, 2020, and passed the House on October 1, 2020. The legislation was not controversial - easily passing both chambers.</p> <p>President Trump signed the legislation into law on October 30, 2020.</p>



INFORMATION  
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CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES, LLC

Date: November 30, 2020  
To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
From: John Withers, Jim Brulte  
Re: California Strategies, LLC November 2020 Activity Report

1. This month Jim Brulte and John Withers participated in the monthly senior staff meeting November 3rd via Microsoft Teams due to the Coronavirus.
2. There was ongoing discussion of the MEU rate and the issues associated with fee calculation and billing. IEUA received a letter from five member agencies requesting that IEUA bill the agencies directly rather than through Water Facilities Authority.
3. There was a discussion related to the Chino Basin Project. Staff is awaiting a response from member agencies and reconfiguring the Program with corresponding outreach plan. IEUA will continue to work with the Cal Water Commission and MWD to address stakeholder concerns. Goal is to make a go/no go decision.
4. Urban Water Management Plan. City of Ontario is taking the lead on the study. IEUA General Manager meeting with Scott Burton Nov 4 to discuss.

(Withers left the meeting at this time)

5. Calstrat was asked about its relationships with members of the San Antonio Water Company. Our firm has strong relationships with 3 of the Board members. Follow-up discussions with staff were held regarding the agency.
6. Senator Brulte (Ret.) had a follow up conversation with Kathy Besser regarding surveying local elected officials.
7. Senator Brulte (Ret.) had a follow up conversation with the General Manager about ways to reach out to local elected officials.