



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

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021
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, public comments may be emailed to the Board Secretary/Office Manager Denise Garzaro at dgarzaro@ieua.org no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time. Comments will 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 ITEMS

A. MINUTES

Approve Minutes of the December 9, 2020 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.

B. AGENCY-WIDE ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Staff recommends that the Committee/Board:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-1-5, authorizing the Agency-wide organizational memberships and affiliations for Fiscal Year 2021/22; and
2. Authorize the General Manager to approve all Agency-wide Membership fees that are \$5,000 or less.

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 and outside the Agency's main office, 6075 Kimball Avenue, Building A, Chino on Thursday, January 7, 2021.



Denise Garzaro, CMC

**ACTION
ITEM
1A**



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

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT via Teleconference

Steven J. Elie, Chair
Michael Camacho

STAFF PRESENT

Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager
Christiana Daisy, Deputy General Manager
Denise Garzaro, Board Secretary/Office Manager
Wilson To, Technology Specialist II

STAFF PRESENT via Teleconference

Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of External & Government Affairs/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
Javier Chagoyen-Lazaro, Manager of Finance & Accounting
Robert Delgado, Manager of Operations & Maintenance
Don Hamlett, Acting Deputy Manager of Integrated System Services
Jennifer Hy-Luk, Administrative Assistant II
Sylvie Lee, Manager of Strategic Planning & Resources
Cathleen Pieroni, Manager of Inter-Agency Relations
Jesse Pompa, Manager of Grants
Jeanina Romero, Executive Assistant
Daniel Solorzano, Technology Specialist I
Teresa Velarde, Manager of Internal Audit

OTHERS PRESENT via Teleconference

Michael Boccadoro, West Coast Advisors
Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Steven Elie called the meeting to order at 9:00 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.

1A – 1B. ACTION ITEMS

The Committee:

- ◆ Approved Minutes of the November 11, 2020 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.
- ◆ Recommended that the Board adopt the draft 2021 Legislative Policy Principles; as a Consent Calendar Item on the December 16, 2020 Board meeting agenda.

2A – 2D. 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

3. GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh stated that incoming Director Marco Tule has been sworn in and is scheduled to attend his first Board meeting on December 16, 2020. He added that Director Michael Camacho has also been sworn in after being reelected.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Committee member comments.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Committee member requests for future agenda items.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Committee Chair Elie adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Garzaro
Board Secretary/Office Manager

*A Municipal Water District

APPROVED: JANUARY 13, 2021

**ACTION
ITEM
1B**

Date: January 20, 2021

To: The Honorable Board of Directors

SD
From: Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

Committee: Community & Legislative Affairs

01/13/21

Executive Contact: Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of Government & Ext. Affairs/AGM

Subject: Agency-Wide Organizational Memberships and Affiliations

Executive Summary:

Each year in preparation for IEUA's fiscal year budget, the Board of Directors, by four-fifths vote, approves a resolution authorizing memberships and affiliations with certain organizations (California Water Code – Section 71597).

A listing of the proposed Agency-wide memberships of more than \$5,000, along with a brief summary of the benefits associated, is attached for the Board's review. The attached membership dues are estimates provided by the organizations. Agency-wide memberships are due throughout the fiscal year and can fluctuate from the provided estimates. Due to unknown fluctuations in renewal costs, staff proposes that a 5% contingency be included in the total for the Board's approval. Any individual membership renewal with an increase greater than 10% will be brought back to the Board for approval. The attached resolution authorizes the General Manager to approve all Agency-wide memberships that are \$5,000 or less.

Staff's Recommendation:

- 1) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-1-5, authorizing the Agency-wide organizational memberships and affiliations for Fiscal Year 2021/22; and
- 2) Authorize the General Manager to approve all Agency-wide memberships that are \$5,000 or less.

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

Account/Project Name:

Agency-wide Memberships

Fiscal Impact (explain if not budgeted):

The estimated total for FY 2021/22 Agency-wide memberships amounts to \$280,840; a 5% contingency totaling \$14,042 brings the requested amount to \$294,882.

Prior Board Action:

On February 19, 2020, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2020-1-5, authorizing the Agency-wide memberships for fiscal year 2020/21.

Environmental Determination:

Not Applicable

Business Goal:

Approving the Agency-wide Memberships is in line with IEUA's business goal of supporting effective public outreach and education, and advocating for the development of policies, legislation and regulations that benefit the region.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Resolution No. 2021-1-5

Attachment 2 - List of Agency-wide Organizational Memberships over \$5,000

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-1-5

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY*, SAN
BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,
AUTHORIZING AGENCY-WIDE ORGANIZATIONAL
MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Inland Empire Utilities Agency* authorized Agency-wide memberships in and affiliations with various organizations which benefit the Agency; and

WHEREAS, Section 71597 of the California Water Code requires that Agency-wide memberships must be approved by at least four-fifths (4/5) majority of its Directors.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of Inland Empire Utilities Agency* does hereby RESOLVE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER as follows:

Section 1. That this Board of Directors does hereby approve and authorize the fiscal year Agency-wide annual memberships in and affiliation with, and authorize the General Manager to execute payment of membership fees to these organizations (see attachment).

Section 2. That this Board of Directors does hereby approve and authorize the General Manager, or in his/her absence, his/her designee, to approve all Agency-wide annual memberships in and affiliations with, and payment of membership fees to these organizations that are \$5,000 and less.

Section 3. That the appropriation of funds necessary for the dues and/or fees associated with the Agency-wide memberships is hereby authorized.

Section 4. That the appropriation of funds necessary for the dues and/or fees associated with the Agency-wide memberships and employee professional memberships be authorized by the Board of Directors in the budget each fiscal year.

Section 5. Upon adoption of this resolution, Resolution No. 2020-1-5 is hereby rescinded in its entirety.

ADOPTED this 20th day of January 2021.

Jasmin A. Hall
President of the Inland Empire
Utilities Agency* and the Board
of Directors thereof

ATTEST:

Steven J. Elie
Secretary/Treasurer of the Inland Empire
Utilities Agency* and the Board
of Directors thereof

*A Municipal Water District

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)SS
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO)

I, Steven J. Elie, Secretary/Treasurer of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency*, DO
HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution being No. 2021-1-5, was adopted at a regular
meeting on January 20, 2021, of said Agency by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Steven J. Elie
Secretary/Treasurer of the Inland
Empire Utilities Agency* and of the
Board of Directors thereof

(SEAL)

* A Municipal Water District

Agency-wide Memberships Over \$5,000

Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA):

ACWA is the lead water policy advocacy organization in California and provides members with cost savings through an additional voice in state and federal and legislative and regulatory arenas. Staff serve on ACWA committees and sub-committees, including: Water Management, Water Quality, Water Use Efficiency, State Legislative, Energy, and various topic-specific regulatory matters.

ACWA's federal and state legislative and regulatory activities advance bills and issues of concern to members, while halting potentially damaging measures. Initiatives have included determining components of water bond legislation, Voluntary Agreements for the Bay Delta and Delta Conveyance Plan advocacy, long term water infrastructure financing, and renewable energy policy. IEUA Board and staff members regularly attend annual conferences and workshops

California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA):

CASA serves as the lead advocacy group for wastewater agencies in California on legislative and regulatory issues. Since CASA employs legal representation, it is extremely effective on regulatory issues, particularly before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and California Air Resources Board (CARB). CASA provides excellent technical, policy and regulatory guidance and lobbying support for sanitary districts throughout the state. CASA also maintains lobbyists in Sacramento and Washington, DC, in addition to a Director of Regulatory Affairs.

Most recently, some of CASA's priorities include federal and state labeling requirements of wet wipes, technical evaluation and regulatory support on PFAS, and the extension of NPDES permit terms to 10 years. Also, CASA and WateReuse have been effective at thwarting recent efforts to legislate ocean discharge requirements.

IEUA Board members and staff have worked closely with the CASA Executive Officer on several industry initiatives and have attended CASA conferences and meetings. President Hall currently serves on the CASA Board of Directors and was recently elected as the Board Vice President; the General Manager serves on the Federal Legislative Affairs Committee; the Executive Manager of Finance and Administration/AGM serves as CASA's representative on the State Treasurer's Committee tasked with development of training materials for elected officials on debt issuance and administration, and staff serves on the State Legislative Affairs Committee.

California Data Collaborative (CaDC):

CaDC is a coalition of water utilities that in January 2016 joined together to form a data infrastructure 501(c)3 non-profit to analyze and support water management efficiency and

reliability objectives. Founding members included IEUA, Eastern Municipal Water District, Irvine Ranch Water District, Moulton Niguel Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Santa Margarita Water District, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, and UC Davis.

The goals of the CaDC are to merge water data with data science analytical tools, such as those utilized by Netflix and Microsoft. This is accomplished by working with a group of data scientists who gather raw water usage and billing data from individual agencies, standardize the information, and make it available on a secure, centralized platform. Dashboards that have been developed but the CaDC include an interactive rate modeling tool, a neighborhood level analysis of turf-rebate participation, and an in-process analysis of the impacts of proposed state water use efficiency standards. IEUA staff participates by attending workshops and conferences, both in-person and webinars, as well as making presentations at their annual conference.

California Special Districts Association (CSDA):

CSDA is a statewide association of various independent special districts whose primary function is legislative advocacy. In the past year, CSDA played a vital role in coordinating responses to major legislative initiatives that impacted special districts, including redevelopment agency reform, proposed property tax shifts, and pension reform, successfully pushing back on changes that would have been harmful or increased costs to special districts.

The organization is very active on the legislative front working closely with our lobbyist on critical legislation that impacts the Agency. CSDA provides timely and essential training, including, but not limited to: Ethics, Board Secretary, Brown Act, and Proposition 26 and 218 requirements. CSDA also acts as a great resource for the Agency's self-insured programs. In 2021, staff will continue to serve on the CSDA Fiscal Committee and the Professional Development Committee.

Isle Utilities:

Isle is an independent technology and innovation consultancy comprised of highly skilled engineers and scientists that work to identify new innovative technologies in water, waste, the built environment, energy, and carbon.

The Isle membership includes participation in their global innovation forum, the Technology Approval Group (TAG). TAG is focused on evaluating technologies that may be applicable to our industry. As a member, we are presented with the evaluations and can participate in information sharing pertaining to the technology, as well as application of the technology at other agencies. IEUA can also submit potential technologies of interest, to TAG, who will vet the supplier as well as experience in our industry, gathering a significant amount of information on our behalf that we can use in determining applicability. TAG helps the Agency to maintain awareness of new ideas, new opportunities, and/or new technologies. IEUA staff regularly participates in TAG and workshops.

National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA):

NACWA has represented public wastewater and stormwater agencies of all sizes nationwide for over 40 years. As the recognized leader in legislative, regulatory, and legal advocacy, NACWA is the clean water sector's collective voice to EPA, Congress and government agencies nationwide. NACWA also provides a wide array of publications of practical and usable information for clean water utilities. Their advocacy alerts, legislative and regulatory news and updates, legal references, white papers, *and more*, ensure that clean water utilities have the knowledge base to make the right decisions and plan for a clean water future.

A main objective of NACWA is to evaluate clean water as a top national priority. This membership provides the Agency with a forum to discuss clean water and utility management with fellow utilities and industry leaders across the country.

National Water Research Institute (NWRI):

NWRI provides valuable research and policy guidance to the industry on important issues affecting the usage of water, wastewater, and recycled water. NWRI is highly regarded by the environmental regulatory community and often collaborates with regulators such as the California Division of Drinking Water and the Regional Water Quality Control Board at their request to provide expert panel support on water quality related issues. Through strategic partnerships with leading organizations in the water and wastewater industries, NWRI sponsors projects and programs focused on ensuring safe, reliable, sources of water for current and future generations. Notable areas of focus are treatment technology and regulatory aspects of recycled water use.

Director Elie currently serves as a member of NWRI's Board of Directors. NWRI is active in research in the field of water reuse and has produced guidelines for such projects as development of direct and indirect potable reuse projects. NWRI provides technical expertise and is a respected venue for development of technical review panels, both of which assist the Agency to advance its programs. Specifically, IEUA will utilize an NWRI expert panel for its recycled water injection effort and has previously used an expert panel to further its recycled water recharge program. NWRI includes IEUA staff in its formation of technical panels, as appropriate, giving IEUA an opportunity to provide leadership in selected fields.

Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP):

SCAP is organized under the "strength-in-numbers" concept in order to ensure that environmental regulations applied in southern California are appropriate, reasonable and cost-effective. Through the committee efforts information is gathered and disseminated to all members using the SCAP Monthly Update, published committee reports and periodic SCAP Alerts. SCAP provides specific leadership on key regulatory focus areas, such as air, water, energy, biosolids and collection systems, and works closely with CASA to communicate these issues at the state and federal level. Specialized committees have

played an integral part in proactively affecting the outcome of proposed regulations that would have had significant economic impacts to the Agency.

IEUA participates in SCAP both with a seat on the Board and this year an IEUA staff member is chair of the Energy Management Committee.

Southern California Salinity Coalition (SCSC):

Formed in 2000, IEUA is a founding member of the Coalition, and the main focus of the SCSC is to coordinate salinity management strategies for water and wastewater agencies throughout southern California. SCSC has financially assisted IEUA on the water softener reduction project and regional board regulatory issues and continues to sponsor new research that will support the Chino Basin in addressing long term salt management issues.

The coalition holds an annual salinity summit and periodically holds workshops for various stakeholders in which the Agency participates. The coalition membership includes agencies such as LACSD, OCSD, OCWD, MWD, EMWD, and SDCWA. Some of the key activities supported by the salinity coalition this past year included a research project on infrastructure related to the Carlsbad desalination plant in San Diego county; contributing to the California Urban Water Agencies' issue brief for water reuse stakeholders; and, supporting a graduate student's research on using thin-film, liftoff membrane technology to create reverse osmosis membranes with more targeted selectivity. Agency staff actively participate and serve on the Board of Directors for this organization.

Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC):

SCWC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public education partnership dedicated to informing Southern Californians about our water needs and our State's water resources. Through measured advocacy, SCWC works to ensure the health and reliability of southern California's water supply.

In 2017, IEUA became one of seven founding members of SCWC. A founding membership includes all of the current basic membership benefits, as well as membership in the Stormwater Task Force, two tables at the annual dinner, including annual meeting and dinner recognition and a full-page ad in the tribute book, complementary invitations to all quarterly meetings, workshops, briefings, special events, four guest columns in the weekly E-Newsletter at each agencies' discretion, prominent logo placement on SCWC's website, and promotional displays at the annual dinner and quarterly meetings. Director Elie currently serves as co-chair of the SCWC Legislative Task Force, which assists in educating members about advancing legislation and issues of concern to water agencies and associated members.

Water Research Foundation (WRF):

WRF is a charitable corporation seeking to identify, support, and disseminate research that enhances the quality and reliability of water for natural systems and communities with an

integrated approach to resource recovery and reuse; while facilitating interaction among practitioners, educators, researchers, decision makers, and the public.

This organization supports research that enhances water quality and reliability. Agencies that practice resource recovery, especially water recycling, benefit from such integrated research that guides practitioners and regulators

WateReuse Association:

WateReuse Association is the lead advocate for water recycling in the nation. Membership in WateReuse includes state section membership. WateReuse has proactive programs, legislation, government relations, regulatory agency oversight, technology transfer and public education/outreach. At the national level, WateReuse is an advocate for Title XVI funding, and works closely with IEUA to ensure continued federal support for recycled water programs. The California section is active in legislative and regulatory affairs and played a pivotal role in securing passage of IEUA's historic water softener legislation (AB 1366).

IEUA benefits from membership in the WateReuse Association. Staff has been appointed as a voting member to the California Chapter's Legislative-Regulatory Committee. The Agency participates in the bimonthly chapter meetings which cover a range of water topics, including recycled water projects, potable reuse efforts, pilot and research projects, lessons learned, facility tours, funding opportunities, and other industry news and events. Many IEUA staff and Board members attend WateReuse conferences, attend in-person workshops, and participate in webinars. WateReuse advocates statewide and nationally for IEUA's goal of increased use of recycled water.

Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC)

Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC) was founded in 2002 by leading national associations and research foundations, in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). WaterISAC was authorized by Congress in the Bioterrorism Act and is the designated information sharing and operations arm of the Water Sector Coordination Council. WaterISAC is the only all-threats security information source for the water and wastewater utility sector. WaterISAC is a non-profit organization and operated by the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies. WaterISAC works closely with several government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Cybersecurity and Information Security Agency (CISA), FBI and the U.S. EPA. WaterISAC is a comprehensive single source for data, facts, case studies and analysis on water security and threats, including cybersecurity.

Agency-wide Memberships Over \$5,000

Membership	Estimated Dues
Association of California Water Agencies	\$ 35,305 (1% increase)
California African American Water Education Foundation	\$5,000
California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA)	\$20,500 (2.2% increase)
California Data Collaborative	\$10,000
California Special Districts Association (CSDA)	\$7,805 (2.5% increase)
Isle Utilities	\$12,000 (20% increase)
National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)	\$38,940 (3.8% decrease)
National Water Research Institute (NWRI)	\$50,000
Southern Cal. Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP)	\$15,001
Southern California Salinity Management Coalition	\$10,000
Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC)	\$25,000
Water Research Foundation (WRF)	\$20,141 (0.9% increase)
WaterReuse Association	\$12,332
Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC)	\$5,249

Agency-wide Memberships \$5,000 and Under

Membership	Estimated Dues
California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP)	\$2,660
Americas' SAP Users' Group	\$1,725
Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE)	\$1,540
Water Education Foundation (WEF)	\$2,760
National Safety Council	\$842
Fontana Chamber of Commerce	\$400
Ontario Chamber of Commerce	\$395
Montclair Chamber of Commerce	\$325
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce	\$335
Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce	\$395
Upland Chamber of Commerce	\$165
Association of San Bernardino County Special Districts	\$375
Public Agency Risk Management Association (PARMA)	\$150
Urban Water Institute	\$1,500

INFORMATION
ITEM
2A

Date: January 20, 2021

To: The Honorable Board of Directors

ADD
From: Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

Committee: Community & Legislative Affairs

01/13/21

Executive Contact: Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of Government & Ext. Affairs/AGM

Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

Executive Summary:

January 24, International Education Day

Staff published the @IEUAWater Instagram profile's first set of reels on the Agency's Environmental Stewardship, Renewable Energy and Water Resource Management programs and initiatives. Each reel is part of a new Water Smart Series and will focus on the multiple ways IEUA brings value to the region.

On December 30, a spadea ran in the Daily Bulletin featuring the Agency's rebates, education programs and water-wise tips.

Staff finalized another "At-Home Water Discovery" video featuring the Edible Aquifer activity. Videos can be viewed on the Agency's YouTube channel.

Staff's Recommendation:

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

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

Account/Project Name:

Fiscal Impact (explain if not budgeted):

Prior Board Action:

N/A

Environmental Determination:

Not Applicable

Business Goal:

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

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

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Background

Background

Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

January

- January 24, International Education Day

February

- February 2, World Wetlands Day
- February 21-27, Engineers Week

Media and Outreach

- On December 5, staff highlighted World Soil Day with a post on social media highlighting IERCF and their role in creating healthy soils.
- Staff published the @IEUAWater Instagram profile's first set of reels on the Agency's Environmental Stewardship, Renewable Energy and Water Resource Management programs and initiatives. Each reel is part of a new Water Smart Series and will focus on the multiple ways IEUA brings value to the region.
- Staff published a short video on the importance of groundwater and recycled water. The video illustrated the benefits of each, and how it is utilized at the Agency through our Groundwater Recharge and Recycled Water Programs.
- The Agency continues to publish content on LinkedIn and has gained 20 followers since November 2020 with 478-page views in the last 30 days.
- The Agency continues to educate the public on water terminology with the Water Word Wednesday campaign.
- The Agency reminded the public on social media channels to regularly check for frozen pipes due to the colder weather.
- Staff published its 2020 Year-in-Review video on the Agency's social media channels and on the Agency website.
- December: 17 posts were published to the IEUA Facebook page, 18 posts were published to IEUA's Instagram grid, 18 tweets were sent on the @IEUAWater Twitter handle, and 5 posts were published to the IEUA LinkedIn page.
 - The top three Facebook posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of December were:
 - 12/15 Deputy Manager of Operations (T5/D3), Human Resources Officer, Recycled Water Distribution Operator, and Internship Trades Program Hiring
 - 12/5 World Soil Day
 - 12/7 IEUA Seats Board Members News Release
 - The top three Twitter tweets, based on reach and engagement, in the month of December were:

- 12/15 Deputy Manager of Operations (T5/D3), Human Resources Officer, Recycled Water Distribution Operator, and Internship Trades Program Hiring
- 12/5 World Soil Day
- 12/9 Water Word Wednesday
- The top three Instagram posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of December were:
 - 12/5 World Soil Day
 - 12/10 Environmental Stewardship Reel
 - 12/15 Deputy Manager of Operations (T5/D3), Human Resources Officer, Recycled Water Distribution Operator, and Internship Trades Program Hiring
- The top three LinkedIn posts, based on impressions and reactions, in the month of December were:
 - 12/2 Board Meeting Reminder
 - 12/15 Deputy Manager of Operations (T5/D3), Human Resources Officer, Recycled Water Distribution Operator, and Internship Trades Program Hiring
 - 12/17 2020 Year-in-Review video
- An education ad ran in the *Chino Valley Champion's Chino Connection Magazine* section on December 19.
- A spadea ran in the *Daily Bulletin* on December 30 featuring water-wise tips, rebate opportunities and education programs.
- A water-wise education ad will run in *Inland Empire Magazine* for the January edition.

For the month of December, there were 8,020 searches for a park in IEUA's service area on Yelp, where Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park was viewed 1,405 times on a mobile device.

Education and Outreach Updates

- Staff finalized a new At-Home Water Discovery video focused on the Edible Aquifer activity.
- Staff has been working with the Water Education Foundation and member agencies to determine logistics and educator interest for a potential virtual Project W.E.T. (Water Education Today) Workshop in February.

Agency-Wide Membership Updates

- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the Santa Ana River Dischargers Association (SARDA) Meeting on November 5.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Water Regulatory Working Group Committee Meeting on November 19.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Air Quality Committee Meeting on November 24.

INFORMATION
ITEM
2B



December 29, 2020

To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency

From: Michael Boccadoro
Beth Olhasso
Maddie Munson

RE: December Report

Overview:

Drier-than-normal 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 69 percent of average for this time of the year and 45 percent capacity. Oroville is at 57 percent of average and 35 percent capacity. Additionally, the entire state is now experiencing some level of drought conditions- a situation not experienced during the last several years.

The establishment of a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Chrome-6 is about to enter its fifth year at the State Water Resources Control Board. The process that was halted because of a court battle over the economic feasibility of the proposed MCL now continues with the SWRCB development of an Economic Feasibility Model that, by the Board's own admittance, is less than thorough. Water and business stakeholders argue that if the Board moves forward with a new MCL, it could cost \$4.9 billion to bring facilities into compliance. On the other side, environmentalists are urging the Board to speed up their process.

As the state moves toward 100 percent zero emission electricity by 2045, state energy agencies are shifting their focus to demand planning and how zero-carbon power generation resources will affect the grid in "all 8,760 hours of the year." The August blackouts highlighted the deficiencies in resource adequacy and coordination at the state level. This reliability assessment might not be completed until 2025. The draft "SB 100 Report to the Legislature" by the CEC, CPUC and CARB is undergoing a major shift after the summer disaster.

Recently Governor Newsom appointed Liane Randolph to be the next chair of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) replacing longtime retiring chair Mary Nichols. Randolph, while not the expected choice, is incredibly qualified for the role.

The Legislature returned to Sacramento in early December for swearing in ceremonies and to introduce a few bills. There were only about 200 bills introduced, out of the expected several thousand, but there was an early indication that there will be significant discussions about the role of natural gas in California in 2021. SB 45, Senator Ben Allen's Climate Resilience Bond from 2020 was reintroduced under Senator Portantino's name and serves as a placeholder for further discussions about a Climate Resilience bond in the Senate.

When the Legislature returns in January to really start the 2021-2022 Legislative Session, business in the Capitol is expected to remain modified and limited. Both houses already pushed back their start dates by a week because of rising numbers of COVID among Capitol staff. Committee hearings will

have to remain in only the larger committee rooms and public testimony will be conducted via phone, severely lengthening the process for each bill to be heard in committees.

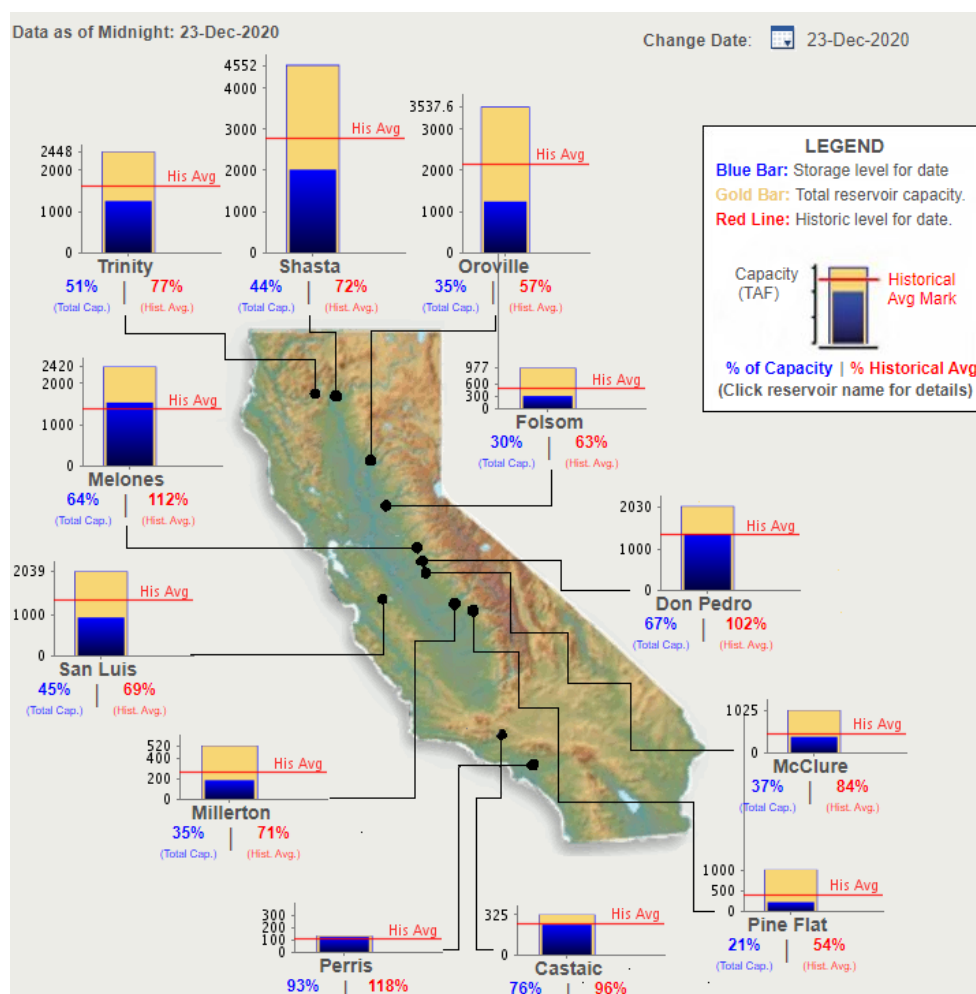
Leadership and committee rosters have been announced in both houses. Eloise Reyes Gomez has been tapped as the Assembly Majority Leader, a prestigious position that will help elevate the Inland Empire within the Assembly. Committee rosters didn't have a lot of surprises, however, there is a new chair of the Natural Resources Committee in Luz Rivas (D-Arleta). 2021 is looking to be an interesting year in the Capitol!

Inland Empire Utilities Agency Status Report – December 2020

Water Supply Conditions

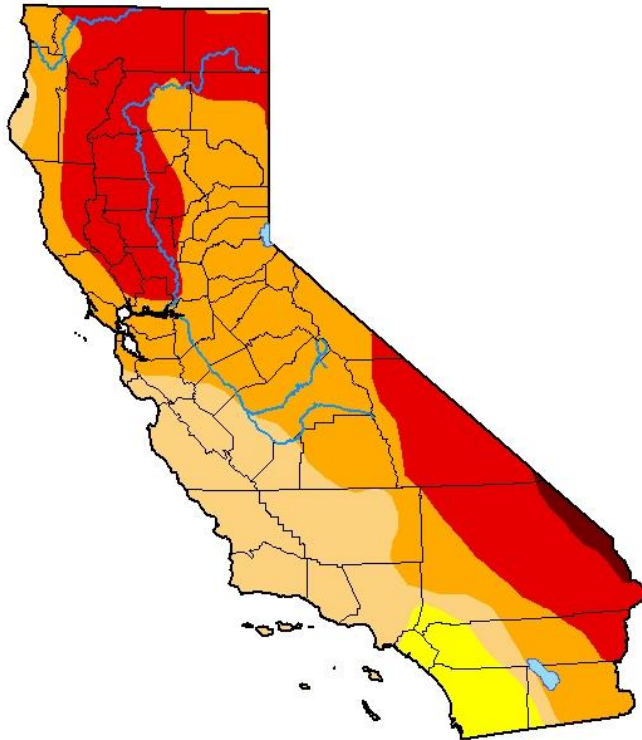
There were a few early storms in Northern California, but the late fall and early winter has been mostly dry throughout the state. A relatively dry 2020 forced the state to rely on carryover storage in major reservoirs through the record-breaking heat this summer. The state could really use a strong 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 69 percent of average for this time of the year and 45 percent capacity. Oroville is at 57 percent of average and 35 percent capacity.

Drought conditions are worsening in the state as the dry winter continues. Officially 100 percent of the state is experiencing at least abnormally dry conditions, a level California has not hit in several years.

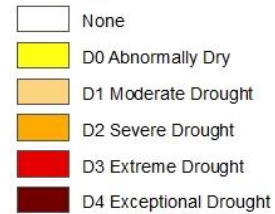


U.S. Drought Monitor California

December 22, 2020
(Released Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:



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

Author:

Adam Hartman
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Chrome-6 MCL Timeline & Cost Estimates Challenged at SWRCB

In the next chapter of the process to establish a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Chrome-6 (or hexavalent chromium) at the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), multiple industry stakeholders and water agencies are challenging the MCL arguing that it is premature because a new health goal could soon be adopted by another agency. They also charge that the economic feasibility methodology underlying the board's proposal is flawed. Not surprisingly, environmentalists are urging the board to accelerate the rulemaking.

As a reminder, the SWRCB started the MCL process for Chrome-6 in 2017 when the process was halted by a court order because the Department of Public Health (DPH) failed to determine whether the current MCL of 10 parts per billion (ppb) is economically feasible as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Since that ruling the SWRCB started a new MCL process to include an economic feasibility impact on CA business and individuals.

The model developed sought to underscore the importance of costs on public utilities to meet health-based standards.

At the same time the SWRCB is working on the MCL, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHHA) is establishing a Public Health Goal (PHG). MCLs are enforceable cleanup standards, whereas PHGs are non-regulatory, strictly health-based standards that do not factor economic or technological feasibility into their development.

At a December 8 workshop on the MCL, representatives from ACWA, the CA Chamber of Commerce and the CA Manufacturers and Technology Association, and others, stated that the SWRCB should wait until OEHHA completes its review of the current PHG before advancing the MCL proposal.

The Chamber highlighted a SWRCB white paper released early this year noting that if the MCL was 20 ppb, 60 systems would need to install new technologies to comply. But if the MCL was lowered to 5 ppb, as environmentalists are requesting, 863 systems would need to be upgraded, totaling \$4.9 billion in costs.

SWRCB officials have acknowledged that they are struggling to come up with a more accurate and expanded economic feasibility model with various cost-benefit analysis estimates.

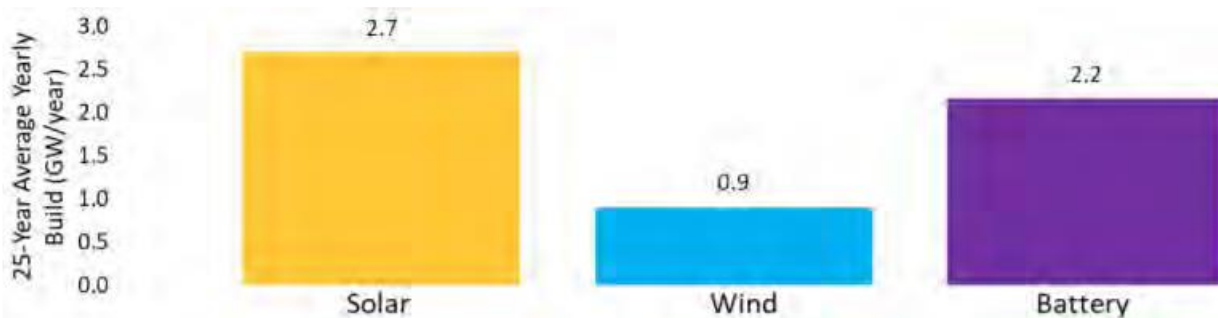
SB 100 Report Pivots to Consider “Keeping the Lights On”

As the state moves toward 100 percent zero emission electricity by 2045, state energy agencies are shifting their focus to demand planning and how zero-carbon power generation resources will affect the grid in “all 8,760 hours of the year.” The August blackouts highlighted the deficiencies in resource adequacy and coordination at the state level. This reliability assessment might not be completed until 2025. The draft “SB 100 Report to the Legislature” by the CEC, CPUC and CARB is undergoing a major shift after the summer disaster.

Peak load in California is projected to grow from about 65,000 MW in 2027 to about 87,500 MW in 2045. To hit these goals, and alleviate peak demand stress, battery and other storage capacity needs to increase from about 9,200 MW in 2027 to 28,400 in 2045. This will require “record setting resource development efforts” to achieve the necessary storage, the report notes.

The report notes that storage should include behind-the-meter equipment, meaning battery storage on the customer side of the meter.

For utility-scale solar generation, SB 100 is expected to require record-setting development. Since 2010 an average of 1 GW and a max of 2.7 GWs of utility-scale solar has been built each year- the report finds that the state will have to at the very least meet the maximum historical build rate to reach the SB 100 goals.



On the natural gas side, the report says that gas capacity is the “most economic option to provide capacity for reliability needs.” Eliminating all in-state combustion resources adds about \$8 billion to annual system costs in 2045. The report also notes that with a “disproportionate amount” of combustion resources currently located in disadvantaged communities, the \$8 billion per year might be less than the costs associated with the public health problems related to combustion resources. Further analysis might help determine whether the public health benefits outweigh the additional resource costs.

The report is expected to be finalized in the coming weeks and sent to the Legislature before January 1.

Liane Randolph Appointed as Chair of CARB

Recently Governor Newsom appointed Liane Randolph to be the next chair of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) replacing longtime retiring chair Mary Nichols. Randolph, while not the expected choice, is incredibly qualified for the role. She has been a member of the California Public Utilities Commission since 2015, was general counsel for the California Natural Resources Agency, and Chair of the CA Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). At the CPUC she presided over the 2020 PG&E GRC, as well as the investigation into the Aliso Canyon natural gas facility leak and closing. Randolph is seen as a fair and moderate Commissioner, without strong ties to more extreme environmental perspectives.

Gideon Kracov, of Los Angeles, has also been appointed to the Board. Kracov has been Owner of the Law Office of Gideon Kracov since 2004. He was a Deputy City Attorney in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office from 2002 to 2004. Kracov is a member of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Both appointments require Senate confirmation.

Legislative Update

The Legislature returned to Sacramento in early December for an "Organizational Session" to swear in members. A few bills were introduced in the following days, with additional measures introduced in January when the legislature returns. One of the first bills introduced was a re-introduction of SB 45, the Senate's version of a Climate Resilience Bond. The measure was sponsored by Senator Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) in 2020, but will be championed by Senator Anthony Portantino (D-La Canada) in 2021. The measure is the exact same language as the bill last year and is just a placeholder for further conversations in 2021 and likely 2022. There were a significant number of bills introduced concerning elimination the use of natural gas in buildings, both commercial and residential.

Committee assignments were released by the leaders of both houses. Speaker Rendon also announced his new leadership team which includes Eloise Gomez Reyes (D-Rialto) as the Majority Leader in the Assembly. This is a significant role that should help elevate Inland Empire issues.

Committee Assignments:

ASSEMBLY

Eloise Gomez Reyes (D-Rialto):

Aging & Long-Term Care
Budget (Sub Committee on Education)
Judiciary
Labor & Employment
Legislative Ethics
Utilities and Energy

Chris Holden (D-Pasadena):

Business & Professions
Communications & Conveyance
Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials
Judiciary
Utilities & Energy, Chair

Phillip Chen (R-Diamond Bar):

Banking & Financial Institutions, Vice Chair
Business & Professions
Insurance
Utilities & Energy

Freddie Rodriguez (D- Chino):

Accountability & Administrative Review
Communications & Conveyance
Emergency Management, Chair
Insurance

James Ramos (D-Rancho Cucamonga):

Budget (Sub Comm on Housing & Human Services)
Governmental Organization
Health
Jobs, Economic Development & the Economy
Local Government
Military & Veterans Affairs
Rules

SENATE

**Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
(R- Rancho Cucamonga):**

Banking & Financial Institutions
Budget (Sub Committee on Education)
Business, Professions & Economic Development
Education
Housing, Labor, Employment & Retirement
Public Safety

Connie Leyva (D-Chino)

Business, Professions & Economic Development
Education, Chair
Elections and Constitutional Amendments
Health

Josh Newman (D-Yorba Linda)

Budget (Sub Committee on Corrections, Public Safety,
Judiciary, Labor & Transportation)
Business, Professions & Economic Development
Transportation
Military & Veterans Affairs

Anthony Portantino (D-La Canada)

Appropriations, Chair
Banking & Financial Institutions
Governmental Organization
Insurance

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: December 29, 2020

Re: December Monthly Legislative Update

Congress Ends Year Finalizing Appropriations / Coronavirus Relief Legislation

Work on legislation to fund the government for fiscal year 2021, along with coronavirus relief legislation continued into late December after negotiators worked for over a month to find common ground on the year-end legislation. On Monday, December 21, lawmakers released text of the final omnibus legislation for consideration.

The House passed the legislation (H.R. 133) on Monday, December 21 after “dividing the question” and taking two separate votes. After getting a unanimous consent agreement, the legislation also passed the Senate on Monday, December 21. Due to the size of the legislation, lawmakers also passed a seven-day continuing resolution that extended the date of the CR through December 28, 2020.

While the week-long continuing resolution was primarily to give the House and Senate time to enroll the legislation and send it to the White House—a process that wasn’t completed until Thursday, December 24th President Trump unexpectedly bashed the COVID-19 relief package on Tuesday, December 22, saying the \$600 stimulus checks it provides should be increased to \$2,000 each. His opposition caught Democrats and Republicans alike by surprise since he did not voice any concerns with the bill until after it was passed by Congress. President Trump all but threatened to veto the legislation, but relented on Sunday, December 27 and signed the legislation—ending a period of uncertainty in Washington.

Following President Trump’s comments on an increase in stimulus checks, House Republicans rejected an effort by House Democrats on Thursday, December 24 to pass a bill by unanimous consent to provide \$2,000 stimulus checks — up from the \$600 approved in a sweeping coronavirus relief and omnibus spending package earlier in the week. House Democrats brought the legislation back up on December 28 and passed it on the suspension calendar, which required a 2/3 majority vote. The fate of the legislation is uncertain in the Senate where lawmakers may be in through the weekend processing a veto override on the National Defense Authorization Act.

The final FY21 omnibus and coronavirus relief package provides more than \$900 billion in unemployment aid, direct payments, and business loans under the Covid-19 relief portion of the legislation.

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The measure provides funding for vaccines and testing, airline payroll support, farmers, and broadband. It extends a moratorium on evictions through January 31 and expands food aid programs. It also provides additional funds for the Paycheck Protection Program and allows businesses to obtain a second loan.

The measure omits limits on Covid-related liability and funding for state and local governments, though it would extend the expiration of funds provided under the CARES Act for state aid.

The legislation authorizes a second round of loans under the Paycheck Protection Program, which offered low-interest, forgivable loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration for small businesses and other entities to keep workers on the payroll during the Covid-19 crisis. The measure would increase the program's combined lending authority to \$806.5 billion, from \$659 billion, and extend it to March 31, 2021, from August 8, 2020. It appropriates \$284.5 billion in new funds for the SBA to guarantee first and second round loans.

The measure provides \$15 billion for the SBA to issue grants to live venue operators, promoters, theatrical producers, performing arts groups, movie theaters, and talent representatives, as well as nonprofit museums and similar institutions such as botanic gardens, historic homes, and zoos. It would require at least a 25% reduction in gross revenue during a quarter in 2020 compared with the previous year to qualify, along with other specified criteria.

Recipients will be able to use the funds for eligible PPP expenses, payments to independent contractors, advertising, state and local taxes and fees, production transportation, certain mortgage and debt payments, maintenance expenses, and administrative costs. They couldn't use the grants to purchase real estate, repay loans issued after February 15, invest or re-lend funds, or donate to political parties or candidates.

Initial grants would be the lesser of 45% of an entity's gross revenue in 2019 or \$10 million. At least \$2 billion in initial grant funds would be set aside for entities with 50 or fewer employees. They would be prioritized at the outset for entities with significant revenue losses. Initial grants would cover costs incurred from March 1, 2020, through December 31, 2021.

Entities with recent quarterly revenue losses of at least 30% as of April 1, 2021, could qualify for supplemental grants, which would be half the amount of initial grants. They could cover costs incurred through June 30, 2022.

Entities couldn't receive more than \$10 million in total grant funds.

Ineligible entities would include those that are publicly traded, operate venues in multiple countries or more than 10 states, employ more than 500 workers, receive more than 10% of their gross revenue from federal funding, or hold performances of a "prurient sexual nature," with some exceptions.

The CARES Act expanded the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program and authorized the agency to advance as much as \$10,000 for recipients to pay sick leave to workers affected by Covid-19, retain employees, and make other covered payments.

The legislation restores and reduces to \$300 per week, from \$600, the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) created under the CARES Act. The extra payments, which expired on July 31, would apply to weeks of unemployment after Dec. 26 and through March 14, 2021.

The measure extends through March 14, 2021, other CARES Act unemployment benefits slated to expire on December 31, with changes that would include:

- Increasing the duration of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance benefits to as long as 50 weeks, from 39 weeks, for individuals who don't qualify for regular benefits. Individuals applying for benefits would have to submit documentation to verify employment. States also would have to verify the identity of applicants.
- Extending to 24 weeks, from 13 weeks, benefits for those who've exhausted regular benefits under the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program. States would establish or defer the establishment of a new benefit year to provide regular or emergency benefits.

The additional benefits could continue through April 5, 2021, for individuals who haven't exhausted them yet.

The measure also extends through March 14, 2021:

- Federal payments to nonprofits and government agencies for half of their costs of providing unemployment benefits.
- Interest-free federal loans for state unemployment trust funds.
- Full federal funding to qualifying states for the Extended Benefit (EB) and work-sharing programs.
- Partial federal funding for states to provide regular unemployment benefits without a waiting period.
- Extra payments to railroad workers, which would be reduced to \$600, from \$1,200.

The measure waives the restriction on states to trigger Extended Benefit programs retroactive to November 1, 2020, and through December 31, 2021.

States will be required to have procedures in place to address unemployment claimants who refuse to return to work or refuse to accept an offer of work without good cause.

The measure provides an additional \$100 weekly jobless benefit to self-employed individuals who earn at least \$5,000 in the most recent tax year but weren't eligible for benefits under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. The additional benefit would be voluntary for states and would be added to the FPUC benefit through March 14, 2021.

The measure provides another round of direct payments of as much as \$600 for an individual, \$1,200 for joint filers, and \$600 for each qualifying child.

It applies the similar income limits and phase-out as the CARES Act, reducing the payments by 5% for individuals with adjusted gross incomes of more than \$75,000. Filers with an AGI greater

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than \$87,000 wouldn't receive a payment. The CARES Act provided payments of \$1,200 per individual.

Payments will be based on 2019 taxes. Payments could be issued for certain beneficiaries who didn't file 2019 returns, including retired and disabled workers, Supplemental Security Income recipients, and veterans receiving VA benefits.

The measure reduces the payment to \$600 for joint filers if the Social Security Number of only one spouse is included in the most recent return. It would provide an extra \$600 for each child with an SSN or adoption taxpayer identification number.

Workers who've had their payroll taxes deferred since September will be given until December 31, 2021, to pay back the government, instead of through April 30, 2021, as originally directed by the Treasury Department.

The measure extends credits for paid sick and family leave provided under the second coronavirus relief package through March 31, 2021.

The measure also:

- Clarifies that gross income wouldn't include certain forgiven debt, emergency SBA disaster loans, and loan repayment aid provided by the CARES Act.
- Allows employers to elect through 2021 to end certain transfers from pension plans to retiree health benefit or life insurance accounts. Under current law, as many as 10 years of retiree health and life expenses can be moved via a "qualified future transfer" provided a plan meets funding and maintenance of effort requirements.
- Allows farmers to retain a two-year carryback, instead of five, for operating losses.
- Directs the Treasury Department to issue regulations to make personal protective equipment and other supplies used to prevent the spread of Covid-19 eligible for the educator expense deduction. The rule would apply retroactively to March 12.
- Excludes certain financial aid grants provided under the CARES Act from the gross income of college students.

The measure provides \$25 billion for emergency rental assistance payments through the Treasury Department. It would set aside \$400 million for and U.S. territories and \$800 million for tribal grantees. The remaining funds would be allocated, within 30 days of enactment, to states and to localities with at least 200,000 people. Each state, as well as the District of Columbia, would receive at least \$200 million.

Each grantee would have to use at least 90% of its allocation to provide financial assistance to eligible households, including for rental and utilities payments. Other funds could be used to provide housing stability services.

Funds provided to grantees would remain available through December 31, 2021, with some exceptions.

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The CARES Act temporarily barred landlords with federally backed mortgages from evicting tenants. After the moratorium expired, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expanded it to cover additional tenants and extended it through December 31 to prevent the further spread of Covid-19. The measure extends the CDC's eviction moratorium for one month, through January 31, 2021.

The measure also provides the following emergency health-care funding:

- \$22.4 billion for testing and tracing for states, localities, territories, and tribes, including \$2.5 billion to improve testing in minority populations and rural areas.
- \$19.7 billion for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority to produce and purchase vaccines, and \$3.25 billion for the Strategic National Stockpile.
- \$8.75 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for vaccine distribution, of which \$4.5 billion would be for states, localities, territories, and tribes.
- \$4.25 billion for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- \$3 billion for health-care providers.
- \$1.25 billion for the National Institutes of Health to research Covid-19.

\$81.9 billion is provided for the Education Stabilization Fund created by the CARES Act. It allocates the following amounts:

- \$54.3 billion for elementary and secondary schools.
- \$22.7 billion for higher education institutions, including \$1.7 billion for historically Black colleges and universities, tribal colleges, and other institutions, and \$680.9 million for for-profit colleges for financial aid.
- \$4.05 billion for emergency relief grants to states, \$2.75 billion of which would be for private schools.
- \$818.8 million for territories and tribal education programs.

Schools that receive funding would have to continue to pay their employees and contractors during any closures, to the greatest extent practicable.

States that receive funds would have to maintain their support for schools in fiscal 2022 at proportional levels to the average over fiscal 2017 through 2019. The Education Department could waive the requirement to relieve burdens on states with precipitous declines in resources.

The measure includes the following amounts for transportation:

- \$15 billion for airlines to cover payroll expenses and \$1 billion for airline contractors' payroll expenses.
- \$14 billion for transit, including to cover operating expenses.
- \$10 billion for highway programs, which is intended to help state departments of transportation, as well as some local agencies, according to a summary from House Democrats.
- \$2 billion for airports.
- \$2 billion for private motorcoaches, school buses, ferries, and other transportation service providers.
- \$1 billion for Amtrak.

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The legislation increases monthly benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by 15% from the June 2020 level, effective from January 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021. In June 2020, a family of four could receive as much as \$646 per month in most states, though an increase to \$680 per month took effect October 1.

The agreement also:

- Excludes pandemic unemployment benefits from income for SNAP eligibility purposes.
- Allows work-study students and students with expected family contributions of \$0 to be eligible for SNAP until the health emergency ends.

The CARES Act authorized the Treasury Department to lend the U.S. Postal Service as much as \$10 billion in additional funds to cover operating expenses during the Covid-19 emergency. On July 29, the Postal Service announced it reached an “agreement in principle” with the department on the terms of the loan. Under the measure, the Postal Service won’t be required to repay any money it borrows.

The CARES Act provided \$150 billion for state, local, and tribal governments and U.S. territories to pay for unbudgeted expenses tied to the Covid-19 emergency. It limited the use of funds to cover emergency-related costs incurred from March 1 through December 31, if the spending wasn’t already accounted for in state or local budgets. The measure would extend the spending deadline to cover costs incurred through December 31, 2021. It wouldn’t provide any additional funding or spending flexibility.

The measure would provide a total of \$7 billion for broadband activities.

The bill provides \$10 billion through HHS for the Child Care and Development Block Grant for states, territories, and tribes to support childcare providers in sustaining operations during the Covid-19 pandemic. Funds could be used to provide relief from copayments and tuition for families. States, territories and tribes would be encouraged to place conditions on payments to ensure providers continue to pay staff salaries.

Finally, the measure would provide \$2 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Disaster Relief Fund. It would allow a federal cost share of 100% for financial assistance to an individual or household to meet disaster-related funeral expenses through December 31, 2020.

Trump Administration Narrows Protection of Habitat for Endangered Species

During the month of December, the Trump administration narrowed habitat protections for endangered species, finalizing its major rollback to the Endangered Species Act through two new rules.

The first rule, announced Tuesday, December 15, narrows the definition of habitat to areas that can currently support a species, a move environmentalists say ignores the changing climate or efforts that could be made to modify a landscape.

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Environmentalists argue the government must be able to step in to protect land that could support an animal in the future, by protecting forests, for example, that in a few decades would have enough old growth trees to house spotted owls that currently dwell elsewhere.

The Tuesday rule from the Fish and Wildlife Service would only allow habitat that “currently or periodically” houses a species. The agency said the new rule would “bring greater clarity and consistency to how the Service designates critical habitat.”

The move garnered support from Western Republicans who have often argued the Endangered Species Act is too restrictive, complicating land use for farmers, ranchers and industry.

“The Trump administration’s habitat rule will make the Endangered Species Act work better for wildlife and people,” Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chair John Barrasso (R-WY) said in a statement.

“This final rule will more clearly define habitat and protect species in a more focused way. It will deliver commonsense protections for endangered species and the habitat they depend on” Senator Barrasso added.

An additional rule announced on Thursday, December 17, first proposed in September, would require the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) not to give an area critical habitat protection if an analysis determines that there are more benefits to not providing the protections.

The new rule would also require the government to weigh benefits that are “consistent with expert or firsthand information,” for areas that are determined to be outside the scope of FWS’s expertise.

It said that such areas include non-biological impacts identified by a state and local governments, tribes or company with a federal lands permit or lease.

Critics say that this could be used to tip the scales against conservation and in favor of industry, even allowing them to use their own determinations of what the benefits of excluding an area from a critical habitat designation might be.

House Democrats, Republicans Select Committee Chairs, Ranking Members

The House Democratic Caucus and Republican Conference voted during the week of November 30 to fill a number of vacancies in committee leadership that resulted from retirements and the election.

Following the announcements of the committee chairs from the Democratic Caucus, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) stated “our Caucus, the Congress and the nation have been blessed and strengthened by the strategic experience, bold vision and tireless service that these outstanding Members bring to the table.”

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Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) will be the next House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman following a vote by the House Democratic Caucus. She'll be the second woman to chair the House Appropriations Committee, filling the vacancy left by retiring Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY).

The Democratic Steering Committee, which decides members' committee assignments, voted to recommend Representative DeLauro for the Appropriations vacancy over Representatives Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) and Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), who also vied for the gavel.

House Democrats voted to ratify DeLauro's recommendation with 148 votes over Wasserman Schultz's 79 after Kaptur dropped out of the race.

Representative DeLauro will take over the role when the new Congress takes office in January. A close ally of Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Representative DeLauro has served in the House since 1991. She will be at the helm of the powerful committee which oversees funding for the entire federal government.

Representative Lowey, who has served as the top Democrat on the Committee since 2013, praised DeLauro as "a legislative partner of mine for three decades" and "a tireless advocate for the most vulnerable people in our nation."

Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs have not yet been decided, but a number of retirements of the current "Appropriations Cardinals" will lead to a number of shuffles on the House Appropriations Committee. Those assignments are expected in the coming weeks.

Other Democrat members who will be taking over Chairmanship from a current Member who will not be returning in the 117th Congress include Representative David Scott (D-GA) will become Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and Representative Gregory Meeks (D-NY) who will become Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Representatives Scott and Meeks are the first African American chairs of their respective committees.

For Republicans, there will be a number of members who were newly elected to the position of Ranking Member of various committees. They include:

- Agriculture: Representative G.T. Thompson (R-PA)
- Armed Services: Representative Mike Rogers (R-AL)
- Budget: Representative Jason Smith (R-MO)
- Energy & Commerce: Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)
- Natural Resources: Representative Bruce Westerman (R-AR)
- Small Business: Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO)
- Veterans Affairs: Representative Mike Bost (R-IL)

Modest PFAS, Climate Provisions Survive Defense Bill Talks

The Defense Department would need a multi-pronged approach to address toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in firefighting foam, under a deal on the National Defense

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Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021 unveiled Thursday, December 3 by House and Senate negotiators.

Such approaches would include notifying defense-related panels, such as the House and Senate Armed Services committees, of any uncontrolled releases of firefighting agents containing PFAS, and notifying agricultural operations of suspected water supply contamination.

The agreement also authorizes a total of \$1.4 billion for environmental remediation, including PFAS cleanups, at former and current military installations. The legislation could get floor votes in the House and Senate as soon as next week.

The provisions mark yet another year of increased congressional attention to PFAS contamination. The annual defense authorization measure has become a battleground over efforts to strengthen regulation of PFAS and help communities fighting contamination of their drinking water.

Left out of the bill are several major House provisions, including a provision requiring DOD to disclose the results of any testing for PFAS at current or former military sites, along with an attempt to ban the incineration of aqueous film-forming foam. Efforts to cover the cost of PFAS-related blood testing and requiring manufacturers to disclose to EPA all discharges of PFAS over 100 pounds for inclusion in the Toxics Release Inventory also failed to make the cut.

Conservation advocates lost battles to secure several public lands protections in the final defense bill — priorities that were adopted as amendments in the House-passed NDAA but not in the Senate's and fell to the wayside in the final stages of negotiating a bicameral product.

One of those priorities was S. 823, the "Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act," which would guarantee the state about 73,000 acres in new designated wilderness and around 80,000 acres of new recreation and conservation management areas.

Another conservation priority, the "Protecting America's Wilderness Act," was also not included in the NDAA agreement. The legislation, H.R. 2546 — a package of six individual bills to protect nearly 1.3 million acres of wilderness and designate more than 1,000 miles of rivers across Colorado, California and Washington state — was, like the "CORE Act," adopted as an amendment to the House version of the NDAA but not in the Senate's.

The House-Senate conference report on the National Defense Authorization Act also includes provisions to address climate change, including a requirement that the Defense Department update its climate change roadmap to better prepare for and respond to climate impacts.

The conference language also directs the Pentagon to provide a report card on its implementation of climate requirements in last year's defense authorization bill, including updates to its building codes and modeling of sea-level rise.

On Wednesday, December 23, President Trump followed through on his threat to veto a massive annual defense policy bill.

The House voted on Monday, December 28 to override President Trump's veto. The Senate is expected to follow suit in the coming days, though the final vote could occur in early January. The Senate will need a 2/3 majority vote and must take a final vote before noon on January 3, when the 117th Congress will be sworn in.

House Passes Legislation to Decriminalize Marijuana, Expand Marijuana Research

During the month of December, two pieces of legislation passed the House related to marijuana.

On Friday, December 4, the House passed sweeping legislation that would decriminalize marijuana at the federal level, the first time either chamber of Congress has voted to legalize cannabis.

The measure, the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act, passed on a largely party-line vote of 228-164.

Six Democrats voted against the legislation and five Republicans voted for it. The GOP-controlled Senate is not expected to take up the measure.

The legislation would remove marijuana from the federal list of controlled substances and expunge some marijuana convictions for nonviolent criminals.

"The MORE Act is a common-sense bill that will make a tangible, real difference in the lives of millions of Americans. I'm proud of this bill centered around ideals of racial, economic, and moral justice and I look forward to the House passing it today," House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-NY), who introduced the bill, said on Friday before the House's vote.

The bill would allow states to continue to establish their own rules and regulations regarding sales and access to medical marijuana. Individuals would no longer be prosecuted federally for marijuana offenses, leaving the question of legality to states.

Senate Republicans have declined to take up similar legislation passed by the House. In September 2019, the House passed a measure that would allow banks to work with cannabis businesses, but it has not advanced in the Senate.

Additionally, the House on Wednesday, December 9 passed legislation that would expand scientists' ability to study marijuana in states where the drug is already legal.

The legislation would remove prohibitions under the Controlled Substances Act on researching the drug and direct the Departments of Health and Human Services and Justice to create a body to grant licenses to more producers and manufacturers of research marijuana. Researchers with federal licenses would also be permitted to use those products for research approved under the Food and Drug Administration.

Marijuana research is currently limited to just a few strains grown by the University of Mississippi, the only institution in the country that is legally allowed to produce the drug under federal research laws. Scientists have said the university's marijuana does not represent that which is used for everyday consumption, and expanded research opportunities have bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) said last year it would begin processing applications from other institutions to grow research marijuana, though none have been approved. Advocates had remained skeptical that the DEA under President Trump would allow for expanded marijuana research.

President-elect Joe Biden has not spoken extensively about marijuana research in particular, though he has taken a less hostile stance than President Trump and other Republicans and has come out in favor of decriminalizing the drug and expunging past criminal convictions for possession.

EPA Guidance May Exempt Some Water Polluters from Permit Mandate

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Tuesday, December 8 released a draft guidance that interprets a Supreme Court decision in a way that may exempt some facilities from needing permits to pollute groundwater.

In April, the court decided that a permit is required for both direct discharges of pollutants into federally-regulated rivers and oceans as well as their "functional equivalent" in groundwater that flows into regulated waters.

The EPA's new draft guidance says that whether a pollution discharge into groundwater should be considered a "functional equivalent" depends on "what happens to the discharged pollutant over that time and distance traveled" to the regulated body of water.

Specifically, it states that if the composition or concentration of pollutant that ultimately reaches the water is "different" from that which was originally discharged, it "might not" be considered a functional equivalent.

It also states that some facilities may be "less likely" to require a permit if it uses a waste storage or treatment system rather than if it discharges pollutants "consistently and predictably" into groundwater.

The agency argued that its guidance will help industry understand when they need permits.

"EPA's guidance will address several questions that the regulated community and others have raised since the Supreme Court issued its decision earlier this year," said EPA assistant administrator for Water David Ross in a statement. "Understanding when ... permits are needed is critical to the efficient administration of our Clean Water Act permitting programs."

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Before the guidance is finalized, it's expected to undergo a 30-day comment period, not leaving a lot of time for finishing it up for publication in the Federal Register, leading some to be skeptical about whether it will actually be completed before Joe Biden is inaugurated.

EPA Finalizes Air Rule that Critics Say Favors Polluters

The Trump administration on Wednesday, December 9 finalized a rule changing how incoming administrations evaluate their air regulations, something critics say will undermine future attempts to reduce air pollution.

The rule changes how the government justifies its own air pollution regulations, limiting how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) weighs carbon pollution that impacts climate change as well as the benefits of tackling multiple air pollutants at once.

“Up to now there have been no regulations to hold us, the EPA, accountable to a standardized process and guarantee the public can now see how those calculations informed decisions,” EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said.

Under the new rule, the EPA will be encouraged to make decisions about air regulations based on a narrow look at their potential costs and benefits, focusing on those effects directly tied to specific pollutants targeted by rules and not any additional environmental improvements. The agency also will be directed to focus on U.S. benefits, a shift that could affect future rules aimed at fighting the global problem of climate change.

Under the new cost-benefit rule, set to take effect as soon as it appears in the Federal Register, the EPA will be required to clearly report the results of its analysis and make the underlying data publicly available. With the requirements embedded in regulation, outside groups can go to court to challenge EPA actions that run afoul of the mandates.

The rule will apply to any new regulation proposed under the Clean Air Act, a law President-elect Joe Biden is likely to turn to in order to meet his goals of getting the U.S. on a path to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Biden Administration Plans to Take Early Action on Climate, Infrastructure

With a little over a month to go until President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, an infrastructure package and action on climate change appear to be two topics that his administration is expected to take early action on.

Biden's team is eyeing a major infrastructure package as a way to boost the economy and advance its climate priorities, with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle eager for progress. Democrats and Republicans alike agree that the nation's crumbling roads and bridges are badly in need of repairs.

The coronavirus pandemic, however, has created an opening for large spending bills, and infrastructure proponents are hoping there will be momentum for legislation early next year to help the faltering economy.

While such legislation would aim to fund typical road and bridge projects, Democrats are likely to push for bigger investments in clean energy, transit, broadband and more that were laid out in Biden's campaign proposals.

But those ambitions could be hamstrung by the GOP's renewed interest in battling the deficit, particularly if Democrats eye a transportation bill as a form of fiscal stimulus.

House Democrats have already laid out their vision for how an infrastructure package could be used to boost environmental priorities. A \$1.5 trillion package passed in July, but not taken up in the Senate, tied funding to states' carbon reduction efforts and provided billions for drinking water, transit and clean energy. The measure also would create jobs between the construction ones normally associated with infrastructure by focusing on design, engineering and small business as well.

Biden largely views his \$2 trillion climate plan in the same vein, as a job creator. Another central feature of Biden's climate plan is a massive investment in renewable energy, pushing the utility sector to go carbon-neutral by 2035, and has set another goal to make the United States carbon neutral by 2050. On the federal level, achieving that goal will mean incentivizing the development and deployment of wind, solar and other renewable energy technologies.

Biden will take office at a time when transportation systems are reeling from a loss of ridership during the pandemic. His administration plans to boost public transportation as a key way to reduce emissions, since the broader transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.

Additionally, Biden is expected to take several actions in the new year aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

He has promised to sign executive orders on his first day in office that "put us on the right track" toward net-zero emissions by 2050 and a 100 percent clean energy economy, though what those orders will say exactly is unclear.

The Biden administration is expected to lessen fossil fuel production on public lands and take steps to increase public lands conservation.

Biden's plan calls for banning new oil and gas drilling permits on public lands and in public waters. He has not called for the end of existing permits to drill on federally owned lands and waters, but has endorsed boosting payments to the government to account for climate costs. Biden has said he wants to create programs for producing renewable energy on public lands and waters, and specifically wants to double offshore wind by 2030.

He will also push to make more of America's lands public, with his climate plan calling for conserving 30 percent of the nation's lands by 2030.

Biden Expected to Revive Mothballed Public Land Advisory Boards

The Biden administration has an opportunity to revive advisory councils that provide the land bureau local input on reducing wildfire risk and locating energy projects.

The bureau's more than 30 federally-chartered resource advisory councils, known as Resource Advisory Councils (RACs), have withered during the Trump administration, often failing to meet for years at a time. Active for decades during previous administrations, the council provide a local voice in federal lands decisions affecting more than 240 million acres of public land across the West.

The Biden transition team has already shown interest in turning things around, listening to employees about their interest in the councils – the team is expected to begin interviewing bureau employees and advisory council members this month to consider how to reinvigorate them.

Many of the councils have been barred from meeting formally during the Trump administration because the White House and the Interior Department have held up so many nominations that many RACs don't have enough members for a quorum.

The Interior Department under Trump re-charted many of the RACs, shifting them to focus on advising bureau officials on specific regulations they should overturn and finding new ways to expand oil and gas development on federal land, in addition to advising on recreation.

The Interior Department temporarily halted council operations in 2017 while it reviewed the charters of advisory councils throughout the agency. Some were never fully revived while never being formally disbanded. The move predated Trump's June 2019 executive order calling for cuts to the number of federal advisory committees.

The Biden administration should use the RACs to influence local federal lands management—their original intent, current and former council members say.

President-Elect Biden Announces Picks to Lead EPA, Interior

Last week, President-Elect Joe Biden announced his nominees for a variety of positions focused on environment and outdoors, including Michael Regan to head the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Representative Deb Haaland (D-NM) for Interior Secretary.

Michael Regan is currently head of North Carolina's Department of Environmental Quality. In his current position, he led North Carolina's adoption of an aggressive climate change policy that in 2018 called for a 40% drop in greenhouse gas emissions by 2025, compared to 2005 levels.

He previously worked for the EPA under the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations before heading to the Environmental Defense Fund as its southeast regional director. Regan's experience implementing climate change policies through the executive branch could help inform his approach at the EPA, as Biden's ambitious climate change agenda could be difficult to push through a divided Congress.

Representative Haaland will be a powerful force for conservation, amplifying tribal voices and shifting the Interior Department's fossil fuels focus toward protecting public lands and acting on climate change, observers say.

Haaland, a native of New Mexico's Laguna Pueblo, would be the first Indigenous Interior secretary. She would oversee more than 400 million acres of public lands nationwide in addition to water supplies across the West, all federally-owned onshore and offshore oil, gas, and coal, and the administration of all U.S. Indian reservations and many Native schools.

Other priorities include possibly restricting oil and gas leasing in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, moving Bureau of Land Management headquarters back to Washington from Colorado, settling all pending environmental court cases against Trump administration oil and gas leasing decisions, and defending the Bureau of Land Management's Obama-era natural gas waste prevention, or anti-flaring, rule.

Ahead of her nomination, Representative Haaland said in a statement December 15 that Trump administration steps to narrow the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act gives the upper hand to Trump's "corporate friends."

"They ignore the fact that everything in nature is connected. and climate change is driving wildlife from its historic habitat and excluding areas where species move" to survive, she said.

Regan would join a team of other high-ranking environmental regulators set to be part of the Biden administration.

However, Representative Haaland may face a tough path to confirmation in the Senate.

Criticism has focused on the Congresswoman because of her past support for the Green New Deal and endorsement of a ban on fracking, the oil industry technique that has boosted U.S. crude production to record levels.

"We will be in a bit of a brawl," Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND) said last week about the confirmations, "we're going to have to stand our ground and fight the fight."

Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) who is slated to head the Energy and Natural Resources Committee that will vet Representative Haaland's nomination, if the GOP retains control of the Senate stated "While I have not had the opportunity to work with Representative Haaland on these issues, I will keep an open mind during the vetting process" he commented.

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In addition to Representative Haaland and Mr. Regan, former EPA administrator Gina McCarthy is expected to serve in a newly created climate coordinator role, while former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm will lead the Department of Energy.

Staffing

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. We will update the table each week as President-elect Biden announces his intent to nominate certain officials for various cabinet positions.

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:

Position	Official	Career History
Chief of Staff	Ron Klain	Former Chief of Staff to Joe Biden when he was VP; former Chief of Staff to VP Al Gore
Chief of Staff to Jill Biden	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
Counsel	Dana Remus	General counsel to Joe Biden's campaign; deputy assistant and deputy counsel for ethics to President Obama.
Counselor	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.
Deputy Chief of Staff	Jennifer O'Malley Dillon	Joe Biden's presidential campaign manager, Former Executive Director of DNC, deputy manager of President Obama's 2012 campaign.
Director of Oval Office Operations	Annie Tomasini	Currently Joe Biden's traveling Chief of Staff. Former deputy Press Secretary for Joe Biden when he was VP.
Director of White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs	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.
Senior Adviser	Mike Donilon	chief strategist for the Biden campaign; previously served as a counselor to then-Vice President Biden in the Obama White House
Senior Adviser to Jill Biden	Anthony Bernal	Deputy campaign manager and Chief of Staff to Jill Biden during the presidential campaign.
Senior Advisor and Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement	Cedric Richmond	Currently U.S. Representative to Louisiana's 2 nd congressional district who also served as co-chairman of President-Elect Biden's campaign.
National Security Adviser	Jake Sullivan	Former National Security Adviser to VP Biden

Department of State	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
Department of Homeland Security	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.
Director of National Intelligence	Avril Haines	Former Deputy NSA, Former Deputy Director of the CIA
Special Presidential Envoy for Climate	John Kerry	Former Secretary of State
Treasury	Janet Yellen	Served as the Chair of the Federal Reserve from 2014 to 2018
UN Ambassador	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)
White House Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs	Shuwanza Goff	Currently Deputy Director for Legislative Operations for House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer.
White House Communications Director	Kate Bedingfield	Former Biden campaign communications director, and communications director for Biden when he served as Vice President
White House Press Secretary	Jen Psaki	Served as White House communications director from 2015-2017, held various communications and press roles in the Obama Administration.
Council of Economic Advisers Chair	Cecilia Rouse	Member of the Council of Economic Advisers in the Obama Administration.
National Economic Council	Brian Deese	Managing Director is Global Head of Sustainable Investing at BlackRock. Former senior advisor in the Obama Administration, and deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget.
Chief of Staff to VP Harris	Tina Flournoy	former President Bill Clinton's Chief of Staff.
Domestic Policy Adviser to VP Harris	Rohini Kosoglu	Currently a Senior Adviser to Senator Harris
National Security Adviser to VP Harris	Nancy McEldowney	Director of European Affairs on NSC in Clinton Administration, former U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria, and principal deputy assistant secretary of State in Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs
Communications Director to VP Harris	Ashley Etienne	Strategic Adviser for Biden campaign, former Communications Director for Speaker Pelosi, Communications Director in the Obama Administration and senior adviser.
Senior adviser and Chief Spokesperson to VP Harris	Symone Sanders	Senior Adviser for Biden's presidential campaign. former CNN commentator
HHS	Xavier Becerra	Currently Attorney General of California
Chief Medical Officer	Anthony Fauci	Director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984. Served as one of the leading members of President Trump's Coronavirus Task Force.

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Surgeon General	Vivek Murthy	Former Surgeon General under the Obama Administration and Vice Admiral of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.
Defense	Lloyd Austin	Retired four-star Army general, former head of U.S. Central Command and military forces in Iraq
Agriculture	Tom Vilsack	Currently president of the U.S. Dairy Export Council; served as agriculture secretary under President Obama
HUD	Marcia Fudge	Current Representative for Ohio's 11th congressional district
U.S. Trade Representative	Katherine Tai	Currently Chief Trade Counsel on House Ways and Means
Veterans Affairs	Denis McDonough	Former White House Chief of Staff and deputy National Security Adviser during the Obama administration
Head of White House Domestic Policy Council	Susan Rice	National Security Adviser and Ambassador to the United Nations under Obama Administration
Transportation	Pete Buttigieg	Former Mayor of South Bend, Indiana
White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy	Gina McCarthy	Former Air Chief of EPA in Obama's first term and as EPA administrator in his second
Energy	Jennifer Granholm	Former Governor of Michigan
White House Council on Environmental Quality	Brenda Mallory	Current director of regulatory policy at the Southern Environmental Law Center, and previously worked as CEQ's general counsel during the Obama administration
EPA Administrator	Michael Regan	Currently Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and has previously served at the EPA
Interior	Deb Haaland	Current Representative for New Mexico's 1st congressional district
Education	Miguel Cardona	Currently Connecticut's education commissioner

Officials under consideration for various cabinet positions:

Position	Possible Candidate	Prior Administration Experience / Current Role
Attorney General	Doug Jones	Current junior U.S. senator from Alabama. Former U.S. Attorney for the North District of Alabama.
Attorney General	Sally Yates	Former Acting Attorney General appointed by President Obama
Attorney General	Vanita Gupta	Former Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Attorney General	Amy Klobuchar	Current Senator from Minnesota
Attorney General	Stacey Abrams	Former Member of the Georgia House of Representatives
Attorney General	Preet Bharara	Former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of NY under President Obama
Attorney General	Tom Perez	Chair of the Democratic National Committee

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Attorney General	Jeh Johnson	Former DHS Secretary; Former DoD General Counsel
Attorney General	Andrew Cuomo	Current Governor of New York
Central Intelligence Agency Director	Tom Donilon	Former National Security Advisor to President Obama, Former Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs under President Clinton
Central Intelligence Agency Director	Avril Haines	Former Deputy NSA, Former Deputy Director of the CIA
Central Intelligence Agency Director	David Cohen	Former Deputy Director of the CIA under President Obama, Former Undersecretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency Director	Brett Holmgren	Former Special Assistant to President Obama, Former Senior Director for Intelligence Programs on the NSC
Central Intelligence Agency Director	Michael Morell	Former Deputy Director CIA
Central Intelligence Agency Director	Jackier Speier	Current U.S. Representative from California's 12th congressional district
Central Intelligence Agency Director	Mike Vickers	Former USD(I), Former ASD(SO/LIC
Chair of Council of Economic Advisors	Jared Bernstein	Former Chief Economist and Economic Adviser to VP Biden
Chair of Council of Economic Advisors	Heather Boushey	President and CEO of the Washington Center for Equitable Growth and Former Economist for the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee
Chair of Council of Economic Advisors	Jason Furman	Former Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors under President Obama
Chair of Council of Economic Advisors	Ben Harris	Former Chief Economist and Chief Economic Advisor to VP Biden
Chair of Council of Economic Advisors	Gene Sperling	Former Director of the National Economic Council and Assistant to Presidents Clinton and Obama for Economic Policy
Commerce	Andrew Yang	Entrepreneur and former 2020 Democratic presidential candidate; joined CNN as a political commentator in February, after dropping out of the presidential race

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Commerce	Tom Nides	Managing Director and Vice Chairman of Morgan Stanley; Former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources
Commerce	Ursula Burns	Former CEO of Xerox; Former Head of President Obama's Export Council
Commerce	Rohit Copra	Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission under President Trump, Former Assistant Director of the CFPB
Commerce	Susan Helper	Professor of Economics at Case Western Reserve University, Former Chief Economist of the U.S. Department of Commerce under President Obama
Commerce	Meg Whitman	Former CEO of Quibi
Commerce	Terry McAuliffe	Former Governor of Virginia and Ex-Chair of the Democratic National Committee
Commerce	Mellody Hobson	President and CEO of Ariel Investments
Labor	Andy Levin	Current Representative for Michigan's 9th Congressional district
Labor	Bernie Sanders	Current third-term U.S. Senator from Vermont
Labor	Sara Nelson	International president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA
Labor	Marty Walsh	Mayor of Boston
Labor	Bill Spriggs	Former Assistant Secretary of Labor for Policy
Labor	Sharon Block	Former Head of Policy at DOL
Labor	Julie Su	Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Labor	Tom Perez	Chair of the Democratic National Committee
Labor	Seth Harris	Former Deputy Labor Secretary
Labor	Patrick Gaspard	Current President of Open Society Foundations, former Aide to President Obama
USAID	Samantha Power	Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 133	Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX)	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021	More than \$900 billion would be provided for unemployment aid, direct payments, and business loans under the Covid-19 relief portion of the further amendment to H.R. 133, which would also fund the government for the balance of fiscal 2021.	<p>Following two Continuing Resolutions, lawmakers introduced the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 on December 21, 2020.</p> <p>Both the House and Senate passed the legislation on December 21, President Trump signed the legislation on Sunday, December 27.</p>
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.
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>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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.	The legislation was introduced on October 9, 2020 and referred to the House Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce. The bill has bipartisan cosponsorship.
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.	The legislation was introduced by Rep. Nita Lowey, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, on Monday, September 29. 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. 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.
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.	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. The House vote fell down partisan lines with criticism from House Republicans. The White House has threatened to veto the bill. The legislation has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in the Senate.

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 temporarily delayed the legislation from coming to the floor.</p> <p>The House passed the legislation on December 4, 2020 and was sent to the Senate where it was referred to the Committee on Finance. The legislation is unlikely to be taken up by the Senate.</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. Joni Ernst (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>
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>The legislation is included in the end of the year consolidated appropriations act.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 6084	Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)	Water Power Research and Development Act	To provide for a program of hydropower, pumped storage, and marine energy research, development, demonstration, and commercial application, and for other purposes.	<p>The legislation was introduced on March 4, 2020 and referred to the Subcommittee on Energy of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.</p> <p>On March 12, 2020, the Subcommittee on Energy held a Mark-up Session, and the legislation forwarded by the Subcommittee to Full Committee for Voice Vote.</p> <p>No actions on the bill have been taken since March.</p>
H.R. 2	Rep. DeFazio (D-OR)	Moving Forward Act	<p>The bill combines multiple pieces of legislation to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit program.</p> <p>The measure includes \$25 billion for drinking water, \$100 billion for broadband, \$70 billion for clean energy projects, \$100 billion for low income schools, \$30 billion to upgrade hospitals, \$100 billion in funding for public housing and \$25 billion for the postal service and allocates approximately \$500 billion to further green efforts.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced in the House on June 11, 2020.</p> <p>On June 17, 2020 the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit discharged the measure and the bill for consideration by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.</p> <p>Following the mark up the bill was ordered to be reported out of committee. On Monday, June 29, 2020 the Rules Committee met to discuss the procedure and rules for the bill's consideration on the House floor.</p> <p>The House voted on the measure on Wednesday, July 1 and passed the legislation by a vote of 233 – 188. The Administration opposes the legislation and the President will likely veto the bill in its current form.</p>

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

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 1764	Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)	The bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Act	The legislation would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to permitting terms, and for other purposes.	Introduced on March 15, 2019 and then referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. This legislation has bipartisan cosponsor ship and hearings were held on the measure in November 2019.
H.R.1497	Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR)	Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019	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. 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. Changes the length of permits for NPDES permits to not exceeding 10 years in certain circumstances.	Introduced on March 6, 2019 and referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment of the House Transportation Committee. The Committee marked up the legislation and reported it with an amendment in the nature of a substitute--expanding the scope of the legislation. On September 4, 2020, the legislation was placed on the House Calendar.

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> <p>On December 18, 2020, the legislation was placed on the House calendar.</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.	The measure was introduced in the Senate on April 19, 2019 and was referred to Committee on Environment and Public Works. On November 19, 2019 the committee held a hearing to discuss impacts of the act if implemented.
H.R. 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.	The measure was introduced in the House on March 12, 2019 to the House Committee on Education and Labor. The legislation has bipartisan cosponsor ship.
H.R. 1744	Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA)	S.T.O.R.A.G.E. Act (Storage Technology for Operational Readiness And Generating Energy Act) Energy Storage Systems by Electric Utilities	The bill would provide for the consideration of energy storage systems by electric utilities as part of a supply side resource process, and for other purposes.	The bill was introduced on March 13, 2019 and the referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.
H.R.579	Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO)	Water Rights Protection Act of 2019	This bill would prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and for other purposes.	Introduced in the House on January 15th. Referred to the Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee of the Agriculture Committee on February 7, 2019 and to the Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee on February 4, 2019.
H. R. 855	Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)	STRONG (Strengthening the Resiliency of our Nation on the Ground Act) Act	The bill would work to minimize the economic and social costs resulting from losses of life, property, well-being, business activity, and economic growth associated with extreme weather events by ensuring that the United States is more resilient to the impacts of extreme weather events in the short- and long-term, and for other purpose	Introduced in the House and referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management of the House Transportation Committee on February 7, 2019.
H.R. 420	Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)	Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act	The bill would decriminalize marijuana and sets up legal framework to regulate marijuana.	Introduced in the House on January 9, 2019 and referred to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Natural Resources, and Agriculture.

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
S.420 /H.R. 1120	Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) / Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)	Marijuana Revenue and Regulation Act	A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the taxation and regulation of marijuana products, and for other purposes.	<p>The bill was introduced in the Senate on February 7, 2019 and was referred to the Finance Committee.</p> <p>Introduced in the House on February 8, 2019 and was referred to the Committees on Judiciary, Agriculture, and Natural Resources.</p>
H.R. 3794	Rep. Paul A. Gosar (R-AZ)	Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2019	The bill would work to promote the development of renewable energy on public lands	<p>The measure was introduced in the House on July 17, 2019 and was then referred to both the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture. A hearing on the bill was held on July 25 by the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources. On August 9th, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Energy of the House Agriculture Committee.</p> <p>The measure was later referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources where a hearing was held on the legislation. On November 20, 2019, a Mark-up session was held and the bill was ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote.</p> <p>On December 18, 2020, the legislation was placed on the House calendar.</p> <p>The legislation has bipartisan cosponsorship.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsor/ Cosponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
S. 1344	Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Tim Scott (R-SC)	Reinstate Opportunity Zone Data Mandates	<p>The bill would require the Secretary of the Treasury to collect data and issue a report on the opportunity zone tax incentives enacted by the 2017 tax reform legislation.</p> <p>The reporting requirements were part of the original legislation as introduced, but they were not incorporated in H.R.1 (the tax package) when it was advanced in the House and Senate.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced in the Senate on May 7, 2019 and referred to the Finance Committee.</p> <p>The legislation has bipartisan cosponsor ship.</p>
H.R.535	Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI)	PFAS Action Act of 2019	<p>The legislation combines 12 different bills that had previously been introduced into one legislative package that would change the way the federal government regulates “forever chemicals” known as PFAS.</p> <p>The consolidated version of H.R. 535 would place these chemicals on the Superfund hazards substances list from the Environmental Protection Agency, force the agency to set nationwide drinking water standards for PFAS, and block companies from producing new chemicals in this class.</p>	<p>The legislation was reported out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee on November 20, 2019 by a vote of 31 to 19, largely along party lines. The bill passed the House on January 10, 2020 by a vote of 247 - 159. The bill was received in the Senate on January 13, 2020 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. The legislation is not expected to be considered in the Senate in its current form.</p> <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.

INFORMATION
ITEM
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CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES, LLC

Date: December 29, 2020
To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency
From: John Withers, Jim Brulte
Re: California Strategies, LLC December 2020 Activity Report

1. This month Jim Brulte and John Withers participated in two senior staff meetings via Microsoft Teams Meetings due to the Coronavirus.
2. The first meeting was with Kathy Besser where regional election results were discussed.
3. The second meeting occurred on Dec. 21 with the General Manager and other staff. We discussed regional issues including regional boards, their membership and potential future leadership.
4. A potential Chino Institute for Women sewer issue with Lewis Operating Corp. was discussed and is scheduled for future follow up, as well as regional sewer service items.