



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

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 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 BE 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.

*A Municipal Water District

1. ACTION ITEMS

A. MINUTES

Approve Minutes of the April 14, 2021 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.

2. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

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

C. LEGISLATIVE AND REGIONAL CONTRACTS (ORAL)

D. CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES MONTHLY REPORT (WRITTEN)

E. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION (WRITTEN)

3. GENERAL MANAGER’S COMMENTS

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN

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, May 6, 2021.



Denise Garzaro, CMC

**ACTION
ITEM
1A**



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

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021
9:00 A.M.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT via Video/Teleconference

Jasmin A. Hall, Chair
Steven J. Elie

STAFF PRESENT

Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager
Christina Valencia, Executive Manager of Finance & Administration/AGM
Denise Garzaro, Board Secretary/Office Manager
Daniel Solorzano, Technology Specialist I

STAFF PRESENT via Video/Teleconference

Christiana Daisy, Deputy General Manager
Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of External & Government Affairs/AGM
Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations
Jerry Burke, Manager of Engineering
Andrea Carruthers, Manager of External Affairs
Javier Chagoyen-Lazaro, Manager of Finance & Accounting
Robert Delgado, Manager of Operations
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
Sushmitha Reddy, Manager of Laboratories
Jeanina Romero, Executive Assistant
Wilson To, Technology Specialist II
Teresa Velarde, Manager of Internal Audit

OTHERS PRESENT via Video/Teleconference

Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors
Sarah Persichetti, Innovative Federal Strategies
Drew Tatum, Innovative Federal Strategies
Letitia White, Innovative Federal Strategies

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Jasmin A. Hall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She 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 – 1D. ACTION ITEMS

The Committee:

- ◆ Approved Minutes of the March 10, 2021 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.
- ◆ Recommended that the Board adopt a position of “Support” for H.R. 1915, the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act; H.R. 1563 (Garcia, M.); and H.R. 1881 (Garamendi); as Consent Calendar items on the April 21, 2021 Board meeting agenda.

2A – 2E. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

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

3. GENERAL MANAGER’S COMMENTS

There were no General Manager’s comments.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Committee Chair Hall adjourned the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Garzaro
Board Secretary/Office Manager

*A Municipal Water District

APPROVED: MAY 12, 2021

INFORMATION
ITEM
2A

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: April 30, 2021

Re: April Monthly Legislative Update

President Biden Makes First Address to Joint Session of Congress

President Biden, on Wednesday, April 28, made his first address to a joint session of Congress that looked very different due to coronavirus restrictions. The address came on the eve of President Biden's 100th day in office.

He also became the fourth president in U.S. history to deliver both a congressional address as president and a State of the Union party response.

The House chamber looked different than usual due to coronavirus restrictions - only 200 guests were permitted because of the pandemic, rather than the usual 1,600 who attend.

Biden's address was the first of its kind where a president was joined on the podium by two women — Vice President Harris and Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA).

Biden began his remarks by acknowledging the historic first.

“Madam Speaker, Madam Vice President — no president has ever said those words from this podium. And it's about time,” he said.

Biden used his address to tout his efforts to get the nation back to normal after the pandemic and the divisive presidency of Donald Trump. He made no direct mention of his predecessor, but argued those present had a responsibility to "prove democracy still works and our government still works and we can deliver for our people.”

He outlined what he said were the successes of a nationwide vaccination effort and a \$1.9 trillion economic relief package signed into law in March.

He also touted new legislative proposals to invest a total of \$4 trillion to build climate-friendly infrastructure such as roadways and broadband as well as child care and family leave programs.

Biden said it was time to acknowledge that the trickle-down economics of the Reagan era had failed, proposing major tax hikes on corporations, investment income and wealthy households.

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"We have to do more than just build back. We have to build back better," Biden said. "We have to compete more strenuously than we have."

"Throughout our history, public investments and infrastructure have literally transformed America. These are investments we made together, as one country, and investments that only the government was in a position to make. Time again, they propel us into the future," he added.

The proposals face a deeply uncertain fate in Congress, where Democrats hold only a slim majority. Earlier Wednesday, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), a centrist Democrat, expressed discomfort with the price tag of Biden's agenda.

The president, who campaigned as a moderate who could win over Republicans and ease partisan tensions, extended an olive branch multiple times in his remarks by welcoming GOP proposals and negotiation on his ideas. But he made clear inaction was unacceptable, framing it as a matter of restoring confidence in government.

"We welcome ideas. But the rest of the world isn't waiting for us. Doing nothing is not an option," Biden said. "We can't be so busy competing with each other that we forget the competition is with the rest of the world to win the 21st century."

There were a few moments of bipartisan applause during the speech, such as when Biden vowed to confront China and promoted his "Buy American" initiative. The president chatted with lawmakers on his way out of the chamber, including Senator Rob Portman (R-OH), who is among the Republican senators who offered a counterproposal to Biden's infrastructure plan.

He urged Congress to pass immigration reform, even if piecemeal, to protect Dreamers and secure the border, and renewed a push for a ban on assault weapons and expanded background checks. He called on lawmakers from both parties to "find consensus" and pass policing reform by the anniversary of George Floyd's death next month. And he urged the Senate to pass the Equality Act, which would expand protections for members of the LGBTQ community.

Biden called on Congress to pass a \$15 minimum wage, a progressive priority that has run into opposition among even some Democrats in the Senate. And he pushed for action on lowering drug prices and expanding Medicare benefits, two elements for which Democrats advocated that were left out of his families plan when it was unveiled by the White House in advance of the speech.

The laundry list of priorities won applause from moderate and progressive Democrats alike. But with slim Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, each of those legislative efforts face an uphill battle and will require the support of at least some Republican senators.

"I was not overly inspired," said Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), a moderate Republican who has backed some Biden nominees. "I think he wanted to make sure we knew all of the ins and outs of his various plans. I was looking for more of an uplifting and outreach on the bipartisan note that we heard from the inauguration speech."

Another one of those senators, Tim Scott (R-SC), delivered the GOP rebuttal to Biden's speech. He panned Biden's agenda and argued that the government spending and tax hikes would weaken the economy, accusing Democrats of divisive action by passing a "partisan" coronavirus relief bill.

"The actions of the president and his party are pulling us further and further apart," Scott said.

President Biden Outlines \$1.8 Trillion American Families Plan

President Biden on Wednesday, April 28 in advance of his speech to a Joint Session of Congress, outlined the American Families Plan, an ambitious package that would call for \$1 trillion in new spending and \$800 billion in new tax credits and aim to significantly expand access to preschool and community college, as well as childcare and health care benefits.

The American Families Plan calls for a \$200 billion program offering universal pre-kindergarten for all three- and four-year-olds; \$109 billion for tuition-free community college for any American who wants it; \$85 billion to increase Pell Grants to benefit low-income and minority students; and more than \$4 billion in funding for larger scholarships, certification and support programs for teachers.

The plan would build upon provisions of the American Rescue Plan by extending the Affordable Care Act premiums tax credits indefinitely and make the earned income tax credit expansion for childless workers permanent. It would permanently make the child tax credit fully available to the lowest-income families, while extending other aspects of the expansion of the credit, such as the increase in the credit amount, through 2025.

The proposal also calls for the creation of a national paid family and medical leave program. The \$225 billion investment would provide workers up to \$4,000 a month if they require leave to care for a new child, care for a seriously ill loved one, deal with an illness or another serious reason.

Other measures Biden will call on Congress to pass include a \$45 billion investment in meal programs for children and low-income families; unemployment insurance reform; \$225 billion for investments in child care that would include a \$15 minimum wage for early childhood staff and expanded child care center accessibility.

Officials said the plan would be paid for through tax reforms targeted at wealthy Americans, such as an increased capital gains tax rate, a higher top income tax rate and increased IRS auditing enforcement on high-income individuals and businesses.

"We view the American Families Plan as a core element of President Biden's strategy to build back better and generate a strong and inclusive economy for the future," a senior administration official said.

The plan, which faces an uncertain future in Congress, does not go as far as some Democrats hoped. Some have pressed for a permanent expansion of the child tax credit, and it's not clear

that lawmakers will be satisfied by the proposal to make part of the expansion permanent while extending other parts through 2025. Key Democrats signaled on Tuesday that the House bill would include such a provision despite Biden not putting it in his initial proposal.

Biden has also faced pressure from members of his party, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), to include health-related provisions expanding health coverage and lowering drug prices. The ideas had initially been expected to be part of the plan, but Biden did not include them in the final version.

The White House views the proposal as a companion to Biden's \$2.3 trillion infrastructure and climate plan he announced last month, and officials said that the investments would be made over a 10-year period.

The two plans combined total more than \$4 trillion in government spending, on top of the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill that Biden signed into law about 50 days into his term. The administration's two most recent proposals include tax increases that would pay for both plans over a 15-year period.

Biden's proposed jobs plan would be paid for through an increase in the corporate tax rate, while Wednesday's proposal would roll back the 2017 Trump tax cuts by increasing the top individual tax rate from 37 percent to 39.6 percent for taxpayers in the top 1 percent of income. Biden is also proposing an increase in the capital gains tax rate for households making more than \$1 million to 39.6 percent, which officials have said would only impact 0.3 percent of taxpayers.

Senior administration officials made clear the proposal is meant at a starting point and that Biden is open to hearing suggestions on what should be included and how to pay for the package. But Republicans are likely to oppose Biden's family plan and the tax hikes proposed to pay for it, and some moderate Democrats could also oppose the plan because of its large price tag and tax provisions.

The White House will face a complicated road to getting both proposals passed, even as officials have said publicly they hope to see some kind of progress on an infrastructure bill by Memorial Day and passage by summer. The White House has not ruled out using budget reconciliation to pass Biden's proposals without GOP support, which Democrats resorted to in order to pass his coronavirus relief bill.

Some White House allies, such as Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE), have suggested working with Republicans to pass a bipartisan bill that addresses traditional infrastructure like roads, bridges, railways and broadband, while using the budget reconciliation process to pass other priorities in a way that would not require GOP support.

Senate Republicans Unveil \$568 Billion Infrastructure Plan

A group of Senate Republicans led by Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) on Thursday, April 22, unveiled a \$568 billion infrastructure proposal, a much smaller counteroffer to President Biden's \$2.3 trillion American Jobs Plan.

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The proposal seeks to define infrastructure more narrowly compared to Biden's expansive view of the issue, focusing on roads and bridges, public transit systems, rail, wastewater infrastructure, airports and broadband infrastructure.

Senate Republicans are proposing user fees for electric vehicles and repurposing unused federal spending allocated by the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Congress passed in March to cover the cost of the plan.

The total cost of the plan is at the low end of the \$600 billion to \$800 billion ballpark Capito proposed to reporters earlier in April.

"This is something that Congress has done for many, many years together on a bipartisan basis. Our focus today is to say what our concepts are as Republicans [about] what infrastructure means, what our principles are in terms of pay-fors and to say to President Biden and his team and our Democrat colleagues: 'We're ready to sit down and get to work on this,' " Senator Capito said.

While some Democrats such as Senator Chris Coons (DE), a close Biden ally, have embraced the idea of passing a bipartisan down payment on Biden's infrastructure agenda, others have called for Congress to "go big" right out of the gate.

The latest GOP counteroffer mirrors the size of the \$618 billion proposal Senator Capito and other moderate Republicans proposed for pandemic relief to the Biden administration earlier this year.

Democrats flatly rejected that earlier offer as inadequate.

Their plan, which is being billed as a "framework," would spend \$299 billion on roads and bridges, \$61 billion on public transit systems, \$20 billion on rail, \$35 billion on drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, \$14 billion on water storage, \$13 billion on safety programs, such as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, \$17 billion on ports and inland waterways, and \$44 billion on airports.

It also proposes spending \$65 billion to beef up and expand the nation's broadband infrastructure to bring high-speed internet to more rural areas of the country.

Senator Capito said she put it together after conversations with Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), the Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and Republican colleagues met with Biden at the White House to discuss the possibility of an infrastructure compromise.

Senators Pat Toomey (R-PA), Roger Wicker (R-MI) and John Barrasso (R-WY) presented the plan along with Capito.

Senator Wicker called it a "good faith effort" to begin negotiations with President Biden and other Democrats.

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The \$299 billion proposed for roads and bridges would go to the Federal Highway Administration and the office of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

More than \$60 billion would go to the Federal Transit Administration and some of the \$20 billion for rail would go to Amtrak, which has long been controversial with some Senate conservatives.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Maritime Administration would split the \$17 billion for ports and inland waterways, and the Federal Aviation Administration would handle the \$44 billion for airports.

The GOP plan would explicitly preserve all of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which set the corporate tax rate at 21 percent.

President Biden has called for paying for new infrastructure spending by raising the corporate tax rate to 28 percent and limiting different business tax breaks.

Following the lawmakers' introduction of their infrastructure proposal, the White House on Thursday signaled it would be open to further talks with Republican lawmakers.

Press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters the administration believes the \$568 billion proposal from Senate Republicans unveiled earlier in the day is a legitimate starting point for ongoing talks, and she said the president would likely host lawmakers at the White House for further discussions in the coming weeks.

"It's the beginning of a discussion," Psaki said. "And the next steps will be conversations at the staff level, conversations between senior members of our administration, members of Congress, appropriate committee staff through the course of next week, and then as I noted the president will invite members down to the White House. But there are a lot of details to be discussed."

Speaker Pelosi, White House Wants Infrastructure Bill Done by Summer

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said on Thursday, April 8, that the Democrats' summer push for infrastructure and jobs legislation will likely be split into two separate bills, with a goal of wrapping up both before Congress takes its traditional summer break in August.

As discussed above, President Biden introduced the contours of his ambitious infrastructure proposal, which features traditional projects like roads, bridges and public transit. But he's also vowing additional — but nontraditional — items under the same infrastructure title, which are expected to include provisions like childcare, elder care and family tax credits.

"These things are related. If you're going to build the infrastructure, you have to have workforce development," Speaker Pelosi said Thursday, defending the strategy.

Democrats have been vague about how those pieces would fit together as the debate evolves, with some suggesting party leaders should simply lump everything together into an enormous

package and move it to Biden's desk using a procedural gambit, known as reconciliation, that would prevent Senate Republicans from blocking it with a filibuster.

Yet Speaker Pelosi says she's still holding out hope for bipartisan support — at least on the physical infrastructure portion of the package — and predicted Thursday that Democrats will split the legislation into two pieces.

"I think we will have two bills," she said. "We're hoping that we can do — especially [the] infrastructure bill — with [bipartisan support]. ... If we have to go to reconciliation, that's a lever, but I hope it's not something that we'll need to do."

Pelosi also laid out a tentative timeline, saying Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, is poised to pass much of the infrastructure agenda through his panel in May. That, she said, should allow the House to send the package to the Senate by July 4. But whether that includes the help for families remains to be seen.

"I would hope that our part in the House would be largely done before the Fourth of July," she said. "Whether the whole package would be done then we just don't know. But as some had suggested, we want to do it before the August break."

The White House has also expressed a similar timeline, as President Biden hopes to see Congress pass the proposal by this summer, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Thursday, April 1.

Psaki told reporters at an afternoon briefing that the extra time will allow for more White House negotiations with congressional Republicans and Democrats, particularly since the legislation does not carry the same level of urgency as the American Rescue Plan that was signed into law last month.

Still, she said Biden would like to see “progress” by the end of May.

White House Releases FY22 Budget Blueprint

President Joe Biden’s Office of Management and Budget released the administration’s FY22 budget blueprint on Friday, April 9, providing Congress with top-line spending numbers for how the administration proposes \$1.5 trillion in discretionary spending.

The proposal aims to end a decade-long Washington tradition of increasing military and domestic spending levels by similar amounts, instead proposing a nearly 16% boost to nondefense funds and a 1.7% increase for defense. The proposal calls for \$769.4 billion in nondefense discretionary spending in fiscal 2022, a \$105.7 billion increase over the fiscal 2021 level of \$663.7 billion. Defense would rise to \$753 billion, \$12.3 billion greater than its current level of \$740.7 billion. Overall, base discretionary spending would increase by \$118 billion, from \$1.4 trillion to \$1.5 trillion, not including emergency spending.

Biden’s \$1.5 trillion discretionary budget plan for fiscal 2022 is likely to be rejected by Republicans, who have called for a 3-5% increase in defense spending. Democrats can move

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forward with their own top-line numbers, but Republican support is necessary to garner 60 votes in the Senate to fund the government by the September 30 deadline. Progressive lawmakers will also be disappointed, after calling for a significant cut to military spending.

Biden's proposal arrives as lawmakers will have to grapple with a post Budget Control Act (BCA) framework. Statutory limits on discretionary spending, established in the BCA of 2011, expire in fiscal 2022. Lawmakers regularly increased those limits, every two years for a decade, avoiding cuts by raising the caps in roughly equal amounts for defense and nondefense spending.

Biden's plan calls for increased funding for the Departments of Commerce, Education, and Health and Human Services, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, by more than 20% each, as the president seeks to expand manufacturing programs, increase low-income education grants, launch an Advanced Research Projects Agency for health, and create a new environmental justice initiative.

The outline is less detailed than a usual presidential budget proposal, including requests for discretionary funds but leaving out policy proposals and expectations for the economy and the deficit. A more detailed budget proposal will come later in the year—likely in late May or early June.

An agency-by-agency breakdown of the proposal is included in the table below.

Agency/Program	Request	Vs. Fiscal 2021
Agriculture	\$27.8B	+\$3.8B
Commerce	11.4	+ 2.5
Defense	715.0	+ 11.3
Education	102.8	+ 29.8
Energy	46.1	+ 4.3
Health and Human Services	133.7	+ 25.1
Homeland Security	52.0	+ 0.1
Housing and Urban Development	68.7	+ 9.0
Interior	17.4	+ 2.4
Justice	35.2	+ 1.8
Labor	14.2	+ 1.7
State and International Programs	63.5	+ 6.8
Transportation	25.6	+ 3.2
Treasury	14.9	+ 1.4
Veterans Affairs	113.1	+ 8.5
Corps of Engineers	6.8	- 1.0
Environmental Protection Agency	11.2	+ 2.0
General Services Administration	1.5	+ 2.5
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	24.7	+ 1.5
National Science Foundation	10.2	+ 1.7
Small Business Administration	0.9	+ 0.1
Social Security Administration	9.7	+ 1.0

Senate GOP Keeps Symbolic Earmark Ban, But Requests Likely Anyway

Senate Republicans on Wednesday, April 21, opted to keep a ban on earmarks, a symbolic victory for conservatives that capped a weeks-long fight about spending in the post-Trump era.

They reaffirmed the existing caucus rules that contained the earmark ban and added language supporting the idea of spending cuts for raising the debt ceiling, in a call back to the fiscal-hawk priorities that helped fuel the Tea Party wave and swept Republicans to power in 2010.

But top members of the caucus acknowledge the ban isn't enforceable and that GOP senators will be able to request earmarks if they want to.

"That doesn't mean anything. ... It's up to the individual," said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL). "If you don't want to earmark, don't ask for one."

The votes put Senate Republicans at odds, at least on messaging, with both House Republicans and congressional Democrats, who have both embraced the return of earmarks that will allow them to direct spending back to their home states.

And it's, in some ways, a shift from the Trump era, during which the then-president suggested reviving earmarks, floated getting rid of the debt ceiling altogether and frequently urged his party to go big including on the latest round of coronavirus aid.

The debate split the caucus, with GOP Sens. Ted Cruz (TX), Rand Paul (KY), Ben Sasse (NE) and Marco Rubio (FL) publicly announcing that they were opposed to bringing back earmarks, while senior members of the caucus and top Republicans on the Senate Appropriations Committee predicted they would go forward.

Some GOP senators have already said they will request earmarks.

"Yes," said Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), adding that they would be for "public purposes."

Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), who are also on the Appropriations Committee, have also signaled that they are likely to request earmarks, and Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), a member of GOP leadership, predicted that enough Senate Republicans will use up their portion of the earmarking funds.

"I think the Republican conference is pretty much split down the middle," Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) said shortly before the meeting.

Republicans had also been split about whether the ban, if they kept it, would ultimately be binding.

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The GOP conference rules state that "it is the policy of the Republican Conference that no Member shall request a congressionally directed spending item, limited tax benefit, or limited tariff benefit" in legislation.

But top appropriators and members of leadership pointed to a separate section that stated that no "action by the Conference upon any matter pending or to be proposed in the Senate shall be binding in any way on members in casting their votes thereon."

The Senate GOP meeting comes after Democrats announced earlier this year that they were going to revive earmarks but with new public disclosure requirements. In a surprise move, the House Republican caucus, considered more conservative and ideological than its Senate counterpart, followed suit.

Part of the problem for Republicans is that Democrats are reviving earmarks with or without them but offering to evenly split the money designed for earmarking. That sparked concerns among GOP senators that if Republicans passed, that money would just go back to Democrats and allow them to direct more funding back to their home states.

"Now you have House Republicans and Democrats, and the question is if the allocation that we have isn't used, does it go back to the pool of Democrats?" Senator John Thune (SD), the No. 2 Republican senator, asked.

No GOP senator had filed an amendment to the caucus rules to lift the ban, though conservatives had filed potential amendments to the rules to limit what the earmarks could go toward. They had also filed an amendment requiring that any vote on earmarks be a recorded vote, rather than a secret ballot.

In the end, Republicans sidestepped forcing members to take a vote specifically on earmarks, instead affirming to uphold the caucus rules as they already existed.

The Senate GOP banned earmarks in 2010, with Democrats following suit in 2011 amid pressure from then-President Obama and House Republicans who, amid a rise in concern about the deficit, had homed in on the pet projects.

Senate Republicans also voted as a caucus in 2019 to permanently ban earmarks after a previous moratorium expired.

On Monday, April 26, 2021, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) announced his intent for the Committee to, on a bipartisan basis, accept requests for congressionally directed spending items for appropriations bills for the fiscal year that begins October 1, 2021.

"The Constitution vests the power of the purse in Congress." Chairman Leahy said, "In recent years, Congress has ceded too much of its Constitutional authority over spending to the Executive Branch to make decisions about how and where to invest Federal taxpayer dollars. A

rebalanced process will allow Members to better utilize their knowledge and experience to thoughtfully direct federal funds, and do so with transparency and accountability.”

The Senate Appropriations Committee is adopting guidelines similar to those that have been adopted by the House, which ban congressionally directed spending items to for-profit entities.

Democrats Roll Out Legislation to Expand Supreme Court

Democrats rolled out new legislation to expand the Supreme Court on Thursday, April 15, in the midst of a partisan debate over the body.

The legislation, introduced by Senator Ed Markey (D-MA), House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerry Nadler (D-NY) and Representatives Hank Johnson (D-GA) and Mondaire Jones (D-NY) would enlarge the Supreme Court from nine seats to 13 seats, a move the lawmakers said would restore balance to a court that currently holds a 6-3 conservative majority.

“We are here today because the United States Supreme Court is broken, it is out of balance and it needs to be fixed. Too many Americans view our highest court in the land as a partisan, political institution, not our impartial judicial branch of government,” Markey said.

The effort is the latest salvo in progressives’ effort to expand the Supreme Court amid liberal outrage over recent Republican appointments.

Democrats were infuriated when Senate Republicans denied then-President Obama the ability to fill a vacancy in early 2016 on the premise that a seat should not be filled in an election year.

However, in October of 2020, Republicans replaced the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg after former President Trump nominated now-Justice Amy Coney Barrett just before the election. They said that there was a difference between 2016 and 2020, because for Barrett's nomination, both the White House and the Senate were controlled by the same party.

“Some people will say we’re packing the court. We’re not packing it, we’re unpacking it. Senator McConnell and the Republicans packed the court over the past couple of years,” said Representative Nadler.

The lawmakers cast the fight over Supreme Court expansion as a fight for the soul of the country, noting that the high court will hear arguments on issues ranging from voter rights to campaign finance.

The rollout came days after President Biden signed an executive order forming a commission to study the possibility of adding seats to the court, among other reforms.

While Biden has been cool to the idea of expanding the court, the lawmakers said the formation of the commission showed the urgency surrounding the issue. However, they also noted that the commission is not tasked with making a formal recommendation and will not have any bearing on their legislative efforts.

Republican opposition to expanding the Supreme Court is most likely unanimous, meaning nearly all Democrats would have to stick together for House passage, while passage in the Senate would require the elimination of the 60-vote filibuster.

However, beyond GOP opposition, Democrats have also not fully embraced the expansion proposal.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) stated that she has "no plans" to bring the bill to the floor, though maintained such an idea is "not out of the question."

"No," she said when asked if she supported the bill. "I support the president's commission to study such a proposal, but frankly I'm not — right now, we're back, our members, our committees are working. We're putting together the infrastructure bill and the rest."

Senate Passes Bill to Authorize \$35 Billion in Water Projects

On April 29 the U.S. Senate passed bipartisan legislation, by a vote of 89-2, that would authorize \$35 billion for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

The bill (S. 914) would reauthorize capitalization grants to the Clean Water and Drinking Water state revolving funds and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act project financing program, authorize grants from the Environmental Protection Agency to improve drinking water and wastewater systems, including projects to replace lead drinking water pipes, direct a portion of funding to rural and economically disadvantaged areas.

Of the \$35 billion authorized, more than 40 percent can be directly used to benefit small, disadvantaged, rural, and tribal communities through additional subsidization from the State Revolving Loan Funds or direct grant programs.

The legislation will also:

- Invest significantly in small, disadvantaged, rural, and tribal communities through grant programs that promote environmental justice.
- Provide states with increased funding and program flexibilities to invest in community water projects that address aging infrastructure and improve water quality through the State Revolving Loan Funds.
- Connect households to public water and wastewater services, decentralized wastewater services, and improve sanitation in Alaskan rural and native villages.
- Increase investments in lead abatement through grant programs and assistance.
- Promote resiliency projects to address the impacts of climate change.
- Increase investment to address recruitment, training, and retention challenges facing the water and wastewater utility workforce.
- Invest in the drinking water and wastewater needs of tribal communities.
- Provide significant investments in technical assistance and new and emerging technologies that result in cleaner, safer, and more reliable water.

“From permanent brain damage from drinking water contaminated with lead, to overflowing sewage, Americans across the country are now experiencing what happens when our drinking water and wastewater systems age into a state of disrepair,” Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), the bill’s sponsor, stated. “It’s clear that the lack of investments in our water infrastructure has led to a public health crisis and we have to do more to stop it,” she added.

Bill Number	Sponsors	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 1319	Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY)	American Rescue Plan of 2021	<p>The legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provides an additional \$1,400 to individuals in the form of an economic impact payment.- Provides for the continuation and enhancement of Federal Unemployment Aid.- Provides \$25B in rental assistance- Provides for a 15% SNAP boost- Provides \$25B for childcare providers- Includes the temporary expansion of Child Tax Credits- Mandates sick leave through 9/30- Includes \$350B in state and local funding	<p>The legislation stems from President Biden's proposed coronavirus relief plan he introduced prior to taking office.</p> <p>The legislation was introduced on February 24, 2021 in the House, and after passing both the House and Senate, President Biden signed the legislation into law on March 11, 2021.</p>
XX	President Joe Biden	American Jobs Plan	<p>The White House proposed \$621 billion for transportation, \$400 billion for elder and disability care, and \$300 billion for manufacturing. Additional funds would be invested in housing, research and development, schools, water, broadband, and the electric grid, among other projects.</p>	<p>On March 31, President Biden announced the first portion of his wide ranging infrastructure package.</p> <p>Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has expressed that she would like to see infrastructure legislation passed prior to the July 4th recess. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has announced they will be working on the next surface transportation bill over the next several months.</p>
XX	President Joe Biden	American Families Plan	<p>The American Families Plan calls for \$1 trillion in new spending and \$800 billion in new tax credits. The plan would provide \$200 billion program offering universal pre-kindergarten for all three- and four-year-olds; \$109 billion for tuition-free community college for any American who wants it; \$85 billion to increase Pell Grants to benefit low-income and minority students; and more than \$4 billion in funding for larger scholarships, certification and support programs for teachers.</p>	<p>President Biden unveiled the companion package to the American Jobs Plan on April 28th prior to his address to a Joint Session of Congress.</p> <p>The legislation does not go as far as some Democrats hoped it would - key House Democrats would like to include a permanent expansion of the child tax credit, which Biden's plan currently does not include.</p> <p>Legislative text for the proposal has not yet been developed.</p>

Bill Number	Sponsors	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
XX	Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)	Senate GOP Infrastructure Plan	The GOP Infrastructure package would spend \$568 billion on infrastructure. The package would spend \$299 billion on roads and bridges, \$61 billion on public transit systems, \$20 billion on rail, \$35 billion on drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, \$14 billion on water storage, \$13 billion on safety programs, such as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, \$17 billion on ports and inland waterways, and \$44 billion on airports.	<p>The package, unveiled by a group of Senate Republicans on Thursday, April 22, led by Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) represents a significantly smaller counteroffer to President Biden's \$2.3 trillion plan.</p> <p>The White House has stated that the Senators' package is a legitimate starting point, and plans to host lawmakers at the White House for further talks in the coming weeks.</p>
S. 29	Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)	Local Water Protection Act	A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to nonpoint source management, and for other purposes.	The legislation was introduced on January 22, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.
H.R 1563	Rep. Mike Garcia (R-CA)	To extend the authorities under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 providing operational flexibility, drought relief, and other benefits to the State of California	The legislation would extend the authorities under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 providing operational flexibility, drought relief, and other benefits to the State of California. The legislation would extend 4007 authorities through January 1, 2028.	The legislation was introduced on March 3, 2021 and was referred to the House Committees on Natural Resources and Science, Space, and Technology.
H.R.1915	Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) / Grace Napolitano (D-CA)	Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021	The legislation would reauthorize the Alternative Water Source Grants Pilot Program, which authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to grant up to \$200 million per year to state, interstate, and intrastate water resource development agencies to engineer, design, construct, and test water reuse projects throughout the country.	The legislation was introduced on March 16, 2021.

Bill Number	Sponsors	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R.2238	Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) / Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)	Break Free from Plastic Pollutions Act	The comprehensive legislation would require corporations to take responsibility for pollution, incentivize corporations to make reusable products and items that can be recycled, create a nationwide beverage container refund program, and other items to promote recycling and other investments in U.S. domestic recycling.	The legislation was introduced on March 25, 2021 in the House.
H.R 866	Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)	FISH Act	This bill gives the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) the sole authority to protect endangered or threatened species that are anadromous species (species of fish that spawn in fresh or estuarine waters and that migrate to ocean waters) or catadromous species (species of fish that spawn in ocean waters and migrate to fresh waters). Currently, the FWS shares this authority with the National Marine Fisheries Service.	The legislation was introduced on February 5, 2021, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
H.R. 1015	Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)	Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act	This bill makes permanent, and otherwise revises, the Bureau of Reclamation's grant program for the funding of water recycling and reuse projects. Specifically, the bill removes priority under the program for projects in areas that, in the preceding four-year period, have been (1) identified as experiencing severe, extreme, or exceptional drought; or (2) designated as a disaster area by a state. Additionally, the bill increases through FY2025 the authorization of appropriations for the program and otherwise revises provisions related to program funding.	The legislation was introduced on February 22, 2021, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
H.R.1881	Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)	To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to permitting terms, and for other purposes.	Would extend permit terms for publicly owned water infrastructure projects under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) from 5 years to a maximum of 10 years.	The legislation was introduced on March 12, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Bill Number	Sponsors	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
S.914	Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)	Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021	Authorizes more than \$35 billion for water resource development projects across the country with a focus on upgrading aging infrastructure, addressing the threat of climate change, investing in new technologies, and providing assistance to marginalized communities.	Introduced on March 23, 2021 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The legislation passed the Senate on April 29, 2021 by a vote of 89-2.
H.R. 737	Rep. David Valadao (R-CA)	RENEW WIIN Act	The legislation would extend the authorities under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 providing operational flexibility, drought relief, and other benefits to the State of California.	The legislation was introduced on February 2, 2021, and referred the House Committee on Natural Resources. 10 members of the California delegation have cosponsored the legislation.
S.91 / H.R.535	Sen. Krysten Sinema (D-AZ) / Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)	Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act	The legislation would include special districts in the coronavirus relief fund and direct the Secretary of the Treasury to include special districts as an eligible issuer under the Municipal Liquidity Facility.	The legislation was introduced on 1/28 in both the House and Senate. It has been referred to relevant committees in both chambers.
H.R. 895 / S. 209	Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC) / Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)	Emergency Assistance for Rural Water Systems Act	To provide for assistance to rural water, wastewater, and waste disposal systems affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.	The legislation was introduced on February 5, 2021, and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.
H.R. 2515	Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA)	Building U.S. Infrastructure through Limited Delays and Efficient Reviews (BUILDER) Act	The legislation modernizes the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and aims to make infrastructure project reviews more efficient, reduce project costs, and spur economic recovery.	The legislation was introduced on April 14, 2021 and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. The legislation's 28 cosponsors are all Republican, including members of GOP leadership.

Bill Number	Sponsors	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 939	Rep. Doug LaMalfa (D-CA)	Comustion Avoidance along Rural Roads (CARR) Act	<p>The bill exempts wildfire mitigation activities conducted within 300 feet of a road from all laws governing environmental review of proposed agency actions or protection of endangered or threatened species. Mitigation activities are those that are conducted by Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture on federal land that is administered by the National Park System, the Bureau of Land Management, or the Forest Service. Mitigation activities include forest thinning, hazardous fuel reduction, prescribed burning, and vegetation management.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on February 8, 2021 and was referred to the House Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture.</p>

INFORMATION
ITEM
2B



April 30, 2021

To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency

From: Michael Boccadoro
Beth Olhasso

RE: April Report

Overview:

The water supply situation in California has become headline news throughout the state. With over half of the state in extreme drought conditions, a snowpack at 26 percent of normal and reservoir levels hovering at about 50 percent capacity, it is a bleak outlook for much of the north state. The Governor recently declared drought in the Russian River Watershed in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties and there are calls for him to expand his drought proclamation statewide.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) with collaboration from State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) have been working on a statutorily mandated report on an appropriate indoor water use standard. DWR and the SWRCB recently held a meeting to outline their findings ahead of the expected release of a preliminary draft report. The current standard in statute is 55 gallons per capita daily (GPCD) until Jan 1, 2025, 52.5 GPCD from 2025-2030 and then 50 GPCD beginning January 1, 2030. The proposal from DWR and the SWRCB keeps the 55 GPCD, but would move the target to 47 GPCD in 2025 and 42 GPCD in 2030.

The Legislature has been busy moving bills through their first policy committees ahead of the April 30 policy committee deadline. Notably, the Senate released a \$3.4 billion package on Drought, Safe Drinking Water, Water Supply Reliability, and Ratepayer Assistance. This budget play uses one-time federal and one-time state surplus funding in a number of key categories including stormwater, recycled water, groundwater recharge and a massive \$1 billion water and utility ratepayer assistance program. The ratepayer assistance program would help address past-due bills from water, wastewater and other utility customers. Companion legislation is rumored to be in the works on the Assembly side.

Policy committees have been meeting to churn out bills at a feverish pace. Notably, AB 818 (Bloom) that would require specific labels on non-flushable wipes is sailing through the process. As is SB 230 (Hertzberg) which would allow POTWs to capture, treat and reuse stormwater. AB 1434 (Friedman) which would lower the indoor gallons per capita daily (GPCD) from 50 GPCD by 2030 to 40 by 2030 had a shaky hearing in the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee but ultimately passed out of the committee. SB 222 (Dodd) and SB 223 (Dodd) are still causing heartburn within the water community. SB 222 would create a low-income water rate assistance program, but does not yet identify a funding source. SB 223 sets out a plan for how a ratepayer can get their past-due bills forgiven. The bill recently took amendments to try to address Proposition 218 concerns.

The next big hurdles for legislation are the Appropriations Committee deadline by May 21 and the House of Origin deadline is June 4.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Status Report – April 2021

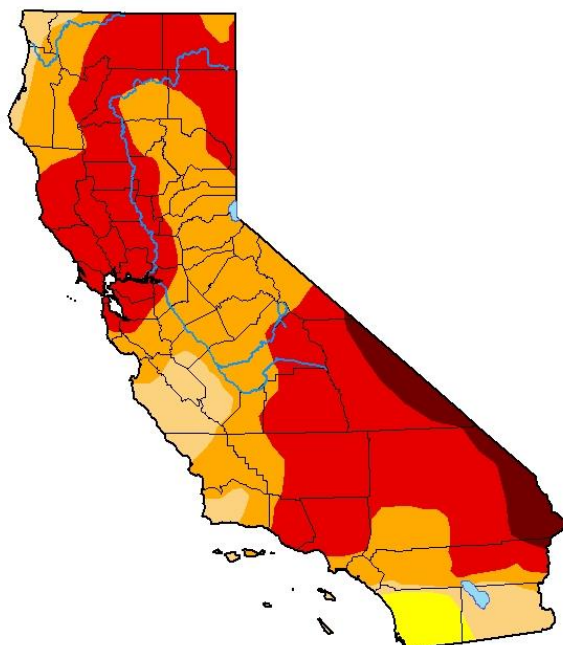
Water Supply Conditions

With no hope of a late Spring storm miracle, the water supply situation in California is bleak. Storage levels have remained fairly level since last month with San Luis Reservoir, the main south-of-Delta storage facility for the State Water Project, at 50 percent of average for this time of the year and 56 percent capacity and Oroville at 52 percent of average and 42 percent capacity, there is cause for worry. Reservoir levels have remained at this low, but stable level because of the rapid melting of what Sierra Snowpack there actually was. The snowpack never got past 65 percent of normal this year, but in the last few weeks it has melted rapidly. The snowpack is at only 26 percent of normal for this time of the year. Finally, almost 53 percent of the state is in extreme drought conditions.

As widely reported, Governor Newsom recently declared a drought emergency in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. Those two counties are especially hard hit because of its reliance almost exclusively on Lake Mendocino, which is at critically low levels. There is a strong movement from the Central Valley to get the Governor to declare drought in the valley, in the hopes such a declaration would allow water regulators ease to some environmental regulations allowing more water to move through the system.

There is significant speculation on whether the Governor will expand the emergency declaration statewide. There are a lot of politics at play in such a move. With the recall of the Governor officially qualified, every move he makes is tinted through the political lens of the recall. In the meantime, San Joaquin Valley counties declared a drought emergency recently and individual water agencies are independently requesting conservation in some cases, limiting water usage.

U.S. Drought Monitor California



April 27, 2021

(Released Thursday, Apr. 29, 2021)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	97.51	87.95	52.86	5.36
Last Week 04-20-2021	0.00	100.00	96.54	85.37	49.86	5.36
3 Months Ago 01-26-2021	0.00	100.00	95.20	75.74	39.46	3.86
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	95.17	74.34	33.75	1.19
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	15.35	84.65	67.65	35.62	12.74	0.00
One Year Ago 04-28-2020	41.80	58.20	41.58	19.59	4.66	0.00

Intensity

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

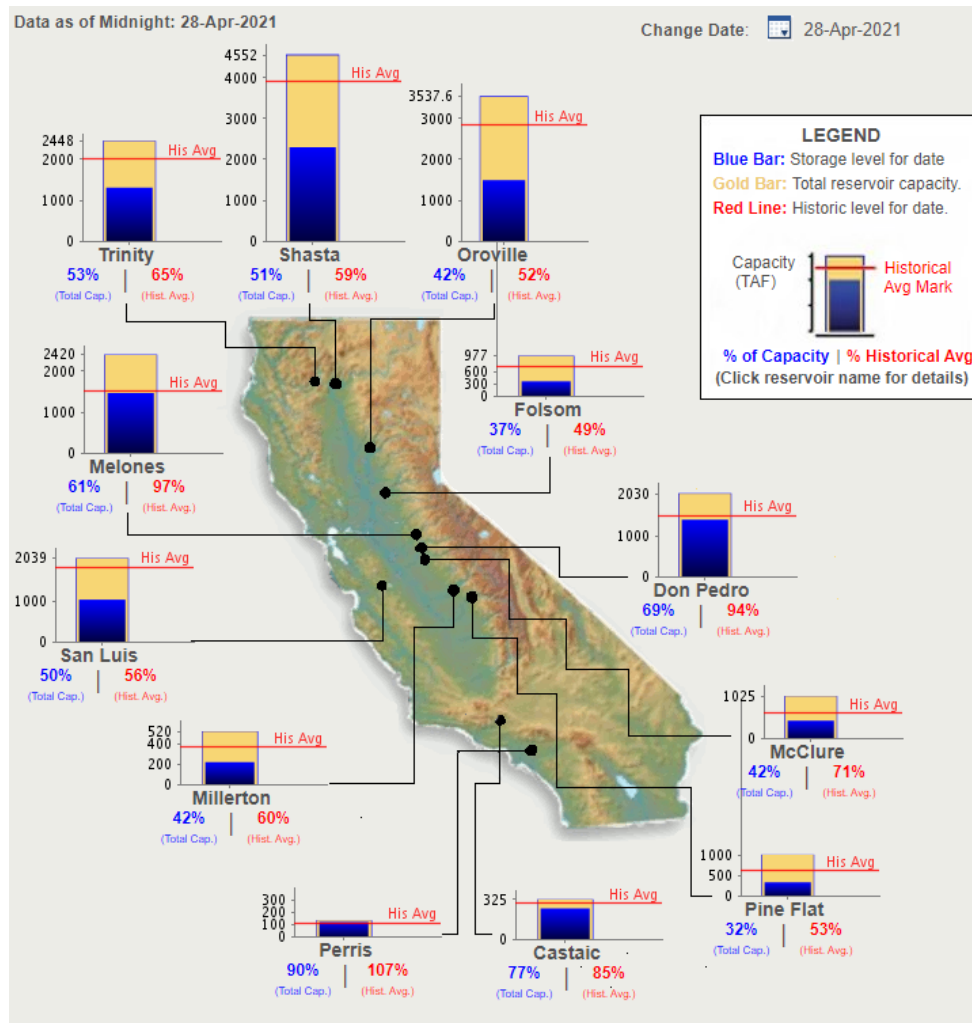
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author

Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Indoor Water Use Standard

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) with collaboration from State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) have been working on a statutorily mandated report on an appropriate indoor water use standard. DWR and the SWRCB recently held a meeting to outline their findings ahead of the expected release of a preliminary draft report. The current standard in statute is 55 gallons per capita daily (GPCD) until Jan 1, 2025, 52.5 GPCD from 2025-2030 and then 50 GPCD beginning January 1, 2030. The proposal from DWR and the SWRCB keeps the 55 GPCD, but would move the target to 47 GPCD in 2025 and 42 GPCD in 2030.

One interesting note about the numbers presented by DWR, they seem to be using the “lowest water use quarter” as the baseline for their GPCD numbers, not an average of the whole year.

The “Draft Report” is expected out in early May, with a stakeholder meeting May 19 and comments due May 28 with a final report in id June. It will be interesting to see how they handle the stakeholder process moving forward.

Legislative Update

The Legislature has been busy moving bills through their first policy committees ahead of the April 30 policy committee deadline. The social distancing rules in the Capitol continue to restrict the legislature's ability to act on a significant number of bills. With the policy committee deadline upon us, we are getting a better idea of the universe of bills we will be working with this year.

Senate Proposes \$3.4 Billion Plan on Drought, Safe Drinking Water, Water Supply Reliability, and Ratepayer Assistance

The Senate recently released a proposal to allocate \$3.4 billion for drought, safe drinking water, water supply reliability, and ratepayer assistance from one-time state General Fund, one-time Federal "American Rescue Plan" funds and reappropriation of Prop 1 and Prop 68 funds.

Some of the highlights of the package include:

- \$250 million for competitive grants to local water agencies to implement residential and commercial water-use efficiency projects.
- \$200 million for multi-benefit projects including water supply reliability, ecosystem benefits system reliability benefits, groundwater recharge and others.
- \$200 million for recycled water
- \$200 million for stormwater management
- \$1 billion from "American Recovery Act" funds to help community water systems, wastewater treatment works, and public utilities to recover from COVID-19 impacts. This funding is intended to help utility customers and utilities address backlogged bills and arrearages associated with COVID economic impacts.

The Senate looks like it intends to pass this plan as part of the June 15 budget. The Assembly is quietly working on their own proposal with no indication of when it will be made public.

Updates on Priority Bills

- AB 818 (Bloom)- Solid Waste: premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes: Co-Sponsored by CASA and disposable wipes industry. Would require specific "Do Not Flush" labeling on specific disposable wipes. The bill has been sailing through the process and is on the consent calendar in the Appropriations Committee.
- SB 230 (Portantino)- State Water Resources Control Board: Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs): This bill is a reintroduction of a bill sponsored by MWD and California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) that would require the SWRCB to convene a Science Advisory Panel to review and provide recommendations to the board on further action to regulate CECs in the state. The goal is to establish a process by which the board decides to regulate CECs rather than the unpredictable process currently used. The bill passed out of its first committee, but was tagged with significant fiscal costs in Appropriations. MWD, CMUA and the author decided to make the bill a two-year bill and it will not move forward in 2021.
- SB 273 (Hertzberg) Water Quality: municipal wastewater agencies: This legislation, sponsored by CASA, would authorize a wastewater agency to capture and treat stormwater utilizing ratepayer funds. The bill got out of it's both the Governance and Finance and Environmental Quality Committees, on the consent calendar as well as of the Senate Floor on the Consent Calendar. The bill is over in the Assembly awaiting committee assignment.
- Climate Bonds: Senate leadership has indicated they might want to put a climate bond on the June 2022 ballot (even though both bonds currently have November 2022 listed). If they decide

to pursue the June ballot, the bond will need to be passed by the legislature by late January 2022. This timeline has intensified work on the bonds this year.

- SB 45 (Portantino): Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Act of 2022: This is a reintroduction of Senator Allen's SB 45 from 2020. It is a \$5.5 Billion bond. The bill has been heard in the Natural Resources and Water Committee and Governance and Finance Committee, with very little discussion by members and virtually no opportunity to testify by the public. The bill will next be heard in the Appropriations Committee.
- AB 1500 (E. Garcia) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022. This legislation is similar to Asm. Garcia's bond from 2020. It is a \$6.7 billion bond. AB 1500 was heard in the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee where it passed easily. The bill is now in the Appropriations Committee.

Eventually, the authors, houses and leadership will have to come together to hammer out a final plan. This will likely happen over the summer.

- AB 377 (R. Rivas): Water quality: impaired waters. This legislation would require all surface waters to be fishable, swimmable and drinkable by 2050. The bill attempts to do this by taking away regional board discretion to issue waste discharge and MS4 permits in accordance with a larger basin plan in favor of a one size fits all approach to managing water quality. The legislation has been widely opposed. Supporters, the author and the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials (ESTM) Committee worked to try to find a path forward for the bill, but so far, the suggestions from the sponsor do not address the concerns of the opponents. The bill ultimately took some significant amendments to get out of ESTM.
- AB 1434 (Friedman) Urban water use objectives: indoor residential water use: This legislation would set the standard for indoor water use at 48 gallons per capita daily (GPCD) beginning in 2023, 44 GPCD in 2025 and 40 GPCD in 2030. A strong coalition including ACWA, CASA, WaterReuse, So Cal Water Coalition and the CA Water Association worked to meet with members of the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee to express significant concerns with the bill. The bill met some concerned committee members, with the bill passing only after a member changed his vote as a "courtesy" to the author. The bill is now in Appropriations Committee.
- SB 372 (Leyva) medium and heavy-duty fleet purchasing assistance program: zero emission vehicles. The bill, while still a work in progress, seeks to make financing tools available to help transition medium and heavy-duty truck fleets to zero emission vehicles. The bill currently fails to include off-road or construction equipment as eligible under the program, but the author and sponsor have been open to making some changes to include construction equipment.

IEUA BILLS—April 30, 2021 BILLS WITH POSITIONS

Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary	IEUA Position/ Bill Location	Positions Taken by Associations & Regional Agencies
AB 361	Asm R. Rivas	Open Meetings: Local Agencies: Teleconferences	Would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act when a legislative body of a local agency holds a meeting for the purpose of declaring or ratifying a local emergency, during a declared state or local emergency, as those terms are defined, when state or local health officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, and during a declared local emergency provided the legislative body makes certain determinations by majority vote.	Asm. Local Gov 5/5	
AB 377	Asm. R. Rivas/ CA Coastkeeper	Water quality: impaired waters	Would require all California surface waters to be fishable, swimmable, and drinkable by January 1, 2050, as prescribed. The bill would prohibit the state board and regional boards from authorizing an NPDES discharge, waste discharge requirement, or waiver of a waste discharge requirement that causes or contributes to an exceedance of a water quality standard, or from authorizing a best management practice permit term to authorize a discharge that causes or contributes to an exceedance of a water quality standard in receiving waters. The bill would prohibit, on or after January 1, 2030, a regional water quality control plan from including a schedule for implementation for achieving a water quality standard that was adopted as of January 1, 2021, and would prohibit a regional water quality control plan from including a schedule for implementation of a water quality standard that is adopted after January 1, 2021, unless specified conditions are met.	Oppose ASM Appr	Opposed by SAWPA, MWD, CASA, ACWA
AB 703	Rubio/ Three Valleys Municipal Water District	Open Meetings: Local Agencies: Teleconferences	Current law, by Executive Order N-29-20, suspends the Ralph M. Brown Act's requirements for teleconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic, provided that notice requirements are met, the ability		

			<p>of the public to observe and comment is preserved, as specified, and that a local agency permitting teleconferencing have a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, as specified. This bill would remove the requirements of the act particular to teleconferencing and allow for teleconferencing subject to existing provisions regarding the posting of notice of an agenda and the ability of the public to observe the meeting and provide public comment. The bill would require that, in each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the local agency also give notice of the means by which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment and that the legislative body have and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, as provided.</p>	ASM LOCAL GOV	
AB 818	Asm. Bloom/ CASA	Solid Waste: premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes	<p>Would require, except as provided, certain premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes manufactured on or after July 1, 2022, to be labeled clearly and conspicuously with the phrase “Do Not Flush” and a related symbol, as specified. The bill would prohibit a covered entity, as defined, from making a representation about the flushable attributes, benefits, performance, or efficacy of those premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes, as provided. The bill would establish enforcement provisions, including authorizing a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 per day, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per violation, to be imposed on a covered entity who violates those provisions.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>ASM APPR</p>	Supported by CASA, ACWA, MWD

AB 1434	Asm. Friedman	Urban water use objectives: Indoor water use	Would establish, beginning January 1, 2023, until January 1, 2025, the standard for indoor residential water use as 48 gallons per capita daily. The bill would establish, beginning January 1, 2025, the standard as 44 gallons per capita daily and, beginning January 1, 2030, 40 gallons per capita daily. The bill would eliminate the requirement that the department, in coordination with the state board, conduct necessary studies and investigations and jointly recommend to the Legislature a standard for indoor residential water use.	OPPOSE ASM APPR	OPPOSED by ACWA, CASA, WatReuse, CSDA
AB 1500	Asms. E. Garcia/Mullin	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022	Would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$6,700,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs.	SUPPORT IF AMENDED ASM APPR	
SB 45	Sen. Portantino	Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond act of 2022	Would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,510,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.	SUPPORT IF AMENDED SEN APPR	
SB 222	Sen. Dodd	Water Affordability Assistance Program	Would establish the Water Affordability Assistance Fund in the State Treasury to help provide water affordability assistance, for both drinking water and wastewater services, to low-income ratepayers and ratepayers experiencing economic hardship in California. The bill would make moneys in the fund available upon appropriation by the Legislature to the state board to provide, as part of the Water Affordability Assistance Program established by the	SEN APPR	Opposed by ACWA

SB 273	Sen. Hertzberg/ CASA	Water quality: municipal wastewater agencies	Would authorize a municipal wastewater agency, as defined, to enter into agreements with entities responsible for stormwater management for the purpose of managing stormwater and dry weather runoff, to acquire, construct, expand, operate, maintain, and provide facilities for specified purposes relating to managing stormwater and dry weather runoff, and to levy taxes, fees, and charges consistent with the municipal wastewater agency's existing authority in order to fund projects undertaken pursuant to the bill. The bill would require the exercise of any new authority granted under the bill to comply with the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000. To the extent this requirement would impose new duties on local agency formation commissions, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.	SUPPORT SEN EQ COMM	Supported by CASA, ACWA
SB 372	Sen Leyva/ NRDC	Medium and heavy-duty fleet purchasing assistance program: zero-emission vehicles	Would require an unspecified agency to establish a program to make financing tools and nonfinancial supports available to the operators of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets to enable those operators to transition their fleets to zero-emission vehicles. The bill would require the agency to consult with various state agencies and stakeholders in the development and implementation of the program.	SEN APPR	

INFORMATION
ITEM
2D



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES, LLC

Date: April 30, 2021
To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency
From: John Withers, Jim Brulte
Re: California Strategies, LLC April 2021 Activity Report

- 1) This month Jim Brulte and John Withers participated in a senior staff meeting via Microsoft Teams on April 21 due to the Coronavirus.
- 2) Topics of discussion included:
 - a) Regional Relations
 - i) A general discussion with staff about various stakeholders and customers.
 - ii) A brief discussion related to Census and Redistricting was held and prospective consultants were discussed including Redistricting Partners.
 - b) CBP/WSIP
 - i) Discussion was held regarding the WSIP and the IEUA March 17th Board discussion.
 - c) Regional Contract
 - i) Recent Committee meetings and activities were discussed and reviewed with the outstanding issues of governance and reclaimed water noted.
 - d) MEU Rate
 - i) A discussion was held on the status and issues associated with this rate.
 - e) IEUA Outreach
 - i) Ontario Councilwoman Dorst-Porada and Utility GM Burton are scheduled to tour several facilities next week.

INFORMATION
ITEM
2E

Date: May 19, 2021

To: The Honorable Board of Directors

SD
From: Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

Committee: Community & Legislative Affairs

05/12/21

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

Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

Executive Summary:

Staff will be recognizing Water Awareness Month during the month of May by publishing multiple social media outreach messaging across all channels including a weekly Kahoot quiz for participants to be eligible to win water-saving giveaways.

The Agency successfully concluded a week-long virtual Earth Day event, in partnership with the city of Chino. The event was hosted on a virtual, 360-degree immersive platform that was accessible throughout Earth Week from April 18-24. Visitors had the opportunity to virtually explore the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park as they participated in educational activities, navigated through resources provided by external vendors, learned more information about IEUA and its member agencies, participated in giveaways, and more. Over 500 students participated in a virtual Earth Day field trip during this week. Staff promoted the event, which received over 500 views and 200 interactions total across all posts. Outreach also included features through local chambers, KFON TV, CSDA, MWD member agencies, IEUA member agencies, publications, and more. This year's virtual Earth Day reached over 1,500 participants and the platform received 8,224 total page views.

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

May

- May, Water Awareness Month
- May, Internal Audit Awareness Month
- May 2-8, Drinking Water Week
- May 2-8, International Compost Awareness Week
- May 2-8, Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 16-22, Special Districts Week

Media and Outreach

- Staff will be recognizing Water Awareness Month during the month of May by publishing multiple social media outreach messaging across all channels including a weekly Kahoot quiz for participants to be eligible to win water-saving giveaways.
- Staff recognized Records and Information Management Month, Administrative Professionals Day and World Laboratory Day on social media by highlighting the important role IEUA's Records, Administrative and Laboratory staff play in ensuring the success of everyday operations at the Agency.
- Staff promoted the Agency's first virtual Earth Day celebration, which received over 500 views and 200 interactions total across all posts. Outreach also included features through local chambers, KFON TV, CSDA, MWD member agencies, IEUA member agencies, publications, and more. The event had over 1,500 participants and over 8,200 page views for the week.
- Environmental Education Week was recognized from April 19-23. Staff shared a reminder of the Agency's free education programs and resources offered through Owlle's Virtual Adventures.
- Staff celebrated California Native Plant Week by sharing a native plant guide on social media.
- National Prescription Drug Take Back Day was recognized on April 24. Agency staff issued a press release highlighting resources such as nearby drop off locations and the importance of properly disposing unused medication.
- The Agency continues to publish content on LinkedIn and has gained 27 followers since March 2021, with 357 page views in the last 30 days.
- April: 27 posts were published to the IEUA Facebook page, 26 tweets were sent on the @IEUAWater Twitter handle, 27 posts were published to IEUA's Instagram grid, and 13 posts were published to the IEUA LinkedIn page.
 - The top three Facebook posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of April were:
 - 4/21 Administrative Professionals Day
 - 4/22 2021 Water is Life Student Art Poster Contest Winners
 - 4/27 Administrative Assistant II Hiring

- The top three Twitter tweets, based on reach and engagement, in the month of April were:
 - 4/5 Virtual Earth Day Promotional Video
 - 4/23 Virtual Earth Day Video Snippet
 - 4/12 Virtual Earth Day Flyer
 - The top three Instagram posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of April were:
 - 4/20 Business Systems Analyst I-II (DOQ) and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator (Grade OIT – V, DOQ) Hiring
 - 4/1 Records and Information Management Month
 - 4/22 Virtual Earth Day Giveaway Promotion
 - The top three LinkedIn posts, based on impressions and reactions, in the month of April were:
 - 4/26 Councilmember Debra Dorst-Porada Tour of Regional Water Recycling Plants No. 1 and No. 5
 - 4/19 Women in Water- Inland Empire Virtual Event Promotion
 - 4/15 Virtual Earth Day Promotion- External Affairs Department Highlight
- An Earth Day banner ad ran from April 15 through April 24 in *La Opinion*.
 - An Earth Day banner ad ran from April 15 through April 24 in *Fontana Herald News*.
 - A water-wise education Earth Day ad ran on April 22 in *La Opinion*.
 - An Earth Day and water-wise education spadea ran on April 17 in the *Daily Bulletin* to promote IEUA's virtual Earth week activities.

For the month of April, there were 16,797 searches for a park in IEUA's service area on Yelp, where Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park was viewed 1,145 times on a mobile device.

Education and Outreach Updates

- The Agency successfully concluded a week-long virtual Earth Day event, in partnership with the city of Chino. The event was hosted on a virtual, 360-degree immersive platform that was accessible throughout Earth Week from April 18-24. Visitors had the opportunity to virtually explore the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park as they participated in educational activities, navigated through resources provided by external vendors, learned more information about IEUA and its member agencies, participated in giveaways, and more. Over 500 students participated in a virtual Earth Day field trip during this week. This year's virtual Earth Day reached over 1,500 participants and the platform received 8,224 total page views.
- The Garden in Every School® program is moving forward with the completion of a water-wise garden at St. Joseph School (Upland). CBWCD has installed a permanent sign in the garden informing students, staff and visitors about the program and funding sources. Randall Pepper Elementary School (Fontana) and Loving Savior of the Hills (Chino Hills) remain on hold.
- Solar Cup 2021 is well underway. Chino Hills High School has completed a total of three challenges including Blender/OnShape, Green Careers and Robotics. Students are currently working on the Public Service Challenge and Electronic Challenge. A new Solar Vehicle Challenge has been incorporated which requires students to assemble a solar vehicle model and at the end of the program, MWD will view the vehicles in race

mode to see which vehicle performs the best. MWD is planning to schedule a date in May to hold a ZOOM end of year celebration.

Agency-Wide Membership Updates

- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Air Quality Committee Meeting on March 9.
- Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/AGM, attended the NWRI Board of Directors Meeting on March 9.
- Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/AGM, attended the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Collection Committee Meeting on March 11.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Water Regulatory Working Group Committee Meeting on March 18.
- Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/AGM, attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Federal Water Issue Series on March 25.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Air Quality, Climate Change, and Energy Workgroup Meeting on March 25.