



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

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 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 RESOLUTION NO. 2021-10-1, ADOPTED BY THE IEUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON OCTOBER 6, 2021, IEUA BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONDUCTED THROUGH TELECONFERENCE. IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC LOCATION AVAILABLE FOR ATTENDING THE MEETING IN PERSON.

The public may participate and provide public comment during the meeting by dialing into the number provided above. Comments may also be submitted by email to the Board Secretary/Office Manager Denise Garzaro at [dgarzaro@ieua.org](mailto:dgarzaro@ieua.org) prior to the completion of the Public Comment section of the meeting. Comments will be distributed to the Board of Directors.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public may address the Board on any item that is within the jurisdiction of the Board; however, no action may be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by Subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2 of the Government Code. Those persons wishing to address the Board on any matter, whether or not it appears on the agenda, are requested to email the Board Secretary/Office Manager no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time or address the Board during the public comments section of the meeting. Comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker. Thank you.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

In accordance with Section 54954.2 of the Government Code (Brown Act), additions to the agenda require two-thirds vote of the legislative body, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted.

**1. ACTION ITEM**

**A. MINUTES**

Approve Minutes of the September 8, 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. INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING UPDATES (ORAL)**

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

**RECEIVE AND FILE INFORMATION ITEM**

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

**3. GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

**4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

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

**ADJOURN**

**DECLARATION OF POSTING**

I, Denise Garzaro, CMC, Board Secretary/Office Manager of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency\*, a Municipal Water District, hereby certify that, per Government Code Section 54954.2, a copy of this agenda has been posted at the Agency's main office, 6075 Kimball Avenue, Building A, Chino, CA and on the Agency's website at [www.ieua.org](http://www.ieua.org) at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting date and time above.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Board Secretary at (909) 993-1736 or [dgarzaro@ieua.org](mailto:dgarzaro@ieua.org), 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting so that IEUA can make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

**ACTION  
ITEM  
1A**



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

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021  
9:00 A.M.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT via Video/Teleconference**

Jasmin A. Hall, Chair  
Steven J. Elie

**STAFF PRESENT**

Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager  
Christiana Daisy, Deputy General Manager  
Mike Baker, Network Administrator  
Denise Garzaro, Board Secretary/Office Manager  
Nolan King, Network Administrator

**STAFF PRESENT via Video/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  
Don Hamlett, Acting Deputy Manager of Integrated System Services  
Jennifer Hy-Luk, Acting Executive Assistant  
Jesse Pompa, Manager of Grants  
Sushmitha Reddy, Manager of Laboratories  
Wilson To, Technology Specialist II  
Teresa Velarde, Manager of Internal Audit  
Jeff Ziegenbein, Manager of Regional Compost Operations

**OTHERS PRESENT via Video/Teleconference**

Jean Denton, Innovative Federal Strategies  
Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors  
Sarah Persichetti, Innovative Federal Strategies  
Drew Tatum, 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. ACTION ITEM**

The Committee:

- ◆ Approved Minutes of the July 14, 2021 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.

### **2A – 2D. 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
- ◆ California Strategies Monthly Report
- ◆ Public Outreach and Communication

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

General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh stated that a meet and greet with MWD General Manager Adel Hagekhalil is scheduled for Friday, September 10, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. outdoors at IEUA headquarters. An invitation was sent to Boards and City Councils as well as General Managers and City Managers from member agencies and other regional stakeholders.

### **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 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Garzaro  
Board Secretary/Office Manager

\*A Municipal Water District

**APPROVED: OCTOBER 13, 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:** October 1, 2021

**Re:** September Monthly Legislative Update

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### **Congress Passes Continuing Resolution to Keep Government Open**

Lawmakers in the House and Senate came to an agreement on a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government past the end of the fiscal year on September 30. Both chambers passed the legislation on the 30<sup>th</sup> and sent it to President Biden who signed the legislation with hours to spare before the end of the fiscal year when government funding was set to expire.

The CR funds the government until December 3, as well as provides \$6.3 billion for Afghan refugee resettlement and \$28.6 billion for disaster relief. Senate Democrats stripped language from the bill that would suspend the debt ceiling through 2022, which was in the bill when it passed the House.

"There's so much more to do. But the passage of this bill reminds us that bipartisan work is possible and it gives us time to pass longer-term funding to keep our government running and delivering for the American people," President Biden said after signing the bill.

Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said on Wednesday, September 29 that the Senate had reached a deal to vote Thursday on a short-term government funding bill to avoid a shutdown.

The Senate spent much of Wednesday haggling behind the scenes over the government funding bill — amid a push by Republicans for votes related to adding money for Israel's Iron Dome defense system and changing a provision on Afghan refugees — Senators and aides downplayed the chance that any last-minute drama would derail the Continuing Resolution

Despite the debate in the Senate, the chamber passed the CR on Thursday by a vote of 65-35, and sent it back to the House where it passed later on Thursday afternoon by a vote of 254-175.

The passage of the CR in the Senate follows a failed vote on Monday, September 27 in the Senate on the previously passed House CR that contained the debt ceiling provisions.

Senate Minority Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has said that he and his conference were prepared to support a "clean CR" that did not contain the debt ceiling provision.

Faced with the prospect of a government shutdown amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Democrats ultimately opted to detach the debt limit suspension from the government funding bill.

The House originally passed the Continuing Resolution on Tuesday, September 21 by a party-line vote of 220-211. The main holdup on the legislation in the Senate had been the debt-limit ceiling.

### **House Votes on Debt Limit**

The House voted Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> on stand-alone legislation to suspend the country's debt limit, as tensions run high on both sides of the aisle with less than a month to go until the nation is expected to default on its debt.

The debt limit was reinstated on August 1, and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said that Congress has until October 18 to raise or suspend the debt limit before the nation is expected to default on the national debt.

Two Democrats and one Republican crossed their parties during Wednesday's vote.

Representative Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and Jared Golden (D-ME) bucked party lines on Wednesday afternoon when they joined Republicans in voting "no" on legislation to suspend the nation's debt limit.

And on the opposite side of the aisle, Representative Adam Kinzinger (D-IL) was the only Republican to vote to send the measure to the Senate.

The legislation, which advanced by a razor-thin 219-212 vote, also faces shaky odds in the Senate, as GOP leadership has urged its members to tank the measure in the upper chamber.

Republican leadership has been calling on their members to vote against raising the debt ceiling amid a high-stakes standoff with Democrats. The push by Republicans comes in opposition to a multitrillion-dollar social safety net package the party aims to pass using reconciliation, a procedure that will allow them to bypass the Senate GOP filibuster.

Republicans want Democrats to address the debt limit themselves by using that same process. But disagreements remain between party leaders over how much time the maneuver could take ahead of the looming deadline, and Democratic leaders have called it a non-starter. Additionally, using the reconciliation process.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has stated that the Senate will take action on the House-passed bill during the week of October 4. The Senate procedurally moved to the legislation before the end of September, and a cloture vote on the underlying bill will likely occur early the week of October 4.



### **Congress Debates Infrastructure, Reconciliation as Disagreements Remain**

Late on Thursday, September 30, House Democratic leaders postponed a vote yet again on the bipartisan infrastructure bill amid threats from progressives to tank it as leverage for a separate, larger package to expand social safety net programs.

After a long day of meetings between Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and the warring centrist and progressive factions of the caucus, as well as with White House staff, Democrats opted to delay a vote planned for Thursday rather than allow it to fail on the House floor.

A notice from House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer's (D-MD) office issued shortly before 11 p.m. Thursday confirmed that there would be no further votes for the night.

"I don't see a deal tonight. I really don't," Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) said as he left the meeting with top White House staff in the Capitol basement shortly before 10 p.m.

Senator Manchin maintained that he's still pushing for a top-line spending figure of \$1.5 trillion for the social benefit package — less than half the current \$3.5 trillion.

"We're in good-faith negotiations," Senator Manchin said.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said after House leadership pulled the bill that Democrats "are closer to an agreement than ever."

"But we are not there yet, and so, we will need some additional time to finish the work, starting tomorrow morning first thing," she added.

During the week of September 20, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced that the House hoped to vote on both the bipartisan infrastructure bill as well as the proposed \$3.5 trillion package during the week of September 27.

Speaker Pelosi announced that the House would vote on Thursday, September 30 on the Senate-passed bipartisan infrastructure bill, pushing back the originally planned vote for Monday, September 27 that she had promised centrist members earlier in the month.

The House debated the bipartisan bill early in the week, however without an agreement on a framework for a larger reconciliation package, Democrats did not have enough votes from the progressive members of their party to pass the bipartisan bill.

Progressives worry that if they help pass the bipartisan bill before the reconciliation framework is agreed upon, centrists won't help them pass the reconciliation bill packed with progressive priorities.

September 30 was also the deadline for surface transportation programs that were set to expire.

Faced with the possibility that the bipartisan infrastructure deal does not get through the House before the end of the day on the 30, Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Chairman of the

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House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee said on Wednesday, September 29 that the expiring highway and transit programs will not be left to lapse in any event.

“We will have a plan B if we need a plan B. Right now, I'm not intending to have a plan B,” DeFazio said.

“One way or another, we will take care of it, either through passing the [bipartisan infrastructure bill] or if necessary some other form. But there's no way we're going to let it shut down and cause that kind of disruption,” he said.

The House Budget Committee on September 24 released the text of Biden's Build Back Better plan — a massive, 2,500-page proposal that reflects the work of 13 separate House committees. The next day, the Budget Committee passed the bill out of committee, setting it up for potential floor consideration this week.

The Democratic-led committee passed the package in a 20-17 vote on Saturday afternoon, piecing together the chunks of legislation approved by 13 House committees earlier this month that make up the spending plan.

As a reminder, below is a topline summary of what is included in / proposed for the two “infrastructure packages” moving through the House the last week of September.

*Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act:* Also referred to as the bipartisan infrastructure deal/framework. Total cost of the legislation is roughly \$1.2 trillion. This legislation includes the 5-year reauthorization of the highway trust fund. The legislation—which its sponsors say would increase spending on infrastructure by \$550 billion over five years—would extend highway, safety, transit, rail, pipeline, and research programs that are typically included in five-year surface transportation reauthorizations. It also includes provisions to address climate change, codify parts of a Trump-era policy on environmental reviews, impose domestic content requirements, authorize programs to enhance the electric grid and replace lead pipes, and appropriate \$445.9 billion in emergency funds. The legislation passed the Senate on August 10, 2021 and awaits further action in the House.

*Build Back Better Act:* Also referred to as the reconciliation package. Total cost of the legislation, as proposed by the House based on the Concurrent Budget Resolution is roughly \$3.5 trillion. This legislation, which is designed to pass with Democratic votes only, proposed to make the “transformative investments at the scale necessary to meet the needs of the American people.” Democrats have included provisions related to fighting climate change, reducing the cost of childcare, providing home health care, expanding Medicare, creating a nationwide paid family leave program, and providing universal pre-K and free community college. *Please see below for highlights of measures approved by committees earlier in September.*

### **EPA to Propose First-Ever ‘Forever Chemical’ Discharge Limits**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on Wednesday, September 8 that it will propose a rule to set the first-ever limits on the amount of chemicals called PFAS can be discharged.

In a new plan released on the 8th, the agency affirmed that it would propose a rule setting limits for PFAS wastewater discharges from facilities that manufacture the substances, as well as from chromium electroplating facilities.

“This plan illustrates one way that EPA is following science to better protect public health and the environment,” Assistant Administrator for Water Radhika Fox said in a statement on the plan. “Importantly and for the first time, EPA is committing to limit PFAS in wastewater discharges,” he added.

The plan outlines several rules the agency will propose.

This is not the first time the agency has indicated that it could regulate PFAS discharges. The EPA indicated in March that it could take action, calling it a “potential future rulemaking.”

But the new report indicates that “EPA has determined that the development of effluent guidelines and standards for PFAS manufacturers is warranted.”

The plan also says that the agency revised rules surrounding discharges of other pollutants from facilities that slaughter or process meat and poultry that were last updated in 2004.

Representative Chris Pappas (D-NH), whose state has been hit hard by PFAS contamination, hailed the EPA’s action as “long overdue but welcome news.” He is the sponsor of a bill (H.R. 3622) that would regulate the chemicals under the Clean Water Act.

“We need additional protections to safeguard the environment and public health, and the EPA should expand these regulations to other known industries that are actively discharging these forever chemicals,” Pappas said.

### **Interior Announces BLM Headquarters Move Back to DC**

The Interior Department will restore the Washington, D.C., headquarters for the Bureau of Land Management, which was moved to Colorado during the Trump administration, while maintaining the Colorado office as its “Western headquarters.”

The department announced its decision on the controversial move in a statement on Friday, September 17.

The Trump administration shifted its headquarters from Washington to Grand Junction, CO, in what critics saw as an attempt to drive out career officials. The Trump administration had argued that it was putting officials closer to the land that they managed.

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The move was initially announced in 2019 and completed last year.

Data released by the Biden administration earlier this year indicated that more than 87 percent of the agency's employees based in D.C. left the agency after the Trump administration's announcement that it would relocate the office.

Just 41 agreed to move while 287 either retired or left the agency by the end of last year.

The department said Friday that just three people moved to Grand Junction.

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said in a statement that it was important for the bureau to have a D.C. presence but also said that its presence in Colorado would "continue to grow."

"There's no doubt that the BLM should have a leadership presence in Washington, D.C. – like all the other land management agencies – to ensure that it has access to the policy-, budget-, and decision-making levers to best carry out its mission," Secretary Haaland said.

"The past several years have been incredibly disruptive to the organization, to our public servants, and to their families. As we move forward, my priority is to revitalize and rebuild the BLM so that it can meet the pressing challenges of our time, and to look out for our employees' well-being," she added.

According to the department, the bureau director and other "key leadership positions" will be in the Washington headquarters, while "additional senior personnel" would work out West.

The announcement did not provide specifics as to who fell into each category, but said that except for "core leadership positions," it does not plan to require any employees to relocate.

The Biden administration argued on Friday that the Trump administration's decision "led to a significant loss of institutional memory and talent."

The politics of the decision don't fall neatly along party lines, as some Colorado Democrats favored the move out West. One of them, Senator Michael Bennet, had a mixed reaction to the news on Friday.

"While I am disappointed that the national headquarters will be in Washington, I believe establishing and growing a permanent BLM Western Headquarters in Grand Junction should be a very positive development," he said in a statement.

"In the coming months, I will hold the Administration accountable to ensure that the BLM Western Headquarters is permanent, fully staffed, and informed by the voices of the Rocky Mountain West — after the last administration failed to deliver on that promise," he added.

Many Republicans, meanwhile, blasted the decision.

"The Biden administration's answer for everything is to double the size of government," said Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) in a statement.

"The Bureau of Land Management doesn't need two headquarters," added Senator Barrasso, who's the top Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. "The single headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management belongs in the West, closer to the resources it manages and the people it serves."

### **EPA Rescinds Trump-era Guidance on Exceptions to Water Pollution Protections**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is rescinding Trump-era guidance that established exceptions to certain water pollution protections.

The EPA announced during the week of September 13 that it was nixing the January 14 guidance, which established exceptions to which types of facilities would require agency permits to discharge pollutants in accordance with a Supreme Court ruling.

Last year, the Supreme Court ruled that a permit is required not only for direct discharges of pollutants into federally regulated waters but also for discharges into groundwater that are the "functional equivalent" because they eventually also make their way into regulated waters.

Following that decision, the EPA under then-President Trump issued the now-rescinded guidance stating that if the pollution became diluted or otherwise changed between when it was discharged and when it reached the regulated water, it may not require a permit.

It also said that facilities are "less likely" to require permits if they're designed in a way that mitigates their discharges.

In a memo getting rid of the guidance, the Biden administration argued that it had been issued "without proper deliberation" and because the part of the guidance relating to facility design is not "reflected in or consistent with" the Supreme Court ruling.

The document, written by Radhika Fox, who leads the agency's Office of Water, said that the EPA was evaluating its next steps and that the agency will make site-specific decisions on whether relevant discharges need permits.

In December, when it released a draft of the guidance, the Trump administration argued that its decision would help industry understand when they need permits.

But critics said at the time that it could end up leaving out facilities that ultimately pollute protected waters.

### **Administration to Require COVID-19 Vaccines, Tests for Millions of Private Workers**

On Thursday, September 9, President Joe Biden announced a new rule to require all private employers with 100 or more employees to mandate vaccines or weekly testing.

A senior administration official said the rule will be issued from the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration "in the coming weeks," and the implementation timeline will likely mirror the roughly 90 day window other private sector employers, like Tyson Foods and United Airlines, have required.

The requirement could impact nearly 80 million workers, the administration official said, and if a business fails to comply with the rule they could face fines up to \$14,000 per violation.

The new national strategy, dubbed "Path Out of the Pandemic," represents a redoubling of the administration's efforts to combat the threat of the delta variant of the coronavirus.

Biden is also dramatically expanding vaccination requirements for health workers. Last month, the administration said it would require all staff at about 15,000 nursing homes to be vaccinated to receive Medicare and Medicaid funding, a move that would affect about 1.3 million employees. The rule is expected to be issued later this month.

### **Reconciliation Package Highlights**

The House Budget Committee on Friday, September 24 released the text of President Biden's Build Back Better plan—a massive, 2,500-page proposal that reflects the work of 13 separate House committees. On Saturday, September 25, the Budget Committee passed the bill out of committee, setting it up for potential floor consideration.

Below are highlights of the approved measures.

#### Ways and Means (Target: \$1 billion reduction)

The budget resolution directed the Ways and Means Committee to reduce the deficit by \$1 billion over 10 years, a “nominal” amount intended to give the panel flexibility to draft its legislation, including offsets for the reconciliation package.

The measure covers taxes, health care, drug pricing, paid leave, infrastructure financing, community development, retirement, child care, and trade.

**Tax Increases:** The Ways and Means package includes sweeping tax changes to raise revenue for other portions of the package, including:

- Raising the top marginal personal income tax rate to 39.6%, from 37%, for individuals making more than \$400,000 and joint filers making more than \$450,000. A 3% surtax also would be imposed on individuals with adjusted gross incomes of more than \$5 million.
- Increasing the capital gains tax rate to 25% from 20% for “certain high-income individuals.”

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- Replacing the flat 21% corporate income tax rate with graduated rates: 18% on the first \$400,000 of income, 21% on income up to \$5 million, increasing to 26.5% for income after that.
- Generally requiring investment funds to hold assets for more than five years, rather than three years, for managers to get a preferential tax rate on their share of profits, known as carried interest.
- Reinstating a 16.4 cents-per-gallon tax on crude oil and imported petroleum products to fund Superfund cleanups of hazardous sites. It also would double the tax rate on sales of certain chemicals.
- Barring taxpayers from claiming losses on digital assets, such as cryptocurrencies.
- Increasing the current rate of excise taxes on cigarettes, small cigars, and roll-your-own tobacco, as well as on nicotine that's been extracted, concentrated, or synthesized in tobacco products.
- Providing \$78.9 billion in additional funding for the Internal Revenue Service to increase audits on wealthy individuals.

Tax Credits: Other tax provisions in the measure are designed to aid certain households and industries, such as:

- Extending an expanded version of the child tax credit through 2025 and making it permanently refundable.
- Making permanent expanded versions of the earned income tax credit for childless workers and the child and dependent care credit under the American Rescue Plan Act, Public Law 117-2.
- Making permanent the expanded availability under ARPA of the Affordable Care Act's premium tax credits for health insurance purchased through the exchanges. It also would allow individuals who receive unemployment benefits to receive premium-free insurance plans through 2025.
- Temporarily expanding the ACA tax credits to individuals with income below 100% of the federal poverty level, and providing enhanced cost-sharing subsidies to those below 138% of the federal poverty level, until a federal Medicaid program is established in 2025 (see below).
- Creating a refundable income tax credit for union-made electric vehicles placed into service before Jan. 1, 2027, and extending several tax credits related to renewable energy production, including the production and investment credits.

Drug Pricing: The measure would create a "Fair Price Negotiation Program" for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to negotiate the price of 250 covered drugs and insulin. Prices couldn't exceed 1.2 times the average price of the drug in six other countries. They would also be available to private insurance plans.

Drugmakers that don't negotiate successfully would face an excise tax of as much as 95%. Those that charge more than the negotiated maximum price would pay as much as ten times the difference in prices.

The measure would also:



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- Require drugmakers to repay the government their profits if they raise the price of a drug above inflation.
- Cap the cost of prescription drugs under Medicare Part D for beneficiaries.
- Block the drug rebate rule published under former President Donald Trump in November 2020.

**Medicare Coverage:** The measure would expand Medicare coverage to include dental benefits beginning in 2028, hearing benefits beginning in 2023, and vision benefits beginning in 2022. For dental benefits, Medicare would cover 50% of the cost of major treatments and 80% of the cost of preventive services. Hearing coverage wouldn't include over-the-counter hearing aids.

**Reinsurance Program:** The measure would provide \$10 billion annually for a fund to provide reinsurance payments to insurers operating in marketplace exchanges and assistance to individuals to reduce out-of-pocket costs.

**Paid Leave:** The measure would provide up to 12 weeks of paid leave for eligible workers for the birth or adoption of a child, a personal health condition, caregiving for a family member, circumstances related to a family member's deployment, and bereavement. Benefits would be administered by the Treasury Department and would begin in July 2023.

**Infrastructure & Community Development:** The measure includes several tax changes related to infrastructure financing and community development, such as:

- Allowing state and local governments that issue qualified infrastructure bonds to receive a tax credit for a portion of the interest they pay, similar to Build America Bonds under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Public Law 111-5). The credit would be 35% of interest paid for bonds issued from 2022 through 2024, phasing down to 28% for bonds issued in 2027 and later years.
- Restoring a tax exemption for interest on advance refunding bonds, which was repealed by the 2017 tax overhaul (Public Law 115-97). State and local governments used those bonds to refinance their debt and access lower interest rates.
- Establishing a 30% tax credit for state, local, and tribal governments to operate and maintain government-owned broadband systems.
- Making permanent and expanding the New Markets Tax Credit, offered to taxpayers that invest in lower-income communities.
- Establishing a 30% tax credit for individuals and businesses that participate in a qualified wildfire resilience program.
- Increasing state Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) allocations.
- Establishing a neighborhood homes credit for rehabilitating homes in certain lower-income areas.

**Child Care:** The measure would provide:

- \$15 billion in state grants to help providers improve child care facilities.
- Such sums as necessary for grants to supplement the wages of qualified child care providers.



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**Retirement:** The measure would require employers with more than five workers to automatically enroll new hires for retirement benefits. Employees could choose to opt out of the savings plan or modify contributions. Employers would be subject to an excise tax of \$10 per day for each employee who isn't covered by an automatic retirement plan.

**Trade:** The measure would reauthorize Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) programs for seven years and provide \$3.4 billion annually for those programs, including \$1 billion annually through fiscal 2026 for new grants to help communities affected by global trade.

### Education and Labor (Target: \$779.5 billion)

The measure includes provisions on education, child care, labor, and child nutrition programs.

**Education:** The measure would provide roughly \$111 billion for higher education, including by:

- Providing two years of free community college through grants to states and eligible tribal colleges and universities. The federal share of costs would start at 100% in the first year and decrease to 80% by the 2027-2028 award year.
- Increasing the maximum Pell grant by \$500.
- Allocating \$9 billion for retention and completion grants to states and tribal colleges and universities to support students.
- Providing additional support to historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions.

It also would provide \$82 billion to rebuild public elementary and secondary schools that have fallen into disrepair. That would include \$40.9 billion for grants for school districts to construct or repair facilities, improve energy efficiency, and reduce health and safety hazards.

**Child Care:** The measure would provide \$450 billion for child care and early childhood education, including by:

- Capping child care costs at a maximum of 7% of family income, using a sliding scale that would apply to all income levels. It would provide \$90 billion over the first three years and then such sums as may be necessary for the next three years.
- Requiring child care providers that receive federal assistance to provide at least a living wage to staff.
- Providing free preschool to all three- and four-year-olds. States would submit plans to participate and receive federal funding, which would start at 100% in the first three years and decrease to 60% by fiscal 2028.

**Labor:** The measure would provide:

- About \$80 billion for workforce development and training programs.
- Impose increased civil penalties for employers who violate labor laws.

**Child Nutrition:** The measure would provide almost \$35 billion for child nutrition programs and other activities to address child hunger, including:

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- Expanding eligibility for free school meals, among other changes that would increase the number of children receiving them by almost 9 million, according to a fact sheet from the House Education and Labor Committee.
- Appropriating such sums as may be necessary for a Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) for Children program, which would sunset in 2029. The program would provide children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals with \$75 per month in food benefits when school is out of session for the summer.

### Energy and Commerce (Target \$486.5 billion)

The measure includes language related to health care, energy and environmental matters, telecommunications, and manufacturing. The panel didn't agree to drug pricing provisions, similar to what's in the Ways and Means package, in a tie vote with three Democrats joining Republicans in opposition.

**Medicaid:** The measure would close the Medicaid coverage gap for lower-income individuals in states that didn't expand the program under the Affordable Care Act by:

- Temporarily expanding the ACA's premium tax credits to individuals below 100% of the federal poverty line and providing further cost-sharing subsidies.
- Creating a federal Medicaid program, operated by third-party entities, for nonexpansion states beginning in 2025 to cover those individuals.

**Reinsurance Program:** The measure would provide \$10 billion annually for a fund to provide reinsurance payments to insurers operating in marketplace exchanges and assistance to individuals to reduce out-of-pocket costs.

**Medicare Coverage:** The measure would expand Medicare coverage to provide dental benefits beginning in 2028, hearing benefits beginning in 2023, and vision benefits beginning in 2022.

**CHIP:** The measure would make the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) permanent and appropriate "such sums as are necessary" for it. It also would allow states to increase the income level needed for families to participate in CHIP and require states to provide one year of continuous eligibility for children enrolled in CHIP.

**Other Health Programs:** The measure would provide:

- \$35 billion for public health infrastructure, including \$10 billion for hospital infrastructure projects and \$10 billion for community health center grants.
- \$15 billion for pandemic preparedness, including \$1.25 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to strengthen vaccine confidence.
- \$3 billion to establish the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) to invest in breakthrough technology and advancements in medicine.

**Energy and Environment:** Funding for clean energy and environmental initiatives would include:

- \$150 billion for a Clean Electricity Performance Program that would charge or pay electric utilities based on the share of clean energy they supply to consumers. Utilities

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would be eligible for grants if they increase the share of clean energy in their portfolios by at least four percentage points each year. Utilities that don't meet that benchmark would pay a fee.

- \$30 billion to replace every lead water service line in the U.S.
- \$27.5 billion to support nonfederal financing of zero-emission technology deployment.
- \$18 billion to support home energy efficiency and appliance electrification rebates.
- \$17.5 billion to decarbonize federal buildings and vehicle fleets.
- \$13.5 billion for electrical vehicle charging infrastructure.
- \$10 billion for cleanup activities at priority Superfund sites where federal agencies are the responsible parties.
- \$9 billion to improve the reliability and resiliency of the electric grid.
- \$5 billion for grants to replace school buses, garbage trucks, and other heavy-duty vehicles with zero-emission vehicles.

The measure would establish a fee on methane emissions from the oil and gas industry, the proceeds of which would be used to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at oil and gas operations.

Communications: The measure would provide:

- \$10 billion to implement Next Generation 911 services that facilitate sending text messages, photos, and videos to emergency responders.
- \$4 billion for the Emergency Connectivity Fund, established under Public Law 117-2, to supply students, teachers, and others with internet-connected devices.
- \$1 billion to the Federal Trade Commission to establish a new bureau focused on data privacy and identity theft.

It also would direct the Federal Communications Commission to auction 200 megahertz of spectrum to offset the cost of other provisions.

Manufacturing: The measure would provide \$10 billion for efforts to strengthen and diversify critical manufacturing supply chains that affect interstate commerce.

### Financial Services (Target: \$339 billion)

Housing: The measure would provide:

- \$77.3 billion for formula and needs-based public housing programs.
- \$75 billion for incremental Housing Choice Vouchers and support services, including for individuals at risk of homelessness and for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- \$36.8 billion for the Housing Trust Fund and \$34.8 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program to fund the construction of affordable housing for low-income people.
- \$15 billion for project-based rental assistance.
- \$10 billion to offer down payment assistance to first-generation homebuyers.

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- \$10 billion to address lead paint and other health hazards in housing for low-income families.
- \$10 billion for a new Housing Investment Fund to leverage private-sector investments to create and preserve affordable homes.

Flood Insurance: The measure would wipe out \$20.5 billion in debt owed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for money it borrowed to pay claims through the National Flood Insurance Program. It also would provide \$3 billion for flood mapping and \$1 billion for FEMA to offer flood insurance discounts to low-income policyholders.

### Judiciary (Target: \$107.5 billion)

Immigration: The measure would make green cards and a pathway to citizenship available to Dreamers who were brought to the U.S. as children and reside here illegally, essential workers, and holders of Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Enforced Departure.

It also would roll over green cards from year to year, allowing for additional visas to be issued following years when the numerical caps aren't reached—as happened during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Other Programs: The measure also would provide:

- \$2.8 billion to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to address visa processing backlogs.
- \$2.5 billion to the Justice Department for grants and contracts to support community violence reduction programs.

### Agriculture (Target: \$89.1 billion)

The measure would provide:

- \$40 billion for forestry programs, including \$9 billion for forest restoration and resilience grants and \$4.5 billion for the Agriculture Department's portion of a Civilian Climate Corps.
- \$18.7 billion for rural development programs, including \$9.7 billion for green upgrades to rural utilities.
- \$7.75 billion for agricultural research.

House Agriculture Chair David Scott (D-GA) said he'd work to add \$28 billion in aid to farmers and ranchers related to climate and conservation before the House votes on the full package, Bloomberg Government reported.

### Transportation and Infrastructure (Target: \$60 billion)

The measure would provide funding for a variety of transportation projects, including:

- \$10 billion for high-speed rail corridors.
- \$9.9 billion for new transit routes and expanded services in low-income and disadvantaged areas.

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- \$6 billion for unspecified local surface transportation priorities.
- \$5.5 billion for the Economic Development Administration, including to develop regional economic growth clusters.
- \$4 billion to reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions.

### Science, Space, and Technology (Target: \$45.5 billion)

The measure's funding for science and technology programs would include:

- \$15.6 billion for Energy Department laboratory infrastructure; research, development, and demonstration activities; nuclear energy projects; and energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.
- \$11 billion for National Science Foundation research infrastructure and STEM research awards, scholarships, and fellowships, including \$1 billion for minority serving institutions.
- \$4.4 billion for NASA infrastructure modernization efforts and climate change research and development activities.
- \$4.3 billion for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather, ocean, and climate research, in addition to instrument and spacecraft delivery development and delivery.
- \$4.2 billion for National Institute of Standards and Technology facility construction and renovation and advanced manufacturing research.

### Natural Resources (Target: \$25.6 billion)

The measure would provide around \$31 billion over a decade for climate resilience, conservation, and other environmental initiatives. That total would be partially offset by increased fees on oil and gas companies to reach the \$25.6 billion net spending target set by the budget resolution.

The spending would include \$9.5 billion for environmental restoration in coastal areas and around the Great Lakes, \$3 billion to create a Civilian Climate Corps at the Interior Department, and \$2.5 billion for cleanup activities at abandoned mines.

Revenue raisers and other provisions aimed at the drilling and mining industries would:

- Increase leasing fees and royalty rates for onshore and offshore oil and gas extraction and require royalties to be paid for methane that's vented or flared.
- Establish an oil and gas leasing moratorium on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.
- Repeal a previous authorization for drilling in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and void nine leases in the area issued this year.
- Increase the royalty rate paid to the federal government on mining revenue.
- Withdraw more than 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon from mineral leasing.

### Veterans' Affairs (Target: \$18.0 billion)

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The measure would provide \$15.2 billion for infrastructure improvements to national cemeteries and memorials, medical facilities, and other property. It also would include \$1.81 billion for major medical facility leases.

The measure would extend through fiscal 2026 the Veterans Affairs Department's authority to enter into enhanced-use leases, which provide underutilized real estate to the private sector for supportive housing for homeless and at-risk veterans. They would be expanded to include leased property that provides services or benefits for veterans.

### Small Business (Target: \$17.5 billion)

The measure would include the following amounts for the Small Business Administration:

- \$9.5 billion to increase equity investment in underserved markets and key industries through a new subprogram within the Small Business Investment Company program.
- \$4.47 billion for a direct loan product under the 7(a) Loan Program.
- \$2.75 billion to create a direct lending subprogram under the 504 lending program that would allow Certified Development Companies to provide loans to small businesses, contractors, and manufactures in underserved markets.

### Oversight and Reform (Target: \$7.5 billion)

The measure would provide \$7 billion for the U.S. Postal Service to purchase electric delivery vehicles and related infrastructure, and \$5 billion for the General Services Administration (GSA) to procure electric vehicles for other federal agencies.

Other funding for the GSA would include \$1 billion for the Technology Modernization Fund, which was established to upgrade federal agency IT systems.

Bill Number	Sponsors	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
H.R. 4502	Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)	Labor, HHS, Education, Agriculture, Rural Development, Energy and Water, Financial Services and General Government, Interior, Environment, Military Construction and VA, Transportation-HUD Appropriations Act, 2022	The legislation combines 7 of the annual spending bills into one package.	The legislation passed the House on Thursday, July 29 by a vote of 219 – 208 on party lines.
XX	President Joe Biden / Congressional Democrats	Build Back Better Act	The Build Back Better Act proposed spending roughly \$3.5 trillion in its current form. The plan would provide \$200 billion program offering universal pre-k; \$109 billion for tuition-free community college; \$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>Congressional Democrats hope to use the budget reconciliation process to pass elements of the administration’s American Families Plan due to lack of support from Republicans. S.Con.Res.14, the Concurrent Budget Resolution, set up the ability for the Senate to pass the legislation if all Democrat Senators vote in favor of the legislation.</p> <p>On Saturday, September 25, the House Budget Committee passed the package in a 20-17 vote, piecing together the chunks of legislation approved by 13 House committees earlier this month that make up the spending plan.</p> <p>Currently, Senators Manchin and Sinema are on the fence about the current \$3.5 trillion price tag of the plan. There have been discussions from both House and Senate members of lowering the price tag, but there has been limited discussion as to what a potential deal would look like. Floor consideration is unlikely until this is resolved.</p>

Senate Amendment to H.R.3684	President Joe Biden & Bipartisan Group of Senators including Sens. Krysten Sinema (D-AZ) and Rob Portman (R-OH)	Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework (“Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act”)	<p>The framework includes \$550 billion in new spending for a total around \$1.2 trillion over eight years.</p> <p>Total “new spending” includes: \$110 billion for roads, bridges and major projects; \$73 billion for electric grid upgrades; \$66 billion for rail and Amtrak improvements; \$65 billion for broadband expansion; \$55 billion for clean drinking water; \$39 billion for transit; \$17 billion for ports and \$25 billion for airports; and \$7.5 billion for electric vehicle chargers.</p>	<p>President Biden announced that he'd reached an infrastructure deal with a group of Republican and Democratic Senators on Thursday, June 24.</p> <p>Following a month of negotiations on legislative text, the Senate passed the package on Tuesday, August 10, 2021.</p> <p>The deal faces the challenge of convincing progressives to support the deal - Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has expressed that the House would not vote on a bipartisan bill until the Senate passes a larger set of Democratic priorities though budget reconciliation.</p> <p>The House agreed to vote on the legislation by September 27, 2021 in a deal reached between the Democratic leadership and moderate members of the Democratic caucus. However, on September 26, Pelosi pushed back the vote to Thursday, September 30, allowing more time to debate the bill on the floor.</p> <p>However, without a deal reached on the larger reconciliation package by September 30, the vote on the bipartisan framework was delayed once again.</p>
H.R. 5305	Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)	Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act	Extends government funding through December 3 and provides funding for disaster relief and Afghan refugees. The bill also extends additional measures through December 3 including certain authorities of the Bureau of Reclamation, including for emergency drought relief, for one year.	The Senate amendment to the legislation passed on September 30 <sup>th</sup> by a vote of 65-35, and the House passed the bill shortly after by a vote of 254-175. President Biden signed the legislation in the evening of the 30 <sup>th</sup> .



H.R. 3684	Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR)	INVEST in America Act	<p>The legislation addresses provisions related to federal-aid highway, transit, highway safety, motor carrier, research, hazardous materials, and rail programs of the Department of Transportation (DOT).</p> <p>The Legislation has also incorporated the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021 and Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2021 which reauthorize clean and drinking water provisions.</p>	<p>Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Peter DeFazio introduced the legislation on June 4, 2021.</p> <p>Markups were held on the legislation on June 9-10th and the legislation passed out of committee on June 10th by a vote of 38-26.</p> <p>The legislation passed the House on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 221-201.</p> <p>This legislation and the associated local transportation priorities likely won't move forward since the bipartisan infrastructure proposal also includes the 5-year surface transportation reauthorization bill.</p>
S. 29 / H.R. 2008	Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) / Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN)	Local Water Protection Act	<p>A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to nonpoint source management, and for other purposes.</p>	<p>The Senate legislation was introduced on January 22, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.</p> <p>The legislation in the House was introduced on March 18, 2021 and passed the House under suspension of the rules on June 15.</p>
H.R. 1563	Rep. Mike Garcia (R-CA)	<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on March 3, 2021 and was referred to the House Committees on Natural Resources and Science, Space, and Technology.</p>

H.R.1915	Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) / Rep. 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.	<p>The legislation was introduced on March 16, 2021.</p> <p>The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a mark-up session on June 9-10th and the legislation was passed out of committee on June 10th by a vote of 42-25.</p> <p>The legislation was incorporated into the INVEST in America Act, which passed the House on July 1, 2021.</p>
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 and referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Transportation, and Foreign Affairs.
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 11, 2021, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
H.R.4099	Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)	Large Scale Water Recycling Project Investment Act	Created a competitive grant program for large-scale water recycling and reuse projects. Large-scale water recycling projects are those estimated to cost \$500 million or greater. \$750 million would be authorized over 5 fiscal years beginning in FY23.	The legislation was introduced on June 23, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. The Water Subcommittee held a hearing on the legislation on Tuesday, June 29, 2021.  The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing on the legislation on June 29, 2021.
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.	The legislation 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.
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.	<p>The legislation was introduced on February 2, 2021, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.</p> <p>10 members of the California delegation have cosponsored the legislation.</p>
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 January 28, 2021 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.	<p>The legislation in the House was introduced on February 5, 2021, and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.</p> <p>The Senate version of the legislation was introduced on February 3, 2021 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture.</p>
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.	<p>The legislation was introduced on April 14, 2021 and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.</p> <p>The legislation's 46 cosponsors are all Republican, including members of GOP leadership.</p>
H.R. 939	Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA)	Combustion Avoidance along Rural Roads (CARR) Act	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.	The legislation was introduced on February 8, 2021 and was referred to the House Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture.

H.R.3267	Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA)	Protect Drinking Water from PFAS Act	The bill amends the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to publish a maximum contaminant level goal and promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for total per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.	The legislation was introduced on May 17, 2021 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
H.R. 1512	Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)	The Climate Leadership and Environmental Action for our Nation's Future (CLEAN) Act	The legislation aims to achieve net zero greenhouse gas pollution, combat the climate crisis, and create jobs. The bill authorizes \$565 billion over ten years to enable deep decarbonization.	The legislation was introduced on March 2, 2021, and referred to the relevant committees.
S. 953	Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)	Water for Conservation and Farming Act	The legislation would create a Bureau of Reclamation fund of \$300 million to support water recycling projects, water-use efficiency projects and dam safety projects; the WaterSMART program to increase water supply reliability by funding infrastructure and conservation projects that conserves water, increases water use efficiency and improves the condition of natural water recharge infrastructure; Establishes a grant program for any Reclamation States, Tribes, nonprofit conservation organizations, irrigation or water districts, and regional and local authorities to complete habitat restoration projects that improve watershed health and mitigate climate change; among other actions.	The legislation was introduced on March 24, 2021, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
H.R.3293	Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)	Low-Income Water Customer Assistance Programs Act	The legislation would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish programs to assist low-income households in maintaining access to drinking water and wastewater services.	The legislation was introduced on May 18, 2021, and referred to the relevant committees. The legislation has passed out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee by a vote of 32-24 and now moves on to consideration on the House floor.

H.R.3291	Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)	AQUA Act	The legislation would invest \$105 billion over 10 years in the nation's water systems including \$53 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund,\$45 billion to fully replace every lead service line, and \$5 billion to provide assistance to systems with PFAS contamination. Additionally, the legislation would require the EPA to set national standards for PFAS, 1,4-dioxane, and microcystin toxin, and makes it easier for EPA to set standards in the future. The bill would authorize \$4 billion emergency relief program to provide forgiveness for utility customers facing debts and unpaid fees since March 1, 2020.	<p>The legislation was introduced on May 18, 2021, and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.</p> <p>The legislation was included in the INVEST in America Act, which passed the House on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 221-201.</p>
H.R. 3286	Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA)	Emergency Order Assurance, Safety, and Inspection of water Systems (Emergency OASIS Act)	The legislation would require the EPA to establish regulations to flush a drinking water system if contaminants were present in the system for longer than six months, or if water stood motionless in the system for longer than six months.	The legislation was introduced on May 17, 2021 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
H.R. 3622 / S. 1907	Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH) / Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)	Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act	The legislation would require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to develop effluent limitations guidelines and standards and water quality criteria for PFAS under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, to provide Federal grants to publicly owned treatment works to implement such guidelines and standards	<p>The legislation was introduced in the House on May 28, 2021, and in the Senate on May 27, 2021.</p> <p>The legislation in the House is bipartisan.</p>
S. 2168	Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN)	Define WOTUS Act	The legislation would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify the definition of navigable waters, and to make the definition of the "waters of the United States" permanent.	The legislation was introduced on June 22, 2021, and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. It was introduced in response to the EPA's announcement earlier in June of its intent to rewrite the Navigable Waters Protection rule.

H.R. 3814 / S. 717	Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY) / Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)	Undoing NEPA's Substantial Harm by Advancing Concepts that Kickstart the Liberation of the Economy Act (UNSHACKLE Act)	<p>The legislation combines the following five stand-alone NEPA reform bills on agency process, state expansion, legal changes, and data reporting into one comprehensive text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NEPA Agency Process Accountability Act</li> <li>- NEPA Accountability and Enforcement Act</li> <li>- NEPA State Assignment Expansion Act</li> <li>- NEPA Legal Reform Act</li> <li>- NEPA Data Transparency Act</li> </ul>	<p>The Senate legislation was introduced on March 11, 2021, and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.</p> <p>The House legislation was introduced on June 11, 2021, and referred to the House Committees on Natural Resources; Judiciary; Transportation and Infrastructure; and Energy and Commerce.</p>
H.R. 1352	Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-MI)	Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Act of 2021	<p>The bill would create a trust fund to support drinking water and clean water infrastructure. Additionally, the bill provides \$34.85 billion a year to drinking water and wastewater improvements; creates a water trust fund; creates up to nearly 1 million jobs across the economy and protect American workers; prioritizes disadvantaged communities with grants and additional support; expands funding for technical assistance to small, rural, and indigenous communities; funds projects to address water contamination from PFAS; requires US EPA to study water affordability, shutoffs, discrimination, and civil rights violations by water providers; upgrades household wells and septic systems; helps homeowners replace lead service lines; and provides more than \$1 billion a year to update water infrastructure in public schools.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on February 25, 2021 and was referred to the relevant committees.</p> <p>The legislation has 86 cosponsors, including 14 members of the California delegation.</p>

H.R. 4647 / S. 2430	Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) / Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)	Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act	The legislation would amend federal tax law so that homeowners wouldn't pay income tax on rebates from water utilities for water conservation and water runoff management improvements	The House legislation was introduced on July 22, 2021 and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. The legislation in the Senate was introduced on July 22, 2021, and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.
S.2454	Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA)	Water Reuse and Resiliency Act	The legislation would authorize \$1 billion over five years for the EPA's Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Projects grants program. This is an increase from the \$125 million over five years authorized for the program in the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act passed by the Senate in April.	The legislation was introduced on July 22, 2021 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.
S.2567	Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)	Navigable Waters Protection Act of 2021	The legislation would enact into law the Navigable Waters Protection Rule: Definition of 'Waters of the United States' as proposed by the EPA/USACE under the Trump administration.	The legislation was introduced on July 29, 2021 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.
H.R.4915	Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)	Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act	The legislation would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate Federal and State permitting processes related to the construction of new surface water storage projects on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and to designate the Bureau of Reclamation as the lead agency for permit processing.	The legislation was introduced on August 3, 2021 and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.



H.R.4979 / S.1783	Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) / Rep. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)	Maintaining Access to Essential Services Act	The legislation provides \$13.5 billion in low-interest loans to public and private water utilities, which will be forgiven when the utility forgives household water arrears; and provides \$13 billion in low-interest loans to power utilities, which will be forgiven when the utility forgives household arrears. The legislation also provides \$13 billion in low-interest loans to broadband utilities, which will be forgiven when the utility forgives household arrears. The bill Requires loan recipients to suspend utility shutoffs and restore any disconnected service, suspend late fees and charges, stop the sale of household debt to debt collectors, stop placing or selling liens on households due to outstanding utility debt, and stop filing adverse reports on households due to unpaid utility bills to credit agencies.	<p>The legislation in the House was introduced on August 6, 2021 and was referred to the House Committees on Financial Services and Ways and Means.</p> <p>The legislation in the Senate was introduced on May 20, 2021 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.</p>
H.R. 4976	Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)	Ensuring PFAS Cleanup Meets or Exceeds Stringent Standards Act	The legislation directs the Secretary of Defense to ensure that removal and remedial actions relating to PFAS contamination result in levels meeting or exceeding certain standards.	The legislation was introduced in the House on August 6, 2021, and was referred to the House Committees on Armed Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce.
S.2372 / H.R.2773	Sen. Heinrich, Martin (D-NM) / Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE)	Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021	The legislation would fund conservation efforts for more than 12,000 species of wildlife and plants in need of assistance by providing \$1.3 billion in dedicated annual funding for proactive, on-the-ground efforts across the country, ensure wildlife recovery efforts will be guided by the Congressionally-mandated State Wildlife Action Plans, which identify specific strategies to restore the populations of species of greatest conservation need, accelerate	<p>The legislation was introduced on July 15, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.</p> <p>The House bill was introduced on April 22. The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing on the legislation on July 29, 2021.</p>

			<p>the recovery of 1,600 U.S. species already listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and include improvements to ensure funds are appropriately targeted to the areas of greatest need and facilitate additional investments in protecting at-risk plant species.</p> <p>In the Senate, RAWA also directs fees and penalties assessed for environmental violations to help fund RAWA, using fee and penalty amounts that aren't already targeted for existing environmental funds.</p>	
H.R.4602	Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)	WIPPES Act	<p>The legislation would direct the Federal Trade Commission to issue regulations requiring certain products to have "Do Not Flush" labeling</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on July 21<sup>st</sup> and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.</p> <p>Rep. Lowenthal introduced the stand-alone bill after introducing a similar amendment to the House's infrastructure bill.</p>
S. 2806 / H.R. 3534	Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) / Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)	Wildfire Emergency Act of 2021	<p>Amongst other things, the legislation authorizes \$250 million over 5 years for up to 20 Forest Service projects of 100,000 acres or greater; Establish a new \$100 million grant program to assist critical facilities like hospitals and police stations become more energy efficient and better adapted to function during power shutoffs; Establishes one or more Prescribed Fire Centers to coordinate research and training of foresters and forest managers in the western United States in the latest methods and innovations in prescribed fire (controlled burns) practices</p>	<p>The Senate legislation was introduced on September 22 and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.</p> <p>The House bill was introduced on May 25, 2021 and was referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.</p>

INFORMATION  
ITEM  
2B



**September 30, 2021**

**To:** Inland Empire Utilities Agency

**From:** Michael Boccadoro  
Beth Olhasso

**RE:** September Report

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**Overview:**

Drought conditions continue to dominate headlines and drive discussions about water conservation. With major reservoirs dropping to capacity levels around 20 percent or lower, regulators are starting to take aggressive action. There is continued chatter that a statewide drought declaration is imminent with urban water conservation mandates close to follow from the State Water Resources Control Board or Executive Order. The state responded to the Governor's plea for 15 percent conservation, by only cutting water use by 1.8 percent, further frustrating regulators.

Recently, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted guidelines that will determine how the agency will administer the almost one billion financial relief program for community water systems' unpaid water bill debt from residential and commercial customers who were unable to pay their bills due to COVID-related financial hardship. The California Water and Wastewater Arrearages Payment Program will disburse funds between November 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022, prioritizing small drinking water systems first.

With another rough summer of flex alerts and narrowly escaping rolling blackouts, SWRCB staff is once again recommending extending the life of a "once through cooling" natural gas generating station in Redondo Beach. Western wide heat waves have made it more difficult to balance the electric grid the past several summers, and SWRCB and CPUC staff believe that the Redondo Beach "peaker" plant is essential to ensure the power stays on throughout Southern California.

The Legislature and the administration are normally done with budget work in mid-June, but with unprecedented budget surplus, it took until after Labor Day for all the surplus funds to be negotiated into a plan. Before session adjourned in September final drought and climate resiliency packages were passed and signed by the Governor. Funding for recycled water, drinking water and wastewater are key elements of the drought package.

The first year of the two-year session ended on September 10. There were 2,776 bills introduced with 1,672 passing to the Governor's desk. 668 have already been signed, 5 vetoed, leaving 431 for Governor Newsom to act on before the October 10 deadline. Legislation on flushable product labeling, stormwater capture and vehicle fleet replacement funding supported by IEUA are all expected to be signed by the Governor in the coming days. The Legislature will return for the final year of the two-year session in January.

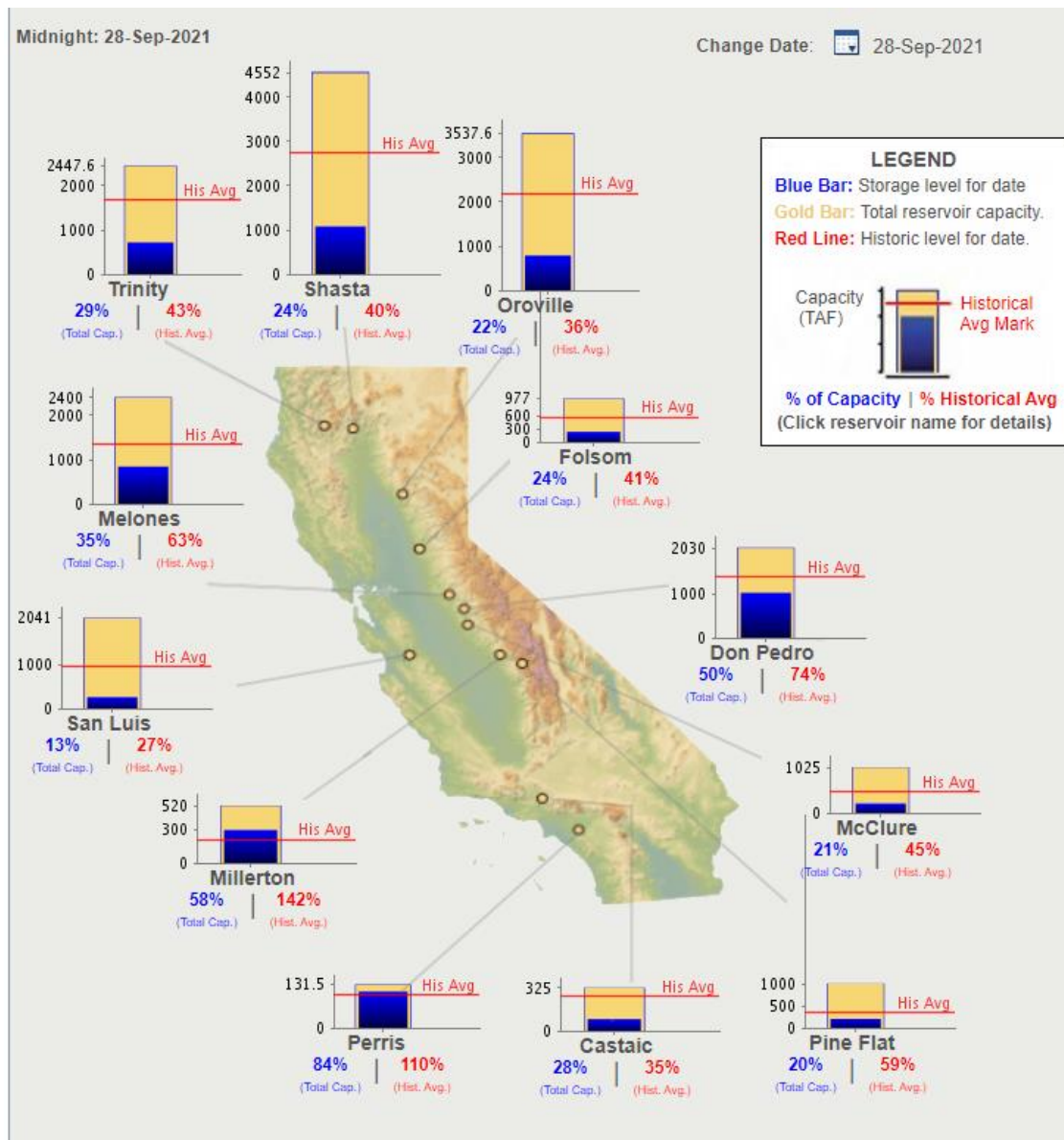
# Inland Empire Utilities Agency

## Status Report – September 2021

### Water Supply Conditions

As widely reported, drought conditions are worsening and current reservoir levels are bleak. San Luis Reservoir, the main south-of-Delta storage facility for the State Water Project, is at 27 percent of average for this time of the year and 13 percent capacity. Lake Oroville is at 36 percent of average and 22 percent capacity. Finally, over 88 percent of the state is in extreme drought conditions, and over 47 percent of the state is in “exceptional drought” conditions, the most extreme condition measured.

The end of the water year on September 30 brought speculation that Governor Newsom would issue a statewide drought declaration, setting the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on a path to call for water reductions throughout California. However, only an announcement by Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot was made stating that regulators would continue to monitor California’s conservation efforts over the winter and address any sort of further actions in a few months.

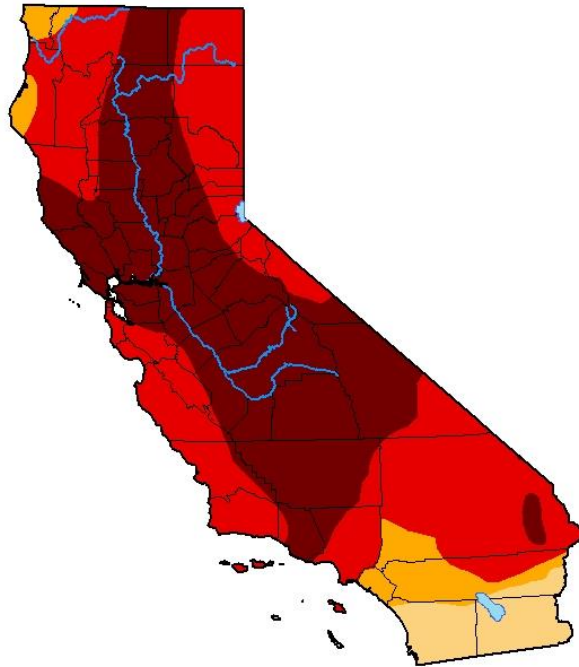


## U.S. Drought Monitor California

**September 28, 2021**

(Released Thursday, Sep. 30, 2021)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



### Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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:

Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



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

### ***Water Conservation***

Californians reduced their water use at home by 1.8 percent statewide in July compared to last year, even after Governor Newsom urged residents to conserve 15 percent as drought continues to spread across the state.

Regulators recently warned water providers south of the Delta who rely on state water allocations — already slashed to five percent this year — to brace for the possibility of zero supply next year. The Department of Water Resources also cautioned that next year's cuts in supply could expand to growers and others known as settlement contractors, whose claims to the water predate California's massive systems of reservoirs, aqueducts and canals.

Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth stated that State Water Project Contractors have been put on notice that they could be facing a zero percent allocation for 2022.

### ***Arrearage Funding***

Recently, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted guidelines that will determine how the agency will administer the almost one billion financial relief program for community water systems' unpaid water bill debt from residential and commercial customers who were unable to pay their bills due to COVID-related financial hardship. The California Water and Wastewater Arrearages Payment Program will disburse funds between November 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022, prioritizing small drinking water systems first.

Water systems must apply for the funding, which covers residential and commercial accounts that are 60 days or more behind on payments for debt accrued between March 4, 2020 and June 15, 2021. As a condition of receiving the funds, participating systems must credit their customers' accounts and notify them that their water bill debt has been cleared or reduced. Customers will not be paid directly.

The guidelines adopted in late September set forth the conditions systems must meet, the type and amount of eligible debt, the prioritization of payments from the program, and the amount of allowable administrative costs. For example, water systems without customer payment plans will be required to have them, and relief for water systems serving disadvantaged communities will be prioritized. The program will also encourage those systems that have transferred customer debt to third parties to apply for funding nonetheless and clear those debts for their customers.

### ***Electric Grid Reliability in Southern California***

SWRCB staff is once again recommending extending the life of a "once through cooling" natural gas generating station in Redondo Beach. Western wide heat waves have made it more difficult to balance the electric grid the past several summers, and SWRCB and CPUC staff believe that the Redondo Beach "peaker" plant is essential to ensure the power stays on throughout Southern California.

The state board will take the matter up at its October 19 meeting. Environmentalists and the City of Redondo Beach argue that the plant isn't needed, but SWRCB staff point to not only CAISO and CPUC reports stating the fragility of the energy grid, but also to independent reports noting the state needs to preserve as much power as possible as new, energy efficient resources are brought online in the coming year.

### ***State Budget Update***

As mentioned in previous reports, the state budget process has been uncharacteristically long and drawn out this year. It took until early September for a final consensus to be reached on how to spend unprecedented budget surplus and federal stimulus funds totaling about \$100 billion. Legislators met their constitutional deadline of passing a budget by June 15, but what they passed didn't have the support of the Governor. They passed a "budget bill junior" on June 28 which contained more compromises reached by the Legislature and the Governor but still left out key aspects of the budget that were not negotiated between the Legislature and the Governor until after Labor Day.

Initial budgets had language that would limit drought funding to those counties with a declared drought. Strong work by MWD and others led to that language being removed from the final package.

The final drought package included about \$3 billion for drought. Some notable categories of funding include:

- \$650 million for drinking water- prioritized for disadvantaged communities
- \$650 million for wastewater- prioritized for septic to sewer conversion
- \$150 million for recycled water and groundwater cleanup
- \$600 million to DWR for multi-benefit watershed projects

There is also some funding for PFAS treatment, co-digestion and flood control and stormwater. DWR, SWRCB and the other agencies who received the funding will now work to implement the funds. Some new programs will be created, and it is expected that agencies will try to take advantage of existing programs to allocate the funding.

WCA has been working with IEUA staff to identify potential opportunities for the agency.

### ***Legislative Update***

The first year of the two-year session ended on September 10. There were 2,776 bills introduced with 1,672 passing to the Governor's desk. 668 have already been signed, 5 vetoed, leaving 431 for Governor Newsom to act on before the October 10 deadline.

Members will remain in their districts until January when they will return for the final year of the two-year session.

### **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. On Governor's Desk.
- 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 sailed through the Senate and the Assembly on the Consent Calendar and was signed by the Governor.
- 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 Senator took amendments as it came out of the Appropriations Committee to include construction or earth-moving equipment as eligible under the program. The bill has easily moved through the process in both houses and is now on the Governor's Desk.
- AB 361 (R. Rivas): Sponsored by the California Special Districts Association would allow for public agencies to use teleconferencing without complying with certain Brown Act teleconferencing requirements provide that a teleconference location is accessible to the public, a quorum of members participate at the jurisdiction and the public has access to the legislative body at a specified location. These rules would only apply during a local or state emergency. An urgency clause was added to the bill late in the process to allow it to go into effect upon the Governor's signature (as opposed to on Jan 1 like most legislation). The Governor signed the bill on September 16.



***IEUA BILLS—July 30, 2021 BILLS WITH POSITIONS***

[illegible]

			<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>	Two-Year Bill	
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>On Governor’s Desk</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  Two-Year Bill	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  Assembly Rules Committee	
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 Floor	
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	Two-Year Bill	Opposed by ACWA





INFORMATION  
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**Date:** October 20, 2021

**To:** The Honorable Board of Directors

*ASD*  
**From:** Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

**Committee:** Community & Legislative Affairs

10/13/21

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

**Subject:** Public Outreach and Communication

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**Executive Summary:**

Water Professionals Appreciation Week is recognized October 2-10. External Affairs staff developed a thank you video from the desk of the General Manager, TEAMS backgrounds, daily drawings and activities, and social media outreach. Three profiles of current Agency employees who served in the military were also featured on the CWEA website.

Staff has developed a project page as part of the iNaturalist app. This app allows users to identify plant and animal species by uploading pictures. For those visiting the Chino Creek Park, they can upload to the project page for a cohesive grid of visitors and species within the Chino Creek Park.

Staff is developing a QR code Pledge to Save Water campaign. Both print and digital ads will feature a QR code that links to an information hub featuring IEUA initiatives. Visitors can take the pledge to save water to be entered into a drawing for water-saving devices.

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**Staff's Recommendation:**

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

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

*Account/Project Name:*

*Fiscal Impact (explain if not budgeted):*

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**Prior Board Action:**

N/A

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**Environmental Determination:**

Not Applicable

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**Business Goal:**

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

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

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**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 - Background



## Background

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Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

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### October

- October, Energy Awareness Month
- October, Field Trip Month
- October 1, New Water Year Begins
- October 2-10, Water Professionals Appreciation Week
- October 6, Clean Air Day
- October 6, Energy Efficiency Day
- October 21, Great CA Shake Out
- October 21, Imagine A Day Without Water
- October 23, National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
- October 27, Sustainability Day

### Media and Outreach

- Staff continues publishing drought-related outreach to encourage the community to keep up their water saving efforts. Working closely with MWD, regional and member agencies, staff ensures a consistent and impactful regional drought message is communicated to the public. Currently, messaging remains at the #KeepItUp phase, however, staff is working closely with the Executive Manager of External and Government Affairs/AGM Kathy Besser to incorporate any actions by the Governor into messaging, i.e. increasing escalation phase to #StepItUp, etc.
- Water Professionals Appreciation Week is recognized October 2-10. External Affairs staff developed a thank you video from the desk of the General Manager, TEAMS backgrounds, daily drawings and activities, and social media outreach. Three profiles of current Agency employees who served in the military were also featured on the CWEA website.
- Staff has developed a project page as part of the iNaturalist app. This app allows users to identify plant and animal species by uploading pictures. For those visiting the Chino Creek Park, they can upload to the project page for a cohesive grid of visitors and species within the Chino Creek Park.
- Director Steve Elie attended the city of Chino Hills Council Meeting on September 28 where he recognized the award-winning Solar Cup team from Chino Hills High School with congratulation certificates.
- Staff is developing a *QR code Pledge to Save Water* campaign. Both print and digital ads will feature a QR code that links to an information hub featuring IEUA initiatives. Visitors can take the pledge to save water to be entered into a drawing for water-saving devices.
- Staff recognized September as National Preparedness Month. Throughout the month, safety preparedness tips and reminders were shared on the Agency's social media accounts.

- The @IEUAWater and Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park (@chinocreekwetlands) Instagram accounts continue to publish Reels. Respectively, the most recent reels have received 3,002 and 3,740 views.
- The Agency continues to publish content on LinkedIn and has gained 41 followers since August 2021, with 543 page views in the last 30 days.
- September: 36 posts were published to the IEUA Facebook page, 37 tweets were sent on the @IEUAWater Twitter handle, 37 posts were published to IEUA's Instagram grid, and 14 posts were published to the IEUA LinkedIn page.
  - The top three Facebook posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of September were:
    - 9/20 WaterReuse Conference
    - 9/8 Accountant I/II (DOQ), Maintenance Planner/Scheduler and Senior Internal Auditor Hiring
    - 9/2 National Preparedness Month Tip
  - The top three Twitter tweets, based on reach and engagement, in the month of September were:
    - 9/10 IEUA/MWD Meet and Greet Event
    - 9/20 WaterReuse Conference
    - 9/20 Pollution Prevention Week
  - The top three Instagram posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of September were:
    - 9/28 Director Elie and CHHS Solar Cup Team
    - 9/20 WaterReuse Conference
    - 9/10 IEUA/MWD Meet and Greet Event
  - The top three LinkedIn posts, based on impressions and reactions, in the month of September were:
    - 9/10 IEUA/MWD Meet and Greet Event
    - 9/28 Loyola Marymount University RP-5 Tour
    - 9/20 WaterReuse Conference
- A "Water-Wise Tips" mobile banner ad ran on August 4 in *La Opinion*.
- A "Water-Wise Tips" ad ran on August 8 in the *La Opinion* Water & Energy Series.
- A "Water-Wise Tips" ad ran on August 21 in the *Chino Champion*.
- A "Water-Wise Tips" banner ad published on August 16 with *Fontana Herald News*.
- A "Water-Wise Tips" ad ran on August 28 in the *Daily Bulletin*.

For the month of September, there were 11,044 searches for a park in IEUA's service area on Yelp, where Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park was viewed 837 times, with 761 views coming from a mobile device.

#### Education and Outreach Updates

- EA staff is preparing a "Super Road Show" for early fall to meet with school district administrators and principals to promote the Agency's free education program opportunities.
- Two new At-Home Activity videos for the Enviroscape and Learning the Seasons activities were uploaded to the Agency's YouTube account.

- Staff is working with Loving Savior School (Chino Hills) and Randall Pepper Elementary School (Fontana) to complete their water-wise garden installation as part of the Agency's Garden in Every School® Program (GIES). This current year's program will feature mini grants for schools that have an existing garden through GIES.
- Staff received a Virtual Field Trip request from Walnut Avenue Elementary. Staff is currently coordinating and planning for the trip, which is scheduled for the end of October.

#### Agency-Wide Membership Updates

- Robert Delgado, Manager of Operations and Maintenance, attended the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Workshop: Indoor Water Conservation Effects on Wastewater Online Questionnaires on August 2.
- Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/Assistant General Manager, attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 5 Virtual Event on August 19.
- Robert Delgado, Manager of Operations and Maintenance, attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 5 Virtual Event: Developments in Regional Water Management on August 19.
- Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/Assistant General Manager, attended the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) Direct Potable Reuse Criteria Expert Panel on August 24.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Air Quality Committee Meeting on August 24.
- Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/Assistant General Manager, attended the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) Direct Potable Reuse Criteria Expert Panel on August 25.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Air Quality, Climate Change, and Energy Workgroup Meeting on August 26.

INFORMATION  
ITEM  
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CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES, LLC

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

- 1) This month Jim Brulte and John Withers participated in a senior staff meeting with Director's Hall and Elie to review the draft CBP program presentation on Sept 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - i) General discussion with staff about various stakeholders and customers.
- 2) Ongoing discussions included:
  - a) Regional relations
  - b) Census and redistricting
  - c) CBP/WSIP
    - i) Discussion was held regarding the WSIP. As a follow up, the July 21 Workgroup Meeting Power Point deck was distributed for review and comment.
    - ii) A WSIP fact sheet of talking points for the development community and cities was distributed and comments were forwarded to IEUA staff.
  - d) Regional Items
    - i) Recent Committee meetings and activities were discussed and reviewed.
  - e) IEUA Outreach
    - i) San Bernardino County Supervisors races were updated.
    - ii) Future meetings with member agency city managers will be scheduled.
  - f) IEUA Directors
    - i) Attended California Water Reuse Conference with several senior staff and President Hall.