



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

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 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 AB361 AND RESOLUTION NO. 2021-11-6, ADOPTED BY THE IEUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON NOVEMBER 3, 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 October 13, 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. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION (WRITTEN)**

**RECEIVE AND FILE INFORMATION ITEM**

**D. 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, OCTOBER 13, 2021**

**9:00 A.M.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT via Video/Teleconference**

Jasmin A. Hall, Chair  
Steven J. Elie, Director

**STAFF PRESENT**

Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager  
Christiana Daisy, Deputy General Manager  
Denise Garzaro, Board Secretary/Office Manager  
Daniel Solorzano, Technology Specialist I  
Teresa Velarde, Manager of Internal Audit

**STAFF PRESENT via Video/Teleconference**

Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of External & Government Affairs/AGM  
Javier Chagoyen-Lazaro, Acting Executive Manager of Finance & Administration/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  
Don Hamlett, Acting Deputy Manager of Integrated System Services  
Jennifer Hy-Luk, Acting Executive Assistant  
Cathleen Pieroni, Manager of Inter-Agency Relations  
Jesse Pompa, Manager of Grants  
Sushmitha Reddy, Manager of Laboratories  
Jeanina Romero, Executive Assistant  
Wilson To, Technology Specialist II

**OTHERS PRESENT via Video/Teleconference**

Michael Boccadoro, West Coast Advisors  
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 September 8, 2021 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.

### **2A – 2E. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

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

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

General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh congratulated the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, the IEUA Board of Directors and President Hall on the passing of AB 818 which was recently signed into law by Governor Newsom. In compliance with AB 818, all wet wipes packages will be required to include a “Do Not Flush” symbol and warning on each individual package.

### **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 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Garzaro  
Board Secretary/Office Manager

\*A Municipal Water District

**APPROVED: NOVEMBER 10, 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 29, 2021

**Re:** October Monthly Legislative Update

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### **Infrastructure Debate Continues as New Framework Proposed, Highway Fund Extended**

President Biden presented Democratic lawmakers with a framework on a new \$1.75 trillion social spending and climate package on Thursday, October 28 seeking to unify a fractured party behind the plan before he headed to Europe for an international climate conference later in the day.

Officials talked up the framework as including the largest expansion of health care coverage since the passage of the Affordable Care Act and said it would reduce premiums for more than 9 million Americans by an average of \$600 per person annually.

It includes \$150 billion in investments for affordable housing, extends the earned income tax credit and child tax credit for one year, provides funding for historically Black colleges and universities and raises the maximum Pell Grant.

But the framework does not include several key priorities for progressives that Biden also had advocated for.

Fact sheets and summaries provided by the White House made no mention of paid family leave. Democrats had hoped to include 12 weeks of paid family leave, before Biden last week acknowledged his goal had been trimmed to four weeks. It also omits free community college—another provision championed by progressives.

In the end, both stripped from the package as one of several concessions to Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), one of two centrists who balked at the cost of a larger bill and a number of specific provisions favored by many House and Senate Democrats.

The bill also does not include the Clean Electricity Performance Program, which had been seen as the best way to reduce U.S. emissions, and it would not allow the government to negotiate with prescription drug companies on prices for Medicare, a high priority for Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT).

The framework does not include several details, and one official acknowledged Biden was not outlining a final bill but that his framework would inform the legislative text to be written in the coming days.

President Biden sought to assure progressive Democrats that the framework for the social spending package — which includes funding for universal preschool, a child tax credit extension and an expansion of Medicare to include hearing, among other provisions — would get 50 votes in the Senate.

“We badly need a vote on both of these measures,” Biden said. “I don’t think it’s hyperbole to say that the House and Senate majorities and my presidency will be determined by what happens in the next week.”

Progressives remained unconvinced that the framework is enough of an assurance that the two centrist senators who’ve pushed to pare back the legislation — Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) — won’t renege in some way.

However, Senator Manchin signaled later in the day on Thursday that he could support the \$1.75 trillion price tag for Democrats' social spending plan, even as he hasn't said if he supports the overall framework deal.

"We negotiated a good number that we worked off of, and we're all dealing in a good faith," Manchin told reporters.

Asked if \$1.75 trillion was too high, Manchin replied: "That was negotiated."

By mid-afternoon Thursday, the House posted the 1,684-page bill containing much of President Joe Biden’s social-spending plan, a hopeful sign that that measure could move quickly.

Earlier in the day on Thursday, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) wanted to hold a floor vote on the bipartisan infrastructure bill to give President Biden a legislative victory as he left for the climate conference.

However, House progressives dug in on their threat to oppose the bipartisan infrastructure bill if Speaker Pelosi brings it to a vote before they go through legislative text of the separate, \$1.75 trillion tax and spending package and are assured it could pass the Senate.

Congressional Progressive Caucus Chair Pramila Jayapal said members of her group “enthusiastically endorsed” the contours of Biden’s economic agenda unveiled Thursday. But progressives, she said, want to vote on both bills when the larger measure is ready. “We are also committed to staying through the weekend” to finalize the legislation encompassing Biden’s tax and social-spending agenda, she said.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) was among those leading the effort to convince members to vote for the bill. He sent a “Dear Colleague” letter Thursday morning to Democrats urging them to vote for the bipartisan framework which contains funding for the highway trust fund.



In his letter, Chairman DeFazio said that another short-term extension of highway funding -- such as the current one that expires at the end of the month -- is “highly disruptive to transportation project planning and delivery” by departments, and local governments.

At the end of the day when it was clear that there would not be a vote on the bipartisan package, the House passed yet another short-term extension of the highway funding through December 3 in a bipartisan vote of 358-59.

Before adjourning Thursday, the Senate agreed that a highway funding extension would be deemed passed by unanimous consent.

The latest highway extension adds yet another item that Congress has set to accomplish by December 3 – as a reminder, the debt ceiling extension, and government funding also are set to expire by that date.

### **Highway Trust Fund Cash May Buy Lawmakers Time on Infrastructure**

The agency that oversees federal highway aid has enough money on hand to fund road programs through the rest of 2021, it told lawmakers after previously warning of a shortfall.

The announcement means lawmakers won’t have to immediately transfer money into the Highway Trust Fund from the general fund of the Treasury as a long-term highway bill, which would provide an infusion into the fund, remains caught up in larger negotiations over Biden’s domestic policy agenda.

The Federal Highway Administration is projecting the fund’s highway account will end the calendar year with about \$9.4 billion, according to a memo the agency sent on Wednesday, October 20 to Congress. The communication came as lawmakers faced an October 31 deadline to take action before a temporary extension of highway funding ran out again, which allowed the House and Senate to easily extend the highway authorities through December 3 without the need for additional funding transfers.

A bipartisan infrastructure bill (H.R. 3684) passed by the Senate in August would reauthorize surface transportation programs for five years and transfer \$118 billion to the Highway Trust Fund. A House vote on the bill was delayed after opposition from progressive Democrats pushing to also pass a larger social spending package. The delay caused programs to lapse until President Joe Biden signed a 30-day extension (Public Law 117-44) on October 2.

The agency’s update reflects an infusion of cash at the end of the fiscal year from the Treasury to the trust fund, which is the main source of federal financing for surface transportation programs. It receives revenue from the federal motor fuel taxes, which are inadequate to cover its spending, requiring lawmakers to periodically transfer money from the general fund.

Although the FHWA said a general fund transfer “may not be necessary through the end of the calendar year,” it clarified that pandemic-related uncertainty and volatility could change the projection.

The agency estimated the Mass Transit Account won't need a general fund transfer in fiscal 2022, while the highway account will need an estimated \$5.6 billion transfer through the end of the fiscal year.

### **Senate Passes American Rescue Plan Infrastructure Flexibility Legislation**

On Tuesday, October 19, the Senate passed legislation, the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act, that would make changes to how unspent covid relief funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) can be spent by states, local governments, tribes, and territorial governments by unanimous consent.

The legislation, spearheaded by Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Alex Padilla (D-CA), would make several categories of infrastructure investments and disaster relief eligible for unspent COVID-19 relief dollars. It also extends the deadline to utilize relief funding if budgeted for eligible infrastructure projects.

“Each region of the country has unique local challenges in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill will provide state, local, tribal, and territorial governments the flexibility they need to better use federal resources to care for and serve their residents. This will ultimately help strengthen our response to the continued fight against COVID,” said Senator Padilla.

Given that the ARP made water, wastewater, and broadband infrastructure eligible for COVID funds, the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act would provide additional flexibility for States, Tribes, and units of local government to spend their allocations of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

It gives state and local officials additional flexibility to responsibly spend their own funds. There is a cap—the greater of \$10 million or 30% of the funds—on how much of the COVID money can be spent on these new purposes (though the previous ARP set asides for water, wastewater, and broadband remain unrestricted).

The bill also allows these funds to be used to provide emergency relief from natural disasters and creates a process for local officials to decline funds if their jurisdictions did not suffer budget shortfalls during COVID, an option not currently available to them under the ARP.

### **Senate Releases Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations Bills**

On Monday, October 18, the Senate Appropriations Committee released draft versions of legislation to fund the government in fiscal year 2022.

As a reminder, the government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) that expires on December 3. Senate Democrats are proposing \$44.6 billion for the Interior Department, Environmental Protection Agency, and related agencies in fiscal 2022, slightly higher than the \$43.4 billion measure the House passed this summer.

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Nondefense programs in the nine bills would get a 13% increase, while defense programs would get a 5% increase. Republicans criticized the bigger increase for domestic programs compared to military spending, the end of key restrictions on abortion funding, cuts to the Department of Homeland Security, and a boost to Internal Revenue Service funds.

Republicans criticized the bigger increase for domestic programs compared to military spending, the end of key restrictions on abortion funding, cuts to the Department of Homeland Security, and a boost to Internal Revenue Service funds.

Senate Appropriations Vice Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) called the top-line numbers “a fantasy land” proposal by Democrats. The nondefense and defense increases will have to be closer together for lawmakers to reach an eventual deal, he said.

The bills can’t become law without significant Republican support because they’ll need 60 votes to end debate before a vote can be held in the Senate.

The Senate Appropriations Committee proposed \$15.7 billion for Interior in fiscal 2022, close to the \$15.6 billion the House approved, and \$10.5 billion for the EPA. The figure for the EPA is less than the \$11.3 billion included in the House legislation.

The Senate bill proposes \$2.9 billion for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds in the EPA portion, less than the \$3.2 billion in the House bill.

The funding levels proposed in the Senate bill for Interior’s largest agencies—the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service—are on par with the House levels.

The Senate bill, like the House bill, would provide \$900 million in mandatory spending for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, as well as allocate \$1.9 billion for deferred maintenance projects on federal public lands. It recommends funding for a Civilian Climate Corps as well, which is also in the House bill.

Senate appropriators also recommended \$3.8 billion for fire suppression, of which \$2.4 billion would go to the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund.

Now that all bills in the House and Senate have been released, lawmakers will begin the process of conferencing the bills together to produce the final funding legislation for fiscal year 2022.

House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) has invited her counterparts—House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Kay Granger (R-TX), Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL)—to meet during the week of November 1 to begin conference negotiations for a fiscal year 2022 omnibus appropriations bill.

According to the House Appropriations Committee, DeLauro “looks forward to productive conversations as all sides work to meet the December 3 funding deadline.”

Additionally, Acting OMB Director Shalanda Young wrote to Chairwoman DeLauro urging Congress to start talks on the fiscal year 2022 bills.

"With only just over a month before the December 3rd deadline, now is the time to come together and reach an agreement that will fund core national priorities, address critical gaps, enhance our national security and advance American leadership in the world, as well as provide much needed additional relief to those communities suffering from natural disasters" she wrote.

"And we can do that without unnecessary and damaging brinksmanship that would disrupt critical public services that the American people rely on."

*Please see below for a brief summary of each of the spending bills released by the Senate Appropriations Committee last week. Note that the Agriculture, Energy & Water, and Military Construction-VA Appropriations bills were previously released and marked up by the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

### **EPA Releases PFAS Roadmap**

The EPA on Monday, October 18 released its strategy for addressing PFAS, including its plans to finish a rule to regulate certain types of PFAS in drinking water in 2023.

The EPA's overall strategy is focused on researching PFAS, restricting their release into the air, land and water and broadening cleanup efforts.

The agency's drinking water limit pertains to certain types of PFAS called PFOA and PFOS, saying it hopes to propose an enforceable drinking water limit for them in fall 2022 and finalize it in fall 2023.

The Trump administration also eyed regulating PFOA and PFOS, proposing its own regulation on the substances last year.

The drinking water standard is a long-awaited milestone for environmental advocates, but some have called for PFAS to be regulated as an entire group instead of on an individual basis because there are hundreds of them and they can occur in mixtures.

The EPA is also developing a new testing strategy for the substances.

As part of that strategy, the agency is expected to require manufacturers to conduct and fund studies and could issue testing orders by the end of this year.

The agency has also said that it will declare PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the country's Superfund hazardous waste cleanup law.

This would require polluters to report discharges of the compounds and give the EPA the ability to recoup costs for their cleanup.

The EPA will propose a regulation to do so in spring 2022 and finalize the decision in summer 2023.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan categorized the plan as a “comprehensive” strategy to protect people.

“For far too long, families across America — especially those in underserved communities — have suffered from PFAS in their water, their air, or in the land their children play on,” he said in a statement.

“This comprehensive, national PFAS strategy will deliver protections to people who are hurting, by advancing bold and concrete actions that address the full lifecycle of these chemicals. Let there be no doubt that EPA is listening, we have your back, and we are laser focused on protecting people from pollution and holding polluters accountable,” he added.

### **Biden Signals Support for Senate Filibuster Reform**

During a CNN town hall on Thursday, October 21 in Baltimore, President Joe Biden indicated he would support ending the filibuster rule in the Senate to address the debt ceiling and voting-rights legislation -- and possibly other items -- after Republican members of the chamber used that mechanism to block bills on the two issues this month.

The debt-ceiling 60-vote requirement is “absurd”, Biden said when asked about the filibuster at the town hall. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) vowed that Republicans won’t again deliver the votes needed to allow Democrats to enact a debt-ceiling hike if Democrats do not address the issue through reconciliation, which they can do with a simple majority vote. Eleven Republicans did vote to invoke cloture—or cut off debate—earlier this month for a temporary increase designed to tide the Treasury Department over to early December.

“If this gets pulled again, I think you’re going to see an awful lot of Democrats be ready to say, ‘Not me, I’m not doing that again, we’re going to end the filibuster,’” Biden said. “There’s certain things that are just sacred rights. One’s a sacred obligation that we’re never going to renege on a debt.”

President Biden said that along with the government being responsible for its debts, “Voting rights are equally as consequential,” speaking a day after Republican Senators blocked a bill with features including creating an automatic voter registration system through each state’s motor vehicle agency.

Democrats say the legislation is designed to counter a number of new voting restrictions emerging from Republican-led state legislatures, which they say are intended to curtail participation by minorities and poorer Americans. Republicans counter that the laws are necessary to protect against voter fraud.

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The bill, The Freedom to Vote Act, was an attempt at a compromise among Democrats, after a much broader voter access bill was blocked by Republicans in June and again in August.

Asked whether he would entertain killing the filibuster rule on voting rights, Biden added, “And maybe more.”

Biden, who served as a Senator from Delaware from 1973 to 2009, has previously resisted calls for changes to the Senate filibuster.

### **House and Senate Vote to Raise Debt Ceiling**

The House on Tuesday, October 12 cleared legislation to raise the debt limit by \$480 billion, ensuring that the nation doesn’t default on its debts but setting up another fiscal cliff at the end of the year. The debt ceiling legislation was designed with an eye toward lifting the cap through early December.

Lawmakers voted to avert a default in a somewhat indirect fashion. The House adopted a procedural rule along party lines in a 219-206 vote, meaning lawmakers didn’t have to take a separate vote on the debt limit bill itself.

President Biden signed the legislation into law on Friday, October 15 providing lawmakers a brief reprieve from the partisan impasse over the country’s borrowing limit.

The Senate approved the deal earlier in the month by a vote of 50-48. Though the final vote, which required a simple majority, was along party lines, 11 Republican senators voted with Democrats to get the bill over a procedural hurdle that required 60 votes. Republican Senators Mitch McConnell (KY), John Thune (SD), Lisa Murkowski (AK), Susan Collins (ME), Richard Shelby (AL), John Cornyn (TX), Rob Portman (OH), John Barrasso (WY), Shelly Moore Capito (WV), Mike Rounds (SD) and Roy Blunt (MO) joined Senate Democrats to invoke cloture on the measure.

The Senate’s action came a day after Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell (KY) said that Republicans would let Democrats pass a short-term debt hike and just hours after Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) announced they had clinched a deal.

It marked a quick end to a months-long standoff between Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell that had moved the country closer to a historic default. Congress had until October 18 to raise the nation’s borrowing limit, or risk plummeting over the fiscal cliff with significant consequences for the world’s economy.

Another stopgap measure to fund the government also expires on December 3, meaning Democrats will yet again have to find a way to prevent potential fiscal calamity in the twin threats of a shutdown and a default.

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For now, lawmakers have staved off a catastrophic debt default less than a week before the October 18 deadline by which the Treasury Department estimated the U.S. could start failing to meet its borrowing obligations.

The House originally passed bills twice in recent weeks to suspend the debt limit into December 2022, but they stalled in the Senate due to GOP resistance to passing a debt ceiling suspension through regular order. Senate Republicans had been pushing for Democrats to use the budget reconciliation process to address the debt ceiling with only Democratic votes.

The Senate's agreement earlier in the month to pass only a short-term debt limit extension meant the House had to briefly return from a scheduled recess on Tuesday to ensure the legislation made it to Biden's desk before the deadline.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has warned that Republicans won't support another short-term extension like this next time around.

"I write to inform you that I will not provide such assistance again if your all-Democrat government drifts into another avoidable crisis," McConnell wrote in a letter to Biden on Friday, October 8.

Republicans are insisting that Democrats use the budget reconciliation process to raise the debt limit on a long-term basis, since it is one of the few things exempt from a Senate filibuster. It's the same process that Democrats are using for their wide-ranging package to expand social safety net programs and mitigate climate change.

Although Democrats had been adamant that they won't use the budget reconciliation process for the debt limit, they appear to be softening that position in recent weeks. Democrats have objected to using the process because it is far more time-consuming and would require specifying a number for raising the debt limit that Republicans could subsequently use in campaign ads. They argue that the debt limit should continue to be raised on a bipartisan basis as it has historically been done in the past.

It's not clear how lawmakers will resolve the coming impasse in December.

### **New HUD Rule Aimed at Preventing Evictions from Public Housing**

The Biden administration is rolling out a new rule aimed at preventing evictions for tenants in public housing after the federal eviction moratorium expired in August.

The rule, published on Thursday, October 7 will prohibit individuals living in housing subsidized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from being evicted from their homes for not paying rent unless the tenants are given a 30-day notice and information regarding federal emergency rental assistance that may be available.

Typically, rules submitted to the register would be enacted 30 days later. Authorities dealing with public housing nationwide, however, will likely implement the regulation right away.



The rule was reportedly changed because of a growing concern regarding a potential spike in evictions as cases start to progress through the court system.

“This rule is a significant step in raising tenant awareness about the availability of funds that can assist them with past due rent and allowing them additional time to access relief that may stave off eviction entirely,” HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge stated.

“HUD will continue to review additional actions to help protect individuals through the duration of the pandemic,” she added.

The revised regulation, however, is not entirely new. The requirement for a notice 30 days before evictions existed in the original COVID-19 relief package.

Tenants living in project-based rental assistance properties also fall under the authority of the new rule. Those locations are operated by private-for-profit or nonprofit owners that make an agreement with HUD to establish housing units that are affordable to tenants.

The new rule comes after the federal eviction moratorium expired in early August, leaving millions of Americans at risk of being pushed out of their homes amid the pandemic.

HUD said the new rule builds on previous work the department has completed to protect tenants from evictions, including streamlining requirements to allow assisted households to recertify their income if they see a drop in wages, providing eviction prevention resources for public housing authorities and issuing guidance that protects against evictions targeting protected classes, among other efforts.

### **Biden Takes Big Steps on Rules for Environmental Reviews**

The White House on Wednesday, October 6 took a significant first step toward restoring safeguards that the Trump administration cut from its regulations governing environmental reviews.

The move was the first in a two-step process, with advocates and industry leaders expected to keep a close eye on both rules, since what comes next will define exactly where the Biden administration stands on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires the government to consider environmental impacts of major projects like airports, highways and pipelines and carry out environmental reviews before construction begins.

The White House said the measures announced Wednesday constitute “phase 1” of its rulemaking and that it would develop a “phase 2” in the coming months.

The Trump administration scaled back NEPA in 2020 with changes that it said were intended to modernize implementation of the 50-year-old law. The rollback drew cheers from industry leaders, who said they could now get projects done faster, but criticism from advocates who argued that it undermined environmental protections that had been in place for decades.



On Wednesday, the White House Council on Environmental Quality announced that it was making three major changes to the way environmental reviews mandated by NEPA are approached.

The council said it will stipulate that the regulations are “a floor, rather than a ceiling” for what federal agencies can require, give more flexibility to agencies to consider project alternatives and reinstate language that explicitly requires consideration of “indirect” and “cumulative impacts.”

Cumulative impacts look at how new projects would combine with nearby existing ones to affect a community overall. The language seeks to prevent communities from being overburdened by pollution and other environmental issues.

The Biden administration’s inclusion of that language is expected to restore consideration of climate change in environmental reviews.

But the Trump administration made other significant changes to the NEPA process, many that were not addressed in Wednesday’s proposal such as shortening the time limit for rigorous environmental reviews and setting page limits for the analyses.

Environmentalists argue there’s much more that needs to be done to undo the Trump rule. Industry groups, meanwhile, have praised many of the provisions instituted by the Trump administration, including the shorter timeline for reviews.

## Summary of Senate Appropriations Bills for Fiscal Year 2022

### Senate Fiscal 2022 Appropriations Bills

Senate Democrats aim to boost funds for 11 of 12 annual spending bills

Spending bills	Discretionary total	Vs. Fiscal 2021
Agriculture-FDA*	\$25.9B	+2.5 ▲
Commerce-Justice-Science	79.7	+8.6 ▲
Defense	725.8	+29.3 ▲
Energy and Water*	53.6	+1.9 ▲
Financial Services	29.4	+4.8 ▲
Homeland Security	71.7	-0.1 ▼
Interior-Environment	44.6	+6.2 ▲
Labor-HHS-Education	220.8	+46.7 ▲
Legislative Branch	5.9	+0.6 ▲
Military Construction-VA*	124.4	+11.2 ▲
State and Foreign Operations	60.6	+5.1 ▲
Transportation-HUD	82.9	+8.3 ▲

Commerce-Justice-Science: The bill would provide \$79.7 billion in discretionary funds, an \$8.6 billion increase over fiscal 2021.

- NASA would receive \$24.8 billion, a \$1.5 billion increase.
- The National Science Foundation would receive \$9.5 billion, a \$1 billion increase, which includes up to \$865 million for a new Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships.

Defense: The bill would provide \$725.8 billion, a \$29.3 billion increase.

- The bill does not categorize any money as Overseas Contingency Operations funds, a designation previously used to put money outside statutory spending limits which are no longer in effect.
- The bill would not provide the \$3.3 billion requested for the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund, and would rescind \$500 million in previously appropriated funds for the program.
- The bill includes \$1 billion for Israel's Iron Dome defense system.

Financial Services-General Government: The bill would provide \$29.4 billion, a \$4.8 billion increase.

- The Internal Revenue Service would receive \$13.6 billion, a \$1.6 billion increase.

Homeland Security: The bill would provide \$71.7 billion, a \$65 million decrease from fiscal 2021.

- The bill wouldn't provide any new border wall funding and would rescind \$1.9 billion in barrier funds appropriated for the previous year.
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection would receive \$14.5 billion, a \$501 million cut from fiscal 2021.

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- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement would receive \$7.9 billion, a \$40 million cut.

Interior-Environment: The bill would provide \$44.6 billion, a \$6.2 billion increase.

- The Environmental Protection Agency would receive \$10.5 billion, a \$1.3 billion increase.
- The National Park Service would receive \$3.5 billion, a \$340 million increase as lawmakers aim to support the hiring of more than 1,000 additional employees.

Labor-HHS-Education: The bill would provide \$220.8 billion in discretionary funds, a \$46.7 billion increase.

- The bill does not include the longstanding Hyde amendment, which for decades has banned federal funds for abortions, except in the case of rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person.
- The Department of Health and Human Services would receive \$117.6 billion in discretionary funds, a \$20.9 billion increase over fiscal 2021. It includes \$2.4 billion for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, a new agency proposed by President Joe Biden. The bill would provide \$4.9 billion for HHS's Unaccompanied Children program, a \$3.6 billion increase.
- The Department of Education would receive \$98.4 billion in discretionary funds, a \$24.9 billion increase.
- The Department of Labor would receive \$13.8 billion in discretionary funds, a \$1.3 billion increase.

Legislative Branch: The bill would provide \$5.9 billion in discretionary funds, a \$624 million increase

- The bill would block an automatic pay increase for lawmakers.
- The bill would allow immigrants under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to work for the Legislative Branch.

State and Foreign Operations: The bill would provide \$60.6 billion in discretionary funds, a \$5.1 billion increase.

- The bill includes \$3.3 billion in military assistance for Israel. It also includes \$225 million in development assistance for the West Bank and Gaza and \$40 million for the Palestinian security assistance program.
- The bill would bar any funds from going directly to the Taliban. It stipulates that funds should be made available for Afghan students, including "distance learning and scholarships to institutions located outside of Afghanistan."

Transportation-HUD: The bill would provide \$82.9 billion in discretionary funds, an \$8.3 billion increase.

- The bill includes \$53.4 billion in net discretionary budget authority for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, a \$3.8 billion increase. It includes \$29.1 billion in net discretionary budget authority for the Department of Transportation, also a \$3.8 billion increase.

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.
S. 1301	Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)	Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act (Debt Limit Bill)	<p>This bill became the vehicle for passage of the public debt limit increase. On October 7, 2021, the Senate amended the bill to increase the public debt limit by \$480 billion.</p> <p>This debt limit extension is expected to allow the government to cover its expenses at least through December 3, 2021.</p>	The legislation passed the House on September 29, 2021, by a vote of 219 – 212 on party lines, and the Senate passed the bill on October 7, 2021 by a vote of 50-48. President Biden signed the bill into law on October 14, 2021, four days before the federal government was forecasted to hit the debt limit.
XX	President Joe Biden / Congressional Democrats	Build Back Better Act	<p>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> <p>A new framework released in late October calls for scaling the package back to roughly \$1.75 trillion in response to concerns from moderate Democrats.</p>	<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</p>

				<p>earlier this month that make up the spending plan.</p> <p>Following moderate lawmakers' hesitation about the legislation, President Biden presented lawmakers with a new \$1.75 trillion framework on Thursday, October 28.</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. Congress passed a one</p>

				<p>month extension of funding for Surface Transportation programs that expires on October 31.</p> <p>Lawmakers again attempted to pass the bill in late October, but instead have opted to pass another short-term extension of highway authorities through December 3.</p>
H.R. 5305	Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)	Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act	<p>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.</p>	<p>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>.</p>
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, and passed the Senate by a vote of 69-30 on August 10, 2021.</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	A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to nonpoint source management, and for other purposes.	<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)	To extend the authorities under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 providing operational flexibility, drought relief, and other benefits to the State of California	The legislation would extend the authorities under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 providing operational flexibility, drought relief, and other benefits to the State of California. The legislation would extend 4007 authorities through January 1, 2028.	The legislation was introduced on March 3, 2021 and was referred to the House Committees on Natural Resources and Science, Space, and Technology.
H.R.1915	Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) / 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.	<p>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.</p> <p>The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing on the legislation on June 29, 2021.</p>
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.	<p>The legislation was introduced on March 23, 2021 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.</p> <p>The legislation passed the Senate on April 29, 2021 by a vote of 89-2.</p> <p>Elements of this legislation were incorporated into the bipartisan infrastructure framework, though with a reduced authorization for the Drinking and Clean Water State Revolving Funds.</p>
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 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.	The legislation in the House was introduced on February 5, 2021, and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.  The Senate version of the legislation was introduced on February 3, 2021 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture.
H.R. 2515	Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA)	Building U.S. Infrastructure through Limited Delays and Efficient Reviews (BUILDER) Act	The legislation modernizes the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and aims to make infrastructure project reviews more efficient, reduce project costs, and spur economic recovery.	The legislation was introduced on April 14, 2021 and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.  The legislation's 46 cosponsors are all Republican, including members of GOP leadership.
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>



S. 3011	Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)	State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act	<p>The legislation provides additional flexibility for States, Tribes, and units of local government to spend their allocations of the COVID Relief Funds on certain infrastructure projects; including water, wastewater, and broadband infrastructure projects. The bill also allows these funds to be used to provide emergency relief from natural disasters. There is a cap—the greater of \$10 million or 30% of the funds—on how much of the COVID money can be spent on these new purposes.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on October 19, 2021, and passed the Senate by unanimous consent that day.</p> <p>Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) is an original cosponsor of the legislation.</p>
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INFORMATION  
ITEM  
2B



**October 29, 2021**

**To:** Inland Empire Utilities Agency

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

**RE:** October Report

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**Overview:**

As widely reported, the bomb cyclone that hit Northern California recently brought some much-needed precipitation, but not enough to make up for the significant deficits facing CA reservoirs. Lake Oroville rose 26 feet in days following the storm but is still only at 53 percent of historical average (27 percent capacity) or 77 feet lower than 2020 levels and 134 feet below 2019 levels. San Luis Reservoir, the main south-of-Delta storage facility for the State Water Project, hasn't seen a bump from the storm, as it is an off-river reservoir. It is at 22 percent of average for this time of the year and 10 percent capacity. The Sierras received two to three feet of snow to start the snowpack.

In response to lack of response on his calls for voluntary water conservation, the Governor declared the entire state to be in drought conditions and authorized the State Water Resources Control Board to take actions to reduce potable water use. The SWRCB hasn't set a timeline for adoption of any further water restrictions.

The continuing struggle to reach agreement on how to manage the Delta has another twist. The Biden Administration has asked that the Biological Opinions (BiOps) for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central valley Project (CVP) be reopened after the Trump Administration made significant changes during the last administration. This hot-button issue has garnered response from Senator Feinstein and a number of Representatives in Washington D.C.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) recently posted their "Proposed Standardized Methods for Testing and Reporting Plan for Microplastics in Drinking Water." There will be a workshop in November and written comments are due in December.

Final action in the first year of the two-year session ended on October 10, with the Governor acting on the final legislation on his desk. Ultimately, the Governor signed 1,038 bills and vetoed 66. Importantly, the Governor signed AB 818 (Bloom) requiring non-flushable products to be labeled as "non-flushable" and SB 273 (Hertzberg) allowing all POTWS to capture and reuse stormwater. Members will remain in their districts until January 3 when they will return for the final year of the two-year session. When they come back in January, they will only have a few weeks to move the legislation left over from 2021. Notably, AB 1434 (Friedman) which lowers the gallons per capita daily (GPCD) for indoor residential water use, will likely be resurrected in January.

# Inland Empire Utilities Agency

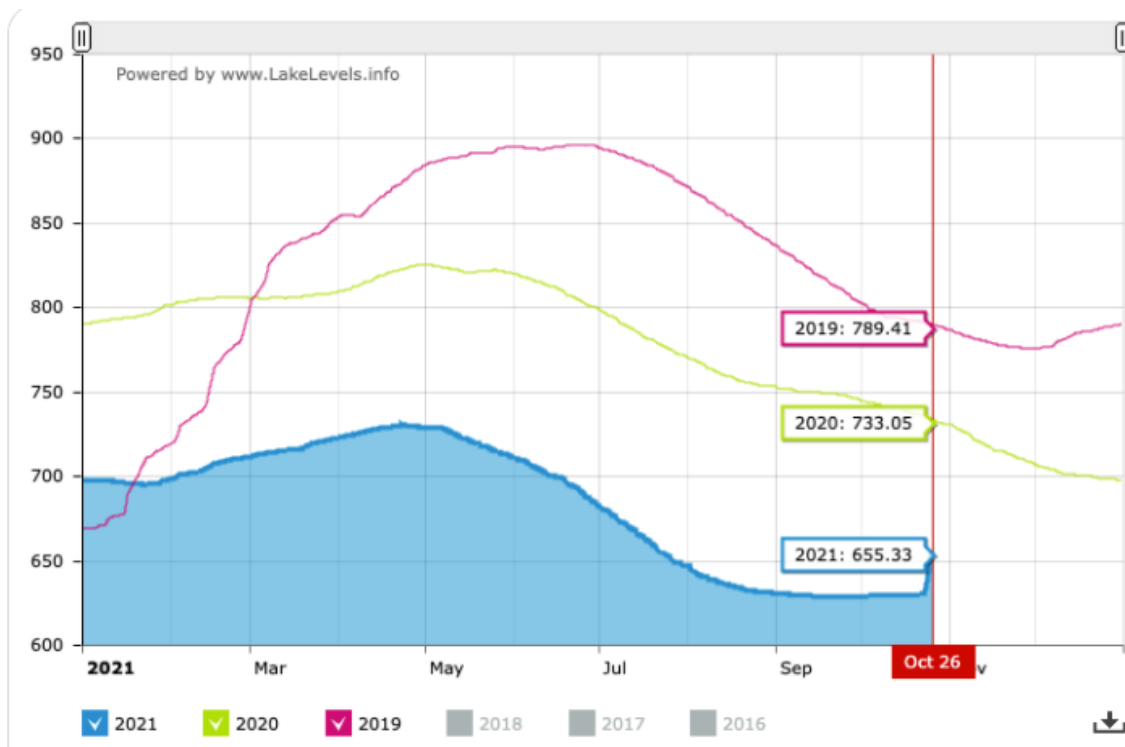
## Status Report – October 2021

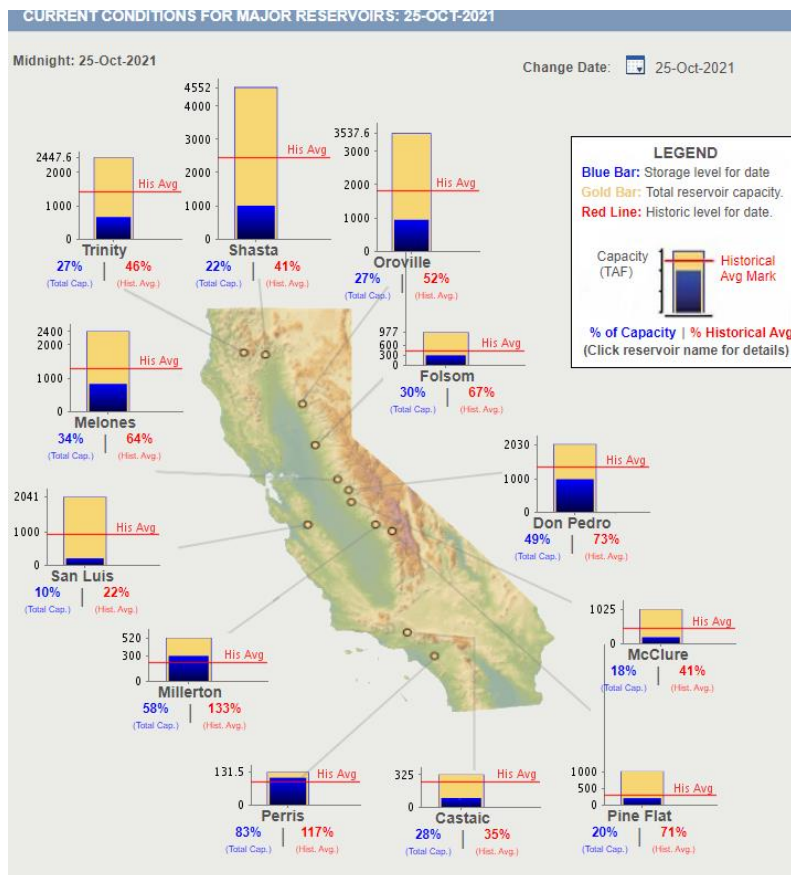
### *Water Supply Conditions*

As widely reported, the bomb cyclone that hit Northern California recently brought some much-needed precipitation, but not enough to make up for the significant deficits facing CA reservoirs. Lake Oroville rose 26 feet in days following the storm but is still only at 53 percent of historical average (27 percent capacity) or 77 feet lower than 2020 levels and 134 feet below 2019 levels. San Luis Reservoir, the main south-of-Delta storage facility for the State Water Project, hasn't seen a bump from the storm, as it is an off-river reservoir. It is at 22 percent of average for this time of the year and 10 percent capacity. The Sierras received two to three feet of snow to initiate the winter snowpack.

While this storm was a historic 150-200 year storm, and importantly ended the Northern California fire season, the National Ocean and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) has warned that the outlook for the next few months isn't terribly positive for any significant precipitation.

### Lake Oroville Water Levels:





### ***Governor Declares Statewide Drought***

Governor Newsom recently issued an Executive Order declaring drought in the five Southern California counties that had been excluded from earlier proclamations. Additionally, the order requires local water providers to implement their Water Shortage Contingency Plans. Additionally the order authorized the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to take the following actions to “supplement voluntary conservation by prohibiting certain wasteful water practices” including:

- The use of potable water for washing sidewalks, driveways, buildings, structures, patios, parking lots and other hard-surfaced areas, except in cases where health and safety are at risk.
- The use of potable water that results in flooding or runoff in gutters or streets.
- The use of potable water, except with the use of a positive shut-off nozzle for car washing.
- The use of water to irrigate turf and ornamental landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall.
  - Note: this is the only provision that includes recycled water- but this prohibition is already contained in recycled water permits.
- The use of potable water for irrigation of ornamental turf on public streets or medians.
- The use of potable water for street cleaning or construction, unless necessary for public safety.
- The use of potable water for decorative fountains, decorative lakes or ponds.

These potential prohibitions are consistent with the powers given to the SWRCB during the last drought. The Board hasn’t yet noticed implementing any of these measures. As noted above, recycled water is generally excluded from these provisions.

### ***Biden Administration begins project operation rules re-write for BiOps***

The rules that govern when and how the Central Valley Project and State Water Project can operate are dictated, in large part, by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). A small, but influential, provision of the ESA known as the Biological Opinions (BiOps) analyze the effects that any given project will have on the ESA listed species that inhabit the area a project operates in. The BiOps have been at the center of the power struggle in the Delta for more than a decade.

The Trump Administration rewrote the BiOps using updated science and real time analysis and monitoring of conditions and effects on ESA listed fish in the Delta. The prior version (developed in 2008 and 2009) used a calendar-based approach to predict when conditions might be appropriate to pump more or less water through the CVP and SWP. Environmentalists and the Newsom Administration opposed the Trump-era BiOps, setting off a flurry of lawsuits. In addition, for the first time in the history of the water projects, the State of California refused to operate the SWP by the same rules that the federal government was operating the CVP. Due to the proximity of the projects running through the Delta, this causes uncertainty and a bit of chaos for water contractors.

On his first day in office, January 20, 2021, President Biden issued an [Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis](#). In that Order, the President stated that “the Federal Government must be guided by the best science and be protected by processes that ensure the integrity of Federal decision-making.” He went on to direct all federal agencies to address federal actions from the Trump Administration that conflict with that objective. Biden identified only two BiOps from the entire federal government jurisdiction that his Administration would review to determine if they were “guided by the best science” and adopted in an appropriate manner. These two BiOps are the BiOps related to the CVP and SWP. More than eight months later, on September 30, the Bureau of Reclamation sent a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) formally requesting that those two BiOps be reopened.

This could be a several month process, during which the federal wildlife agencies will take a new look at the effects the projects may have on protected species and any measures that could limit adverse effects on those species. Additionally, pursuant to the requirements of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act), Reclamation is required to engage with water agencies that contract for water from the CVP or SWP during the reconsultation of the BiOps.

However, in one of the many lawsuits aimed at the Trump-era BiOps (*PCFFA v. Raimondo*), the California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Reclamation, NMFS, and FWS submitted an “interim operations plan” to the court that would govern the CVP and SWP while the Biden Administration works on the new BiOps, if approved by the federal judge overseeing the case. Among other changes, the proposed interim plan goes back to the calendar-based approach for determining when and how much water can be pumped through the projects.

This approach can be problematic because it does not account for real time monitoring of projected species to determine if there is an actual risk. It also is usually not flexible enough to allow for increased pumping during storm events that increase river flow.

In response to Reclamation’s September announcement, several elected officials have expressed concern. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) along with Representatives Jim Costa (D-CA 16), John Garamendi (D-CA 3), and Josh Harder (D-CA 10) [sent a letter](#) to Governor Newsom, U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, and U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo asking that implementation of the interim plan be deferred until it can be more thoroughly analyzed.

Specifically, the Feinstein letter calls into question the adequacy of the projections for fish, lack of inclusion of non-flow actions, lack of flexibility to utilize real-time information, and limited availability of water. The California Republican delegation also [sent a letter](#) to Secretaries Haaland and Raimondo requesting that the plan be deferred, expressing similar concerns over the interim plan's calendar-based approach and lack of proper vetting.

Despite their drastically different viewpoints, the lawsuit's environmental plaintiffs and the water agency defendant-intervenors are in agreement over their opposition to the interim plan. While the environmentalists believe that it doesn't go far enough and the water agencies believe it goes too far, they both agree that it has not been properly vetted.

It is not immediately clear when the judge might rule on the interim plan. However, it is clear that there will continue to be a slew of legal action surrounding the issue.

### ***Microplastics***

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) recently posted their "Proposed Standardized Methods for Testing and Reporting Plan for Microplastics in Drinking Water." The SWRCB contracted with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to conduct an interlaboratory validation of analytical methods for monitoring microplastics in drinking water, convene an expert workshop to develop guidance to aid consumer interpretation of monitoring results, and provide training for ELAP staff and third-party laboratory assessors to accredit qualified laboratories to analyze microplastics. Two methods were validated through the inter-laboratory comparison study involving 22 labs. The participating labs collaborated with SWRCB to determine best practices and develop accreditation criteria for laboratories.

A workshop is scheduled for November 17, comments are due December 22 and the Board will consider adoption at its February 15 meeting.

### ***Legislative Update***

Final action in the first year of the two-year session ended on October 10, with the Governor acting on the final legislation on his desk. Ultimately, the Governor signed 1,038 bills and vetoed 66.

Members will remain in their districts until January 3 when they will return for the final year of the two-year session.

### **Final 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. Signed by Governor.
- 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 was signed by the Governor.

- 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.





			<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>Signed by Governor</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:** November 17, 2021

**To:** The Honorable Board of Directors

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

**Committee:** Community & Legislative Affairs

11/10/21

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

**Subject:** Public Outreach and Communication

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**Executive Summary:**

Working closely with MWD, regional and member agencies, staff is ensuring a consistent and impactful regional drought message is being communicated to the public. In response to the Governor's proclamation extending the drought emergency statewide, messaging has shifted to the #StepItUp phase. Staff continues to work closely with the Executive Manager of External and Government Affairs/AGM Kathy Besser to incorporate any actions by the Governor into messaging.

Staff published outreach on our social media platforms following the signing of Assembly Bill 818 which requires a "Do Not Flush" symbol and warning on individual wet wipes packages. A toolkit was sent to our Member Agencies and a poll was also published to our Nextdoor platform asking subscribers if they knew "flushable" wipes should not be flushed. The post currently has approximately 10,500 impressions.

Staff facilitated a Virtual Field Trip with Walnut Avenue Elementary School (Chino) where 33 fifth grade students participated.

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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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### November

- November 8, National STEM/STEAM Day
- November 10, International Accounting Day
- November 11, Veterans Day
- November 15, America Recycles Day
- November 15-19, American Education Week
- November 17, GIS Day
- November 19, World Toilet Day

### Media and Outreach

- Working closely with MWD, regional and member agencies, staff is ensuring a consistent and impactful regional drought message is being communicated to the public. In response to the Governor's proclamation extending the drought emergency statewide, messaging has shifted to the #StepItUp phase. Staff continues to work closely with the Executive Manager of External and Government Affairs/AGM Kathy Besser to incorporate any actions by the Governor into messaging.
- Staff published outreach on our social media platforms following the signing of Assembly Bill 818 which requires a "Do Not Flush" symbol and warning on individual wet wipes packages. A toolkit was sent to our Member Agencies and a poll was also published to our Nextdoor platform asking subscribers if they knew "flushable" wipes should not be flushed. The post currently has approximately 10,500 impressions.
- Cal Poly Pomona's American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Student Chapter joined IEUA staff for a tour of the RP-5 Expansion Project. Recognition of this tour was shared on the @IEUAWater social media platforms.
- Staff is in the final stages of 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 October as National Energy Awareness Month. Throughout the month, information on IEUA's renewable energy initiatives were shared on the Agency's social media accounts.
- Imagine A Day Without Water was recognized on October 21. Staff shared a post about the importance of clean water and water-saving techniques to IEUA's social media accounts.
- Staff launched a "Water-saving Halloweek" campaign where Halloween-themed posts and polls related to saving water were shared to the @IEUAWater social media accounts and stories.

- Staff recognized the DEA’s National Prescription Take Back Day on October 23. A post was shared to the Agency’s social media accounts reminding the public of the event and a News Release was also sent to the Agency stakeholders and the community.
- The Agency continues to publish content on LinkedIn and has gained 38 followers since September 2021, with 538 page views in the last 30 days.
- October: 37 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 21 posts were published to the IEUA LinkedIn page.
  - The top three Facebook posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of October were:
    - 10/11 AB 818 Recognition
    - 10/15 General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh at OC Water Summit
    - 10/12 Control Systems Analyst, Mechanic IV, Records Specialist (2 Year Limited Term), and Intern (Human Resources) Hiring
  - The top three Twitter tweets, based on reach and engagement, in the month of October were:
    - 10/11 AB 818 Recognition
    - 10/13 Water Word Wednesday
    - 10/5 SARCCUP News Release
  - The top three Instagram posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of October were:
    - 10/11 AB 818 Recognition
    - 10/7 Harlan Delzer WPAW Recognition
    - 10/15 General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh at OC Water Summit
  - The top three LinkedIn posts, based on impressions and reactions, in the month of October were:
    - 10/4 James Spears WPAW Recognition
    - 10/15 General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh at OC Water Summit
    - 10/21 Board Member Steve Elie, General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh and Members of IEUA’s Leadership Team at SCWC Annual Meeting and Dinner
- An education ad ran in the October issue in *IE Magazine*.
- A “Water-Wise Education” ad ran on October 22 in *Fontana Herald News*
- A “Water-Wise Education” banner ad ran on October 22 in *Fontana Herald News*
- A “Water-Wise Education” ad ran on October 24 in *La Opinion*.

For the month of October, there were 976 searches for a park in IEUA’s service area on Yelp, where Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park was viewed 943 times, with 846 views coming from a mobile device.

#### Education and Outreach Updates

- 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 facilitated a Virtual Field Trip with Walnut Avenue Elementary School (Chino) where 33 fifth grade students participated.
- Staff sent an email to all school Principal contacts within IEUA's service area regarding the Agency's free education programs. Since the email has been sent, multiple inquiries regarding the programs have been received and staff is working closely with the schools to schedule and facilitate programming.

#### Agency-Wide Membership Updates

- Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/Assistant General Manager, attended the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) Board of Directors Meeting on September 14.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Regulatory Workgroup Meeting on September 16.
- Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/Assistant General Manager, attended the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) Community of Practice California DPR Regulation Advisory Collaborative.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Air Quality Committee Meeting on September 23.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Air Quality Committee Meeting on September 28.

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CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES, LLC

Date: October 29, 2021  
To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
From: John Withers, Jim Brulte  
Re: California Strategies, LLC October 2021 Activity Report

- 1) This month Jim Brulte and John Withers met with senior staff via Microsoft teams on October 04<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) Ongoing discussion was held related to issues of interest to IEUA included:
  - a) CBP/WSIP
    - i) Significant interest from CVWD, FWC, and Pomona.
    - ii) IEUA Board vote of 5-0 to move forward with planning with the State
  - b) Regional Items
    - i) Recent discussion on potential funding for septic to sewer conversions (DWR), JCSD intertie, and ongoing recycled water issues.
  - c) IEUA Outreach
    - i) Future meetings with member agency city managers will be scheduled.
    - ii) City of Fontana staff changes were discussed. Phil Burum acting CM. TKE Engineering hired by city to assist with infrastructure issues.
  - d) IEUA Director Reports
    - i) Attended Annual Southern California Water Coalition Meeting with several senior staff and Directors.
    - ii) IEUA BOD meeting 12/8 for election of officers and representative assignments.