



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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022  
9:00 A.M.**

**INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY\*  
VIEW THE MEETING LIVE ONLINE AT IEUA.ORG  
TELEPHONE ACCESS: (415) 856-9169 / Conf Code: 358 623 957#**

PURSUANT TO AB361 AND RESOLUTION NO. 2022-2-1, ADOPTED BY THE IEUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON FEBRUARY 2, 2022, 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 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.

\*A Municipal Water District

**1. ACTION ITEM**

**A. MINUTES**

Approve Minutes of the January 12, 2022 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)**

**3. GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

**4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

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

**ADJOURN**

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**DECLARATION OF POSTING**

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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, JANUARY 12, 2022  
9:00 A.M.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT via Video/Teleconference**

Steven J. Elie, Chair  
Michael Camacho, Director

**STAFF PRESENT**

Shivaji Deshmukh, P.E., General Manager  
Denise Garzaro, Board Secretary/Office Manager  
Daniel Solorzano, Network Administrator

**STAFF PRESENT via Video/Teleconference**

Christiana Daisy, P.E., Deputy General Manager  
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  
Jerry Burke, Manager of Engineering & Construction Management  
Andrea Carruthers, Manager of External Affairs  
Robert Delgado, Manager of Operations & Maintenance  
Don Hamlett, Acting Deputy Manager of Integrated System Services  
Jennifer Hy-Luk, Acting Executive Assistant  
Scott Lening, Acting Manager of Operations & Maintenance  
Jesse Pompa, Manager of Grants  
Sushmitha Reddy, Manager of Laboratories  
Jeanina Romero, Executive Assistant  
Wilson To, Technology Specialist II  
Teresa Velarde, Manager of Internal Audit

**OTHERS PRESENT via Video/Teleconference**

Michael Boccadoro, West Coast Advisors  
Jean Denton, Innovative Federal Strategies  
Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors  
Drew Tatum, Innovative Federal Strategies  
Letitia White, Innovative Federal Strategies

**CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Steven J. Elie called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He gave the public the opportunity to comment and provided instructions for unmuting the conference line.

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

### **1A – 1C. ACTION ITEMS**

The Committee:

- ◆ Approved Minutes of the November 10, 2021 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.
- ◆ Recommended that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2022-1-2, authorizing the Agency-wide organizational memberships and affiliations for Fiscal Year 2022/23; and authorizing the General Manager to approve all Agency-wide Membership fees that are \$5,000 or less; as an Action Item on the January 19, 2022 Board meeting agenda.
- ◆ Recommended that the Board adopt the 2022 Legislative Policy Principles; as a Consent Calendar Item on the January 29, 2022 Board meeting agenda.

### **2A – 2C. 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 – West Coast Advisors
- ◆ Public Outreach and Communication

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

General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh stated that groundwater recharge staff did a fantastic job on stormwater capture in December 2021, capturing a total of 5,623 acre-feet of stormwater for the month, which is the second highest monthly stormwater capture in history. The highest monthly stormwater capture was in 2011 at 7,036 acre-feet.

During the same time in December 2021, the Agency's water recycling plants discharged a total of 3,735 acre-feet of recycled water to the Santa Ana River due to low demand.

### **4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Director Camacho stated he appreciated the opportunity to serve on the Committee again and he looked forward to hearing the legislative updates.

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

There were no Committee member requests for future agenda items.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Committee Chair Elie adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Garzaro  
Board Secretary/Office Manager

\*A Municipal Water District

**APPROVED: FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

INFORMATION  
ITEM  
2A

# INNOVATIVE FEDERAL STRATEGIES, LLC

*Comprehensive Government Relations*

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** IEUA Community and Legislative Affairs Committee

**From:** Letitia White, Jean Denton, and Drew Tatum

**Date:** January 31, 2022

**Re:** January Monthly Legislative Update

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### **Appropriations Work to Continue Despite Recess**

Congressional negotiators are working to strike a government funding deal ahead of a February 18 deadline, even as lawmakers took a weeklong recess at the end of January.

Senate Appropriations Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) wants to have an omnibus prepared a few days after lawmakers return from recess on January 31, he said, setting an ambitious schedule for negotiations during the recess.

“Hopefully, a few days after we come back, there will be an omnibus,” Leahy said.

Senate Appropriations Vice Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) has indicated staffers will continue discussions during the recess, and Leahy said he “wouldn’t be surprised” if there were conversations among the top House and Senate appropriators in the near future.

Senator Shelby has been openly skeptical about meeting the February 18 deadline, though he said negotiators have made progress.

“It’d be hard to get it by the 18th, but if we can make huge progress, we’ll probably get it done soon,” Shelby recently told reporters. He added, “We’re a lot better off than we were a month ago.”

It’s possible lawmakers will make significant progress but have to rely on a short-term stopgap if there isn’t a finished 12-bill spending package by February 18.

Top appropriators have debated how to approach policy riders and top-line defense and nondefense spending figures in conversations among Leahy, Shelby, House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and House Appropriations ranking member Kay Granger (R-TX).

The timing of a full omnibus spending package depends on how soon top negotiators can sort out fundamental questions on riders – including the decades-old Hyde amendment limiting federal funds for abortion – and top-line spending figures. Appropriations subcommittee leaders say they can act quickly and finish work if there’s a high-level agreement soon.

In addition to working to finish the FY22 appropriations bills, Democratic leaders expect a supplemental spending measure to respond to the omicron variant of the coronavirus, possibly tied to a government funding bill, though Republican concerns remain about the use of previously appropriated money.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said on Tuesday, January 18 she hopes a supplemental spending bill could be done in time to be added to an omnibus government funding bill, but noted that supplemental appropriations will be contingent on how the appropriations committees seek to address the lingering coronavirus pandemic.

“We’d like to see that in any number of bills, but we’ll see how that goes in approps first,” Pelosi told reporters last week.

The White House has yet to send a formal funding request for an omicron bill, and appropriators haven’t offered any details on how they might approach the measure. Republicans have also raised complaints about the use of previously appropriated funds for testing, considering the shortage of available tests as coronavirus cases increased this winter.

Republicans may support a bill, but they’ll insist on reusing previously appropriated funds rather than relying on all new spending, according to Representative Tom Cole (R-OK), who serves as the ranking member of the House Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee.

“It depends on what’s in it and it depends on whether they’re willing to use any of the money they’ve already spent,” Cole said.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) told reporters earlier this month he also expects a supplemental bill addressing the omicron surge.

### **Pelosi Says Build Back Better Act May Need to Be Scaled Back**

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) admitted that Democrats may need to scale back and rebrand the Build Back Better Act – President Biden’s massive social spending package.

The announcement came after a press conference on January 20 hosted by President Biden where he suggested that the legislation may need to be broken up into “chunks.” The President suggested that this method could be used to garner support from Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), whose opposition caused the package to fail last month.

Speaker Pelosi disagreed with the President’s use of the word “chunks,” but agreed that the package could be paired down. “‘Chunks’ is an interesting word,” Pelosi said. “So what the president calls ‘chunks’ I would hope would be a major bill going forward. It may be more limited, but it is still significant.”

Speaker Pelosi outlined major portions of the legislation that she would like to see preserved in a reworked spending package, which she indicated may also be renamed. Among the priorities she



noted were the billions of dollars included in Build Back Better for climate initiatives, provisions to expand health care coverage, and provisions that aim to lower the cost of prescription drugs.

The Speaker also made note she did not want to lose the provisions to provide aide to children, including universal preschool and the expanded child tax credit, both of which have been opposed by Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV).

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) told reporters he had not heard word from the White House which portions may need to be cut out to move the legislation forward. “We need to determine what Joe Manchin is in favor of. I certainly am not ready to throw in the towel on it,” Neal said.

### **Bipartisan Senate Group Works on Changing Election Law**

During the January state work period, a group of Senators met via Zoom to discuss changes to the Electoral Count Act of 1887 after Democrats’ larger election reform and voting rights bill failed to advance in the Senate.

The call included 15 participants and last for around an hour while members discussed the Electoral Count Act. The bill lays out how the Electoral College results are counted. Though the bill was the center of the discussions, the group also discussed other potential election reforms that may enjoy bipartisan support.

The meeting was organized by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and follows a staff-level meeting which took place during the week of January 17. During the first meeting, senators discussed potential changes to the 1887 law in wake of the 2020 election.

Participants included Republican Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Rob Portman (R-OH), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Todd Young (R-IN), and Ben Sasse (R-NE). The Democrat Senators included Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), Mark Warner (D-VA), Chris Coons (D-DE), Chris Murphy (D-CT), and Ben Cardin (D-MD).

The Senators are eyeing a clarification that the role of a vice president is ceremonial and increasing the number of lawmakers that must sign onto an objecting challenging a state’s Electoral College slate before Congress votes on the challenge.

Of the work, Senator Collins said, “I’m very encouraged by the fact that so many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle have indicated an interest in making sure that votes are properly counted and certified, and that means overhauling the 1887 Electoral Count Act, it means looking at additional protections against violence and threats for poll workers and election officials.”

Much of the momentum behind the results from former President Trump’s attempt to pressure his Vice President, Mike Pence, to dismiss the Electoral College results from battleground states as part of his role overseeing Congress’s counting of election results on January 6, 2021.

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Senator Tillis, said he believes the Act has “clearly become weaponized,” adding “we clearly have to make it clear that the vice president is in a ministerial position, and there should be a higher bar for lodging an objection.”

The group of senators also weighed making it a crime to threaten election officials or poll workers.

Senator Machin spoke on the Senator floor regarding the issue prior to the state work period saying those who use intimidation should be "dealt with in the harshest penalties, we're not going to fool with our count."

The group’s work is growing in support as Senator Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) gave them his blessing and House GOP Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) is remaining open to revisions.

Despite the bipartisan efforts, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has indicated Democrats will continue to attempt to find a path forward for their voting rights legislation after the failed attempt to pass a rule change that would exclude the legislation from the legislative filibuster.

After two Democrats, Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Krysten Sinema (D-AZ), voted against the rule change, Senator Schumer spoke from the floor saying that the setback was “disappointing” but that they would “keep working until voting rights are protected for every American.”

He continued:

It will not deter Senate Democrats from continuing our fight against voter suppression, dark money and partisan gerrymandering. With no support from Senate Republicans, many of whom deny the very existence of voter suppression, we faced an uphill battle, but because of this fight and the fact that each senator had to show where they stand, we are closer to achieving our goal. Now that every senator has gone on record, the American people have seen who's on the side of protecting voting rights, and it will only strengthen our resolve as we work to ensure our democracy does not backslide.

Senators Sinema and Manchin both supported the underlying voting rights bill but voted against the one-time rules change.

Senator Schumer tried to change the Senate rules to allow the voting rights bill to bypass the legislative filibuster. The filibuster requires 60 votes for most legislation to advance. His decision to do so came after the Republicans blocked the legislation, which combines the Freedom to Vote Act to overhaul federal elections and campaign finance laws with the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act which strengthens the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

### **House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi Announces Run for Reelection**

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) made an announcement that she is seeking reelection in 2022 amid rumors that this would be her last year in office.

Pelosi, who has been in office since a special election in 1987, said that U.S. democracy is “at risk” and that the next election would be “crucial.”

In an announcement posted to Twitter, Pelosi said:

While we've made progress, much more needs to be done to improve people's lives. Our democracy is at risk because of assaults on the truth, the assault on the U.S. Capitol and the state-by-state assault on voting rights. This election is crucial. Nothing less is at stake than our democracy. But, as we say, we don't agonize; we organize. And that is why I am running for reelection to Congress and respectfully seek your support. I would be greatly honored by it and grateful for it.

Pelosi pledged in 2018 that she would only serve for two additional terms as Speaker of the House. She has served as the top Democrat in the House for the past 19 years.

The next election will be a difficult one for Democrats to keep their majority and many speculate she will not wish to continue in a position of leadership if Democrats are in the minority. Even if Pelosi is elected in November, she may still resign early in the new Congress if Democrats are in the majority. There has been speculation that Pelosi announced she would seek reelection to hold off a wave of additional Democratic retirements. To date, 29 House Democrats have announced they will not seek reelection to the House in 2022, though a number are seeking other office.

A full list of Members and Senators who have announced their retirement or plans to seek other office from the House and Senate is included below.

<b>Departing Senators</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Richard Burr	R	North Carolina	Retiring
Pat Toomey	R	Pennsylvania	Retiring
Rob Portman	R	Ohio	Retiring
Richard Shelby	R	Alabama	Retiring
Roy Blunt	R	Missouri	Retiring
Patrick Leahy	D	Vermont	Retiring
<b>Departing House Members</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Ann Kirkpatrick	D	AZ-02	Retiring
Tom Reed	R	NY-23	Retiring
Jody Hice	R	GA-10	Running for GA Secretary of State
Filemon Vela	D	TX-34	Retiring
Mo Brooks	R	AL-05	Running for Senate
Lee Zeldin	R	NY-01	Running for Governor
Kevin Brady	R	TX-08	Retiring

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Tim Ryan	D	OH-13	Running for Senate
Ted Budd	R	NC-13	Running for Senate
Cheri Bustos	D	IL-17	Retiring
Charlie Crist	D	FL-13	Running for Governor
Val Demings	D	FL-10	Running for Senate
Vicky Hartzler	R	MO-04	Running for Senate
Billy Long	R	MO-07	Running for Senate
Conor Lamb	D	PA-17	Running for Senate
Ron Kind	D	WI-03	Retiring
Anthony Gonzalez	R	OH-16	Retiring
Karen Bass	D	CA-37	Running for Los Angeles mayor
John Yarmuth	D	KY-03	Retiring
David Price	D	NC-04	Retiring
Mike Doyle	D	PA-18	Retiring
Anthony Brown	D	MD-04	Running for Maryland attorney general
Adam Kinzinger	R	IL-16	Retiring
Jackie Speier	D	CA-14	Retiring
G.K. Butterfield	D	NC-01	Retiring
Eddie Bernice Johnson	D	TX-30	Retiring
Peter Welch	D	VT-AL	Running for Senate
Louie Gohmert	R	TX-01	Running for Texas attorney general
Tom Suozzi	D	NY-03	Running for Governor
Peter Defazio	D	OR-04	Retiring
Alan Lowenthal	D	CA-47	Retiring
Stephanie Murphy	D	FL-07	Retiring
Lucille Roybal-Allard	D	CA-40	Retiring
Albio Sires	D	NJ-08	Retiring
Bobby Rush	D	IL-01	Retiring
Brenda Lawrence	D	MI-14	Retiring
Ed Perlmutter	D	CO-07	Retiring
Trey Hollingsworth	R	IN-09	Retiring
John Katko	R	NY-24	Retiring
Jerry McNerney	D	CA-09	Retiring
Jim Langevin	D	RI-02	Retiring
Jim Cooper	D	TN-05	Retiring

### **President Biden Pledges to Nominate a Black Woman to the Supreme Court**

In the wake of the announcement that Justices Stephen Breyer plans to retire at the end of the current term, President Biden reiterated a promise that he will nominate a Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

During his campaign the President made promises at multiple points that he would appoint a woman of color to serve on the nation's highest court.

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), the third most senior Democrat in the Senate, said, "In the wake of Justice Breyer's retirement, I want to voice my support for President Biden in his pledge to

nominate the first Black woman to the Supreme Court. The Court should reflect the diversity of our country, and it is unacceptable that we have never in our nation's history had a Black woman sit on the Supreme Court of the United States — I want to change that.”

Breyer's retirement follows months of pleas from Democrats for him to step down in favor of a younger justice to serve on the court as Democrats retain a majority in the split Senate with Vice President Harris serving as a tiebreaking vote.

President Biden has indicated that he plans to consult with both Democrats and Republicans before announcing a selection. He plans to announce his pick prior to the end of February.

Even though Justice Breyer doesn't plan to step down until the end of the Supreme Court's current term, Democrats have indicated they intend to hold confirmation hearings and clear a nominee this spring.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer indicated the Senate will move with deliberate speed to confirm a Biden nominee. Senate Democrats have indicated they may use an accelerated timeline to confirm a nomination, pointing to Justice Amy Coney Barrett's nomination that cleared the Senate in one month.

### **Biden Administration Announces Plan to Secure Water Systems from Attack**

The White House announced plans on Wednesday, January 26 to protect U.S. water systems from cyberattacks as a part of a broader effort to defend elements of critical infrastructure from attacks.

Alongside the White House, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced their new action plan for the water sector that aims to encourage water utilities to adopt a system that detects cyber threats to industrial control systems early. The White House plans to implement the action plan in over 100 days.

The White House also plans to boost information sharing about cyber threats between operators of water utilities and the federal government.

A senior officer told reporters, “Our efforts to secure critical infrastructure highlight the fact that cybersecurity is a top economic and national security priority for the Biden administration.”

The official went on to say the Colonial Pipeline and meat processor JBS last year exposed the limits of the federal government's authority to set cybersecurity baselines.

The new plan for the water sector will be the product of the EPA, Cyber Security Infrastructure Security Agency under DHS. The agencies are working together to set up a pilot program where water utilities can participate in for ICS monitoring and engaging with utilities that have already adopted ICS monitoring.

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The Water and Wastewater Sector Action Plan focuses on promoting and supporting the water sector's adoption of strategies for the early detection of cyber-threats and allow for the rapid sharing of cyber-threat data across the government in order to expedite analysis and action. Actions include:

- Establishing a task force of water sector leaders.
- Implementing pilot projects to demonstrate and accelerate adoption of incident monitoring.
- Improving information sharing and data analysis.
- Providing technical support to water systems.

The official also said that the White House intends to propose legislation this year to increase the EPA's authority so that it would be able to mandate similar cybersecurity actions for the water sector.

Additional information can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-action-plan-accelerate-cyber-resilience-water-sector>

### **Increase in COVID-19 Spurs Discussion of More Federal Aid**

With cases of the Omicron variant on the rise, two Senators have begun discussing the possibility of a relief package with additional support for restaurants. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) are working as a team to garner support for another round of Covid relief.

The Senators have both stated that the initial round of funding, which sat around \$28.6 billion in March 2021 for restaurants, was not enough. Funding for the program ran out in October, well before many interested businesses received aid.

Senator Wicker told reporters, "Fully half of the eligible restaurants did not receive money because it was not adequately funded."

The Senators are hoping to expand the package beyond restaurants if there is support for doing so, though funding has yet to be discussed.

Currently, the package is being crafted as a standalone bill with the potential to be attached to a legislative vehicle such as the upcoming omnibus bill to fund the government after the government runs out in February.

Senate Appropriations ranking member Richard Shelby (R-AL) has said that the spending bill is currently stalled and noted that he wished to see how the package would be funded and if aid would be structured as loans or grants.

### **Governors to Name Infrastructure Coordinators Per White House Request**

In order to implement the new infrastructure law, the White House is asking states to select their own high-level coordinators.

The White House infrastructure coordinator, Mitch Landrieu, send a letter to every governor requesting they select their own infrastructure implementation coordinator. The model is similar to that of the 2009 American Reinvestment and Recovery Act when recovery coordinators were a group of state representatives.

In his letter, the White House office wrote, “Given the success of this model and the highly integrated nature of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, I humbly request that you consider appointing a high-level person to serve as your state’s own Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator. This individual would work with your budget team and across departments responsible for transportation, water, broadband, and energy investments to coordinate implementation of the various infrastructure programs, perhaps using a structure similar to the Infrastructure Implementation Task Force created by the President.”

Two states have already begun the process; Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson (R) and New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) both have established committees to oversee the bill’s implementation. The White House has encouraged states to do similarly.

“We know that needs, capacity, and challenges can vary widely by locality. We need to make sure our programs reflect these realities across your state and our country, and having a senior, single point of contact in your office will help to ensure that issues get elevated appropriately and rapidly,” wrote the White House.

Upon the infrastructure bill’s passage, the Biden Administration began laying the groundwork for implementing the law immediately. The bill will be implemented across several agencies including the Department of Transportation, Commerce and Energy. Investments are to be made over five years.

### **Infrastructure Bill Highlights Agency Challenges**

Long before Congress gave the U.S. government \$1 trillion to shore up the nation’s infrastructure, the federal bureaucracy had its challenges doling out much smaller amounts of money.

Officials didn’t always track how they spent the cash Congress already gave them—in one case environmental regulators wrote \$71 million worth of incorrect checks. Local leaders struggled to get new pandemic programs up and running, even if the federal government provided billions to support them. Thousands of federal workers neared retirement, positioning the workforce for gaping holes in knowledge just as it is expected to manage billions of dollars.

Now President Joe Biden is asking the U.S. government to set up a suite of new programs, spend more on infrastructure, and hire enough workers to do it all—fast. To get there, federal agencies such as the Departments of Commerce and Energy must find quick and accurate ways to get



billions out the door—far more money than they’re used to having on hand. The Environmental Protection Agency and Transportation Department will need to hire hundreds of new workers with hard-to-find skills in the midst of a labor shortage. And the White House will need to stand up a team to shepherd it all, plus work with the localities that own and operate most infrastructure nationwide.

“Trying to get money out too fast is just a recipe for fraud,” Sean O’Donnell, the EPA’s inspector general, said about the infrastructure law.

Biden has said government auditors will have open access to agency officials in the coming months to build public confidence in the administration’s ability to deliver on the promises of the law. He’s also instructed each agency to name a point person for government watchdogs who audit infrastructure spending.

Almost 80% of the \$550 billion in new spending the law provides will go to projects funded entirely or primarily by grants. That creates the biggest immediate challenge in carrying out the law—evaluating and tracking grant applications is hugely labor intensive. Government agencies need hundreds of new grant personnel, budget analysts, and managers. It takes an average of 98 days to hire a new federal worker, making it unappealing for Americans who want a paycheck quickly.

Days after Biden signed the infrastructure bill into law on the White House South Lawn, the federal government’s human resources office asked agencies how many new hires they’d need to put it in place. A newly assembled 30-person team will guide federal officials through a hiring “surge,” and set plans to launch a special website for help-wanted ads, said Kiran Ahuja, director of the Office of Personnel Management.

Agencies are beginning to post ads. The EPA is looking for at least a dozen grant specialists. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, given \$2.6 billion in the infrastructure law, has at least four openings for managers. The Transportation Department got permission to cut down on paperwork to speed up hiring at least five engineers, according to its jobs board. The permission is typically reserved for jobs where there is a shortage of applicants, such as nurses or pharmacists.

The Commerce Department, given \$45 billion to expand access to broadband, offers a window into how Biden’s infrastructure ambitions will collide in the coming months with the limits of the federal workforce. The agency lost 6% of its employees in the year that ended in September, the greatest share of any cabinet-level agency in that same period. The Senate also has yet to sign off on Biden’s nominee to lead the office that will handle the new broadband money. It hasn’t had a permanent head since May 2019.

The department has less experience doling out infrastructure grants than agencies such as EPA and the Transportation Department. Commerce committed to spend just \$2.9 billion on grants last fiscal year, according to federal spending records. The infrastructure law gives the Commerce Department six months to get set up to distribute the funds.



“This is going to be a massive undertaking for the Department of Commerce, but we’re up for it,” Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo told reporters in November.

States will also need to find staff. The Commerce Department is asking them to write plans for how they’ll spend the money. As of late November, just 34 states had any kind of plan to expand access to broadband, according to Pew.

The White House infrastructure team, steered by former New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, will serve as a “front office” for local officials about the infrastructure law, said Samantha Silverberg, Landrieu’s deputy. It’s writing a guide for governors and mayors about funding available in the infrastructure law, she said, and helping those local officials get ready to use the money. It’s also bringing together officials from across agencies to share how they’re handling their portions of the law.

### **House Panel Begins Work on Water Infrastructure**

The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is exploring how the Army Corps of Engineers is implementing funding for water projects included in the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (bipartisan infrastructure bill) and changes to the harbor maintenance trust fund enacted in 2020.

Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) said in his prepared remarks in advance of the subcommittee’s January 12 inaugural committee meeting kicking off work on the 2022 Water Resources Act, “Careful and expedient implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will be a focus of the committee this year, as well as implementation of the policy changes included in the last few WRDA bills.”

The bipartisan infrastructure bill (PL-117-58) was signed into law on November 15<sup>th</sup> provided more than \$17 billion to the Army Corps of Engineers. The infrastructure investment law and \$8.7 billion in fiscal 2022 spending in the House approved for the Army Corps is a historic amount for the chronically underfunded agency which is responsible for critical water infrastructure and environmental projects across the country.

“This funding will allow for game-changing, once-in-a-generation investment in our critical water resources infrastructure” said Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chair Grace Napolitano (D-CA) in her prepared remarks.

Representative Napolitano continued on the mention the importance of WRDA 2022 investments addressing the effects of COVID-19 on supply chain bottlenecks in coastal ports and waterways, including dredging and widening projects.

Transportation and infrastructure Republican Rep. Bruce Westerman (AR) said the subcommittee “has a great track record of ensuring that critical water projects are authorized on a predictable cycle” and that the committee is “working hard to build on the success of previous WRDA bills this year.”

Congress is expected to pass a Water Resources Development Act in calendar year 2022, following recent successes of reauthorizing the legislation every two years.

### **Biden Administration Says It's Making 'Slow Progress' on Inflation**

The newest data on inflation demonstrates the administration is “making progress in slowing the rate of price increases,” the President said in an announcement. The President also acknowledged there is much more work to be done to lower costs for everyday Americans.

On Wednesday, January 12, the President said, “Today’s report – which shows a meaningful reduction in headline inflation over last month, with gas prices and food prices falling – demonstrates that we are making progress in slowing the rate of price increases. At the same time, this report underscores that we still have more work to do, with price increases still too high and squeezing family budgets.”

The Department of Labor released new data showing that consumer prices increased over 7% in December from the same time last year. This is the fastest increase since 1982 and largest price increases include categories of shelter and used vehicles.

The report, however, also showed that inflation increased 0.5% from November to December, a rate lower than the two previous months, which the White House highlighted in an effort to show increases beginning to ease.

Food, gas, and natural gas prices went down as well according to the data.

The new data, however, also presents a challenge for President Biden as he has struggled to ease fears about surging good prices. Republicans have been attempting to make inflation a major issue for the upcoming midterm election.

In a statement, the President said, “Inflation is a global challenge, appearing in virtually every developed nation as it emerges from the pandemic economic slump. American is fortunate that we have one of the fastest growing economies – thanks in part to the American Rescue Plan – which enables us to address price increases and maintain strong, sustainable economic growth. That is my goal and I am focused on reaching it every day.”

### **President Biden Reaches One Year into Term**

President Biden entered the second year of his term on January 20 with looming uncertainty. The President is currently juggling a variety of complex issues including inflation, simmering crisis between Russia and Ukraine, rebranding and prepackaging the failed Build Back Better Act, the omicron variant, and voting rights legislation.

Democratic allies are frustrated with the White House’s response to many of issues have been reactive. Former Senate Majority Leader and friend to many White House aides, Tom Daschle, said recently, “It is hard to control the narrative when you have so many things coming at you,

like climate change issues, tornadoes, Ukraine, wildfires destroying parts of the West, and omicron. I don't know if they feel overwhelmed as much as they feel the gravity of these issues."

The President's approval ratings have been bleak as well as recent polling from Ipsos polling found that 50% of Americans disapprove of the way the President has been handling the job, while 45% approve. These numbers are roughly similar to those of the polling done in the fall. A Gallup poll showed similar numbers with 56% of Americans disapproval for the President's job performance compared to a 40% approval rating.

The polling is perhaps reflective of recent failed legislative attempts such as that of voting rights. The President went to Georgia earlier this January to promote the legislation and advocate for the Senate to change the rules around the filibuster only to find the bill quashed by Senator Democrats Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Krysten Sinema (D-AZ).

In a White House press conference, the President says he plans on doing some things differently this term, starting off with first, getting out of Washington D.C. more in order to "talk to the public" about the positive impacts of his proposed agenda.

### **DHS Urges Cities to Cooperate on Immigration Enforcement**

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas is urging local leaders to cooperate with U.S. immigration officials in enforcement cases that affect public safety.

He made the plea at a U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, attempting to address a longstanding rift between many left-leaning cities and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) after the agency ramped up cooperation agreements with many local governments to target immigrants in the country illegally.

Under cooperation agreements, local law enforcement works with ICE on immigration enforcement. The Trump administration attempted to penalize "sanctuary cities" that refused to cooperate.

"I don't mean to assert that that distrust is not earned," Mayorkas said of cities resisting cooperation. He argued, however, that the agency has evolved during the Biden administration and isn't focused on "indiscriminate enforcement."

"I will be coming to you and asking you to reconsider your position of noncooperation and see how we can work together," Mayorkas said. "And I may not succeed initially in a wholesale reversal of your position, but I am willing to work in increments with you because the public safety, the public's well-being, for which we are all charged, is at issue."

ICE issued new enforcement priorities last year that focus resources on dangerous individuals who pose threats to public safety and national security.

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.
H.R.5376	President Joe Biden / Congressional Democrats	Build Back Better Act	The Build Back Better Act proposes spending nearly \$2 trillion over a 10-year period, with certain programs expiring after only a year or two to keep the total cost of the bill down.	<p>Congressional Democrats hope to use the budget reconciliation process to pass elements of the administration's American Families Plan.</p> <p>On Saturday, September 25, the House Budget Committee passed the package in a 20-17 vote, piecing together the chunks of legislation approved by 13 House committees earlier this month that make up the spending plan. Further changes were made throughout the month by the House Rules Committee in preparation for floor consideration.</p> <p>After receiving information on the bill's cost from the CBO, the House passed the nearly \$2 trillion bill in a 220-213 vote on Friday, November 19.</p> <p>Due to Senator Joe Manchin's opposition to the bill, top Democrats may focus on a smaller version of BBB by pushing chunks of the original legislation. However, Senate Democrats have not put a hard timeline on when they'll be able to reach any agreement.</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	The Senate legislation was introduced on January 22, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

			management, and for other purposes.	The legislation in the House was introduced on March 18, 2021 and passed the House under suspension of the rules on June 15.
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.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.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.
H.R. 737	Rep. David Valadao (R-CA)	RENEW WIIN Act	The legislation would extend the authorities under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 providing operational flexibility, drought relief, and other benefits to the State of California.	The legislation was introduced on February 2, 2021 and referred the House Committee on Natural Resources.  10 members of the California delegation have cosponsored the legislation.
S.91 / H.R.535	Sen. Krysten Sinema (D-AZ) / Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)	Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act	The legislation would include special districts in the coronavirus relief fund and direct the Secretary of the Treasury to include special districts as an eligible issuer under the Municipal Liquidity Facility.	The legislation was introduced on January 28, 2021, in both the House and Senate. It has been referred to relevant committees in both chambers.

H.R. 895 / S. 209	Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC) / Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)	Emergency Assistance for Rural Water Systems Act	To provide for assistance to rural water, wastewater, and waste disposal systems affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.	<p>The legislation in the House was introduced on February 5, 2021 and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.</p> <p>The Senate version of the legislation was introduced on February 3, 2021 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture.</p>
H.R. 2515	Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA)	Building U.S. Infrastructure through Limited Delays and Efficient Reviews (BUILDER) Act	The legislation modernizes the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and aims to make infrastructure project reviews more efficient, reduce project costs, and spur economic recovery.	<p>The legislation was introduced on April 14, 2021 and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.</p> <p>The legislation's 46 cosponsors are all Republican, including members of GOP leadership.</p>
H.R. 939	Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA)	Combustion Avoidance along Rural Roads (CARR) Act	The bill exempts wildfire mitigation activities conducted within 300 feet of a road from all laws governing environmental review of proposed agency actions or protection of endangered or threatened species.	The legislation was introduced on February 8, 2021 and was referred to the House Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture.
H.R.3267	Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA)	Protect Drinking Water from PFAS Act	The bill amends the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to publish a maximum contaminant level goal and promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for total per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.	The legislation was introduced on May 17, 2021 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
H.R. 1512	Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)	The Climate Leadership and Environmental Action for our Nation's Future (CLEAN) Act	The legislation aims to achieve net zero greenhouse gas pollution, combat the climate crisis, and create jobs. The bill authorizes \$565 billion over ten years to enable deep decarbonization.	The legislation was introduced on March 2, 2021 and referred to the relevant committees.

S. 953	Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)	Water for Conservation and Farming Act	The legislation would create a Bureau of Reclamation fund of \$300 million to support water recycling projects, water-use efficiency projects and dam safety projects; the WaterSMART program to increase water supply reliability by funding infrastructure and conservation projects that conserves water, increases water use efficiency and improves the condition of natural water recharge infrastructure; Establishes a grant program for any Reclamation States, Tribes, nonprofit conservation organizations, irrigation or water districts, and regional and local authorities to complete habitat restoration projects that improve watershed health and mitigate climate change; among other actions.	The legislation was introduced on March 24, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
H.R.3293	Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)	Low-Income Water Customer Assistance Programs Act	The legislation would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish programs to assist low-income households in maintaining access to drinking water and wastewater services.	The legislation was introduced on May 18, 2021 and referred to the relevant committees. The legislation has passed out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee by a vote of 32-24 and now moves on to consideration on the House floor.
H.R. 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	The legislation was introduced in the House on May 28, 2021, and in the Senate on May 27, 2021.  The legislation in the House is bipartisan.
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)	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. - NEPA Agency Process Accountability Act - NEPA Accountability and Enforcement Act - NEPA State Assignment Expansion Act - NEPA Legal Reform Act - NEPA Data Transparency Act	The Senate legislation was introduced on March 11, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.  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.

H.R. 1352	Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-MI)	Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Act of 2021	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>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	<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>

			on households due to unpaid utility bills to credit agencies.	
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	<p>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 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</p>	<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. On January 19, the legislation passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee by a vote of 29-15 and now moves on to consideration on the House floor.</p>

			environmental violations to help fund RAWA, using fee and penalty amounts that aren't already targeted for existing environmental funds.	
H.R.4602	Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)	WIPPES Act	The legislation would direct the Federal Trade Commission to issue regulations requiring certain products to have "Do Not Flush" labeling	<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	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>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 / H.R. 5735	Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) / Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD)	State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act	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.	The legislation was introduced on October 19, 2021 and passed the Senate by unanimous consent that day.  Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) is an original cosponsor of the legislation.  The act was introduced in the House on October 26 and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.
H.R. 6461 / S. 3531	Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA) / Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)	National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act	The legislation creates a Chief Resilience Officer, among other positions, that will assist the President to streamline the federal response to climate hazards that threaten human health, safety, and critical infrastructure.  The act also calls for a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy that outlines the federal government's response to climate hazards such as sea level rise, drought, biodiversity loss, and coastal bank erosion.	The legislation was introduced in the House on January 20, 2022 and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.  The legislation was introduced in the Senate on January 20, 2022, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs.
H.R. 6396	Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)	Climate RESILIENCE Act	The act amends FEMA's disaster definition to include extreme temperature events, like heat waves and freezes; changes FEMA's definitions and cost share eligibility requirements for disadvantaged communities and underserved communities; includes a focus on resiliency planning and investments;	The legislation was introduced in the House on January 13, 2022 and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.  The legislation has 32 cosponsors, including 8 members of the California delegation.

			provides both financial and non-financial technical assistance for hazard mitigation planning, as well as for grant applications for small impoverished and disadvantaged communities; and expands Pre-Disaster Mitigation Assistance funding to address FEMA's oversubscription issues.	
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Enacted Legislation (Removed after 2 months)

H.R.6119	Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)	Further Extending Government Funding Act	This continuing resolution funds the government through February 18, 2022 at the FY21 enacted levels. It is the second continuing resolution enacted for fiscal year 2022 since none of the 12 annual appropriations bills have been enacted by Congress.	The legislation was passed by both the House and Senate on December 2, 2021 and signed into law on December 3, 2021.
S.J.Res.33	Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY)	A Joint Resolution Relating to Increasing the Debt Limit	This resolution increased the debt ceiling by \$2.5 trillion, which lawmakers hope will allow the government to finance its debts through at least early 2023.	The legislation was introduced and passed the Senate on December 14, 2021. It passed the House the following day.  President Biden signed the joint resolution on December 16, 2021.

Legislation previously listed that was fully or partially incorporated into the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (bipartisan infrastructure deal). Due to its full and/or partial inclusion in the bipartisan infrastructure deal, the stand-alone bill is unlikely to see further action in the House in its current form.

H.R.4099	Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)	Large Scale Water Recycling Project Investment Act	Created a competitive grant program for large-scale water recycling and reuse projects. Large-scale water recycling projects are those estimated to cost \$500 million or greater. \$750 million would be authorized over 5 fiscal years beginning in FY23.	The legislation was introduced on June 23, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. The Water Subcommittee held a hearing on the legislation on Tuesday, June 29, 2021.  The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans,
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				<p>and Wildlife held a hearing on the legislation on June 29, 2021.</p> <p><b>Provisions of this legislation were incorporated in the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (bipartisan infrastructure bill).</b></p>
H.R.1915	Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) / Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)	Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021	<p>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>	<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><b>Provisions of this legislation were incorporated in the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (bipartisan infrastructure bill).</b></p>
S.914	Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)	Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021	<p>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 aiding marginalized communities.</p>	<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><b>Elements of this legislation were incorporated into the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (bipartisan infrastructure bill), though with a reduced authorization for the Drinking and Clean Water State Revolving Funds.</b></p>
H.R.3291	Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)	AQUA Act	<p>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 aid</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on May 18, 2021 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.</p> <p><b>Elements of this legislation were</b></p>



			<p>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>	<p><b>incorporated into the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (bipartisan infrastructure bill), though with a reduced authorization for the Drinking and Clean Water State Revolving Funds.</b></p> <p>The standards provisions were not incorporated into the bipartisan infrastructure bill.</p>
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INFORMATION  
ITEM  
2B



**January 28, 2022**

**To:** Inland Empire Utilities Agency

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

**RE:** January Report

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**Overview:**

Unprecedented December snow helped ease drought conditions, build a solid base approaching 50 percent of the normal April 1 snowpack, and start to refill reservoirs. A very dry January with similar dry predicted conditions for early February is causing concern that the state may not achieve normal snowpack for the year. However, the snowpack is sufficient enough to increase the State Water Project allocation from zero to 15 percent.

Governor Newsom recently released his proposed budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The \$286 billion budget includes \$20.6 billion in surplus funds. State priorities include funding for COVID response and recovery, wildfire prevention, drought resilience, climate change, homelessness, housing and more.

The State Water Resources Control Board is getting closer to implementing legislation from 2015 requiring urban retail water suppliers to account for and attempt to stop water loss within their systems. The board is holding a workshop on the proposed regulations on February 10.

As the Legislature reconvenes, bills left in their house of origin from 2021 have until the end of January to pass into the opposite house. AB 1434 (Friedman) which would lower the indoor water use gallons per capita daily was held by the author, however, the Assemblymember has assured stakeholders that she intends to re-introduce the legislation in the coming weeks. SB 230 (Portantino) which is cosponsored by MWD and the California Municipal Utilities Association is a bill that would create an expert panel to assess constituents of emerging concern in drinking water. SB 230 passed off the Senate floor and will now be heard in the Assembly. Members have until February 16 to introduce new bills. It has been a slow trickle of new legislation thus far, but will increase in pace in the coming weeks. A full report of priority bills will be included in the next report.

# Inland Empire Utilities Agency

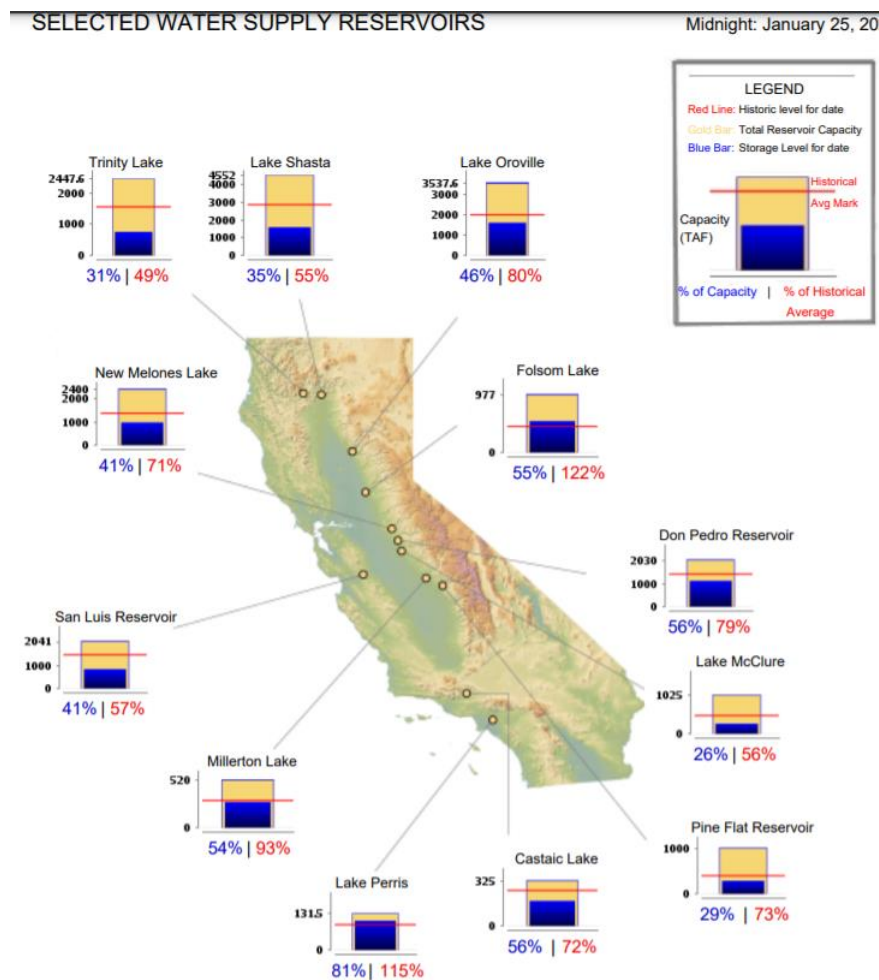
## Status Report – January 2022

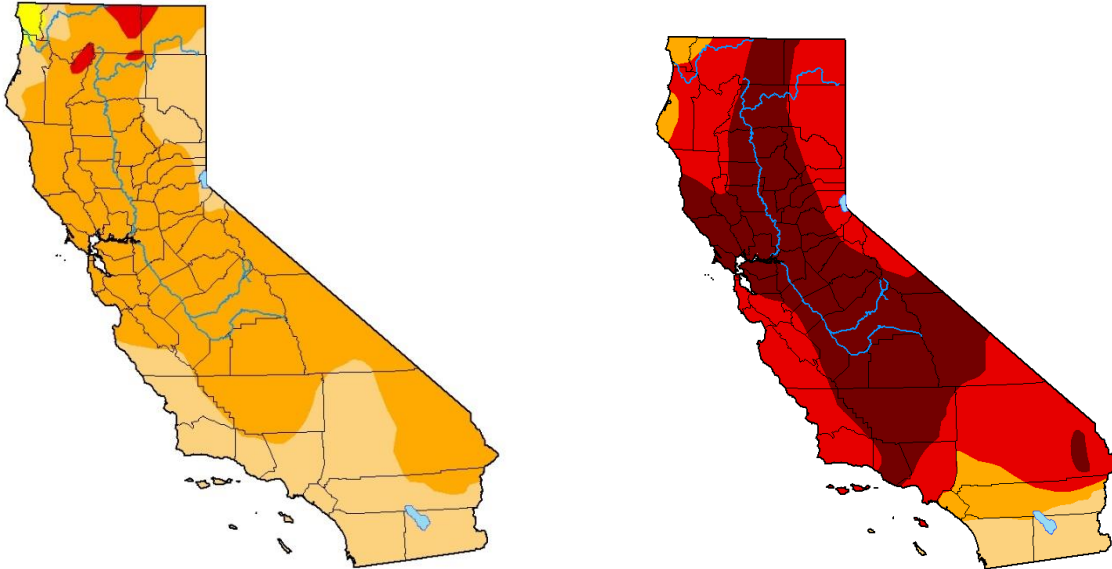
### *Water Supply Conditions*

While December brought unprecedented snow to the Sierras, January is coming to a close with close to zero additional precipitation. The Sierra snowpack is at 103 percent of normal for this time of the year, 58 percent of April 1 average. The warmer weather has started melting snow at lower elevations bringing the runoff into reservoirs. Lake Oroville is sitting at 80 percent of historical average and 46 percent capacity. San Luis Reservoir, the main south-of-Delta storage facility for the State Water Project is at 57 percent of average for this time of the year and 41 percent capacity. Early February is expected to remain dry in the north.

Drought conditions have also rapidly changed in the state. Just three months ago, almost half of the state was in the highest drought tier, exceptional drought. Almost 90 percent of the state was in extreme drought. Today, there are no pockets of exceptional drought and only a small pocket of extreme drought in the way northern portion of the state.

As widely reported in the water community, DWR announced that the State Water Project will receive an initial 15 percent allocation in 2022.





### ***Governor Newsom Proposes 2022-2023 State Budget***

On January 10, Governor Newsom spent well over three hours outlining his priorities for state spending for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The \$286 billion budget includes \$20.6 billion in surplus funds. State priorities include funding for COVID response and recovery, wildfire prevention, drought resilience, climate change, homelessness, housing and more.

Building on last year's three-year \$5.3 billion allocation to support drought response and long-term water sustainability, the Governor's budget includes an additional \$750 million in General Fund spending for drought response. The package includes:

- \$180 million- **Water Conservation Programs** including large urban and small water suppliers.
- \$145 million- **Urban and Small Community Drought Relief** for emergency drought assistance
- \$20 million- **On-Farm Water Conservation**
- \$75 million- **Fish and Wildlife Protection**
- \$40 million- **Multibenefit Land Repurposing**
- \$30 million- **Groundwater Recharge**
- \$10 million- **Technical Assistance and Drought Relief for Small Farms**
- \$250 million- **Drought Contingency**- set aside to be allocated as part of the spring budget process after the April 1 water/snowpack numbers are in.

Budget sub committees will start discussing budget items in the coming weeks with a final budget expected by June 15.

### ***SWRCB Proposes Water Loss Performance Standard***

The State Water Resources Control Board has noticed a hearing on their [draft Water Loss Performance Standard](#) for urban retail water suppliers. They will discuss the proposed regulation at a February 10 virtual workshop.

The proposed regulation is designed to comply with SB 555 (2015) and improve water losses to levels that are cost effective and feasible for each urban retail water supplier. The intent is to identify and require each supplier to reduce leakage to a specific volumetric standard level that is based on its own

unique characteristics by 2028. The goal is to provide each supplier the flexibility to choose an effective approach best suited for its system and budget to meet the standard.

### ***Delta Operations Update***

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has been busy with multiple regulatory processes related to the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) operations in the Delta.

As previously reported, the Newsom Administration has announced that they will be reopening the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update (Bay Delta Plan) at the SWRCB. The SWRCB had adopted an update for the San Joaquin River and its tributaries, but the Bay Delta Plan update was put on hold just as Newsom was taking office. Newsom pushed his administration and water users to negotiate voluntary agreements for how surface water supplies would be managed to benefit water quality and endangered fish populations in the Delta. Over the last several years, water users on the Sacramento River have been able to come to an agreement and south of Delta users are said to be close. However, several stakeholders in the San Joaquin River watershed have been unable to reach an agreement which has led to the administration reopening the Bay Delta Plan update process.

At a recent SWRCB hearing, Board staff gave an update on where the Bay Delta Plan update process stands including implementation of the San Joaquin Tributaries and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives. These objectives would require 40 percent of the unimpaired flows on the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced and San Joaquin Rivers in February through June to be protected for the benefit of fish and wildlife.

Staff outlined three options for the SWRCB to implement the new flow requirements. The SWRCB could (1) adopt a regulation, (2) hold a water right hearing to adjudicate water rights on the affected rivers under the new flow requirements, or (3) issue water quality certifications under the Clean Water Act Section 401 such as those done for hydroelectric projects. Staff added that an additional option would be consideration of voluntary agreements. However, that path seems unlikely given the current state of negotiations for these water users. Next steps for implementation include completing the CEQA process over the next year, or more, culminating in a final regulation.

Next the SWRCB will have to complete Phase 2 of their water quality update for the Sacramento River, its major tributaries, three tributaries on the east side of the Delta, and the Delta itself. It also includes the major North of Delta storage reservoirs of the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project, as well as the export facilities within the Delta itself. Staff is currently developing a report analyzing the potential environmental and economic effects in these regions and other regions that receive Delta supplies, including through water supply contracts for the SWP and CVP and other export projects. The staff report will analyze a broad range of alternatives and a possible voluntary agreement. The possible elements were largely described a July 2018 staff report, before the update process stalled, and include:

- Inflow objectives for the Sacramento River, its tributaries and, the Delta tributaries;
- Coldwater habitat for the tributaries, which relates to either storage, maintenance, or other measures required to maintain cold water habitat;
- A Delta outflow objective that would coordinate with the inflow objectives from the lower San Joaquin and the rest of the Sacramento Delta region; and
- Interior Delta Flow objectives that may govern Delta exports.

Staff anticipates receiving the voluntary agreement that the Sacramento River water users negotiated, early this year. Staff will then work to complete scientific reports by the end of summer that will be the basis for the proposed water quality requirements. The SWRCB hopes to adopt those new requirements, after a public process spanning several months, by Fall 2023.

In a separate action at the SWRCB, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) submitted a request for emergency drought action, known as a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP). The TUCP would allow DWR and Reclamation to override contractual obligations for supplying water through the SWP and the CVP to preserve more water for winter-run fish migrations by preventing water diversions earlier in the year. Reclamation and DWR ultimately chose to withdraw the request after DWR and Reclamation staff determined the TUCP would not improve conditions if implemented as planned in February. Reclamation could resubmit the request if the state remains extremely dry into April, in order to benefit Folsom and Oroville reservoirs, which support Delta outflow and water quality needs.

### ***Legislative Update***

The Legislature returned to Sacramento on January 3. The Capitol remains under significant COVID-19 restrictions regarding access to members and committee hearings. Members hit the ground running working to move “two-year bills” that were introduced in 2021, out of their house of origin by January 31.

New bill introductions have been predictably slow but will pick up as the February 18 deadline for bills to be introduced draws closer.

### ***Committee Musical Chairs in the Assembly***

There has been some significant committee chair changes in the Assembly recently, especially in the natural resources committees. Assemblymember Lorena Gonzales (D-San Diego) announced her retirement from the Assembly on the first day of the new session, effective immediately. This left a chair vacancy in the Appropriations Committee. Speaker Rendon tapped Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena) as the new chair of the Appropriations Committee, leaving his former chairmanship vacant in the Utilities and Energy Committee. The Speaker moved Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella) to chair the Utilities and Energy Committee. Finally, the Speaker tapped Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) to chair the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee that was vacated by Garcia. Bauer-Kahan is a relatively new member with limited water policy experience.

<b>Assembly Committee Chair Changes</b>		
Committee	Old Chair	New Chair
Appropriations	Asm. Lorena Gonzales	Asm. Chris Holden
Utilities and Energy	Asm. Chris Holden	Asm. Eduardo Garcia
Water, Parks and Wildlife	Asm. Eduardo Garcia	Asm. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

Bills IEUA is tracking closely or has a position on:

**AB 377 (R.Rivas):** This legislation would require all CA waters to be fishable, swimmable and drinkable by 2050. There was a strong coalition in opposition to this legislation on 2021 that was able to keep the bill in the Assembly. While this bill will not move, the proponents of the bill intend to re-introduce some pieces of the bill as separate bills in 2022. None of those measures have been introduced yet.

**AB 1434 (Friedman):** This bill would codify indoor gallons per capita daily standards. The author amended her bill to align with the DWR report but decided not to move this specific bill. She has indicated that she intends to introduce a new version of the bill in 2022. It remains unclear if she will use the same language or some changes will be made.

**AB 1500 (E. Garcia):** Assembly proposed Water Bond for November 2022 ballot. The Assemblymember, and outgoing chair of the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, has said that he intends to try to move this bond in 2022. He has not yet received support from leadership and understands that with last year and this year's budget surplus, there is little appetite to add debt service to the General Fund with a bond. As of January 26, the bill was still on the "Inactive File" and there has been no chatter of it moving forward in the next few days.

**SB 230 (Portantino):** MWD/CMUA bill that would establish a science advisory panel to help manage the process for regulating constituents of emerging concern. MWD/CMUA will likely try to move the bill in January, but face an uphill battle because of a significant price tag attached to the bill.



**IEUA BILLS— BILLS WITH POSITIONS- 2022 Session**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Author/Sponsor</b>	<b>Title and/or Summary</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>IEUA Position/ Bill Location</b>	<b>Positions Taken by Associations &amp; Regional Agencies</b>
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 bill, direct water bill assistance, water bill credits, water crisis assistance, affordability assistance, and short-term assistance to public water systems to administer program components.	Two-Year Bill  Assembly Floor	Opposed by ACWA
SB 230	Sen. Portantino/ CMUA & MWD	State Water Resources Control Board: Constituents of Emerging Concern	Would require the State Water Resources Control Board to establish, maintain, and direct an ongoing, dedicated program called the Constituents of Emerging Concern Program to assess the state of information and recommend areas for further study on, among other things, the occurrence of constituents of emerging concern (CEC) in drinking water sources and treated drinking water. The bill would require the state board to convene, by an unspecified date, the Science Advisory Panel to review and provide recommendations to the state board on CEC for further action, among other duties. The bill would require the state board to provide an annual report to the Legislature on the ongoing work conducted by the panel.	SUPPORT  Assembly waiting for committee assignment	Favor by ACWA

INFORMATION  
ITEM  
2C

**Date:** February 16, 2022

**To:** The Honorable Board of Directors

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

**Committee:** Community & Legislative Affairs

02/09/22

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

**Subject:** Public Outreach and Communication

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**Executive Summary:**

- February 2, World Wetlands Day
- February 20-26, Engineers Week
- February 25, National Skip the Straw Day

Staff finalized the Annual Report and it is being digitally distributed to customer agencies and additional stakeholders.

In early January, staff sent out an education outreach email to school administrators and teachers within the service area. Multiple requests for virtual field trips have been received as a result.

Staff is promoting the "Water is Life" Poster Contest for K-12. The deadline to submit posters is March 16.

IEUA will be "sponsoring" three high school teams this year for MWD's Solar Cup 2022.

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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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### February

- February 2, World Wetlands Day
- February 20-26, Engineers Week
- February 25, National Skip the Straw Day

### Media and Outreach

- Staff continues to increase the drought campaign collateral toolkit for customer agencies by implementing movement pieces and developing video shorts and PSAs. Supplemental collateral is also being developed to co-exist with the campaign visual that has been developed.
- Staff is working with Strategic Planning and Resources and Water Systems Consulting (WSC) on developing additional outreach strategies and communication collateral for the Chino Basin Program.
- External Affairs staff is working closely with Engineering staff to develop outreach and tour enhancements for the RP-5 Expansion Project. New signage is being developed along with a project video short.
- The Agency held its first virtual Redistricting Community Workshop on January 18. External Affairs staff developed a landing page for information regarding the redistricting process and staff has begun promoting these meetings through the Agency's social media channels and through a series of Press Releases and targeted emails. A recording of the first meeting has been shared to [ieua.org/redistricting/](http://ieua.org/redistricting/).
- Staff finalized the Annual Report, and it is being digitally distributed to customer agencies and additional stakeholders. The Annual Report will be updated after the final division boundaries map is approved by the Board.
- A statement from IEUA General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh regarding the increased State Water Project allocation was published to IEUA's website, announced on the Agency's social media channels and sent to the Agency's stakeholder list.
- Staff shared the first video in its Education Program IGTV (Instagram TV) Series in honor of International Day of Education on January 24. The series will share information on the Agency's education programs and resources and how to get involved with them. This video was also posted to the Agency's YouTube channel, LinkedIn and shared on IEUA's Nextdoor platform.
- The Agency continues to publish content on LinkedIn and has gained 26 followers since December, with 465 page views in the last 30 days.
- January: 21 posts were published to the IEUA Facebook page, 21 tweets were sent on the @IEUAWater Twitter handle, 21 posts were published to IEUA's Instagram grid, and 15 posts were published to the IEUA LinkedIn page.
  - The top three Facebook posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of January were:

- 1/11 IEUA Board President Steve Elie and Chino Mayor Pro Tem Marc Lucio RP-5 Tour
- 1/18 Facilities Specialist, Intern (Administration) and Intern (Records Management) Hiring
- 1/1 New Year Post
- The top three Twitter tweets, based on reach and engagement, in the month of January were:
  - 1/11 IEUA Board President Steve Elie and Chino Mayor Pro Tem Marc Lucio RP-5 Tour
  - 1/18 Facilities Specialist, Intern (Administration) and Intern (Records Management) Hiring
  - 1/17 Stormwater Capture Highlight
- The top three Instagram posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of January were:
  - 1/17 Stormwater Capture Highlight
  - 1/11 IEUA Board President Steve Elie and Chino Mayor Pro Tem Marc Lucio RP-5 Tour
  - 1/18 Facilities Specialist, Intern (Administration) and Intern (Records Management) Hiring
- The top three LinkedIn posts, based on impressions and reactions, in the month of January were:
  - 1/11 IEUA Board President Steve Elie and Chino Mayor Pro Tem Marc Lucio RP-5 Tour
  - 1/7 Employee Highlight: Michelle O'Brien WEWAC Chair Election
  - 1/19 IEUA Board Vice President Michael Camacho and Board Member Marco Tule RP-5 Tour
- A "Water-Wise Education" banner ad is currently featured in *Fontana Herald News*.
- A "Water-Wise Education" ad ran in the January issue of *IE Magazine*.
- A "Water-Wise Education" ad is running in the February issue of *IE Magazine*.

For the month of January, there were 10,849 searches for a park in IEUA's service area on Yelp, where Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park was viewed 764 times.

At December's Holiday Picnic, IEUA employees raised \$7,372 through donations and a silent auction. Proceeds have been delivered to the Chino Valley Fire Foundation, Love Them All Foundation, Unidos Por La Musica, and Working Dogs for Warriors. Proceeds will be delivered to the Success Institute when the Institute feels it is safe to do so.

#### Education and Outreach Updates

- In early January, staff sent out an education outreach email to school administrators and teachers within the service area. Multiple requests for virtual field trips have been received as a result.
- Staff is promoting the MWD "Water is Life" Poster Contest for grades K-12. The deadline to submit posters is March 16.
- The deadline to submit interest forms for MWD's Solar Cup 2022 (virtual competition) has passed. Three high schools within IEUA's service area have submitted interest forms:

Colony High School – Ontario, Chino Hills High School – Chino Hills and Upland High School – Upland. A kick-off meeting will be held in February.

- Chino Basin Water Conservation District (CBWCD) has completed the garden design and submitted a cost proposal to IEUA for Our Loving Savior school in Chino Hills for the Garden in Every School® (GIES) program. A progress meeting was held at Randall Pepper Elementary in Fontana. Both water and power sources have been located and will be made available by the district. The garden design and cost proposal is being finalized by CBWCD. Staff is scheduling a Project W.E.T. Workshop to be held in late February for teachers who have participated in the GIES program in the past and who are interested in applying for a mini-grant for their existing water-wise garden.
- Staff developed and sent January's edition of IEUA's education newsletter.
- Staff developed January's edition of IEUA's E-Basin newsletter.
- Staff developed holiday-themed education activities that add a holiday twist to some already established activities. For February, staff developed a Valentine's Day themed water cycle bracelet activity.

#### Agency-Wide Membership Updates

- Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/Assistant General Manager attended the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Board of Directors Meeting on December 2.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Air Quality Committee Meeting on December 15.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Water Regulatory Workgroup Meeting on December 16.
- Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/Assistant General Manager attended the PFAS Partnership Meeting (Isle Utilities) on December 17.