



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

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 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. 2022-4-7, ADOPTED BY THE IEUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON APRIL 6, 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 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.

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1. ACTION ITEMS

A. MINUTES

Approve Minutes of the March 9, 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

DECLARATION OF POSTING

I, Denise Garzaro, CMC, Board Secretary/Office Manager of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency*, a Municipal Water District, hereby certify that, per Government Code Section 54954.2, a copy of this agenda has been posted at the Agency's main office, 6075 Kimball Avenue, Building A, Chino, CA and on the Agency's website at www.ieua.org 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, 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, MARCH 9, 2022
9:00 A.M.**

COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT

Michael Camacho, Director

COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT via Video/Teleconference

Steven J. Elie, Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Shivaji Deshmukh, P.E., General Manager
Denise Garzaro, Board Secretary/Office Manager
Wilson To, Technology Specialist II

STAFF PRESENT via Video/Teleconference

Christiana Daisy, P.E., Deputy General Manager
Javier Chagoyen-Lazaro, Acting Assistant General Manager
Jerry Burke, Director of Engineering
Andrea Carruthers, Communications Officer
Warren Green, Manager of Contracts & Procurement
Don Hamlett, Director of Information Technology
Jennifer Hy-Luk, Administrative Assistant II
Bonnie Marseilles, Administrative Assistant II
Yvonne Lam, External Affairs Specialist I
Randy Lee, Director of Operations & Maintenance
Cathleen Pieroni, Senior Policy Advisor
Jesse Pompa, Manager of Grants
Nicole Slavin, External Affairs Specialist I
Sushmitha Reddy, Manager of Laboratories
Jeanina Romero, Executive Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT via Video/Teleconference

Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors
Jean Denton, Innovative Federal Strategies
Drew Tatum, Innovative Federal Strategies

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Member Michael Camacho called the meeting to order at 9:01 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 – 1E. ACTION ITEMS

The Committee:

- ◆ Approved Minutes of the February 9, 2022 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.
 - ◆ Recommended that the Board adopt a position of “Support” for Assembly Bill 1845 and Senate Bill 991;
 - ◆ Adopt a position of “Support” for Assembly Bill 2787;
 - ◆ Adopt a position of “Support” for Assembly Bill 2142 (Gabriel); and
 - ◆ Adopt a position of “Support” for Assembly Bill 2247 (Bloom);
- as Consent Calendar items on the March 16, 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 reported that this week, the laboratory is undergoing an onsite assessment, which is a biennial requirement for continued state accreditation. As per the new regulations, the laboratory is equipped with sophisticated technologies and must have the assessment performed by one of the four Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) approved third-party providers. After careful consideration, IEUA chose IAS, International Accreditation Service, to perform the assessment which will include an evaluation of the analytical methods the Agency is accredited for, instrumentation and equipment requirements, compliance with laws and regulations, and the lab’s quality systems.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Committee member comments.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Committee member requests for future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Committee Member Camacho adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Garzaro
Board Secretary/Office Manager

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APPROVED: APRIL 13, 2022

DRAFT

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: March 31, 2022

Re: March Monthly Legislative Update

White House Releases FY23 Budget Blueprint

President Joe Biden's \$5.8 trillion fiscal 2023 budget proposal, released on Monday, March 28, calls for boosted funding for health, manufacturing, and environmental programs while taming a federal deficit that skyrocketed in recent years.

The Departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs would get some of the biggest increases under Biden's plan, though lawmakers often ignore key proposals in the president's budget. The document projects a fiscal 2023 deficit of nearly \$1.2 trillion, or 4.5% of GDP, down from a peak of \$3.1 trillion, or 14.9% of GDP, in 2020.

The White House proposal calls for \$1.6 trillion for discretionary funds, including \$813 billion for defense-related programs and \$769 billion for domestic spending. That compares to \$1.5 trillion enacted in the fiscal 2022 omnibus spending bill signed by Biden this month, which had \$782 billion for defense and \$730 billion for domestic spending.

Those figures include a proposal to increase federal pay for military and civilian employees by 4.6%.

Biden's plan sets aside the debate over key legislative proposals included in his previous "Build Back Better" agenda, including tax increases on the wealthy, climate spending, and prescription drug pricing measures. Instead, officials considered any forthcoming bill to be deficit neutral, though Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) has called for a deficit-cutting measure.

Biden has played up his work to cut the deficit from its historic highs in fiscal 2020 and 2021, when the government was responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. He called it "a budget that includes historic deficit reduction, historic investments in our security at home and abroad, and an unprecedented commitment to building an economy where everyone has a chance to succeed," in a statement. He also touted a decrease in the deficit of more than \$1 trillion in one year during his State of the Union address.

But the deficit figures under his proposal still remain high compared to recent history. His proposal calls for a fiscal 2023 deficit of nearly \$1.2 trillion, or 4.5% of GDP. That figure would hover between 4.5% and 4.9% through 2032. For comparison, the federal government ran

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deficits of less than 4.5% from 2013 to 2018, according to White House Office of Management and Budget data.

Publicly held federal debt would total \$26 trillion in fiscal 2023, or 101.8% of GDP, under the document's projections. That would rise to \$39.5 trillion, or 106.7% of GDP, in 2032.

Despite the proposed nominal funding increases, the plan reflects a long-term squeeze on discretionary spending as mandatory programs such as Social Security and Medicare grow. Discretionary spending would fall from 7.3% of GDP in 2021 to 5.3% in 2032. Mandatory spending would continue a long-term increase except for a peak due to Covid-19 spending. After hitting a low point of 14.1% of GDP in 2024, it would rise to 15.7% in 2032.

The document assumes inflation would drop to a rate of 2.3% in 2023, as measured by the Consumer Price Index. The administration expects that if that number rises, spending and receipts would rise by similar amounts, keeping the debt and deficit figures at a similar level. The document calls for significant increases for manufacturing, environmental, and health programs, though Congress may ignore those proposals.

The document serves as a starting gun for Congressional negotiations on top-line defense and nondefense spending figures. House appropriators have already scheduled budget hearings this week with administration officials.

"I've been here a few years, and I don't know of any budget proposal that's been adopted into law later," Senate Appropriations Vice Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) told reporters in anticipation of the budget drop.

"The biggest impact of the budget is getting it here," Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee, said. "And once that happens, the appropriators could start talking, and I think there's no reason to believe we couldn't get all or most of the bills done by the first of October."

Key congressional Republicans will focus on Biden's proposed funding increase for defense-related activities. The \$813 billion under the proposal responds to higher costs of living and goods, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine may push the price tag higher. Shelby said lawmakers will have to consider elevated inflation expectations in negotiating a defense spending figure. He added that Russian President Vladimir Putin "has created a more dangerous world than we thought six months ago."

House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) praised the budget proposal for requesting funding increases for schools, childcare, veterans' health care, and addressing opioid use.

Representative Jason Smith (R-MO), ranking member of the House Budget Committee, said the budget shows Biden "values more spending more debt, more taxes, and more pain for the American people."

Biden Details Oil Release Plan

President Joe Biden said his plan to release a million barrels of oil a day from U.S. reserves for six months would lay a foundation for the country to achieve independence from foreign energy suppliers.

Biden blamed a surge in gasoline prices this year on Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, calling it "Putin's price hike." But he also criticized American oil companies that have been reluctant to increase production, and called for Congress to charge fees to firms that have unused drilling leases on federal lands.

"Companies have an obligation that goes beyond just the shareholders: to their customers, their communities and their country," Biden said Thursday, March 31 following a White House announcement of the largest-ever drawdown from the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve. "No American company should take advantage of a pandemic, or Vladimir Putin, to enrich themselves at the expense of American families."

Biden also announced that he would invoke Cold War-era powers to encourage domestic production of critical minerals for batteries for electric vehicles and other uses. Battery materials will join the list of items covered by the 1950 Defense Production Act. "It's time to deliver true long-term energy independence to America once and for all," Biden said. "It's not a time for politics."

He said that he expects U.S. allies will agree to release 30 million to 50 million more barrels of oil from their own reserves. Up to 180 million barrels may be released from the stockpile over the next several months, an amount the White House and oil market analysts called unprecedented. The move underscores the Biden administration's concern over rising gasoline prices and supply shortages following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

High prices at the pump are weighing heavily on the White House's political hopes in November. The president has struggled to tame both fuel prices and wider inflation, which is at 40-year highs as the global economy adjusts from pandemic disruptions. Despite the White House's insistence last year that fuel prices would fall in 2022, they have instead risen dramatically.

Supreme Court Judiciary Committee Vote to be Held on April 4th

Senate Judiciary Committee plans to vote on the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's Supreme Court nomination on April 4th.

Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), chairman of the committee, announced that the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold an executive business meeting on Monday, March 29 at the end of the second day of questioning. Committee rules, however, allow any senator to request that an item—be it legislation or a nomination—be held over for a week. As has been the recent practice of both parties, Republicans requested that the nomination be held over for a week, making the actual vote April 4th.

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Jackson will most likely face a tied party line vote in committee. While two Republican Senators on committee, Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) previously advanced her nomination to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, both Senators have announced their opposition to her nomination to the Supreme Court.

The tie vote, however, will not sink her nomination as Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) can still bring her nomination to the floor by moving to discharge the nomination from the Senate Judiciary Committee. That vote requires a simple majority, which Democrats are expected to have with Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) announcing her support of the nomination.

Jackson's confirmation hearings largely went as expected during the week of March 21. Few new details emerged about her record. Republicans largely focused on her sentencing record, noting they believed she was too lenient as trial court judge in sentencing defendants in child pornography cases. They also focused on what they called a lack of a "judicial philosophy" from Jackson. She countered those arguments by noting she had a general methodology when approaching cases.

Senator Manchin Reopens Social Spending Talks

Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) has restarted conversations concerning the social spending package he effectively tanked in December.

Senator Manchin told Democrats that a vote on the package must take place before the August recess.

The West Virginian told them he believed it to be possible to reach a deal addressing climate change, prescription drug prices, and the tax code. He does, however, want concessions for oil and gas to be made on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. The Department of Interior has been slow to draft a five-year plan for offshore oil and leasing gas in federal waters as the current one is slated to expire at the end of June.

On Wednesday, Senator Joe Manchin also outlined some energy policy he would be in favor of – these include a tax credit for clean energy manufacturing and legislation that replaces fossil fuel with advanced nuclear power.

A spokesperson for Senator Manchin told the Hill that the Senator is "always willing to engage in discussion about the best way to move our country forward."

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR) said he anticipates senators will focus on a reconciliation bill after they return from their April break. "It's the starting point of the next round of the debate," Wyden said on March 24 while speaking remotely at a conference organized by the American Council on Renewable Energy in Washington.

Wyden said no decisions have been made on whether to include a corporate minimum tax versus a raise in the corporate tax rate.

“Until 50 United States senators have given a final emphatic indication on what they’ll support, we continue to have this discussion,” Wyden said in response to a question about pay-fors.

House Republicans Lay Out Policy Agenda through Midterm

House Republicans took their annual issues retreat from Wednesday, March 23 through Friday March 25. They spent time designing a legislative blueprint to that they will use as a messaging tool leading up to the midterm elections on how they would govern if they took the majority next year.

They are calling their plan the “Commitment to America” which is a nod to the “Contract with America” on which Republicans campaigned when they won control of the House in 1994 after being out of power for over 40 years.

The plan will be finalized around August and will give Republicans a unified policy message to back to constituents on the campaign trail.

Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX) said the main aim of the retreat was to “get the entire conference together on these issues so we’re not having these divisions you’re seeing with the Democrats right now” and that Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) was “trying to be very inclusive, to get everyone’s input.”

For Representative McCarthy, the retreat was a way to ensure that members have buy-in with the plan and to ensure there are no divergences within his conference.

Representative John Katko (R-NY) said that the blueprint is “something that Democrats didn’t do at the beginning of their term, and they squandered a huge opportunity.”

Representative McCarthy and his colleagues have been working on the blueprint for nearly a year. The blueprint includes seven task forces including: Jobs and the Economy; Big Tech Censorship and Data; Future of American Freedoms; Energy, Climate, and Conservation; American Security; Healthy Future and China Accountability.

White House Environmental Equity Screening Tool Faulted on Data

A White House tool to help agencies and departments identify communities long suffering from pollution and other inequities shows promise but also gaps in fully understanding the communities, according to advocates.

Environmental justice and public health advocates have been testing a beta version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool since its release last month by the White House Council on Environmental Quality. The tool assesses census tracts using eight metrics including legacy pollution and access to renewable energy and clean transportation.

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Drawing on similar tools used for years by EPA and a handful of states, the goal is to deliver on President Joe Biden's Justice40 pledge to direct 40% of the benefits of climate, clean energy, and other funding to communities bearing the brunt of pollution.

Thus far those efforts are "more declarations of good intentions" than a marked shift in federal attention to such communities, Paul Mohai, a University of Michigan professor who co-founded the university's environmental justice program, said at a forum held Thursday by Resources for the Future research group.

CEQ's tool is hamstrung in part by varying quality of data, the absence of "community-input" health information, and unanswered questions over whether the data is sufficient to generate rankings for communities most in need, Mohai said.

"I see this as the beginning stage, but I do see a lot of potential for these kinds of tools in the future," he said.

The screening tools launched so far by states in New England along with California, Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado, and Maryland, show in some cases how a more local focus can help provide tools to better understand what communities are most in need, according to Sacoby Wilson, director for the University of Maryland's Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health.

But "as you get to the Deep South, there's not state-level tools," Wilson said, which has meant too little attention on disadvantaged communities that are among the hardest hit by legacy pollution and other inequities.

Such inattention suggests many communities are suffering "contamination without representation," he said.

Speaker Pelosi Calls on White House to Request New Covid Aid; Senate Negotiates

On Thursday, March 17 Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said she has asked the Biden administration to seek more funding in emergency COVID-19 relief citing it will cost more than \$40 billion for the testing, vaccine and therapeutic needs of the United States.

Initially, the President requested \$22.5 billion in funding, a number which dropped to \$15.6 billion in negotiations to include the funding in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022—funding that was later stripped from the bill.

Pelosi said that even the original \$22.5 billion was too small a number.

"I think they should be double what they asked for, because even when they were asking for like 20-some [billion dollars] it was only going to get us to June," Speaker Pelosi said at a press conference.

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The Administration said that the \$22.5 billion would cover the “immediate needs” of the pandemic response over the span of a few months. The bulk of the funding, \$18.25 billion, would go to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Republicans, however, pushed back saying it was too high and negotiated a reduction to \$15.6 billion, which was fully offset. The final agreement, however, was rejected by rank-and-file Democrats because the offsets included rescinding \$7 billion from state COVID-19 relief funds. That opposition ultimately resulted in the COVID supplemental being pulled from the broader government funding bill.

Speaker Pelosi said Thursday that whatever bill comes forward will be fully paid forever.

“What I've said to the administration is ... you must ask for more. Because we need more, and you can't expect money, this [bill], to turn around just like that because the legislative process takes time. We want it to be bipartisan; we need it to be paid for. And so let's just go for a bigger chunk,” she said.

Pelosi has suggested she hopes to move quickly, though the timeline is still not clear.

Despite calls from the Speaker, a bipartisan group of Senators, led by Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) have been negotiating a smaller package that could pass the Senate before the chamber leaves for the traditional two week Easter recess.

Those lawmakers have an agreement in principle on \$10 billion in Covid-19 aid, including offsets for the full cost.

Senator Romney said Republicans were waiting for an analysis from the Congressional Budget Office. He said \$1 billion in global vaccine funding could be added at the request of Democrats, but that other funding would have to be cut to keep the total at \$10 billion.

International vaccine funding is important to key Democrats. House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) has said she wants “to make sure that international is in” the next Covid-response legislation passed by Congress.

The agreement in principle would be fully paid for, partly by pulling back unspent funds previously appropriated for pandemic aid to businesses. The remaining “pay-fors” have not yet been announced.

Panel Explores Changes to Wastewater Funding Formula

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing on Wednesday, March 16 regarding the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Formula.

During the hearing, a number of Senators express concerns about how the original formula for the CWSRF was developed for wastewater infrastructure upgrades and expressed support for

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refining the formula to prioritize environmental justice and actual need for wastewater investments.

“No one knows why the formula was created the way it was,” Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) said during the hearing about possible ways to update the formula used for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK) said he doesn’t want the formula to focus mainly on a state’s population, and that it must address environmental justice.

The Fund was established in 1987 as an amendment to the Clean Water Act to provide money to states to fund loans that would help build local wastewater treatment plants, control water pollution, protect estuaries and pay for other water quality projects. The Environmental Protection Agency administers the fund, which is passed down to the States for project selection and implementation.

The Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (bipartisan infrastructure bill) infused the fund with \$12.7 billion spread out over the next several fiscal years. That includes \$1 billion to pay for remediation of emerging contaminants such as PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, that have been used in nonstick cookware and firefighting foam.

The formula for allocating the funding has been tweaked but not significantly updated since 1987, Jonathan Ramseur, a Congressional Research Service policy specialist, said at the hearing. The current formula provides states money based on “some combination” of wastewater needs, population and other factors, but the law doesn’t describe those factors and how they are weighted, nor does it factor in new census numbers, Ramseur said.

The EPA has determined that the current funding formula doesn’t provide states enough funding based on their infrastructure needs and population, Ramseur said.

States benefit from the fund unevenly. The fund’s biggest winner in 2021 was New York, which received more than \$175 million. California, the most populous state, received about \$114 million. The least populous states, including Wyoming and Vermont, received about \$7.9 million.

Ramseur said Congress has the option to model the Clean Water SRF after the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, a similar program dedicated to drinking water systems that allots money to states based on a needs survey conducted by the EPA every four years.

Some previous efforts to update the formula focused solely on making a state’s population the primary factor in allocating funds. But rural states protested, saying the wastewater infrastructure needs in their states eclipse their populations.

“Need varies across states” based on population growth, and age and condition of existing infrastructure, Senator Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV) said.

A formula based on population “may not reflect all of the needs within a state,” Laura Watson, director of the Washington State Department of Ecology, said at the hearing. Environmental justice and each system’s state of repair should be prioritized in the formula, she said.

Senate Democrats Eye Clean Grid Legislation

The U.S. electric sector would be required to better plan for power grid upgrades to accommodate the renewable energy rollout while more frequently reporting greenhouse gas emissions data to federal energy regulators, according to legislation that Senate Democrats unveiled Thursday, March 17.

The bill, called the Charge Act of 2022, aims to spur growth of power lines and infrastructure by expanding oversight of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the five-member panel that oversees the interstate flow of power and the wholesale power market.

Clean energy generators have struggled to connect to the power grid because of a lack of wires to move the power from solar and wind farms to consumers. The bill’s title is an acronym for the chief goal of the drafters: Connecting Hard-to-Reach Area with Renewably Generated Energy.

“Right now, the United States relies on two-lane roads for our electricity traffic when we need a renewable energy superhighway,” Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) said in a statement.

Markey’s cosponsors include some of the Senate’s biggest climate advocates: Tina Smith (D-MN), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI).

Democrats are seeking a path forward on climate priorities as its main vehicle, the Build Back Better Act, stalls in the Senate. The bill also comes amid a renewed push to build out U.S. energy production and lessen reliance on adversarial countries.

“Putin’s invasion of Ukraine has given Americans a bitter lesson about our reliance on fossil energy,” Smith said, adding, “no foreign dictator can tell us when the wind blows or the sun shines.”

The legislation comes as the energy commission considers an overhaul of transmission planning, facing thorny disputes on how to spread out the costs for long-range projects that can cross multiple states. New rules could arrive by the end of this year, the commission has said.

The Charge Act would require FERC to go further by establishing a minimum reliability standard among regions of the country. Such a standard would limit damaging power outages during extreme weather events, such as when Winter Storm Uri knocked out power in Texas and Oklahoma. Back-up generation from neighboring regions was limited during that cold snap, the commission found.

The emissions reporting rule would require utilities to submit hourly data to the Energy Information Administration, which would post the data online. More granular emissions data

would give grid planners certainty that new power line projects are leading to emissions reductions, energy analysts have argued.

The bill would also require the commission to eliminate policies that could prevent renewable generators from participating in wholesale power markets if they receive state subsidies.

Renewable energy and some nuclear plants that receive state incentives faced barriers to those markets in PJM Interconnection, which coordinates the flow of power through 13 Eastern states and Washington, D.C. The commission scaled back, but did not eliminate, PJM's pricing rule last year.

A summary of the legislation, as prepared by Senator Markey's office, can be found here: https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/CHARGE%20Act_One%20Pager.pdf

Congress Completes Work on Omnibus Appropriations Package

On Wednesday, March 9, the House passed H.R.2471, the legislative vehicle for the \$1.5 trillion Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2022. The House used a procedure via the rule for consideration of the legislation to "divide the question" on different sections of the bill, which resulted in a "security" related vote and a "non-security" related vote. Democrats did this because they expected to lose progressive votes on the security portions of the legislation that funded the Defense Department, Homeland Security, and other related bills.

The security division passed by a vote of 361 to 69. 155 Republicans joined all but 15 Democrats in support. The non-security division passed 260 to 171, with one Democrat voting Present. Only 39 Republicans voted for that portion of the legislation.

Even though the House "divided the question," the bill only required one vote for final passage in the Senate. The Senate passed the legislation on Thursday, March 10 by a vote of 68-31. In order to get a unanimous consent agreement to expedite consideration of the legislation, Senators also took votes on three amendments, all of which failed. Amendments included one offered by Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) that would have prevent vaccine requirements, one from Senator Mike Braun (R-IN) that would have remove all earmarks from the bill, and an amendment from Senator John Kennedy (R-LA) that would have provide \$2 billion in disaster aid for areas affected by Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Ida in 2020 and 2021.

The legislation took several days to be "enrolled" by the House and Senate, meaning it was not signed into law until Tuesday, March 15. With the legislation's enactment, all federal agencies will be funded through the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2022.

The omnibus appropriations bill included a 6.7% increase for non-defense spending and increases defense funds by 5.6%. The package also included earmarks for the first time since they were banned in 2011, and it included a Ukrainian aid supplemental bill with around \$13.6 billion in support for the nation in response to the Russian invasion.

During State of the Union, Biden Asks for Unity Amidst Discord

On Tuesday, March 1, the President addressed the nation asking Americans to rally behind a shared political vision and against foes causing geopolitical woe.

The President opened his remarks condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which was met with bipartisan applause. He called upon lawmakers to stand up to President Vladimir Putin and said that the Russian dictator had “no idea what’s coming.”

He went on to say that the war in Ukraine was “badly miscalculated” and that the war would leave Russia much weaker. The President announced that the United States would close its airspace to Russian airlines, following the European nations in their decision to do so.

The President spoke with optimism about the fight against COVID-19, praising the perseverance of the American people during the pandemic. He also said that over one million of Pfizer’s antiviral pills, which are used to treat Covid, will be ready in March and that the United States is launching a program in which people can receive tests at pharmacies and free antiviral pills if they test positive.

On this vein, he introduced his “unity agenda” which includes certain unifying topics such as combating cancer and opioid abuse, giving aid to veterans, and bolstering mental health services.

President Biden said, “There’s something happening in America. Just look around and you’ll see an amazing story.”

Regarding inflation, which the President named as one of his top priorities, he offered elements of his stalled “Build Back Better” agenda as a way of tempering the surging prices. The President claimed that the agenda would cut costs to child-care and energy which would alleviate some of the financial strain.

Of inflation the President said, “With all the bright spots in our economy, record job growth and higher wages, too many families are struggling to keep up with the bills.”

The President also praised the investments made by the bipartisan infrastructure law and extolled the virtues of becoming more resilient with regards to climate change. He touted combating climate change as a way to build a stronger and more economically secure nation. The President promised that investments in clean energy would cut families’ energy costs to an average of \$500 year.

The text of President Biden’s full speech can be found here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/state-of-the-union-2022/>

Congressional Retirements

Below is a list of Members and Senators who have announced they will not be seeking reelection to their current seat next Congress. While many are retiring, others have announced they will seek other office.

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Departing Senators	Party	State	Reason
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
Jim Inhofe	R	Oklahoma	Retiring before end of term
Departing Members	Party	District	Reason
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
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 AG
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 AG
Tom Suozzi	D	NY-03	Running for Governor

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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
Kathleen Rice	D	NY-05	Retiring
Ted Deutch	D	FL-22	Retiring
Markwayne Mullin	R	OK-02	Running for Senate
Fred Keller	R	PA-12	Retiring
Van Taylor	R	TX-03	Retiring

There are currently 5 vacancies in the House, including:

- CA-22 due to the resignation of Devin Nunes (R)
- MN-01 due to the death of Jim Hagedorn (R)
- AK-AL due to the death of Don Young (R)
- NE-01 due to the resignation of Jeff Fortenberry (R)
- TX-34 due to the resignation of Filemon Vela (D)

Bill Number	Sponsors	Title and/or Summary	Summary/Status	Latest Action
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>Efforts to pass the legislation in 2021 were unsuccessful even after the House passed a modified version of the legislation.</p> <p>Senator Joe Manchin came out in opposition to the legislation in late-2021, though he has recently expressed a willingness to pass a scaled-back version of the legislation that is paid for through tax increases. He has indicated that the scope of the legislation would need to be limited to do a few things permanently rather than create several new programs for a short period of time.</p> <p>There is no currently timeline or legislative language for a package that may be considered in the Senate.</p>
S. 29 / H.R. 2008	Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) / Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN)	Local Water Protection Act	A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to nonpoint source management, and for other purposes.	<p>The Senate legislation was introduced on January 22, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.</p> <p>The legislation in the House was introduced on March 18, 2021 and passed the House under suspension of the rules on June 15.</p>

H.R 1563	Rep. Mike Garcia (R-CA)	To extend the authorities under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 providing operational flexibility, drought relief, and other benefits to the State of California	The legislation would extend the authorities under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 providing operational flexibility, drought relief, and other benefits to the State of California. The legislation would extend 4007 authorities through January 1, 2028.	The legislation was introduced on March 3, 2021 and was referred to the House Committees on Natural Resources and Science, Space, and Technology.
S.984 / 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. 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.
S. 953	Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)	Water for Conservation and Farming Act	The legislation would create a Reclamation fund of \$300M 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; 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 / S.2567	Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN) / Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)	Define WOTUS Act / Navigable Waters Protection Act of 2021	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.	These bills were introduced in June and July of 2021 in response to the EPA's announcement earlier in June of its intent to rewrite the Navigable Waters Protection rule.

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

H.R. 4647 / S. 2430	Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) / Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)	Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act	The legislation would amend federal tax law so that homeowners wouldn't pay income tax on rebates from water utilities for water conservation and water runoff management improvements	The House legislation was introduced on July 22, 2021 and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. The legislation in the Senate was introduced on July 22, 2021 and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.
S.2454	Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA)	Water Reuse and Resiliency Act	The legislation would authorize \$1 billion over five years for the EPA's Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Projects grants program. This is an increase from the \$125 million over five years authorized for the program in the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act passed by the Senate in April.	The legislation was introduced on July 22, 2021 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.
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	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. The legislation in the Senate was introduced on May 20, 2021 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

			suspend utility shutoffs and restore any disconnected service, suspend late fees and charges, stop the sale of household debt to debt collectors, stop placing or selling liens on households due to outstanding utility debt, and stop filing adverse reports on households due to unpaid utility bills to credit agencies.	
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) / Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI)	Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021	The legislation would fund conservation efforts for more than 12,000 species of wildlife and plants in need of assistance by providing \$1.3 billion in dedicated annual funding for proactive, on-the-ground efforts across the country, ensure wildlife recovery efforts will be guided by the Congressionally-mandated State Wildlife Action Plans, which identify specific strategies to restore the populations of species of greatest conservation need, accelerate 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>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>

			In the Senate, RAWA also directs fees and penalties assessed for environmental violations to help fund RAWA, using fee and penalty amounts that aren't already targeted for existing environmental funds.	
H.R.4602 / S.3956	Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) / Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI) and Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) / Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)	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, 2021 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> <p>The Senate bill was introduced on March 30, 2022.</p>
H.R.6591	Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI) / Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)	PIPES Act	The legislation would require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to publish a rule that establishes standards for the flushability of disposable nonwoven wipes.	The legislation was introduced on February 3, 2022 and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
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	<p>The Senate legislation was introduced on September 22, 2021 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>

			innovations in prescribed fire (controlled burns) practices.	
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.	<p>The legislation was introduced on October 19, 2021 and passed the Senate by unanimous consent that day.</p> <p>Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) is an original cosponsor of the legislation.</p> <p>The act was introduced in the House on October 26 and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.</p>
H.R. 6461 / S. 3531	Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA) / Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)	National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced in the House on January 20, 2022 and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.</p> <p>The legislation was introduced in the Senate on January 20, 2022, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs.</p>
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	<p>The legislation was introduced in the House on January 13, 2022 and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.</p> <p>The legislation has 32 cosponsors, including 8 members of the California delegation.</p>

			resiliency planning and investments; 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.	
H.R.6492	Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)	Climate Resilience Workforce Act	<p>The bill establishes a climate resilience workforce in communities most affected by the climate crisis. It also funds the development of regional, state, local, and community-based climate resilience action plans.</p> <p>The legislation creates an Office of Climate Resilience within the White House, starts new workforce development programs, and removes barriers to employment in climate resilience jobs based on immigration status and prior involvement with the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced in the House on January 25, 2022 and referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.</p> <p>The legislation has 38 cosponsors, including 9 members of the California delegation.</p>
H.R. 6989	Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)	Housing for All Act of 2022	<p>This legislation would address critical affordable housing shortages in California and across the country by investing in hotel and motel conversions to permanent supportive housing with supportive services; investing in the Eviction Protection Grant Program; investing in mobile crisis intervention teams to help those with medical or psychological needs avoid the criminal justice system; investing in libraries that support people experiencing homelessness; investing in programs that offer a safe place to park overnight and facilitate access to</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced in the House on March 8, 2022 and referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.</p> <p>The legislation has 14 cosponsors, including 12 members of the California delegation.</p>

			rehousing services and essential services; and investing in inclusive, transit-oriented development and infill development	
S. 623	Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)	Sunshine Protection Act of 2021	This bill makes daylight saving time the new, permanent standard time, effective November 5, 2023.	The legislation passed the Senate on March 15, 2022 and sent to the House.

Enacted Legislation (Removed after 2 months)

H.R. 2471	Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022	This \$1.5 trillion bill provides appropriations to federal agencies for the remainder of FY22, provides supplemental appropriations for activities to support Ukraine, and modifies or establishes various programs that address a wide range of policy areas. The bill includes the 12 regular appropriations bills that fund federal agencies for FY2022.	<p>The legislation passed the House on March 9, 2022 and passed the Senate the following day.</p> <p>President Biden signed the bill into law on March 15, 2022.</p>
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INFORMATION
ITEM
2B



March 25, 2022

To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency

From: Michael Boccadoro
Beth Olhasso

RE: March Report

Overview:

The state has started to implement measures to address the worsening water conditions in the state. With the snowpack at just 50 percent of normal, reservoirs also hovering around 50 percent capacity, and DWR Director Nemeth recently stating that they believe snowpack peak runoff has already occurred, it is clear that the state will continue to take measures to reduce water use throughout the state. The announcement that the State Water Project will only receive a five percent allocation was just the first action we will likely see from regulators.

In a long-running dispute over water rights in California, a federal judge will allow a pair of challenged Trump-era biological opinions to remain in effect over the next three years with added safeguards that some groups complain fail to ensure the survival of endangered fish.

The long-awaited maximum contaminant level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium (Chrom-6) was recently released. The state tried to implement a Chrom-6 MCL a number of years ago, but it was challenged by water agencies for not being feasible. The first in the nation standard for Chrom-6 is proposed at 10 parts per billion or 0.010 milligrams per liter (mg/L). Systems with more than 10,000 service connections would be required to comply with the MCL within two years of rule adoption.

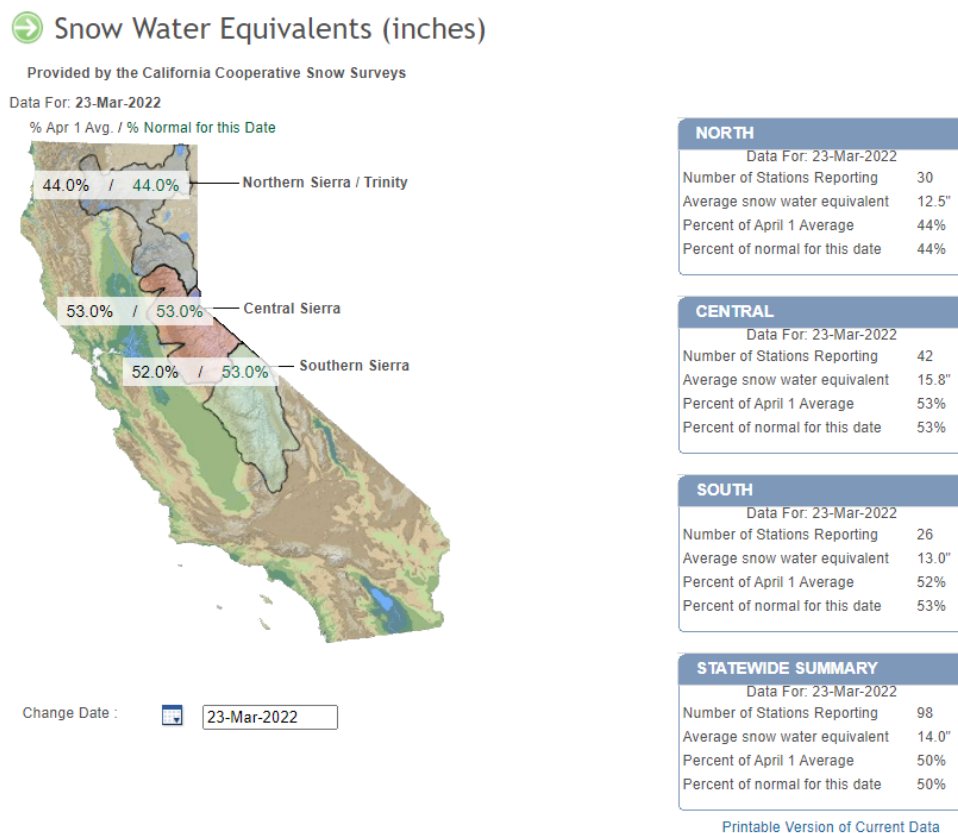
The Legislature is working on the two thousand bills that have been introduced since the beginning of the year. The deadline for bills to pass out of policy committees is April 28. With more water-related bills this year legislative water discussions are likely to be more robust and extensive. ACWA's legislation to provide for a tax exemption for turf removal rebates had its first hearing and will be voted on in the coming weeks. CASA's bill to require products containing PFAS to register their products on a publicly accessible database, will get its first hearing the first week of April. MWD's legislation to allow for alternative project delivery methods for several of their projects recently passed out of the Revenue and Taxation Committee, while similar legislation to allow for alternative project delivery for projects over \$5 million is scheduled for hearing March 31.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Status Report – March 2022

Water Supply Conditions

With April just days away, water managers have resolved that there will be no March Miracle and that statewide water conditions will be dismal for 2022. The Sierra snowpack, which started the year off at 103 percent of normal in January is down to just 50 percent of normal. Lake Oroville is sitting at just 67 percent of historical average and 46 percent capacity. San Luis Reservoir, the main south-of-Delta storage facility for the State Water Project, is even lower at 52 percent of average for this time of the year and 44 percent capacity.



Bay-Delta Update

In a long-running dispute over water rights in California, a federal judge will allow a pair of challenged Trump-era biological opinions to remain in effect over the next three years with added safeguards that some groups complain fail to ensure the survival of endangered fish.

In December 2021, a coalition of fishing industry and environmental groups asked a judge to temporarily block agencies from relying on two “scientifically unsound and fatally flawed” biological opinions issued during the Trump administration in 2019.

The two opinions — issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife — enable more water to be sent to some 20 million farms, businesses and homes in Southern and Central California via two massive federal and state water diversion projects. The opinions eliminate certain requirements, such as mandating extra flows to prevent water temperatures from rising to levels high enough to damage and fry salmon eggs.

Opponents say those endangered species assessments for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project will jeopardize the survival of threatened Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, delta smelt and longfin smelt.

In the 122-page opinion, U.S. District Judge Dale Drozd endorsed the governments' plan to keep the two challenged biological opinions in place while the Biden administration reconsiders them. While those reviews are pending, an interim operations plan will be put in place with provisions designed to provide extra protections for the endangered fish. Drozd found the government-backed interim plan “takes balanced and reasonable steps” to address water temperature-related threats to winter-run salmon eggs and sets “reasonable carryover storage goals” for Shasta Dam water.

SWP Allocation Cut to 5 percent

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) recently announced it will reduce the State Water Project (SWP) allocation to 5 percent of requested supplies for 2022. DWR previously set the allocation at 15%, but a historically dry January and February, with no significant storms forecast for March, requires a reduction in the allocation to conserve available water supply.

In addition to the 5 percent allocation, DWR will also provide any unmet critical health and safety needs of the 29 water agencies that contract to receive State Water Project supplies.

“As California enters our third consecutive dry year, today’s allocation announcement is a clear call for the need to immediately conserve more water and get serious about updating our infrastructure to accommodate our changed hydrology,” stated Jennifer Pierre, General Manager of the State Water Contractors, in a news release. “This year is on track to be the most difficult for Central Valley agriculture since the water projects were built. We must be able to capture and store water when it’s wet for use when it’s dry. Our communities, food supply, and environment cannot be sustained without these investments and actions.”

DWR will make its next assessment of the State Water Project allocation following its fourth snow survey on April 1. A final allocation for the water year is typically announced in May or June. The lack of significant precipitation in January and February has resulted in falling reservoir levels and reduced snowpack.

DWR, along with its federal partners at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, will submit a revised application for a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) for operations from April 1 to June 30. The petition will seek flexibility for the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project to release less water into the Delta through June 2022 to conserve limited stored water in Shasta, Oroville and Folsom reservoirs. DWR and Reclamation had previously submitted a TUCP application for earlier in the year. However, December storms made that application unnecessary, and it was withdrawn. This new application is necessary due to dramatically changing conditions and covers modified dates and operational requests.

Californians can now access current water conditions in real time at [California Water Watch](#), a new website launched by DWR. This website will help Californians see their local hydrological conditions, forecasts, and water conditions down to their address or their local watershed. The site presents data from a variety of sources and allows the public to obtain a quick snapshot of local and statewide water conditions.

Draft Chrom-6 MCL Released

The long-awaited maximum contaminant level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium (Chrom-6) was recently released. The first in the nation standard for Chrom-6 is proposed at 10 parts per billion or 0.010 milligrams per liter (mg/L). Systems with more than 10,000 service connections would be required to comply with the MCL within two years of rule adoption.

In 2011, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) published a public health goal for Chrom-6 at 0.02 micrograms per liter.

In 2001, the Legislature required the Department of Health Services to develop a primary drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium by 2003. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is required to adopt primary drinking water standards at a level as close as feasible to the corresponding public health goal (PHG), placing primary emphasis on the protection of public health, and avoiding, to the extent technologically and economically feasible, any significant risk to public health.

The report included the required financial impact data. Obviously financial impacts depend on what level of Chrom-6 cleanup is required by a water system, if any. The report estimates that for large water systems, over 10,000 connections, the monthly impact to ratepayers could be anywhere from \$0.75 to \$45.

Workshops will be held on April 5 and April 7.

Legislative Update

Policy committees in the Legislature are meeting regularly to consider the several thousand bills that were introduced in the first three months of the year. Bills have until the end of April to make it out of policy committee.

Updates on priority bills:

AB 2142 (Gabriel): This bill would provide an income tax exemption for rebates from a turf removal program. Sponsored by ACWA. The bill was heard in the Revenue and Taxation Committee. R&T Committee votes on all tax exemption bills at one time, so the vote will come later in April.

AB 1845 (Calderon): MWD sponsored bill to allow for alternative project delivery methods for specific MWD projects. The bill was heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee and was passed out unanimously.

AB 2247 (Bloom): CASA sponsored bill would require products sold in CA that contain PFAS to register the product on a publicly accessible reporting platform. The bill was recently amended to remove some of the enforcement language, which should remove some of the opposition. The bill is scheduled for the Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee on April 5.

AB 2782 (Quirk): This legislation is an extension of the original microbeads bill. It would ban the sale or distribution of products that contain intentionally added microplastics.

AB 2811 (Bennett): Would require newly constructed large commercial buildings to be dual plumbed for recycled water and also require large commercial buildings to install onsite reuse systems. The bill will be considered in the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on April 5.

SB 1157 (Hertzberg): This legislation is identical to AB 1434 (Friedman) from 2021. The bill would implement the indoor GPCD targets outlined in the DWR/SWRCB draft report to the Legislature for 47 GPCD by 2025 and 42 GPCD by 2030.

IEUA BILLS—BILLS WITH POSITIONS- 2022 Session

Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Title and/or Summary	Summary	IEUA Position/ Bill Location	Positions Taken by Associations & Regional Agencies
AB 1845	Calderon MWD Sponsored	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: alternative project delivery methods	Would authorize the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to use the design-build procurement process for certain regional recycled water projects or other water infrastructure projects. The bill would define "design-build" to mean a project delivery process in which both the design and construction of a project are procured from a single entity. The bill would require the district, if using this procurement process, to follow certain procedures, including preparing and issuing a request for qualifications, preparing a request for proposals including the scope and needs of the project or contract, and awarding projects based on certain criteria for projects utilizing either lowest responsible bidder or best value selection criteria.	SUPPORT Passed out of Local Gov Comm 8-0 Water, Parks & Wildlife	MWD, ACWA, WRCA in support
AB 2142	Gabriel	Income taxes: exclusion: turf replacement water conservation program	This bill would, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2022, and before January 1, 2027, under both of these laws, provide an exclusion from gross income for any amount received as a rebate, voucher, or other financial incentive issued by a local water agency or supplier for participation in a turf replacement water conservation program.	Heard in Revenue and Tax Committee	ACWA, MWD in Support
AB 2247	Bloom CASA Sponsored	PFAS products: disclosure: publicly accessible reporting platform	This bill would require the Department of Toxic Substances Control to work with the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse to establish, on or before January 1, 2024, a publicly accessible reporting platform to collect information about PFAS and products or product components containing regulated PFAS, as defined, being sold, offered for sale, distributed, or offered for promotional purposes in, or imported into, the state. The bill would require, on or before March 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, a manufacturer, as defined, of PFAS or a product or a product component containing regulated PFAS that is sold, offered for sale, distributed, or offered for	Env. Safety & Toxic Materials 4/5	CASA, WRCA, ACWA in support

			promotional purposes in, or imported into, the state to register the PFAS or the product or product component containing regulated PFAS, and specified other information, on the publicly accessible reporting platform.		
AB 2787	Quirk	Microplastics in products	The Microbeads Nuisance Prevention Law prohibits a person from selling or offering for promotional purposes in the state any personal care products containing plastic microbeads that are used to exfoliate or cleanse in a rinse-off product, including, but not limited to, toothpaste. This bill would, on and after specified dates that vary based on the product, ban the sale, distribution in commerce, or offering for promotional purposes in the state of designated products, such as leave-in cosmetics products and waxes and polishes, if the products contain intentionally added microplastics, as defined. The bill would exclude from this ban products consisting, in whole or in part, of specified substances or mixtures containing microplastics. The bill would make a violator liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 per day for each violation.	SUPPORT Natural Resources & Env. Safety & Toxic Materials Committees (no hearing scheduled)	CASA in support
AB 2811	Bennett Plumbers Union	California Building Standards Commission: recycled water: nonpotable water systems	Would require, commencing January 1, 2024, all newly constructed nonresidential buildings be constructed with dual plumbing to allow the use of recycled water for all applicable nonpotable water demands, as defined, if that building is located within an existing or planned recycled water service area, as specified.	Oppose Env. Safety & Toxic Materials Comm 4/5	CASA & WRCA oppose unless amended. ACWA & CMUA Oppose
SB 222	Sen. Dodd	Water Affordability Assistance Program	Would establish the Water Affordability Assistance Fund in the State Treasury to help provide water affordability assistance, for both drinking water and wastewater services, to low-income ratepayers and ratepayers experiencing economic hardship in California. The bill would make moneys in the fund available upon appropriation by the Legislature to the state board to provide, as part of the Water Affordability Assistance Program established by the	Two-Year Bill Assembly Floor	Opposed by ACWA

			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.		
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
SB 991	Newman Water Collaborative Delivery Association (formerly the Water Design- Build Council)	Public contracts: progressive design- build: local agencies	Current law, until January 1, 2025, authorizes local agencies, as defined, to use the design-build procurement process for specified public works with prescribed cost thresholds. Current law requires specified information submitted by a design-build entity in the design-build procurement process to be certified under penalty of perjury. This bill, until January 1, 2033, authorizes local agencies, defined as any city, county, city and county, or special district authorized by law to provide for the production, storage, supply, treatment, or distribution of any water from any source, to use the progressive design-build process for public works projects in excess of \$5,000,000, similar to the progressive design-build process authorized for use by the Director of General Services. The bill would require specified information to be verified under penalty of perjury.	SUPPORT Governance & Finance Committee 3/31	WRCA Support

SB 1157	Hertzberg	Urban water use objectives: indoor residential water use	<p>Current law requires the Department of Water Resources, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, and including collaboration with and input from stakeholders, to conduct necessary studies and investigations and authorizes the department and the board to jointly recommend to the Legislature a standard for indoor residential water use. Current law, until January 1, 2025, establishes 55 gallons per capita daily as the standard for indoor residential water use. Existing law establishes, beginning January 1, 2025, the greater of 52.5 gallons per capita daily or a standard recommended by the department and the board as the standard for indoor residential water use, and beginning January 1, 2030, establishes the greater of 50 gallons per capita daily or a standard recommended by the department and the board as the standard for indoor residential water use. This bill would eliminate the option of using the greater of 52.5 gallons per capita daily and the greater of 50 gallons per capita daily, as applicable, or a standard recommended by the department and the board as the standard for indoor residential water use.</p>	Natural Resources & Water 4/5	Oppose unless amended by WateReuse & ACWA, CASA & CMUA
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INFORMATION
ITEM
2C

Date: April 20, 2022

To: The Honorable Board of Directors

SD
From: Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

Committee: Community & Legislative Affairs

04/13/22

Executive Contact: Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

Executive Summary:

Staff is working with MWD to enhance and implement drought messaging and collateral across the region. Messaging is focused on using water-saving tips, and features people across the region implementing these tips.

Staff continues to develop supplemental drought campaign collateral to co-exist with the campaign visual that has been developed. Staff also continues to utilize the Pledge to Save Water QR code campaign. Once scanned, the QR code takes readers to the IEUA Take the Pledge webpage where they can learn more about the Agency, current drought conditions, water-wise tips, and participate by taking the pledge to save water. IEUA's Take the Pledge webpage has received 130 views and the QR codes have received a total of 71 sessions as of March 30.

Staff are working with the city of Chino on the Agency's Virtual Earth Week 2022. All customer agencies will have the opportunity to create a virtual booth highlighting beneficial programs in the region.

Staff's Recommendation:

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

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

Account/Project Name:

Fiscal Impact (explain if not budgeted):

Prior Board Action:

N/A

Environmental Determination:

Not Applicable

Business Goal:

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

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

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Background

Background

Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

April

- April: Records and Information Management Month
- April 16-23: California Native Plant Week
- April 17-23: IEUA Virtual Earth Week Celebration
- April 18-24: National Environmental Education Week
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 23: World Laboratory Day
- April 24-30: Water Week
- April 27: Administrative Professionals Day
- April 30: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Media and Outreach

- Staff is working with MWD to enhance and implement drought messaging and collateral across the region. Messaging is focused on using water-saving tips, and features people across the region implementing these tips.
- Staff continues to develop supplemental drought campaign collateral to co-exist with the campaign visual that has been developed. Staff also continues to utilize the Pledge to Save Water QR code campaign. Once scanned, the QR code takes readers to the IEUA Take the Pledge webpage where they can learn more about the Agency, current drought conditions, water-wise tips, and participate by taking the pledge to save water. IEUA's Take the Pledge webpage has received 130 views and the QR codes have received a total of 71 sessions as of March 30.
- 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 recognized the month of March as Procurement Month with social media features on IEUA's Contracts and Procurement staff. Staff also recognized March 12 as International Grant Professionals Day and shared information on the Agency's Grants team.
- The Agency celebrated Groundwater Awareness Week from March 6-12. On social media, staff worked with the Groundwater Recharge team to develop "Groundwater Saving Tips" throughout the week.
- Staff celebrated Fix a Leak Week from March 14-20 by hosting a Fix a Leak giveaway. Included in the giveaway was a free hose nozzle and leak detection kit for members of the public willing to share how they find and/or fix leaks. Staff also posted video shorts throughout the week promoting the giveaway and how to check for leaks. Across all platforms, the videos have received over 2,000 views.

- Staff recognized World Water Day on March 22 with a post highlighting groundwater and the essential role it plays within the Agency, especially during times of drought.
- Staff shared two more videos in its Education Program IGTV (Instagram TV) Series on resources included within *Owlie's Virtual Adventures* programming. The videos included information on the At-Home activity Video Series, Virtual Field Trips, Wally's Water Conservation Camp, and the Water Scout Badge Program. The series will continue to share information on the Agency's education programs, resources and how to participate.
- The Agency continues to publish content on LinkedIn and has gained 56 followers since February, with 723 page views in the last 30 days.
- March: 21 posts were published to the IEUA Facebook page, 21 tweets were sent on the @IEUAWater Twitter handle, 40 posts were published to IEUA's Instagram grid, and 18 posts were published to the IEUA LinkedIn page.
 - The top three Facebook posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of March were:
 - 3/1 Assistant General Manager and Director of External and Government Affairs Hiring
 - 3/20 First Day of Spring
 - 3/4 Employee Appreciation Day/World Engineering Day
 - The top three Twitter tweets, based on reach and engagement, in the month of March were:
 - 3/17 Fix a Leak Week Giveaway Promotion
 - 3/15 *Water is Life* Poster Contest Extension
 - 3/4 Employee Appreciation Day/World Engineering Day
 - The top three Instagram posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of March were:
 - 3/4 Employee Appreciation Day/World Engineering Day
 - 3/22 World Water Day
 - 3/8 Administrative Assistant (2 Year Limited Term) and External Affairs Specialist I-II (DOQ) Hiring
 - The top three LinkedIn posts, based on impressions and reactions, in the month of March were:
 - 3/12 International Grant Professionals Day
 - 3/15 IEUA Board President Steve Elie at Rancho Del Chino Rotary
 - 3/23 Article re. Chino Basin Program Funding Boost from the California Water Commission
- A "Water-Wise Education" banner ad is currently featured in *Fontana Herald News*.

For the month of March, there were 12,473 searches for a park in IEUA's service area on Yelp, where Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park was viewed 712 times.

Education and Outreach Updates

- Staff are working with the city of Chino on the Agency's Virtual Earth Week 2022. All customer agencies will have the opportunity to create a virtual booth highlighting beneficial programs in the region.
- Three high schools within IEUA's service area continue to compete in MWD's Solar Cup 2022: Colony High School – Ontario, Chino Hills High School – Chino Hills and Upland

High School – Upland. All teams have successfully completed the first challenge, Onshape, and are working on the next two challenges- the Solar Panel Challenge and Zero Emission Vehicle Challenge.

- Staff partnered with the Water Education Foundation to facilitate a virtual Project W.E.T. Workshop on March 8 and March 10 for educators. This workshop was mandatory for educators interested in applying for a mini-grant for their existing water-wise garden.
- Staff partnered with LifeStream Blood Bank to hold a Blood Drive on March 9th. Twenty-three pints of blood were collected, enough to save 69 lives.
- The deadline to submit posters for the *Water is Life* poster contest was extended from March 16 to March 23. Staff are currently reviewing submissions.
- Staff hosted a facility tour on March 31st to a group of AP Environmental Science high school students. The tour took place at Carbon Canyon Water Recycling Facility and was followed by a tour of the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park. Human Resources staff were also present to share information on career opportunities.

Agency-Wide Membership Updates

- Randy Lee, Director of Operations, attended a National Water Research Institute (NWRI) meeting on February 8.
- Randy Lee, Director of Operations and Robert Delgado, Manager of Maintenance, attended Western Water TAG 30 hosted by Isle Utilities on February 9.
- Lucia Diaz, Manager of Facilities & Water System Programs attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Sanitary Sewer System (SSS) Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Meeting #1 on February 7.
- Lucia Diaz, Manager of Facilities & Water System Programs attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Sanitary Sewer System (SSS) Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Meeting #2 on February 9.
- Robert Delgado, Manager of Maintenance and Lucia Diaz, Manager of Facilities & Water System Programs attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Sanitary Sewer System (SSS) Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Meeting #3 on February 11.
- Randy Lee, Director of Operations, Robert Delgado, Manager of Maintenance, Ryan Love, Deputy Manager of Operations, and Manuel Moreno Operations Supervisor, attended Western Water TAG 34 hosted by Isle Utilities on February 15.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Water Regulatory Workgroup Meeting on February 17.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Biosolids Regulatory Workgroup Meeting on February 17.
- Dan Dyer, Collections System Supervisor, attended the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Meeting on February 22.
- Pietro Cambiaso, Acting Director of Planning and Resources, attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Air Quality, Climate Change, & Energy Workgroup Meeting on February 24.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Air Quality Committee Meeting on February 23.

- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Air Quality, Climate Change, & Energy Workgroup Meeting on February 24.