



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

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022  
9:00 A.M.**

**INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY\*  
VIEW THE MEETING LIVE ONLINE AT [IEUA.ORG](http://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](mailto:dgarzaro@ieua.org) prior to the completion of the Public Comment section of the meeting. Comments will be distributed to the Board of Directors.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

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

\*A Municipal Water District

**1. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. MINUTES**

Approve Minutes of the April 13, 2022 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.

**2. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

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

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

**3. GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

**4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

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

**ADJOURN**

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**DECLARATION OF POSTING**

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

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

**ACTION  
ITEM  
1A**



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

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 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  
Christiana Daisy, P.E., Deputy General Manager  
Denise Garzaro, Board Secretary/Office Manager  
Daniel Solorzano, Network Administrator

**STAFF PRESENT via Video/Teleconference**

Javier Chagoyen-Lazaro, Acting Assistant General Manager  
Pietro Cambiaso, Acting Director of Planning & Resources  
Andrea Carruthers, Communications Officer  
Don Hamlett, Director of Information Technology  
Jennifer Hy-Luk, Administrative Assistant II  
Nolan King, Network Administrator  
Yvonne Lam, External Affairs Specialist II  
Cathleen Pieroni, Senior Policy Advisor  
Sushmitha Reddy, Manager of Laboratories  
Jeanina Romero, Executive Assistant  
Teresa Velarde, Manager of Internal Audit

**OTHERS PRESENT via Video/Teleconference**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

### **1A. ACTION ITEM**

The Committee:

- ◆ Approved Minutes of the March 9, 2022 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.

### **2A – 2C. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

- ◆ Federal Legislative Report and Matrix – Innovative Federal Strategies
- ◆ State Legislative Report – West Coast Advisors
- ◆ Public Outreach and Communication

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

General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh stated that as the Agency has been reporting, the status of the drought is severe for parts of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) service area receiving only State Water Project (SWP) supplies, which includes IEUA. He emphasized that the time to take action to reduce SWP demands is now. MWD presented an information item to its Board on April 12 proposing to establish a mandatory irrigation schedule, with outdoor watering allowed only one day per week for eight minutes per station. MWD could impose a \$2,000/AF penalty on all MWD water purchased for any agencies who do not comply. The Agency believes this proposal to be vague, overbroad, and challenging to enforce. He stated that customer agencies voiced concern as well and together sought an approach that allocated water to each retail agency. That action would trigger actions under their respective Water Shortage Allocation Plans. With guidance from legal counsel, IEUA submitted a comment letter opposing MWD's proposed irrigation restrictions. General Manager Deshmukh stated he provided comments at yesterday's Committee meeting, along with Cucamonga Valley Water District's Board President and Monte Vista Water District's Board President and General Manager. Together, they asked for the flexibility to institute their own allocation approach, which was ultimately supported by MWD General Manager Hagekhalil. Staff held a follow-up meeting with the general managers of our customer agencies this morning and discussions are underway to quickly establish a workable program to restrict imported water deliveries to just 40,000 AFY compared to the normal deliveries of approximately 65,000 AFY. He shared that this is a very dynamic situation that has fostered good collaboration with our customer agencies.

Director Camacho reported that MWD adopted an annual rate increase of 5 percent for 2023 and 2024. Metropolitan staff originally submitted a proposal for 8 percent annual increases in both years, but the Board pushed for consecutively lower rate options until this fourth option of a 5 percent increase in 2023 and another 5 percent increase in 2024 was approved by the Board. General Manager Hagekhalil was tasked with finding alternative sources of income for MWD to account for increased costs.

Director Camacho added that after much discussion, the MWD Board supported a contribution of \$20 million to advance planning studies that will help to inform a final Board decision on whether to construct Sites Reservoir.

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

There were no Committee member comments.

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

There were no Committee member requests for future agenda items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Committee Chair Elie adjourned the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Garzaro  
Board Secretary/Office Manager

\*A Municipal Water District

**APPROVED: MAY 11, 2022**

INFORMATION  
ITEM  
2A

# INNOVATIVE FEDERAL STRATEGIES, LLC

*Comprehensive Government Relations*

## MEMORANDUM

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

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

**Date:** April 29, 2022

**Re:** April Monthly Legislative Update

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### **Top Appropriators Meet to Begin Fiscal Year 2023 Spending Talks**

On Thursday, April 28, top House and Senate appropriators met to kick off bipartisan spending talks for fiscal year 2023. However, they said it will take time before they come to a deal on government funding levels.

The so-called “four corners” met to discuss how to fund the government, approximately five months before the September 30th deadline. The meeting included Senate Appropriations Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Vice Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL), House Appropriators Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), and Ranking Member Kay Granger (R-TX).

In an interview with reporters, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) said that it’s his hope lawmakers will agree on a topline spending figure soon. However, Appropriators are skeptical they’ll strike a deal soon.

Representative DeLauro spoke to reporters saying, “It’s an initial meeting. There’ll be maybe several more.”

Senator Shelby has said that he’ll push for an increase to defense spending given inflation. This comes with the support of Senate Armed Services Committee ranking member Jim Inhofe (R-OK) who has said that the defense number should be 3-5% higher than the rate of inflation.

Appropriators are motivated to make progress as DeLauro has signaled saying, “Everybody seems to want to be moving as quickly as we can, which is very, very good, with the goal of getting the bills done without a continuing resolution. And so all of that is very positive, but we have to try to figure out how to get there.”

Appropriators are hoping to come to an agreement on defense and non-defense topline spending numbers soon to avoid a repeat of the fiscal year 2022 appropriations cycle. During the FY22 cycle, negotiations didn’t produce final topline numbers until early 2023, which delayed final passage of the FY22 Consolidated Appropriations Act. With no agreement last year, the Senate Appropriations Committee did not mark up most of its individual FY22 bills and the House moved ahead with subcommittee allocations that include a modest defense increase and substantial non-defense increases.



### **Democrats Attempt to Address Gas Costs by Targeting Oil Companies**

On Thursday, April 29, Democratic leaders from both the House and Senate accused the nation's largest oil companies of "price gouging" and causing the spike in gas prices around the world.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) announced they would be moving quickly in the upcoming weeks to vote on legislation to empower the government at the federal and state level to be able to curb the industry to reduce costs.

Democrats argue that since the oil companies are reporting enormous profits, they can pass those gains on to the consumers instead of shareholders.

Pelosi said, "They are hoarding the windfall while keeping prices high for people at the pump. This time of war — in any time — there is no excuse for big oil companies to profiteer, to price-gouge or exploit families."

The legislation would give a new authority to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) as well as the state attorneys general to scrutinize the way in which fuel prices are set at the wholesale and retail level. This would also include the powers to impose civil penalties on those companies in violation.

The proposal is currently moving through both the House and Senate.

Senate Commerce Committee Chair Maria Cantwell (D-WA) said, "We know that energy markets can be manipulated. We need to make sure that there is a policeman on the beat."

She added that the FTC "has some authority now...but they need more tools."

Gas prices are increasingly becoming an issue for Democrats as they approach this election season. Senator Schumer said the leadership strategy of focusing on oil companies is supported by the American public.

"If you ask the American people, in all the survey data, what is causing the increase in gas prices, number one is market manipulation and Big Oil not giving a break. That is what we're focusing on," Schumer said this week.

Democratic leaders intend to finish drafting both bills and bring them to the House and Senate floor as soon as possible.

Pelosi said "Ours [the House version] has a little more to be done in the course of the next week. We would hope to have all of this done pretty soon."

Democrat leadership remains confident that some Republicans will be forced to support.

She asked, "If the Republicans stand in the way of us feeling the consumer of the stranglehold of Big Oil, you think they're going to blame that on the Democrats?"

**Senate Works to Finalize Additional COVID-19 Legislation**

Senate negotiators have reached a bipartisan agreement to provide \$10 billion in funding for the continued response to COVID-19. The negotiations were led by Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY).

The Senate negotiations came after provisions to provide roughly \$15 billion in funding were pulled from the FY22 Consolidated Appropriations Act due to objections from Democrats on how to pay for the spending. That \$15 billion had been partially offset by rescinding funding from American Rescue Plan Act funding for states, which would have had an unequal impact on states. Several Democrats threatened to withhold their support for the rule for the legislation, which forced the leadership to remove the funding from the omnibus.

The new legislation is offset, primarily by repurposing funds from other provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act. While Democrats had called for additional funding for global vaccination efforts, no additional funding was included according to a press release from Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT).

Funding in this legislation would only go to the Department of Health and Human Services, with \$9.25 billion going to the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), of which \$5 billion would be used to research, develop, manufacture, produce, purchase, and administer therapeutics.

A one-page summary of the legislation's expenditures and offsets can be found here: <https://www.romney.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/COVID-deal-one-pager.pdf>

While the House and Senate had hoped to pass the legislation before the two-week recess, that ran from April 11 – 22, neither chamber was able to advance the legislation.

Republicans have objected to expedited consideration of new coronavirus legislation without taking votes on amendments related to Title 42. The Centers for Disease Control issued a public health order on March 20, 2020, that officials said aimed to stop the spread of Covid-19. The order allowed authorities to swiftly expel migrants at US land borders. President Joe Biden has indicated he intends to end the use of Title 42 authorities in May, which has drawn criticism from Republicans who say it will cause another surge of migrants at the southern border.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has indicated Senate Republicans will continue to insist for a Title 42 vote on a Covid funding package when it is brought up in the Senate. A number of Democrats have also raised concerns about the administration's Title 42 policy.

In an effort to address Democratic defections on the administration's decision to end Title 42, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has released a 20-page memo on the department's plan for "Southwest Border Security and Preparedness."

Note that the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana on Monday April 18 granted a request from a multistate coalition to temporarily preserve Title 42.

### **Senate Confirms Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to Supreme Court**

The Senate voted to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve as an Associate Justice on the United States Supreme Court on April 7, 2022. Jackson will be the first Black female to sit on the Supreme Court. Her appointment will take effect upon the retirement of Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer at the end of the Court's current term this summer.

Senators voted 53-47 on Jackson's confirmation. GOP Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Mitt Romney (R-UT) joined the chamber's 50 Democrats in supporting the nomination.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) called the confirmation, "a joyous, momentous, groundbreaking day. In the 233-year history of the Supreme Court, never — never — has a Black woman held the title of 'justice.' Ketanji Brown Jackson will be the first, and I believe the first of more to come."

Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA), one of three Black lawmakers in the Senate, added "The historic nature of the appointment isn't lost on me. I know what it has taken for Judge Jackson to get to this moment, and nobody is going to steal my joy."

Vice President Harris, who is the first female and first Black and Asian American person to hold the office, presided over the chamber's confirmation.

She told reporters, "I'm overjoyed, deeply moved. You know, there's so much about what's happening in the world now that is presenting some of the worst of ... human behaviors and then we have a moment like this that I think reminds us that there is still so much yet to accomplish and that we can accomplish, including a day like today that is so historic and so important, for so many reasons. I do believe it is a very important statement about who we are as a nation, that we have just made a decision to put this extraordinary jurist on the highest court of our land. It's a good statement about who we are."

The vote ended a forty-day sprint to her confirmation as the White House and Senate Democrats worked quickly to confirm her nomination.

### **Inflation Hits Highest Rates in Decades**

The Biden Administration was bracing for "extraordinarily elevated" inflation numbers ahead of the Department of Labor's release of March inflation data.

The consumer price index, which measures a wide-ranging basket of goods and services, jumped 8.5% from the same time in 2021 on an unadjusted basis.

Excluding food and energy, so-called “core CPI” increased 6.5% on a 12-month basis, in line with the expectation. However, there were signs that core inflation appeared to be ebbing, as it rose just 0.3% for the month, less than the 0.5% estimate. That in turn sparked some hope that inflation overall was easing, and that March might represent the peak.

Federal Reserve Governor Lael Brainard said the slowing increase in core CPI is a “welcome” development in the effort to bring down inflation.

“I’ll be looking to see whether we continue to see moderation in the months ahead,” Brainard said after the release of the numbers.

The data reflected price rises not seen in the U.S. since the stagflation days of the late 1970s and early ’80s. March’s was the highest since December 1981. Core inflation was the hottest since August 1982.

Due to the surge in inflation, worker wages, despite rising 5.6% from a year ago, weren’t keeping pace with the cost of living. Real average hourly earnings posted a seasonally adjusted 0.8% decline for the month, according to a separate Bureau of Labor Statistics report.

The inability of wages to keep up with costs could add to inflation pressures.

### **Opportunity Zone Legislation Seeks to Make Program Changes**

A bipartisan coalition of lawmakers want to change and extend the opportunity zone program created by the 2017 tax law to enhance investment and business creation in economically underserved areas of the U.S.

The Republican-led tax law established capital gains tax incentives for investors who develop real estate or fund businesses in more than 8,700 designated areas across the U.S.

The new legislation would establish reporting requirements for funds that raise capital for opportunity zone projects and the investors who are putting money into those funds. The absence of those data requirements—which were present in an original standalone opportunity zones proposal but weren’t in the 2017 tax law—has been a source of criticism for the program.

Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Tim Scott (R-SC) introduced the new proposal in the Senate, while Representatives Ron Kind (D-WI) and Mike Kelly (R-PA) introduced the House companion.

“The Opportunity Zone incentive has the potential to unleash much-needed economic growth in high poverty communities across the country—communities that investors too often overlook,” Booker said in a statement. “But without robust guardrails in place, the incentive could be undermined or abused by those who aren’t committed to uplifting rural and urban communities across the country.”

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The bill also would extend the program by two years, which the sponsors said would help facilitate further investment in the program. Under the proposal, investors would be allowed to defer paying taxes on capital gains invested in opportunity zones until the end of 2028.

The bipartisan proposal also would:

- sunset opportunity zone designation for census tracts at or above 130% of the national median for family income and allow states to replace those areas with eligible high-need communities;
- allow qualified funds to be organized as a “fund of funds” that can invest in other opportunity zone funds; and
- create a federal grant program for state governments to assist and encourage opportunity zone projects.

States would have a limited opportunity to make new areas eligible for opportunity zone tax breaks under the bill.

More than 8,700 census tracts across the U.S. are eligible for capital gains tax perks created in the Republican-led 2017 tax law with the intention of driving investment into overlooked communities.

The two provisions of the legislation that would allow for changes to the opportunity zones maps include the proposal to strip eligibility from more affluent neighborhoods and language allowing for more zones in previously contaminated areas known as brownfields.

Under original designation rules, areas with no residents weren’t eligible for the tax breaks. The new legislation would allow for population-free areas to be designated as an opportunity zone as long as are adjacent to an existing zone and include a brownfield.

Reopening the opportunity zone map offers a chance to create new zones that aren’t currently eligible for the incentives while also partly addressing criticism that the incentives are benefiting projects that would have been built anyway.

There has been a lot of interest in re-drawing the opportunity zone maps to make more areas eligible, but this proposal would only impact a very narrow subset of opportunity zones.

### **Administration Pauses Student Loan Payments Again**

President Joe Biden has extended the pause on federal student loans through August 31, 2022, pushing back the deadline to restart payments for the fourth time during his administration. The most recent extension was set to expire at the end of April.

The student loan relief began at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic under the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136) and was initially extended by President Donald Trump through executive action.

Approximately 42.3 million borrowers with federal student debt don't have to make payments during the moratorium and interest doesn't accrue on their loans. Democrats have pushed for additional loan forgiveness, while Republicans say waiving the debts presents a burden to taxpayers.

More information from the Department of Education can be found here:

<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-extends-student-loan-pause-through-august-31>

### **Supreme Court Reinstates Trump-era CWA Certification Rule**

The Supreme Court reinstated a Trump-era rule that curtails the power of states and tribes to block pipelines and other energy projects.

In a decision that split the court 5-4, the justices agreed to halt a lower court judge's order throwing out the rule. The Supreme Courts stayed a decision from the United States District Court for the Northern District of California issued in October 2021 that remanded and vacated the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) 2020 Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Rule (2020 Rule).

The Biden administration had told the justices in a court filing that it agreed that the U.S. District Court Judge William Alsup lacked the authority to throw out the rule without first determining that it was invalid. But the administration had urged the court not to reinstate the rule, saying that in the months since the Alsup's ruling, officials have adapted to the change, reverting to regulations in place for decades. Another change would "cause substantial disruption and disserve the public interest," the administration said.

Note that the Biden administration has also signaled that it is already rewriting the rule, which it expects to publish in the federal register in early 2023. The current litigation does not impact the rule's rewrite. When the Trump administration was vacated by the District Court, the agency reverted to using the 1971 rule that had been in effect prior.

The section of federal law at issue in the case is Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. For decades, it had been the rule that a federal agency could not issue a license or permit to conduct any activity that could result in any discharge into navigable waters unless the affected state or tribe certified that the discharge was complied with the Clean Water Act and state law, or waived certification.

The Trump administration in 2020 curtailed that review power after complaints from Republicans in Congress and the fossil fuel industry that state officials had used the permitting process to stop new energy projects. The Trump administration said its actions would advance then-President Donald Trump's goal to fast-track energy projects such as oil and natural gas pipelines.

States, Native American Tribes and environmental groups sued. Several mostly Republican-led states, a national trade association representing the oil and gas industry and others have

intervened in the case to defend the Trump-era rule. The states involved in the case are: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, West Virginia, Wyoming and Texas.

### **Marijuana Legalization Bill Timeline Pushed to Before August Recess**

Democrat Senators behind the push to legalize marijuana are now saying they plan on introducing legislation before the August recess. This statement comes after an initial announcement to file a comprehensive reform bill.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Ron Wyden (D-OR) are leading the push. In a statement, Senator Schumer said that he's proud of the progress made in a "bring this vital bill closer to its official introduction."

Schumer said the bill, called the Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act, will "remove cannabis from the federal list of controlled substances and help repair our criminal justice system, ensure restorative justice, protect public health, and implement responsible taxes and regulations."

The announcement follows one made by Senator Schumer weeks before stating that the senators behind the bill planned to bring the legislation to the floor later this month.

Previously, Senator Schumer said, "We hope to do that towards the end of April" and noted he had been in talks with "a few Republicans to see what they want."

A large number of Republicans are opposed to legislation legalizing marijuana, one of the largest hurdles to the legislation in the 50-50 split Senate. Senate Democrats will need the support of the entire caucus as well as 10 Republicans to break ranks to get past the filibuster.

Some Senate Democrats have expressed reservations about the use of recreational marijuana putting up an additional roadblock to the legislation.

Senator Wyden said in a statement that it is important for the text of the bill to be complete before the August recess to "continue building momentum for cannabis reform."

### **Bipartisan Infrastructure Package Success Lost in Inflation Woes**

During this campaign season, Democrats are touting the benefits of the of the bipartisan infrastructure package and assuring voters about what they're doing to combat inflation.

The \$550 billion infrastructure law was thought to be a surefire win for lawmakers on the campaign trail as it funded many local projects. However, their victories are being overshadowed by rising prices due to inflation.

President Biden and his cabinet secretaries began traveling to reinforce the messaging of the benefits that came from infrastructure spending. They are doing so while simultaneously



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addressing concerns about the state of inflation. This balance will be key in Democrats ability to maintain control of the Senate and House.

Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA) is seeking a six-year term after he won a special election in 2020. He has taken the approach of reminding the voters of the impact of the infrastructure legislation.

In an interview, he has said, "I don't think it's an either or. The bipartisan infrastructure bill in the long run is good news for jobs, for opportunity, and for energy. But immediately I'm focused on dealing with addressing rising costs. We need to hold oil and gas corporations accountable."

Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ) is also running for a full term after winning a special election, has been highlighting his work to complete neglected interstate highway projects.

In an interview, he said, "They know there's funding there, and they know that we're going to get a lot of these problems fixed. I know people don't focus on that. They focus on what else is the next problem. It's the rising cost of gasoline."

Republicans, however, are using inflation to as a pressure point for the midterms.

Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) said in an interview, "I think [the American people] just feel like the Democrats know they're responsible and they're not fixing things."

Democrats continue to push back with the successes they've had push the infrastructure law across the finish line.

States with tight races, have seen ads specifically touting the infrastructure law. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) ran an ad demonstrating how the infrastructure law will lead to replacements for lead pipes.

Senator Gary Peters (D-MI), Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Chair, has said, "We're pushing it across the board. Battleground states are places like Arizona that need to have infrastructure to keep up with the growth they're seeing. And places like Pennsylvania and Ohio where we need to make sure infrastructure is maintained and improved."

### **Department of Justice Appeals Mask Mandate Ruling**

The Justice Department has filed an appeal that seeks to reverse a judge's recent ruling that ended the nation's mask mandate on public transit. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had asked the department to appeal the decision, issuing a statement Wednesday, April 20 that said the mandate "remains necessary for the public health."

"CDC continues to recommend that people wear masks in all indoor public transportation settings," the CDC's statement continued. "CDC's number one priority is protecting the public health of our nation. As we have said before, wearing masks is most beneficial in crowded or poorly ventilated locations, such as the transportation corridor."



The Justice Department said it would appeal U.S. District Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle's decision only if the CDC said the mandate was still necessary. The department said that it disagreed with the district court's decision, and upon filing the appeal, Justice Department spokesman Anthony Coley issued a statement saying, "In light of today's assessment by the CDC that an order requiring masking in the transportation corridor remains necessary to protect the public health, the Department has filed a notice of appeal in *Health Freedom Defense Fund, Inc., et al., v. Biden, et al.*"

On Monday, April 18, Mizelle voided the CDC's requirement covering airplanes and other public transit, ruling that the mandate exceeded the authority of U.S. health officials. In the aftermath, the Transportation Security Administration said it would no longer enforce the mandate.

Even though the administration has appealed the decision, it did not request that the judge's ruling in the case be stayed so that the mandate could go back into place.

### **FERC Releases Proposed Rules to Factor in Bad Weather**

The top U.S. energy regulator released the first set of draft rules for upgrading and expanding the country's aging electric grid to create a cleaner, more resilient network.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) proposed rules that would require regional transmission planning to consider at least 20-year impacts, including the changing power-and-demand mix and extreme weather events, according to a staff presentation released. Utilities and planners will also be required to seek agreement from states in each region for cost allocation. The comment period is 75 days.

The current planning approach doesn't sufficiently anticipate the grid's transformation and pressures from extreme weather, said Chairman Richard Glick said in a webcast of the commissioners' first in-person meeting since the start of the pandemic. Glick and Commissioner Mark Christie said states will have unprecedented opportunity to participate in this process.

"The nation's electricity grid is the backbone for an increasingly digitalized and electrified U.S. economy," Commissioner Allison Clements said. "Its affordability, reliability, resilience and security are essential to every individual and families' ability to thrive and to access economic opportunities."

FERC committed last summer to make the biggest push to overhaul outdated transmission rules in a decade to spur more competition and allocate costs to help speed up projects. Big transmission projects can take a decade or longer to build. An "enormous" amount of high voltage lines are needed, Glick said last month, to connect hundreds of gigawatts of solar and wind in remote areas to consumers, who ultimately pay for it all.

Separately, FERC issued an order to the country's six regional grids to file reports about their changing systems and the need for potential reforms for the next five years and during the next decade. They have 180 days to file.

About 70% of the U.S. power network is at least 25 years old and some regions are much older, “making it vulnerable to disruption and attack,” Clements said. There are also more than 1,400 gigawatts of new power supply and storage stuck in grid queues, she said.

The transmission rules would “provide a much-needed catalyst” for grid upgrades, especially when paired with investments from Congress, John Moore, director of the Sustainable FERC Project at the Natural Resources Defense Council, said in a statement.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, along with information on the process to comment on the process, can be found here: <https://ferc.gov/news-events/news/ferc-issues-transmission-nopr-addressing-planning-cost-allocation>

### **States Call for Feds to Drop Constrains on Water Funding**

States are demanding greater flexibility in how they spend money from last year’s infrastructure law to overcome rising project costs and supply chain shortages, but a top EPA official said Thursday, April 21 that only Congress can grant them that leeway.

More than \$50 billion Congress earmarked for water system upgrades demands that local water officials think creatively about how to spend it, Radhika Fox, the Environmental Protection Agency’s assistant administrator for water, told state officials in Washington.

States have a severe lack of resources right now as supply chain shortages drive up project costs, Theresa Enright, Iowa State Revolving Fund coordinator, told Fox at a Council of Infrastructure Finance Authorities conference.

“There’s something about the timing of this funding that’s really going to be a struggle,” Enright said.

The infrastructure money will be provided to the states over the next five years, but they have to spend it quickly. States have only through the following fiscal year to spend each annual tranche of the money once they receive it, according to EPA guidance.

“Let’s waive some of those regulations that are costing our projects more—just for the time being,” Enright said.

But those waivers can only be granted by Congress, Fox said.

States are in charge of disbursing most of the \$50 billion through the EPA’s Drinking Water and Clean Water state revolving funds. Those funds assume states know best which water systems need upgrades and where their lead pipes are.

Fox urged states to “embrace complexity” and creativity in spending infrastructure funds using “possibility thinking,” even though states must work within legal constraints.

**Administration Announces Staff to States**

The Biden administration is hiring federal workers to go to Georgia, Kentucky, New Mexico, Mississippi and tribal nations in Arizona to help rural communities access the federal resources available to them.

The initiative is the latest in the White House's push to spread the word about the bipartisan infrastructure law and Covid-19 relief funding, touting President Joe Biden's past legislative successes after a bigger domestic spending package stalled out in Congress.

Senior administration officials said that the initiative, led by the Agriculture Department, aims to continue expanding until it reaches all 50 states—if Congress provides the support requested in Biden's budget for fiscal 2023. An official said the administration is “hopeful” there will be bipartisan support for the effort, branded the Rural Partners Network.

“We will make the case to the American people, and they will help us make the case to Congress,” a senior official said, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity. An administration official said each state in the network will get a team to support them as part of the effort.

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 current 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.	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.	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.	Introduced on February 5, 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.	Introduced on March 12, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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.	Introduced on February 11, 2021 and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
Draft Legislation	Sen. Dianne Feinstein	STREAM Act	This draft legislation would authorize additional funding for water infrastructure; expedites recycling, desalination and non-federal storage projects with less than \$250 million in federal funding by allowing Interior to approve projects; eliminates the WIIN Act requirement that the Appropriations Committee must not only appropriate storage, recycling, and desal funding but approve funding awards for specific projects; and expedites future federal storage projects through a "Reclamation WRDA" process, where Reclamation notifies Congress of completed feasibility studies each year to set up an orderly process to authorize projects.	Senator Feinstein has not yet introduced the legislation. She is currently seeking public comment and support prior to introducing the legislation.
H.R. 737	Rep. David Valadao (R-CA)	RENEW WIIN Act	Extends the authorities under the WIIN Act of 2016 providing operational flexibility, drought relief, and other benefits to the State of California.	Introduced on February 2, 2021 and referred the House Committee on Natural Resources. 10 members of the CA 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.	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.	Introduced on April 14, 2021 and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.  The legislation's 46 cosponsors are all Republican, including members of GOP leadership.
H.R. 939	Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA)	Combustion Avoidance along Rural Roads (CARR) Act	The bill exempts wildfire mitigation activities conducted within 300 feet of a road from all laws governing environmental review of proposed agency actions or protection of endangered or threatened species.	Introduced on February 8, 2021 and was referred to the House Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture.
H.R.3267	Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA)	Protect Drinking Water from PFAS Act	The bill amends the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to publish a maximum contaminant level goal and promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for total per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.	The legislation was introduced on May 17, 2021 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
H.R.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.

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.	Introduced on March 24, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
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.	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	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)	The legislation combines the following five stand-alone NEPA reform bills on agency process, state expansion, legal changes, and data reporting into one comprehensive text. - NEPA Agency Process Accountability Act - NEPA Accountability and Enforcement Act - NEPA State Assignment Expansion Act - NEPA Legal Reform Act - NEPA Data Transparency Act	The Senate legislation was introduced on March 11, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.  The House legislation was introduced on June 11, 2021 and referred to the House Committees on Natural Resources; Judiciary; Transportation and Infrastructure; and Energy and Commerce.
H.R. 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. 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.4915	Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)	Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act	<p>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.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on August 3, 2021 and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.</p>
H.R. 4976	Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)	Ensuring PFAS Cleanup Meets or Exceeds Stringent Standards Act	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

S.2372 / H.R.2773	Sen. Heinrich, Martin (D-NM) / Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI)	Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021	<p>The legislation would fund conservation efforts for more than 12,000 species of wildlife and plants in need of assistance by providing \$1.3 billion in dedicated annual funding for proactive, on-the-ground efforts across the country, ensure wildlife recovery efforts will be guided by the Congressionally-mandated State Wildlife Action Plans, which identify specific strategies to restore the populations of species of greatest conservation need, accelerate the recovery of 1,600 U.S. species already listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and include improvements to ensure funds are appropriately targeted to the areas of greatest need and facilitate additional investments in protecting at-risk plant species.</p> <p>In the Senate, RAWA also directs fees and penalties assessed for environmental violations to help fund RAWA, using fee and penalty amounts that aren't already targeted for existing environmental funds.</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced on July 15, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. It was reported favorably out of Committee on April 27 and placed on the Senate calendar.</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>
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 innovations in prescribed fire (controlled burns) practices.	The Senate legislation was introduced on September 22, 2021 and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.  The House bill was introduced on May 25, 2021 and was referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.
S. 3011 / H.R. 5735	Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) / Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD)	State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act	The legislation provides additional flexibility for States, Tribes, and units of local government to spend their allocations of the COVID Relief Funds on certain infrastructure projects, including water, wastewater, and broadband infrastructure projects. The bill also allows these funds to be used to provide emergency relief from natural disasters. There is a cap—the greater of \$10 million or 30% of the funds—on how much of the COVID money can be spent on these new purposes.	The legislation was introduced on October 19, 2021 and passed the Senate by unanimous consent that day.  Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) is an original cosponsor of the legislation.  The act was introduced in the House on October 26 and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

H.R. 6461 / S. 3531	Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA) / Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)	National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act	<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	<p>The act amends FEMA's disaster definition to include extreme temperature events, like heat waves and freezes; changes FEMA's definitions and cost share eligibility requirements for disadvantaged communities and underserved communities; includes a focus on resiliency planning and investments; 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.</p>	<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>

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

S. 4081	Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)	Healthy H2O Act	The bill provides grants for water testing and treatment technology directly to individuals, non-profits and local governments in rural communities. Grants, provided by the USDA, would allow the purchase and installation of point-of-use or point-of-entry water quality improvement systems that remove or significantly reduce contaminants from drinking water.	The legislation was introduced in the Senate on April 26, 2022 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.
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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





**April 29, 2022**

**To:** Inland Empire Utilities Agency

**From:** Michael Boccadoro  
Beth Olhasso

**RE:** April Report

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**Overview:**

Even with a late season storm that brought several feet of snow to the Sierras, statewide snowpack levels still dropped over 15 percent from 50 percent to 32 percent. The melting snow is starting to show up in the state's reservoirs with the main State Water Project storage reservoirs steadily increasing in capacity steadily, albeit still well below average.

The Department of Water Resources is stepping up their campaign to show the benefits Delta conveyance could bring to the state. The Department highlighted that if Delta conveyance was in place during the early winter storms, 236,000 acre feet of additional water supply (peak flows) could have been captured and stored.

The long-awaited maximum contaminant level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium (Chrom-6) was recently released and stakeholders have voiced concerns at a workshop and in written comments. Water agencies and industry have argued that the proposed MCL of 10 ppb is too stringent while environmentalists say that it is too lax and should be closer to the public health goal of 0.02 ppb. Water agencies argued the cost to implement could be between \$20-80 per month per customer.

At a recent California Air Resources Board workshop third-party contractors presented data on the costs of reaching the goal of carbon-neutrality in 2035 versus 2045. Reaching carbon neutrality by 2035 could cost between \$110-\$130 billion where the 2045 goal could cost \$20-\$40 billion.

The SWRCB released their draft document implementing the Governor's latest drought executive order. The most controversial provision is how the Board would interpret the Governor's directive to ban irrigation of non-functional turf. The staff draft specifically excludes recycled water, sports and recreation facilities, parks and trees.

The SWRCB has released the results of its first Drinking Water Needs Assessment for the Safe and Affordable for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program. The Assessment identified failing, or soon to be failing water systems throughout the state. The big next step and question is how the state is going to fund the estimated \$10.25 billion needed over the next five years for infrastructure and ongoing operations and maintenance costs to bring these failing water systems into compliance.

The Legislature has been working on the two thousand bills that have been introduced since the beginning of the year. The deadline for bills to pass out of initial policy committees was April 28. With more water-related bills this year legislative water discussions have been 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 struggled with significant opposition from manufactures but was able to garner enough votes to pass out of committee. MWD's legislation to allow for alternative project delivery methods for several of their projects recently passed out of

committee, while similar legislation to allow for alternative project delivery for projects over \$5 million also easily passed through its first house policy test. With the June 15 budget deadline approaching, budget negotiations will start to heat up. The Governor's May Revise is expected around May 10. It will be a busy May in Sacramento!

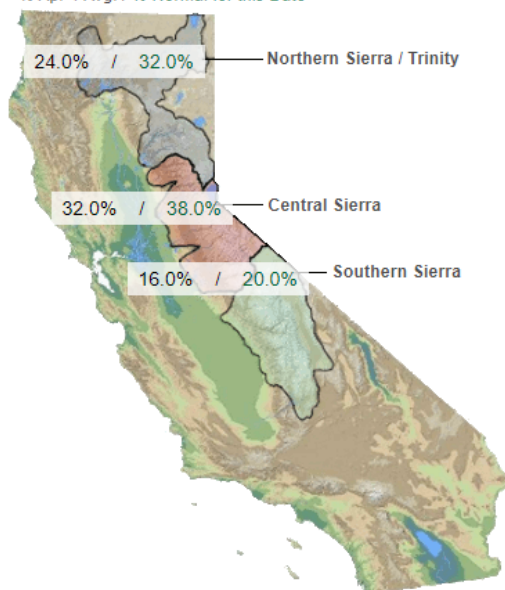
## Inland Empire Utilities Agency Status Report – April 2022

### *Water Supply Conditions*

Despite a mid-April storm that brought several feet of snow to Northern California, the Sierra snowpack is still rapidly melting. Once at 103 percent of normal it is down to just 32 percent of normal- down from 50 percent last month. Lake Oroville is sitting at 69 percent of historical average and 53 percent capacity—an increase from last month, as the snow melts. San Luis Reservoir, the main south-of-Delta storage facility for the State Water Project, is at 55 percent of average for this time of the year and 44 percent capacity.

Data For: 29-Apr-2022

% Apr 1 Avg. / % Normal for this Date



Change Date :



29-Apr-2022

#### NORTH

Data For: 29-Apr-2022

Number of Stations Reporting	29
Average snow water equivalent	6.7"
Percent of April 1 Average	24%
Percent of normal for this date	32%

#### CENTRAL

Data For: 29-Apr-2022

Number of Stations Reporting	44
Average snow water equivalent	9.5"
Percent of April 1 Average	32%
Percent of normal for this date	38%

#### SOUTH

Data For: 29-Apr-2022

Number of Stations Reporting	25
Average snow water equivalent	4.0"
Percent of April 1 Average	16%
Percent of normal for this date	20%

#### STATEWIDE SUMMARY

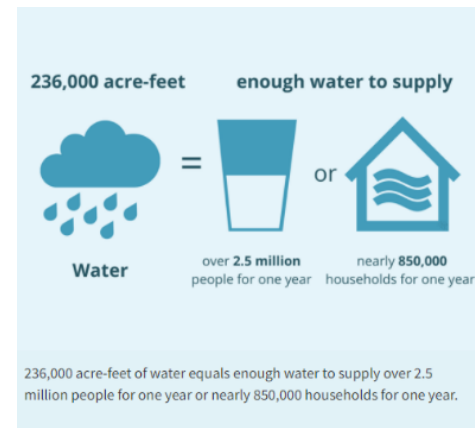
Data For: 29-Apr-2022

Number of Stations Reporting	98
Average snow water equivalent	7.3"
Percent of April 1 Average	26%
Percent of normal for this date	32%

[Printable Version of Current Data](#)

### ***DWR Reiterates Support for Delta Conveyance***

A recent [press release](#) from the Department of Water Resources doubled down on the benefits Delta conveyance could have on the state's water supplies during drought. The release notes that had the Delta Conveyance Project been operational during the October and December Northern California storms, the State Water Project would have been able to capture 236,000 acre feet of additional water.



### ***Significant Backlash on Draft Chrom-6 MCL***

As discussed last month, the SWRCB recently released the long-awaited draft maximum contaminant level (MCL) for chrom-6 of 10 parts per billion (ppb). Water agencies and industry have argued that the proposed MCL is too stringent while environmentalists say that it is too lax and should be closer to the public health goal of 0.02 ppb. The federal EPA currently has a drinking water standard of 100 ppb for all forms of chromium, including chrom-6.

The MCL has been in development for nearly five years. As a reminder, in 2017, a state superior court ruled that officials failed to determine whether the MCL was economically feasible.

To meet the court's feasibility test, the current proposal sets different compliance schedules for water systems based on their size. Systems with more than 10,000 service connections are proposed to have to comply with the MCL within two years of adoption.

At a recent workshop, there were differing projections on ratepayer impacts, with some water agencies saying the increase would be over \$80 per month for customers, while the proposal estimates it could raise rates between \$20 and \$40 per month, with smaller systems having to charge more. Agencies also noted that the MCL is too stringent, system upgrades and processes needed are far too costly and the compliance schedule is too aggressive.

A final proposal is expected later in the summer with the MCL expected to take effect in 2023.

### ***'Carbon Neutrality' Cost Estimates are Significant***

Last summer, Governor Newsom directed the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to conduct modeling scenarios that achieve carbon neutrality by 2035, rather than focusing solely on the existing 2045 target as previously planned.

At an April 20 CARB workshop, two third-party contractors presented updated information on various modeling forecasts related to health and cost impacts under four proposed scenarios- two that would reach carbon neutrality by 2035, and two by 2045. The consultants estimated that reaching the 2035 target, annual costs would rise sharply, reaching \$110-\$130 billion per year. The cost estimated to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 are far lower \$20-\$40 billion per year.

An initial draft of the Scoping Plan is expected to be released in late May with a final vote by the end of the year.

### ***SWRCB Released Proposed Text of Emergency Conservation Regulation***

In response to the Governor's March Executive Order on drought, the SWRCB has released their proposal to implement the order. The highlights include:

Non-Functional Turf: Proposed definition of "non-functional turf:" turf that is solely ornamental and not regularly used for human recreational purposes or for civic or community events. Non-functional turf does not include sports fields or parks.

The prohibition of the use of potable water for the irrigation of non-functional turf at commercial, industrial and institutional (CII) sites.

Preliminary AWSDA: Requirement for each urban water supplier to submit to DWR a preliminary annual water supply and demand assessment to DWR by June 1, 2022 and a final assessment no later than July 1, 2022.

Level 2 of WSCP: A requirement that each urban retail water supplier shall implement by June 10, 2022, the demand reduction actions identified in the water shortage contingency plan adopted for a shortage level of up to twenty percent (Level 2)

### ***Drinking Water Needs Assessment Released***

The SWRCB has released the results of its first Drinking Water Needs Assessment for the Safe and Affordable for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program. In 2019, the SWRCB established the SAFER Program to advance the goals of the Human Right to Water bill passed by the Senate in 2016. The Needs Assessment provides information and recommendations to guide the work of the SAFER program using regulatory, funding, and public engagement strategies to help struggling water systems sustainably and affordably provide safe drinking water. It is comprised of Risk Assessment, Cost Assessment, and Affordability Assessment components.

Of 7,800 public water systems in California, about 345 are in the Human Right to Water List- the list of water systems that don't meet safe drinking water standards, or failing water systems. The Needs Assessment also identifies 620 public water systems that are at risk of failing to provide safe and affordable drinking water.

An additional approximately 610 small water systems – serving less than 25 people – and 80,000 domestic wells are at high risk due to their location in aquifers with a high risk of groundwater contaminants.

The estimated total cost of implementing interim and long-term solutions, for water systems and domestic wells that need assistance within the next five years has been of significant concern while the assessment was being completed. The estimate for the next five years is \$10.25 billion.

The Assessment also identifies funding gaps of \$2.1 billion in grant funding and \$2.6 billion in loan funding to address failing and at-risk systems and domestic wells over the next five years.

There is the hope that significant federal funds will be available for the initial capital, but the ongoing operations and maintenance costs are still unidentified.

### ***Legislative Update***

Legislators have been working feverishly to shepherd their bills through policy committees ahead of the April 29 deadline for fiscal bills to pass out of policy committees. Most bills will now work through the Appropriations Committee process before hitting the floor of their respective houses.

The budget process is also heating up with the Governor's May Revise expected by May 10. Budget committees and subcommittees will then work to reach a consensus ahead of the June 15 budget deadline.

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 May, as the bill as tax bills don't have to follow the same legislative deadlines.

**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 Water, Parks and Wildlife Committees and passed out unanimously. It will next be heard in Appropriations Committee.

**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 was heard in the Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee where manufacturing community voiced their opposition. The bill passed out 7-2, with Republicans voting no.

**AB 2787 (Quirk):** An extension of the original microbeads bill, this legislation would ban the sale or distribution of products that contain intentionally added microplastics. The bill passed out of both Natural Resources and Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee.

**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 could not overcome the concerns of the water and labor community and was not ever considered by the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee.

**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. The bill passed out of Natural Resources and Water Committee despite significant concerns from Senator Ben Hueso (D-San Diego). The bill was quickly moved to the floor of the Senate where it passed 28-9. Throughout the whole process, the author has committed to working with the opposition, so there is still a possibility that the amendments the water community is looking for will be amended into the bill. The amendments, if taken, would require DWR and the SWRCB to study the effects 2030 target would have on wastewater flows before instituting the 42 GPCD requirement.

**IEUA BILLS— BILLS WITH POSITIONS- 2022 Session April 29, 2022**

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 12-0-3  Appr Comm:	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- vote 5/5	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 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.	Env. Safety & Toxic Materials 7-2  Appr Comm:	CASA, WRCA, ACWA in support

AB 2449	Rubio  Three Valleys	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences	This bill would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with those specified teleconferencing requirements if at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular location clearly identified on the agenda that is open to the public and situated within the local agency's jurisdiction. The bill would impose prescribed requirements for this exception relating to notice, agendas, the means and manner of access, and procedures for disruptions. The bill would require the legislative body to implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with federal law.	SUPPORT  Local Government Comm. 5/4	ACWA & MWD Support
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 7-3  Env. Safety & Toxic Materials Committees 6-0-3	CASA in support
AB 2811	Bennett  Plumbers Union	California Building Standards Commission: recycled water: nonpotable water systems	<i>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.</i>	<i>Oppose</i>  <i>Env. Safety &amp; Toxic Materials Comm--- no hearing</i>  <i>Bill not moving forward this year.</i>	CASA & WRCA <i>oppose unless amended. ACWA &amp; CMUA Oppose</i>
SB 222	Sen. Dodd	Water Affordability	Would establish the Water Affordability Assistance Fund in the State Treasury to help provide water affordability assistance, for		Opposed by ACWA

		Assistance Program	both drinking water and wastewater services, to low-income ratepayers and ratepayers experiencing economic hardship in California. The bill would make moneys in the fund available upon appropriation by the Legislature to the state board to provide, as part of the Water Affordability Assistance Program established by the bill, direct water bill assistance, water bill credits, water crisis assistance, affordability assistance, and short-term assistance to public water systems to administer program components.	Two-Year Bill  Assembly Floor	
SB 230	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	SUPPORT  Governance & Finance Committee 5-0  Senate Floor	WRCA Support



			General Services. The bill would require specified information to be verified under penalty of perjury.		
SB 1157	Hertzberg	Urban water use objectives: indoor residential water use	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.	Natural Resources & Water 7-2  Senate Floor 28-9-3  Assembly Rules	Oppose unless amended by WateReuse & ACWA, CASA & CMUA

INFORMATION  
ITEM  
2C

**Date:** May 18, 2022

**To:** The Honorable Board of Directors

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

**Committee:** Community & Legislative Affairs

05/11/22

**Executive Contact:** Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

**Subject:** Public Outreach and Communication

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**Executive Summary:**

Staff is working with MWD and customer agencies to enhance and implement drought messaging and collateral across the region. The Agency's campaign strategy and messaging have led to the development of "The Time is Now" brand for drought awareness.

IEUA and the city of Chino hosted the 13th Annual Earth Day Celebration, which was accessible online via the Agency's website from Sunday, April 17 to Saturday, April 23. The free, award-winning, immersive program offered a variety of resources and catered to audiences of all ages. Various vendors and customer agencies participated by submitting booth resources, educational videos, handouts, and more. The event generated over 8,136 page views, and IEUA staff facilitated virtual field trips to over 400 students throughout the week.

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**Staff's Recommendation:**

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

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

*Account/Project Name:*

*Fiscal Impact (explain if not budgeted):*

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**Prior Board Action:**

N/A

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**Environmental Determination:**

Not Applicable

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**Business Goal:**

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

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

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**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 - Background

## Background

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Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

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May

- May: Water Awareness Month
- May: American Wetlands Month
- May: Internal Audit Awareness Month
- May 1-7: International Compost Awareness Week
- May 2-6: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 22: World Biodiversity Day

### Media and Outreach

- 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 is collaborating with its customer agencies to debut a drought campaign, *The Time is Now*, which will feature real photos, facts, and people to encourage the public to know the facts, change their habits, and step up their efforts. The collateral will still utilize the #StepItUpIE message and follow the campaign plan framework that was developed by the Inland Empire Clean Water Partnership, but adopts a more serious tone to convey the severity of the State's current situation. A toolkit has been made available to all customer agencies for their use.
- Staff is working with Strategic Planning and Resources and Water Systems Consulting (WSC) on developing additional outreach strategies and communication collateral for the Chino Basin Program, as well as updating the chinobasinprogram.org microsite.
- 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 April as Records and Information Management Month and Internship Awareness month with social media features on IEUA's respective staff. IEUA also recognized World Lab Day on April 23 with information on IEUA's Water Quality Lab, and Administrative Professionals Day on April 27 with features on the Agency's Admin team.
- Staff shared an Instagram Reel for California Native Plant Week highlighting drought resilient plants found at the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park. Across all platforms, the video has over 600 views.
- The Agency celebrated Earth Day on April 22 and hosted its annual Virtual Earth Week event from April 17-23. Staff promoted the virtual platform leading up to and throughout

the event dates and shared another video in its Education Program IGTV (Instagram TV) Series regarding the annual event.

- The Agency continues to publish content on LinkedIn and has gained 46 followers since March, with 562 page views in the last 30 days.
- April: 33 posts were published to the IEUA Facebook page, 33 tweets were sent on the @IEUAWater Twitter handle, 33 posts were published to IEUA's Instagram grid, and 17 posts were published to the IEUA LinkedIn page.
  - The top three Facebook posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of April were:
    - 4/11 Virtual Earth Week Promo
    - 4/21 Virtual Earth Week Promo
    - 4/12 Manager of Information Technology Hiring
  - The top three Twitter tweets, based on reach and engagement, in the month of April were:
    - 4/5 Press Releases: Inland Empire Utilities Agency Recognized for Two CWEA Awards and Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority Distinguished as Safety Plant of the Year.
    - 4/13 Water Word Wednesday
    - 4/19 Sanitary Sewer Overflow Drill
  - The top three Instagram posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of April were:
    - 4/20 RP-1 Tour with IEUA Staff and a Representative of State Senator Dianne Feinstein
    - 4/1 Inland Empire Landscape Contest Promo
    - 4/23 World Lab Day
  - The top three LinkedIn posts, based on impressions and reactions, in the month of April were:
    - 4/5 RP-5 Expansion Project Update
    - 4/7 CWEA SARBS Banquet
    - 4/20 RP-1 Tour with IEUA Staff and a Representative of State Senator Dianne Feinstein
- A "Water-Wise Education" banner ad is currently featured in *Fontana Herald News*.
- A "Earth Day" ad ran on April 17 in the Daily Bulletin.
- An "Earth Day" ad and small editorial ran in the Earth Day edition of La Opinion.

For the month of April, there were 14,150 searches for a park in IEUA's service area on Yelp, where Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park was viewed 802 times.

#### Education and Outreach Updates

- IEUA and the city of Chino hosted the 13th Annual Earth Day Celebration, which was accessible online via the Agency's website from Sunday, April 17 to Saturday, April 23. Last year's event was recognized as the first-place winner for SARBS' Community Engagement and Outreach – Small Award and was also recently recognized as CWEA's second place winner in the same category. The free, award-winning, immersive program offered a variety of resources and catered to audiences of all ages. Various vendors and customer agencies participated by submitting booth resources, educational videos,

handouts, and more. The event generated over 8,136 page views, and IEUA staff facilitated virtual field trips to over 400 students throughout the week. Student participants and public attendees who signed up for our giveaways will receive free IEUA swag bags with water-saving and Earth Day promo items.

- 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. The next two challenges- the Solar Panel Challenge and Zero Emission Vehicle Challenge- were due at the end of April and their scores are being calculated.
- Chino Basin Water Conservation District (CBWCD) has completed the garden design and submitted a cost proposal to IEUA for Our Loving Savior School in Chino Hills for the Garden in Every School® (GIES) program. Staff is working with Randall Pepper Elementary in Fontana and CBWCD to proceed with their garden install. Both gardens are scheduled to be completed by mid-May.
- Staff hosted a facility tour on April 20 to a group of graduate students from Cal Poly Pomona. 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 and Technical Services Staff were also present to share information on career opportunities.
- Staff partnered with IE Works to host a Pre-Apprenticeship Program Tour on April 25. Participants were led through the Carbon Canyon Water Recycling Facility where they were informed of the wastewater treatment process and met with trades representatives from IEUA's Collections, Operations, and Maintenance teams to discuss career opportunities. Staff then led the group through the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park.

#### Agency-Wide Membership Updates

- Randy Lee, Director of Operations, Robert Delgado, Manager of Maintenance, and Lucia Diaz, Manager of Facilities & Water System Programs attended the Brine Management Meeting with Isle Utilities on March 1.
- Randy Lee, Director of Operations, attended the NWRI Board of Directors Meeting on March 8.
- 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) Workgroup Meeting on March 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) Workgroup Meeting on March 16.
- Randy Lee, Director of Operations, attended the PFAS Partnership Quarter 1 Meeting on March 21.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Air Quality Committee Meeting on March 22.
- 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)  
Workgroup Meeting on March 30.