Proposition 1
Recycled Water Funding Rolls Out

The State Water Resources Control Board (Board) recently completed public meetings on their Proposition 1 draft guidelines, which will set the framework for awarding $625 million in funding for recycled water projects over the next three to five years. The Board has been working closely with WRCA and its members in the development of new guidelines. The guidelines are set for final approval on June 16 and recycled water funding contracts with agencies will begin in July of this year. The draft guidelines include a $15 million construction grant cap, and a $20 million construction grant cap for disadvantaged communities, that the Board intends to combine, when appropriate, with low-interest loan funding. The WRCA summited comments to the Board on the draft guidelines, which can be found here.

Update: 1% Low Interest Loans for Water Recycling

In March 2014, the Board made $800 million in one percent loans available for water recycling projects from the Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund. This funding was made available for projects that can be completed within three years of the Governor’s 2014 drought declaration. These low interest loans expire in December 2015. If you are interested in this program, applications must be submitted by Dec. 2, 2015 to the Board.
California Drought Summit: Reinventing Urban Water, Potable Reuse

The California Water Environment Association (CWEA) and WRCA joined forces to present a one-day drought summit in Sacramento, “California Drought Summit: Reinventing Urban Water, Potable Reuse” featuring some of California's top water experts and legislators. The sold out summit included a keynote address by Senator Robert Hertzberg. Other speakers included Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary for Governor Brown; Karla Nemeth, Deputy Secretary for Water Policy, California Natural Resources Agency; Lester Snow, Executive Director of the California Water Foundation; Bill Croyle, Department of Water Resources and California's Emergency Drought Manager; and Cindy Forbes, Chief Deputy of the Division of Drinking Water. WRCA members, California Association of Sanitation Agencies and the Association of California Water Agencies also sponsored of the event.

Governor Calls for Streamlining CEQA for Water Projects

In response to one of the worst droughts in California history, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. called for streamlining the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for some water projects such as water recycling. There are a variety of legislative proposals being considered and state agencies were ordered by the Governor to begin working with agencies to reduce environmental compliance timelines. The WRCA will work with state agencies to help implement the Governor's directive.

Recycled Water Legislative Roundup

AB 606 (Levine) State Properties – Directs the state to conserve water on state-owned lands through drought-tolerant landscaping and replacement of irrigation timers, spray sprinkler heads and the use of recycled water. WRCA SUPPORT

AB 888 (Bloom) Ban on microbeads -- Bans the sale of personal care products that contain plastic microbeads, which furthers the policy of pollution source control. WRCA SUPPORT

AB 1463 (Gatto) Onsite Gray Water-- Requires the State Water Resources Control Board to establish water quality standards and distribution, monitoring, and reporting requirements for onsite water recycling systems. This will be prior to authorizing the use of onsite recycled water in internal plumbing of residential and commercial buildings. WRCA to consider at next Legislative Committee Meeting.

SB 471 (Pavley) GHG Emissions Water Sector – Requires the Air Resources Board (ARB) to develop an emissions inventory for the water sector and makes water recycling and wastewater treatment eligible for funding from the Green House Gas Reduction Fund. WRCA to consider at next Legislative Committee Meeting.