

WateReuse – Inland Empire Chapter State and Federal Outlook

Jolene Walsh Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs May 24, 2022



State Update



State Budget – May Revise FY 22-23

- Historic budget surplus \$97.5 billion
 - \$2.5 billion shy of Gann Limit
- \$1.6 billion for water resiliency and drought response including:
 - \$530 million to support water recycling and groundwater cleanup; advance drinking water and clean water projects that leverage significant federal infrastructure funds; and continue aqueduct solar pilots
 - \$100 million for water recycling
 - \$400 million to support the State Revolving Fund for drinking water and wastewater
 - \$30 million for aqueduct solar panel pilot study



WATER RESILIENCE AND DROUGHT RESPONSE



State Legislative Update

- SB 1157 (Hertzberg): Indoor Residential Use
 - Codifying recommendations made by DWR
 - January 1, 2023 January 1, 2025, 50 GPCD
 - January 1, 2025 January 1, 2030, 47 GPCD
 - Beginning January 1, 2030, 42 GPCD
 - Assigned to Assembly committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife
 - Potential hearing dates:
 - June 14, 2022 or June 28, 2022
 - ACWA coalition effort
 - Oppose Unless Amended position letter
- AB 2142 (Gabriel) Income Tax Exclusion: Turf Replacement Program
 - In Assembly, ordered to third reading
- SB 1144 (Weiner): Water Efficiency and Quality Assessment Reports
 - In Senate, ordered to third reading







Workshop on the Impacts of Increased Conservation

- State Water Resources Control Board workshop held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022
 - Q&A style meeting with updates from State Board staff and partners from educational institutions
 - Limited opportunity for public comment
- Effects on wastewater treatment summarized
 - Increased TDS concentration in effluent
 - Increased chemical usage
 - Increased odors
 - Increased corrosion
 - Increased need for process upgrades
 - = Increased costs, and revenue losses
- Concerning modeling scenario of 35 GPCD post 2030



Key Workshop Themes

- Wastewater Data
 - Wastewater data availability and quality is a challenge
- Impacts from Lower Flows
 - Many wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs) are already experiencing impacts of low flows
 - Impacts to collections systems and underground infrastructure will be costly to mitigate
- Adaptation
 - Treating more concentrated flows will require more energy
 - Many WWTFs are reaching end of design life faster than anticipated
- Recycled Water
 - Some recycled water programs cannot meet peak demand for effluent
 - Increased salt concentrations makes recycled water less suitable for irrigation



Update on Executive Order N-7-22

- Calls on water agencies to advance to Level 2 of water shortage contingency plans
- Enact plans to ensure water shortage reduction up to 20 percent
- Encourages agencies to go beyond 20 percent to prepare for long-term drought
- Directs Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop strategies to improve water conservation
- Directs State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to consider adoption of a non-functional turf regulation
- EMWD weighed in with SWRCB and DWR with support letter, and offered to assist in the nonfunctional turf element



Executive Order N-7-22

As Western Drought Worsens, Governor Newsom Moves to Bolster Regional Conservation Efforts



Nonfunctional Turf Element of Executive Order

- Proposed regulation to ban irrigation of nonfunctional turf on Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) properties
 - Excludes residential properties
 - Excludes parks, sports fields, and other turf used for recreation
- Allows irrigation on turf on the same valve as trees, shrubs, and other perennial plants
- Excludes turf irrigated with recycled water
- Held public meeting on April 21, 2022 to review proposed regulation and receive public comment
- By May 25, 2022 the SWRCB shall consider adopting regulation to define and ban irrigation of CII nonfunctional turf









Federal Update



S. 4231, Support to Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture, and Municipalities (STREAM Act)

- Sponsor: Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
- <u>Summary</u>: Authorizes \$60 million a year over five years for water reuse projects through USBR's Title XVI-WIIN Water Reuse Grants Program
- Raises the Title XVI per-project funding cap from \$20 million to \$50 million, and authorizes \$30 million a year over five years for desalination projects, among other things.
- Action: Introduced on May 17, 2022
- <u>Status:</u> Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water & Power will hold a hearing on May 25 which will include the STREAM Act

*The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act appropriated a one-time windfall of \$550 million for the Title XVI competitive grant program. The STREAM Act is needed to reauthorize the Title XVI program so the program is funded annually.







S. 2334, Large Scale Water Recycling Project and Drought Resiliency Investment Act

- Sponsor: Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)
- <u>Summary</u>: Authorizes a competitive grants program to be administered by the Bureau of Reclamation.
- Funding would be available to support recycling projects that have a total cost of \$500 million or more.
- <u>Action</u>: Introduced on July 13, 2021
- <u>Status:</u> The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water & Power will hold a hearing on May 25 which will include S. 2334

*The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act appropriated a one-time windfall of \$450 million for the Large-Scale Water Recycling Grant Program. S. 2334 is needed to authorize this program so the program is funded annually.







S. 4279, H.R. 7847, Water Efficiency, Conservation and Sustainability Act

- <u>Sponsors</u>: Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-CA)
- <u>Summary</u>: Authorizes \$50 million a year for five years for to water agencies and nonprofits to adopt conservation programs and to provide payments to eligible households, including disadvantaged communities, to **install water saving technologies** such as faucets, advanced and flow metering infrastructure, washers, toilets dishwashers.
- Authorizes \$40 million a year for five years to states and water agencies to fund annual water audits, implement controls to address losses, and establish water loss control programs.
- Action: Introduced on May 19, 2022









Questions?

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