



Legislative Update

Board of Directors

May 21, 2024



Legislative Updates Overview

ITEM	INTRODUCED	STAFF RECOMMENDATION	DISTRICT IMPACT	STAFF UPDATE
SB 1159 Roadside Wildfire Safety Bill	DODD	Support	Help reduce costs for fuel reduction and vegetation management along roads, which is important to support first responders and community evacuation routes.	Letter of support sent to Dodd.
AB 2196 Beaver Restoration	CONNOLLY	Continue a position of Watch	Reintroducing beavers to salmon bearing streams can create critical nursery habitat for young salmon, which is in short supply in Lagunitas Creek and could be beneficial for improving habitat in Lagunitas Creek.	Bill language changed. No longer requiring licensing scheme, issuance of permits for the handling, transport and release of beavers on public and private land.
SB 867: Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate Smart Agriculture, Park Creation and Outdoor Access.	ALLEN	Support	A 2024 Climate Resilience Bond would increase the potential for future grant funding for Marin Water's infrastructure projects.	Staff recommends supporting SB 867, which would include the Board of Directors joining the ACWA coalition that supports the Climate Bond, specifically focused on advocating for a \$7.85 billion investment in water infrastructure.
AB 2257 Local government: property-related water and sewer fees and assessments: remedies	WILSON	Support	The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) is sponsoring this bill in an effort to aid public agencies in defending against Proposition 218 lawsuits by requiring litigants to participate and raise specific objections during the public administrative process.	Move from a position of watch to a position of support.

SB 867 (Allen) Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate Smart Agriculture, Park Creation and Outdoor Access, and Clean Energy Bond Act of 2024

ITEM: If this bill is passed by the legislature and signed by the governor it will be placed on the November 2024 ballot. If successful this bill will authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$15,500,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for drought, flood, and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate smart agriculture, park creation and outdoor access, and clean energy programs.

DISTRICT IMPACT: A 2024 Climate Resilience Bond would increase the potential for future grant funding for Marin Water's infrastructure projects.

SUPPORTS: ACWA, California Association of Local Conservation Corps, California Municipal Utilities Association, California Trout, Mid-Peninsula Open Space District, Sonoma County Regional Parks

OPPOSE: None identified at this time

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends supporting SB 867, which would include the Board of Directors joining the ACWA coalition that supports the Climate Bond, specifically focused on advocating for a \$7.85 billion investment in water infrastructure.

AB 2257 (Wilson) Local government: property-related water and sewer fees and assessments

ITEM: The Bill from Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City) would bar rate litigation against public agencies that chose to opt into the administrative procedures, unless the challenger first brings their issue before the legislative body during the rate setting process. Would apply only to agencies that opt in to the prescribed procedural requirements. This bill would also provide guidance on the appropriate scope of the administrative record in any rate litigation.

DISTRICT IMPACT: Agency required to post on website at least 45 days prior to the protest hearing, provide a written response to timely objections, and present these to the legislative body prior to protest hearings/ballot tabulation. Responses will become part of the administrative record.

SUPPORTS: ACWA sponsored and many public water agencies

OPPOSE: Howard Jarvis Taxpayers' Association

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Board of Directors join the ACWA coalition to support AB2257.

Summary

- Continue to pursue grants in support of District initiatives.
- Participate in policy and legislative committees.
- Track State and Federal legislation and funding measures.
- Review bills alignment with the District's interests and seek Board approval for position adoption.