



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

AGENDA AND NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF THE WATER POLICY COMMITTEE & WATER TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 10:00 AM

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89388464599>

Livestream Link: https://youtu.be/1Sn_3I4GU6o

Water Policy Chair
Gloria Crudgington
City of Monrovia
Vice-Chair
Jennifer Stark
City of Claremont

MEMBERS
Claremont
Glendora
Monrovia
Rosemead
San Gabriel
Sierra Madre
South Pasadena

Water TAC Chair
Alex Tachiki
City of Monrovia

Vice Chair
Tom Love
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

MEMBERS
Alhambra
Bradbury
Covina
Glendora
Monrovia
Pomona
Sierra Madre
LA County DPW
Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD

EX-OFFICIO
LA County
Sanitation Districts
SG Basin
Watermaster

Thank you for participating in today’s meeting. The Water Committee encourages public participation and invites you to share your views on agenda items.

MEETINGS: *Regular Meetings of the Water Committee are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM at the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Offices (602 E. Huntington Drive, Suite B Monrovia, CA 91016).* The agenda packet is available at the San Gabriel Valley Council of Government’s (SGVCOG) Office, 4900 Rivergrade Road, Suite A120, Irwindale, CA, and on the website, www.sgvkog.org. A copy of the agenda is also viewable at Alhambra City Hall, 111 S 1st St, Alhambra, CA. Copies are available via email upon request (sgv@sgvcog.org). Documents distributed to a majority of the Committee after the posting will be available for review in the SGVCOG office and on the SGVCOG website. Your attendance at this public meeting may result in the recording of your voice.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Your participation is welcomed and invited at all Water Committee and Water TAC meetings. Time is reserved at each regular meeting for those who wish to address the Committee. SGVCOG requests that persons addressing the Committee refrain from making personal, slanderous, profane or disruptive remarks.

TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE: At a regular meeting, the public may comment on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee during the public comment period and may also comment on any agenda item at the time it is discussed. At a special meeting, the public may only comment on items that are on the agenda. Members of the public wishing to speak are asked to complete a comment card or simply rise to be recognized when the Chair asks for public comments to speak. We ask that members of the public state their name for the record and keep their remarks brief. If several persons wish to address the Committee on a single item, the Chair may impose a time limit on individual remarks at the beginning of discussion. **The Water Committee and Water TAC may not discuss or vote on items not on the agenda.**

AGENDA ITEMS: The Agenda contains the regular order of business of the Water Committee and the Water TAC. Items on the Agenda have generally been reviewed and investigated by the staff in advance of the meeting so that the Committee/TAC can be fully informed about a matter before making its decision.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Items listed on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Committee member or citizen so requests. In this event, the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered after the Consent Calendar. If you would like an item on the Consent Calendar discussed, simply tell Staff or a member of the Committee.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the SGVCOG office at (626) 457-1800. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the SGVCOG to make reasonable arrangement to ensure accessibility to this meeting.



MEETING MODIFICATIONS DUE TO THE STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY RESULTING FROM THE THREAT OF COVID-19:

AB 361 (Rivas), signed by California Governor Gavin Newsom on September 16, 2021, authorizes local agencies to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and allows for members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or electronically to promote social distancing due to the state and local emergency resulting from the threat of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

To follow the new provisions in AB 361 and ensure the safety of Committee Members and staff for the purpose of limiting the risk of COVID-19, in-person public participation at the Water Policy Committee and TAC meeting scheduled for February 8, 2022 will not be allowed. To allow for public participation, the Water Policy Committee and TAC will conduct its meeting through Zoom Video Communications. To participate in the meeting, download Zoom on any phone or computer device and copy and paste the following link into your browser to access the live meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89388464599>. You may also access the meeting via the livestream link on the front of the agenda page.

Instructions for Public Comments: For those wishing to make public comments on agenda and non-agenda items, but within the SGVCOG's subject matter jurisdiction, you may submit written comments via email or provide a verbal comment by participating through Zoom.

- Written Comments (Email): If you wish to submit written public comments to be distributed to the committee members prior to or during the meeting, please submit these materials via email to Brianne Logasa at blogasa@sgvcog.org at least 1 hour prior to the scheduled meeting time. Please indicate in the Subject Line of the email "FOR PUBLIC COMMENT." Emailed public comments will be read into the record and will be part of the recorded meeting minutes. Written public comments may include, but are not limited to letters, reports, and presentations. While there is no page or word count limit for written comments, the time for reading written public comments into the record will be limited to three minutes, which is the same time allotted for verbal comments.
- Verbal Comments (Zoom): Through Zoom, you may provide a verbal comment by using the web interface "Raise Hand" feature. Wait to be called upon by staff, and then you may provide verbal comments for up to 3 minutes. Public comment is taken at the beginning of the meeting for items not on the agenda. Public comment is also accepted at the beginning of each agenda item.

Any member of the public requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact Brianne Logasa at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at (626) 457-1800 or at blogasa@sgvcog.org.

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment *(If necessary, the Chair may place reasonable time limits on all comments).*
4. Changes to Agenda Order: Identify emergency items arising after agenda posting and requiring action prior to next regular meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR *(It is anticipated that the Water Committee/TAC may act on the following matters)*

5. Water Policy Committee/TAC Meeting Minutes – 1/11/2022 **(Page 4)**
Recommended Action: Approve
6. Adoption of Resolution 22-02-WC Enabling the Water Policy Committee and Water Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to Continue Holding Meetings via Teleconferencing **(Page 8)**
Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 22-02-WC making specified findings that the existence of a local and state of emergency in California caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to directly impact the ability of the SGVCOG to hold public meetings safely in person thereby necessitating an ability to continue holding meetings via teleconferencing.

PRESENTATION *(It is anticipated that the Water Committee/Water TAC may act on the following matters)*

7. State Water Resource Control Board Emergency Water Conservation Mandates –
Brienne Logasa, Management Analyst, SGVCOG **(Page 10)**

UPDATE ITEMS *(It is anticipated that the Water Committee/TAC may act on the following matters)*

8. Regional Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Implementation
9. Safe Clean Water Program **(Page 12)**
10. Federal and State Budgets and Legislative Updates **(Page 14)**
11. Federal and State Water Funding Opportunities **(Page 18)**
12. Water Supply Update
13. Water TAC Chair Report
14. Water Boards Update **(Page 19)**

CHAIR'S REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN



**SGVCOG Joint Water Policy Committee/TAC Meeting
Approved Minutes**

Date: January 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Zoom/YouTube teleconference meeting

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order: G. Crudginton called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.
2. Roll Call

Water Policy Committee Members Present

J. Stark; Claremont
G. Boyer; Glendora
G. Crudginton; Monrovia
M. Clark; Rosemead
C. Ho Liao; San Gabriel
D. Mahmud; South Pasadena
J. Santana, USGVMWD

Water Policy Committee Members Absent

Sierra Madre

Water TAC Members Present

D. Dolphin; Alhambra
K. Kearney; Bradbury
S. Costandi/S. Gallant; Covina
A. Tachiki; Monrovia
J. Carver; Pomona
E. Reyes; SGVMWD
J. Carlson; Sierra Madre
T. Gerber; South Pasadena
T. Love; USGVMWD
R. Wang; LA County Public Works

Water TAC Members Absent

Glendora
South Pasadena

Ex Officio Members Present

L. Augino/K. Gardner; Watermaster

Ex Officio Members Absent

S. Green; LA County Sanitation Districts

Guests

S. Armenta; Office of Senator Rubio
C. Griffin; Office of Assemblymember Rubio
P. Beglarian; City of Monrovia
L. Largent; O Strategies Group
L. Waters; City of Alhambra
R. Tahir; Member of the Public
D. Ready; Council for Watershed Health

SGVCOG Staff

- C. Sims
- B. Logasa
- P. Hubler
- T. Egan

- 3. Public Comment
 - R. Tajir provided feedback on Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group (ULAR WMG) Load Reduction Strategy. R. Tahir’s full written public comment can be found by [clicking here](#).
- 4. Changes to Agenda Order.
No changes to agenda order.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 5. Water Policy Committee/TAC Meeting Minutes – 11/09/2021
- 6. Water Policy Committee/TAC Special Meeting Minutes – 12/07/2021
- 7. Water Policy Committee/TAC Meeting Minutes – 12/14/2021
- 8. Adoption of Resolution 22-02-WC Enabling the Water Policy Committee and Water Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to Continue Holding Meetings via Teleconferencing

**There was a motion to approve the Consent Calendar items.
(M/S: G. Boyer/D. Mahmud)**

[MOTION PASSED]

AYES:	Committee – Claremont; Glendora; Monrovia; Rosemead; San Gabriel; South Pasadena, USGVMWD TAC – Alhambra; Covina; Pomona; Sierra Madre; South Pasadena, SGVMWD, USGVMWD; LA County Public Works
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	
NO VOTE GIVEN:	TAC – Bradbury; Monrovia
ABSENT:	Committee – Sierra Madre TAC – Glendora

ACTION ITEMS

- 9. 2022 Strategic Plan Update
Recommended Action: Recommend the Governing Board to adopt the water-related items in the 2022 Strategic Plan Update.

Staff provided proposed updates to the Strategic Plan to identify priorities and actions that are more relevant for the agency to undertake to support member agencies. The proposed goal for the Strategic Plan water priority is: “Support regional water resiliency and assist cities in addressing stormwater MS4 permit requirements, with an emphasis on Safe Clean Water Program implementation and identification of regional solutions.”

There was a motion to recommend the Governing Board to adopt the water-related items in the 2022 Strategic Plan Update and encourage the Governing Board to consider changing the word “foster” leadership to “promote leadership” for the proposed Collaboration goal in the Strategic Plan.

(M/S: D. Mahmud/J. Stark)

[MOTION PASSED]

AYES:	Committee – Claremont; Glendora; Monrovia; Rosemead; San Gabriel; South Pasadena; USGVMWD TAC – Alhambra; Covina; Monrovia; Pomona; Sierra Madre; South Pasadena, SGVMWD; USGVMWD
NOES:	Committee – Sierra Madre TAC – Sierra Madre; SGVMWD; USGVMWD
ABSTAIN:	TAC – LA County Public Works
NO VOTE GIVEN:	TAC – Bradbury
ABSENT:	Committee –Sierra Madre TAC – Glendora

PRESENTATION *(It is anticipated that the Water Committee/Water TAC may act on the following matters)*

- 10.** State Water Project Updates – Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
Tom Love, General Manager of the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD), presented to the Committee and TAC regarding the State Water Project (SWP) and related drought actions. Metropolitan Water District’s Board of Directors approved new infrastructure investments and water exchanges with other agencies that will allow Colorado River water and stored supplies to be more readily distributed throughout the region. The strategies will preserve limited SWP supplies for areas that can only receive imported water from the SWP, including, in part, the San Gabriel Valley.

UPDATE ITEMS

- 11.** Commission on State Mandates and Other Litigation
There were no updates on this item.
- 12.** Regional Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit
A. Tachiki provided an update on this item. All cities and water agencies completed their watershed and municipal annual reports last month.
- 13.** Safe Clean Water Program
B. Logasa, SGVCOG Management Analyst, provided information on this item. The Scoring Committee met on December 9th and voted to send certain projects of passing scores to their respective WASCs. The Upper Los Angeles River WASC met on December 1st and heard presentations on the Whitsett Fields Park North Stormwater Capture Project and the Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation Operation and Maintenance. The Rio Hondo WASC

met on December 21st and heard a presentation on the Vincent Lugo Park Stormwater Capture Project.

- 14. Federal and State Budget and Legislative Updates**
P. Hubler, SGVCOG Director of Government and Community Relations, provided information on this item. He reported that specific bills that have become two-year bills have a deadline of January 31, 2022 to move forward. P. Hubler also provided an update on potential tire fee legislation to mitigate zinc.
- 15. Water Supply Update**
K. Gardner, Watermaster, provided an update on this item. The San Gabriel Valley had a really wet December, but January did not. We are not out of drought at this time. USGVMWD and Metropolitan Water District are working on an agreement to bring Colorado River Water to the San Gabriel Valley for spreading. The Waters That Connect Us webinar program through the Watermaster takes place monthly on various social media platforms.
- 16. Water TAC Chair Report**
There were no updates on this item.
- 17. Water Boards Update**
M. Clark reported that a few Water Board members have recently retired. D. Mahmud and A. Tachiki also reported that there are new members appointed or will soon be appointed.

CHAIR'S REPORT

G. Crudginton reported that after the pandemic slows down or ceases, she hopes that regional collaboration continues virtually, as it allows for more participation in meetings and helps the environment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURN

G. Crudginton adjourned the meeting at 11:32 A.M.

DATE: February 8, 2021

TO: Water Policy Committee & TAC

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: **ADOPT RESOLUTION 22-02-WC MAKING SPECIFIED FINDINGS TO ENABLE THE WATER POLICY COMMITTEE AND TAC TO CONTINUE TO HOLD MEETINGS VIA TELECONFERENCING**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution 22-02-WC making certain findings that the existence of a local and state of emergency in California caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to directly impact the ability of the SGVCOG to hold public meetings safely in person thereby necessitating an ability to continue holding meetings via teleconferencing.

BACKGROUND

Introduced by Assemblymember Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) on February 1, 2021, AB 361 codifies portions of Governor Gavin Newsom's existing Ralph M. Brown Act exemptions pertaining to teleconferencing if a local agency issues an emergency finding, and reissues it every 30 days, that it is unsafe to meet in person. Specifically, the Brown Act exemptions include requirements to provide a public teleconference location, to maintain a member quorum within the agency's jurisdiction and to provide for public comment at each teleconference location, such as a private residence. The legislation expires in December 2024. On September 16, 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 361 into law, effective immediately.

A local agency wishing to rely on the provisions of AB 361 must meet one of the following criteria:

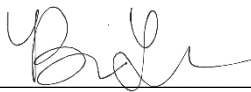
1. The local agency holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; or
2. The local holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; or
3. The local agency holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency in California due to the threat of COVID-19 and shortly thereafter issued Executive Order N-29-20 suspending certain Brown Act provisions relating to teleconferencing as public meetings began to be held online.¹ However, this Executive Order expired on September 30, 2021, despite the State of Emergency remaining in place.

¹ Similarly, on March 4, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Los Angeles County Health Officer declared a local and health emergency due to the threat of COVID-19.

The threat that COVID-19 has presented continues to directly impact the ability of the SGVCOG to conduct Governing Board/committee meetings safely in person. Updated guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Los Angeles Department of Public Health in July and August 2021 advise governmental entities to refrain from conducting indoor meetings and consider moving operations outdoors, where feasible, to prevent transmission. SGVCOG staff finds it has been unable to find a suitable outdoor space with the requisite audio/visual capabilities at which the monthly Committee meetings can be held safely. Similarly, an indoor space with sufficient capacity to accommodate safe social distance practices among members, staff, and the public could not be identified

In order to continue to conduct meetings in a safe manner and to prevent unnecessary COVID-19 exposure to members, staff and the public, staff is recommending that Water Policy Committee and TAC adopt Resolution 22-02-WC making certain findings in order to be able to continue teleconferencing for its meetings.

Prepared by: 

Approved by: 
Marisa Creter
Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment A – Resolution 22-02-WC](#)

DATE: February 8, 2022

TO: Water Policy Committee & TAC

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: **STATE WATER RESOURCE CONTROL BOARD EMERGENCY WATER CONSERVATION MANDATES**

BACKGROUND

California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a statewide drought emergency mandate was declared on October 19, 2021, including Los Angeles County. The drought has put a large strain on the state's water supply, so water conservation plays an important role in combatting and ending the drought. Governor Newsom signed an executive order calling for a 15% reduction of water consumption across the state; however, the order is voluntary.

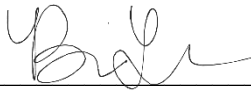
DISCUSSION

In early January 2022, the State Water Resource Control Board approved emergency water conservation mandates in place for cities, individual property owners, and residents restricting the water activities they can conduct. These statewide rules are put forth in an effort to prevent wasteful water use and promote water conservation.

As per the new regulations, the following water uses are now prohibited:

1. The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes more than incidental runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures;
2. The use of a hose that dispenses water to wash a motor vehicle, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use;
3. The use of potable water for washing sidewalks, driveways, buildings, structures, patios, parking lots, or other hard surfaced areas, except in cases where health and safety are at risk;
4. The use of potable water for street cleaning or construction purposes, unless no other method can be used to protect the health and safety of the public;
5. The use of potable water for decorative fountains or the filling or topping-off of decorative lakes or ponds, with exceptions for those decorative fountains, lakes, or ponds that use pumps to recirculate water and only require refilling to replace evaporative losses;
6. The application of water to irrigate turf and ornamental landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall of at least one fourth of one inch of rain; and
7. The use of potable water for irrigation of turf on public street medians or publicly owned or maintained landscaped areas between the street and sidewalk.

At this meeting, Brianne Logasa, Management Analyst at the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), will present to the Water Policy Committee/TAC about these new state regulations, enforcement, and exemptions.

Prepared by: 
Brianne Logasa
Management Analyst

Approved by: 
Marisa Creter
Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment A – State Water Resources Control Board Text of Emergency Regulations](#)

DATE: February 8, 2022
TO: Water Policy Committee/TAC
FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director
RE: **SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

For information only.

COMMITTEE AND WATERSHED AREA STEERING COMMITTEE (WASC) UPDATES

The following activities have happened since the last Water Committee/TAC meeting.

Regional Oversight Committee (ROC)

- Did not meet.

Scoring Committee

- Met on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 and voted to send the following projects of passing scores to their respective WASCs:
 1. Angeles Mesa Green Infrastructure Corridor Project Fulton (Central Santa Monica Bay WASC, led by City of Los Angeles, LA Sanitation and Environment);
 2. West Los Angeles Soccer Field Basin Dry Well Project (Central Santa Monica Bay WASC, led by Los Angeles Community College District & BuildLACCD);
 3. Artesia Park Stormwater Capture Project (Lower San Gabriel River WASC, led by City of Artesia);
 4. Salt Lake Park Infiltration Cistern (Lower Los Angeles River WASC, led by City of Huntington Park);

Their next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2022 from 9:00am-12:00pm.

Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) WASC

- Met on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 and heard presentations on the Watts Civic Center Serenity Greenway (Upper Los Angeles River WASC, led by LA Council District 15) and the North Hollywood Park Stormwater Capture Project (Upper Los Angeles River WASC, led by SEITec).

Their next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 2022 from 2:00pm-4:00pm.

Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) WASC

- Met on Thursday, January 27, 2022 and discussed the Regional Program Quarterly Reporting Summary for Quarters 3 and 4, as well as the potential selection of three

REPORT

Infrastructure Programs and two Scientific Studies to the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Stormwater Investment Plan. No final decisions were made.

Their next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2022 from 1:00pm-3:00pm.

Rio Hondo WASC

- Met on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 and received a presentation on the WaterTalks – Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program. The WASC also discussed the Regional Program Quarterly Reporting Summary for Quarters 3 and 4.

Their next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2022 from 1:00pm-3:00pm.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Regional Oversight Committee – TBD
- Scoring Committee – Monday, March 1, 2022, 9:00am – 12:00pm
- Upper Los Angeles River WASC – Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
- Upper San Gabriel River WASC – Every 4th Thursday of the Month, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- Rio Hondo WASC – Every 3rd Tuesday of the Month, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

[Attachment A – Approved 21-22 SIPs projects by WASC](#)

[Attachment B – Unapproved 21-22 SIPs projects by WASC](#)

Prepared by:



Brianne Logasa
Management Analyst

Approved by:



Marisa Creter
Executive Director

DATE: February 8, 2022

TO: Water Policy Committee/TAC

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: FEDERAL AND STATE BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

RECOMMENDED ACTION

For information only.

BUDGET UPDATES

2021-22 State Budget

As previously presented to the Committee, the Fiscal Year 2021-22 State Budget totals \$262.6 billion and is the largest spending plan ever adopted by the state. Staff will undertake to track grant or other funding opportunities for local or regional projects which may arise from the following funding categories:

- \$5.1 billion to address drought preparedness and response;
- \$1.3 billion climate resilience package to prepare for extreme heat, sea level rise, and environmental justice priorities;
- \$5.1 billion package to address immediate, emergency needs and aims to build regional capacity to manage droughts and safeguard water supplies;
- \$211.5 million over two years to protect communities from sea-level rise and flooding through coastal wetland restoration;
- \$140 million for flood risk and reductions efforts for 1.1 million people; and
- \$200 million for habitat restoration and multi-benefit projects.

Biden Infrastructure Bill

The infrastructure bill is the single-largest investment in U.S. water infrastructure in the nation's history. While the overall infrastructure bill provides a total of \$7,420,806,000 to infrastructure projects (\$609,441,000 to California), it will invest more than \$50 billion specifically for water infrastructure programs.

- \$20+ billion for safe drinking water.
- \$15 billion in dedicated funding to replace lead pipes.
- \$12+ billion to ensure clean water for communities.
- \$1.8 billion to protect regional waters.
- \$135 million for additional water improvements.

2022 Appropriations Act – Whittier Narrows Dam Funding

Staff is coordinating with Congresswoman Napolitano's staff for updates regarding her request for \$219 million for the Whittier Narrows Dam Safety project. The funding needed to finish the project is in both the House and Senate Energy and Water Appropriations bills. Congresswoman Napolitano's staff are now waiting on these bills to be conferenced, passed again by Congress and signed by the President. They intend for this to take place within the next month.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Below is an overview of federal and state legislation that the Water Committee and Water TAC are currently tracking.

S. 914 – Safe Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021

- **Summary:** As previously reported, S. 914 reauthorizes and creates programs to support drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects, including the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds, the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program, the EPA Sewer Overflow & Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant Program and the Alternative Source Water Pilot Program. New programs include the Stormwater Infrastructure Technology Program and PFAS treatment grants.
- **Status:** Passed in the U.S. Senate on April 29 but not yet acted upon in the U.S House.

SB 37 (Cortese) – Contaminated Sites: The Dominic Cortese “Cortese List” Act of 2021

- **Summary:** Would require the State Water Resources Control Board, instead of the State Department of Health Care Services, to compile and update a list of all public drinking water wells that contain detectable levels of organic contaminants and that are subject to water analysis by local health officers. The Department of Finance on June 30, filed on behalf of the Administration an “oppose” letter because SB 37 could increase costs to clean-up contaminated sites in California.
- **Status:** Passed the Senate on June 1, 39-0; Assembly Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee on June 16, 6-3; Assembly Natural Resources Committee on July 5, 7-1; and, Assembly Appropriations Committee on August 26, 12-4. At the request of the author, SB 37 was moved to the Assembly Inactive File.
- **SGVCOG Position:** Watch

SB 45 (Portantino, Allen, Hurtado, and Stern) – Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022

- **Summary:** Would authorize the issuance of \$5.5 billion in general obligation bonds, subject to voter approval on the November 2022 ballot, to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.
- **Status:** Passed the Senate on January 24, 2022 and ordered to the Assembly.
- **SGVCOG Position:** Watch

SB 230 (Portantino) – Constituents of Emerging Concern Program

- **Summary:** Would require the State Water Board to establish, maintain, and direct a new program to assess and recommend further study on constituents of emerging concern (CEC) in drinking water sources and treated drinking water. The state board would convene

the Science Advisory Panel to review and provide recommendations on CEC for further action, among other duties. The state board would be required to provide an annual report to the Legislature on the ongoing work conducted by the panel. The bill would authorize the State Board, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide financial assistance to certain public water systems upon a showing that the costs of testing drinking water in compliance with CEC monitoring requirements based on the recommendations of the panel would impose a financial hardship.

- **Status:** Passed the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on March 15, 7-0, and at the request of the Senate Appropriations Committee. SB passed the Senate Floor on January 26, 2022 and was read for the first time in the Assembly.
- **SGVCOG Position:** Support

SB 426 (Rubio) – Financial Capability Analysis

- **Summary:** Would require the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to develop Financial Capability Assessment (FCA) guidelines for cities and counties (permittees) seeking to comply with the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). FCA guidelines would provide a uniform, equitable and transparent methodology for assessing the financial capability of communities to afford the cost of compliance with municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permits.
- **Status:** Senator Rubio decided not to move forward this two-year bill. SB 426 is now dead.
- **SGVCOG Position:** Sponsor and support

AB 377 (Rivas) – Water quality: impaired waters

- **Summary:** Would require all California surface waters to be fishable, swimmable, and drinkable by January 1, 2050. The bill would prohibit the state board and regional boards from authorizing an NPDES discharge, waste discharge requirement, or waiver of a waste discharge requirement that causes or contributes to an exceedance of a water quality standard, or from authorizing a best management practice permit term to authorize a discharge that causes or contributes to an exceedance of a water quality standard in receiving waters. The bill would prohibit, on or after January 1, 2030, a regional water quality control plan from including a schedule for implementation for achieving a water quality standard that was adopted as of January 1, 2021 and would prohibit a regional water quality control plan from including a schedule for implementation of a water quality standard that is adopted after January 1, 2021, unless specified conditions are met. The bill would prohibit an NPDES permit, waste discharge requirement, or waiver of a waste discharge requirement from being renewed, reissued, or modified to contain effluent limitations or conditions that are less stringent than those in the previous permit, requirement, or waiver. This bill would require, by January 1, 2030, the State Board and regional boards to develop an Impaired Waterways Enforcement Program to enforce all remaining water quality standard violations that are causing or contributing to an exceedance of a water quality standard.
- **Status:** This bill did not pass in the Assembly by January 31, 2022, so it is now dead.

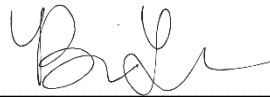
AB 1195 (Garcia) – Southern Los Angeles County Regional Water Agency

- **Summary:** Would create the Southern Los Angeles County Regional Water Agency as a regional water agency serving the drinking water needs of the cities, unincorporated areas,

and residents in the communities overlying the Central Basin and West Coast Basin aquifers in southern Los Angeles County. The bill would require the agency to serve the region as the leader in interagency collaboration on water resource issues and to be governed by a 5-member board of locally elected officials in the agency's jurisdiction, each appointed by a specified state or local entity. The bill would authorize the agency to serve the water needs of its region through specified activities, including, among others, operating public water systems or other water infrastructure and integrating other water systems in the region into its operations, as prescribed. The bill would authorize the agency to finance its operations through specified means, including, among others, collecting water rates, charges, fees, or established parcel charges previously charged by a water system for which the agency has assumed control.

- **Status:** Passed the Assembly on May 27, 56-19. The Senate rescinded referral to the Natural Resources Committee due to the COVID-19 limitations as to the number of bills an author can move during the 2021 Session. Assemblywoman Garcia planned to make the determination to move the bill during the 2022 Session; however, no decision has been made yet.
- **SGVCOG Position:** Watch

Prepared by:



Brianne Logasa
Management Analyst

Approved by:



Marisa Creter
Executive Director

REPORT

DATE: February 8, 2022
TO: Water Policy Committee & TAC
FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director
RE: **FEDERAL AND STATE WATER FUNDING UPDATES**


BACKGROUND

At the federal and state level, there is an influx of funding opportunities related to water and the environment. President Biden's Infrastructure Bill is the single-largest investment in U.S. water infrastructure in the nation's history, which will invest more than \$50 billion for water infrastructure programs alone. At the state level, Governor Newsom has committed \$5.2 billion over three years to manage the ongoing drought, as well as other funding streams that may support stormwater and other water resiliency projects.

DISCUSSION

SGVCOG staff has begun keeping track of various funding opportunities that municipalities in the San Gabriel Valley may be eligible for and/or interested in pursuing. Attachment A links to a spreadsheet of all known planned and current grants and other funding opportunities related to water. This form includes the funding category and title, description, amount of funding available, and application information.

This information will be updated monthly.

Prepared by: 

Brianne Logasa
Management Analyst

Approved by: 

Marisa Creter
Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment A – Water Funding Opportunities Tracker](#)

REPORT

DATE: February 8, 2022
TO: Water Policy Committee & TAC
FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director
RE: **WATER BOARDS UPDATE**


BACKGROUND

On January 7, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the appointment of two new board members to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. At the most recent Water Policy Committee/TAC meeting on January 11, 2022, committee members tasked staff to learn more about these new appointees and their water background.

DISCUSSION

Norma Camacho, resident of Camarillo, is one of the new appointees to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. She has experience in water governance, as she served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Santa Clara Valley Water District from 2021-2020. Camacho also worked at the Ventura County Public Works agency for 22 years, serving as Director of the Watershed Protection District, Deputy Executive Officer of the PMA CEO's Office, and Senior Analyst. Prior to that, she served as an Environmental Engineer at Port Hueneme.

The second newest appointee to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board is Marissa Christiansen, resident of Los Angeles. She has served as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Friends of the LA River (FoLAR) for four years. She also held positions as Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy and Executive Director at the organization. Prior to her time at FoLAR, Christiansen was Senior Manager of Alliances at XPRIZE, Assistant to the City Manager at the City of Redondo Beach, Director of the South Bay Initiative at the LA County Bicycle Coalition, and an Associate of Corporate Operations and Real Estate at the Walt Disney Company.

Prepared by: 

Brianne Logasa
Management Analyst

Approved by: 

Marisa Creter
Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment A – Governor Newsom Appointment Announcement](#)