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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020
9:00 A.M.

INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY*
VIEW THE MEETING LIVE ONLINE AT IEUA.ORG
TELEPHONE ACCESS: (415) 856-9169 / Conf Code: 635 663 326#

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER N-25-20 ISSUED BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM ON MARCH 12, 2020, AND EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 ISSUED BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM ON MARCH 17, 2020 AND IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, THERE WILL NO PUBLIC LOCATION FOR ATTENDING IN PERSON.

The public may participate and provide public comment during the meeting by dialing into the number provided above. Alternatively, you may email your public comments to the Board Secretary/Office Manager Denise Garzaro at dgarzaro@ieua.org no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time. Your comments will then be read into the record during the meeting.

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.
1. ACTION ITEM

A. MINUTES
   Approve Minutes of the November 11, 2020 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.

B. 2021 LEGISLATIVE POLICY PRINCIPLES
   Staff recommends that the Committee/Board adopt the draft 2021 Legislative Policy Principles.

2. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION (WRITTEN)

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

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

D. CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES MONTHLY REPORT (WRITTEN)

3. GENERAL MANAGER’S COMMENTS

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6. ADJOURN

*A Municipal Water District

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Board Secretary/Office Manager (909-993-1736), 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting so that the Agency can make reasonable arrangements.

DECLARATION OF POSTING

I, Denise Garzaro, Board Secretary/Office Manager of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, A Municipal Water District, hereby certify that a copy of this agenda has been posted by 5:30 p.m. to the IEUA Website at www.ieua.org and outside the Agency’s main office, 6075 Kimball Avenue, Building A, Chino on Thursday, December 3, 2020.

Denise Garzaro, CMC
ACTION
ITEM
1A
MINUTES
COMMUNITY AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY
AGENCY HEADQUARTERS, CHINO, CA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020
9:00 A.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT
Steven J. Elie, Chair
Kati Parker

STAFF PRESENT
Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager
Christiana Daisy, Executive Manager of Engineering/AGM
Denise Garzaro, Board Secretary/Office Manager
Wilson To, Technology Specialist II

STAFF PRESENT via Teleconference
Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of External Affairs & Policy Development/AGM
Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/AGM
Christina Valencia, Executive Manager of Finance & Administration/AGM
Jerry Burke, Manager of Engineering
Andrea Carruthers, Manager of External Affairs
Jennifer Hy-Luk, Administrative Assistant II
Sylvie Lee, Manager of Planning & Environmental Resources
Cathleen Pieroni, Manager of Government Relations
Jeanina Romero, Executive Assistant
Teresa Velarde, Manager of Internal Audit

CALL TO ORDER
Committee Chair Steven Elie called the meeting to order at 9:05 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.

ACTION ITEMS
The Committee:

- Approved Minutes of the October 14, 2020 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.
INFORMATION ITEMS
The following information items were presented or received and filed by the Committee:

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

GENERAL MANAGER’S COMMENTS
General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh stated on behalf of the Agency, his appreciation to Veterans for their service.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS
Committee Chair Elie commended all Veterans, including a number of IEUA employees and thanked them and their families for their service to the country and the community.

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 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Garzaro
Board Secretary/Office Manager

*A Municipal Water District

APPROVED: DECEMBER 9, 2020
ACTION ITEM 1B
Date: December 16, 2020
To: The Honorable Board of Directors
From: Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager
Committee: Community & Legislative Affairs

Executive Contact: Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of Ext. Aff. & Policy Dev./AGM
Subject: 2021 Legislative Policy Principles

Executive Summary:
Each year, the IEUA Board of Directors adopts federal and state legislative priorities for the upcoming year. The attached Legislative Policy Principles are consistent with the current mission and business goals of the Agency, and are tailored to fit relevant issues that may be addressed during the 2021 legislative sessions.

As legislation can at times be fast moving, the adoption of the Legislative Policy Principles allows staff to be more efficient and effective when taking positions on legislation. The Legislative Policy Principles provide staff with the necessary guidelines in order to make recommendations if actions need to be taken quickly, as well as making position recommendations to the Community and Legislative Affairs Committee and the Board.

Staff’s Recommendation:
Staff recommends that the Board adopt the draft 2021 Legislative Policy Principles.

Budget Impact
Budgeted (Y/N): Y  Amendment (Y/N): N
Account/Project Name:
Not Applicable

Fiscal Impact (explain if not budgeted):
Not Applicable
Prior Board Action:
January 15, 2020 - the Board adopted the 2020 Legislative Policy Principles

Environmental Determination:
Not Applicable

Business Goal:
Approving legislative policy principles is in line with IEUA's Business Goal of advocating for development of policies, legislation and regulations that benefit the region.

Attachments:
Attachment 1 - Draft 2021 IEUA Legislative Policy Principles
2021 IEUA Legislative Policy Principles

Water Resources and Systems Resiliency

- Support administrative/legislative and/or regulatory activities that preserve IEUA’s and the region’s ability to pursue water supply options and oppose constraints on supply development.
- Support administrative and legislative actions promoting the resiliency and improved operability of IEUA’s systems.
- Support administrative and legislative action to identify and promote the use of salt-less water softening technology. Oppose any efforts to endorse salt-based technologies.
- Support administrative and legislative actions that protect, respond and plan for drought conditions while maintaining the necessary environmental protections.
- Support administrative and legislative actions on water-use efficiency that create and/or improve regulations and mandates recognizing the variations among the different communities, regions and counties with respect to their capability of withstanding the impacts of drought.
- Support administrative and legislative actions that promote and/or improve water quality from various constituents including salinity, perchlorates, nitrates and volatile organic compounds.
- Support alternative efforts to a sustainable approach to ensure every Californian has access to safe, clean and reliable water and oppose efforts to impose a public goods charge.
- Support member agency and regional legislative positions that align with IEUA’s current policy principles.

Organics Recycling/Compost Use

- Support legislation that promotes the use of compost for multiple uses such as erosion control to protect water resources, water conservation, fire ravaged land remediation and healthy soils.
- Support administrative and legislative approaches for connecting carbon sequestration with healthy soils and the use of compost.

Regulations/Compliance

- Support regulations that restrict the use of uncomposted and contaminated organics in commercial compost products.
- Support administrative and legislative actions for environmental compliance (e.g., air, water, hazardous materials and waste) that provide for regulatory compliance flexibility, promote consistency and reduce regulatory redundancy.
- Support the development of Public Health Goals (PHGs), Response Levels (RLs), Notification Levels (NLs) or Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) that are established in a process affording robust opportunities for scientific review and public comment and that consider feasibility, laboratory capacity, analytical methods and implementation costs.
- Support administrative/legislative actions to improve clarity and workability of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and eliminate other duplicative state processes.
- Actively monitor and participate where appropriate in the development of water-use efficiency regulations.
**Water Quality**

- Support legislative and administrative approaches promoting “polluter pays” principles, extending responsibility for contamination to chemical manufacturers and promoting consumer product responsibility.
- Support legislation and administrative actions to achieve tax-exempt status for water treatment chemicals and ensure access to water treatment chemicals.

**Energy**

- Promote water-energy nexus administrative/legislative and/or regulatory activities that preserve IEUA’s and the region’s ability to pursue supply options and oppose constraints on supply development.
- Support administrative and legislative actions that remove barriers and encourage energy sector investments in water conservation and energy management programs.
- Support legislation and other programs that would increase the value of the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) generated and sold by wastewater treatment agencies that utilize their renewable energy on-site in California.
- Support legislation and other programs that would facilitate self-generation projects interconnection to the electric grid by reducing interconnection costs, metering requirements, project review process and timeline.
- Support administrative and legislative actions that encourage renewable energy through organics management, including landfill diversion.
- Support legislation, regulations and administrative policies that ensure that power costs reflect the cost of energy procurement, infrastructure, and maintenance.

**Financial**

- Support maintaining tax exempt status for municipal debt.
- Support measures to reduce the cost of financing water infrastructure projects.
- Support efforts to reauthorize, increase of the funding cap federal funding, and extension of Title XVI/WIIN grant program, the federal EPA/State Revolving Loan program, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and other funding mechanisms.
- Support funding and incentive programs to promote water-use efficiency, including EPA’s WaterSense program, education programs and tax exemptions incentives.
- Support funding programs that promote energy efficiency, increase renewable generation, strengthen local grids and energy reliance.
- Support federal funding for drought relief and adaptive water management opportunities in California.
- Advocate for funding that ensures a fair and equitable financing process for the public.
- Support efforts to reinstate public agency advanced bond refunding.
- Support funding opportunities for local water supply development and water quality improvement projects benefitting IEUA and its member agencies.
- Support legislation establishing an approach that proactively validates that an agency’s rate-setting process conforms with all legal requirements, thereby minimizing uncertainty.
• Support legislation and administrative actions to secure funding for public water systems and laboratories to defray costs associated with COVID-19.
• Support legislation and administrative actions that would provide funding or reimbursement for enhanced physical security and cybersecurity for water and power infrastructure.

Administrative/Other
• Support legislative actions that are aligned with the Agency’s goals and objectives and support member agency and regional legislative positions.
• Support legislation that encourages collective bargaining.
• Support legislation that increases local control and limits additional financial burdens related to labor relations and collective bargaining that can be appropriately negotiated at the bargaining table.
• Support measure that encourage decision-making at the local level.
• Support local government efforts to establish workforce engagement, succession planning and mentoring programs.
• Support legislation that streamlines the Workers’ Compensation system and makes it easier for employers, employees and health care providers to navigate.
• Support reform measures that provide sustainable and secure public pensions and other post-retirement benefits to ensure responsive and affordable public services.
• Support administrative, legislative and regulatory efforts that align with the Agency’s commitment to applying the highest standards of fiscal responsibility, integrity, ethical and transparent business practices and principles.
Date: December 16, 2020  From: Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager
To: The Honorable Board of Directors  Committee: Community & Legislative Affairs

Executive Contact: Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of Ext. Aff. & Policy Dev./AGM
Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

Executive Summary:

- December 5, World Soil Day
- December 16, IEUA End-of-Year Celebration (Virtual), 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- December 17, MWD Water is Life Recognition Event via Zoom, Time TBD

On November 18, staff facilitated a virtual Water Discovery field trip for AP Environmental Science students from Chino Hills High School.

Staff worked with member agencies to submit the 2021 Solar Cup interest form to MWD. Solar Cup 2021 will be an online STEAM-focused program where students will learn skills by working as a team and selecting from a menu of activities that cover a wide range of STEAM fields including robotics, solar power vehicles, utilizing CAD software, building online gaming, social media messaging, visual arts, and dream job skills. At the end of the Solar Cup 2021 program, there will be a virtual competition using the vehicles the students built. To date, Chino Hills High School has confirmed participation.

Staff's Recommendation:
This is an informational item for the Board of Directors to receive and file.

Budget Impact  Budgeted (Y/N): Y  Amendment (Y/N): N  Amount for Requested Approval:
Account/Project Name:

Fiscal Impact (explain if not budgeted):
Prior Board Action:
N/A

Environmental Determination:
Not Applicable

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.

Attachments:
Attachment 1 - Background
Background

Subject: Public Outreach and Communication

December
- December 5, World Soil Day
- December 16, IEUA End-of-Year Celebration (Virtual), 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- December 17, MWD Water is Life Recognition Event via Zoom, Time TBD

Media and Outreach
- Staff created outreach content for Military Family Appreciation Month.
- Staff highlighted National STEM/STEAM Day by promoting the Agency’s educational activities and videos. The post received approximately 700 impressions on Facebook.
- Staff highlighted Veterans Day by featuring three of IEUA’s veterans on social media channels. Combined, the posts received over 3,000 impressions.
- Staff posted an animated video short on the wastewater treatment process, developed in-house, in recognition of America Recycles Day on November 15.
- The Agency continues to publish content on LinkedIn and has gained 35 followers since October 2020 with 550-page views in the last 30 days.
- Staff posted recognition content for the three winners from IEUA’s service area that will be featured in Metropolitan Water District’s 2021 calendar for the Water is Life Student Art Contest.
- The Agency continues to educate the public on water terminology with the Water Word Wednesday campaign.
- The Agency reminded the public of the proper way to dispose of fats, oils and greases (FOG) for the upcoming holiday season in order to prevent sewer overflows and backups.
- November: 27 posts were published to the IEUA Facebook page, 27 posts were published to IEUA’s Instagram grid, 27 tweets were sent on the @IEUAwater Twitter handle, and 8 posts were published to the IEUA LinkedIn page.
  - The top three Facebook posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of November were:
    - 11/8 National STEM/STEAM Day
    - 11/4 Water Word Wednesday
    - 11/4 Project Manager I Hiring
  - The top three Twitter tweets, based on reach and engagement, in the month of November were:
    - 11/15 America Recycles Day Wastewater Treatment Process Animated Video
    - 11/18 California African American Water Education Foundation Event Promotion
    - 11/11 Veterans Day Employee Recognition
  - The top three Instagram posts, based on reach and engagement, in the month of November were:
11/4 Project Manager I Hiring
11/5 Chino Creek Wetlands Amphitheater Throwback
11/11 Veterans Day Employee Recognition

- The top three LinkedIn posts, based on impressions and reactions, in the month of November were:
  - 11/11 Veterans Day Employee Recognition
  - 11/5 Project Manager I Hiring
  - 11/17 Collection System Operator I-III (DOQ) Hiring

- A Water-Wise Education ad ran in the *Chino Valley Champion’s Chino Connection Magazine* section on November 26.
- A Water-Wise Education ad ran in the *Fontana Herald News* on November 13 through November 19.
- A Water-Wise Education ad ran in *La Opinion* on November 15.
- A Water-Wise Education digital banner ad is featured on the *Fontana Herald News* website.
- An animated education banner ran in *La Opinion* from November 7 to November 22.

For the month of November, there were 5,865 searches for a park in IEUA’s service area on Yelp, where Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park was viewed 1,046 times on a mobile device.

**Education and Outreach Updates**

- On November 18, staff facilitated a virtual Water Discovery field trip for AP Environmental Science students from Chino Hills High School.
- Staff worked with member agencies to submit the 2021 Solar Cup interest form to MWD. Solar Cup 2021 will be an online STEAM-focused program where students will learn skills by working as a team and selecting from a menu of activities that cover a wide range of STEAM fields, including robotics, solar power vehicles, utilizing CAD software, building online gaming, social media messaging, visual arts, and dream job skills. At the end of the Solar Cup 2021 program, there will be a virtual competition using the vehicles the students built. To date, Chino Hills High School has confirmed participation. The deadline to submit confirmed schools to MWD is December 2.

**Agency-Wide Membership Updates**

- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Water Regulatory Working Group Committee Meeting on October 15.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Air Quality, Climate Change and Energy Workgroup Meeting on October 22.
- Richard Lao, Senior Environmental Resources Planner, attended the California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) Air Quality Committee Meeting on October 27.
- Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/AGM, attended Isle Utilities meetings on November 16 and 17.
- Randy Lee, Executive Manager of Operations/AGM, attended the NWRI Clarke Prize 2020 Virtual Award Ceremony on November 10.
INFORMATION
ITEM
2B
November 22, 2020

To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency

From: Michael Boccadoro
Beth Olhasso
Maddie Munson

RE: November Report

Overview:

Dry conditions continue to persist throughout the state keeping reservoirs in serious need of replenishment. Carryover storage in California’s reservoirs has gotten the state through the record breaking heat this summer and could really use a strong winter snowpack to replenish supplies after a dismal winter of 2020. San Luis Reservoir, the main south-of-Delta storage facility for the State Water Project, is at 79 percent of average for this time of the year and 45 percent capacity. Lake Oroville is at 64 percent of average and 39 percent capacity.

As part of the implementation of the Water Resilience Portfolio, the California Water Commission has started working on a white paper and recommendations for state policymakers related to water conveyance. Commission staff has made clear that this will not include Delta Conveyance because that has its own ongoing process. The recommendations are slated to be completed mid-2021.

On November 17, the US EPA invited California to apply for $500 million (of $695 million available) in Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans through US EPA’s new state infrastructure financing authority WIFIA (SWIFIA) program. The finds are exclusively available through the CA State Revolving Fund (SRF).

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) held a three-session virtual conference to “explore ways to boost resilience to multiple stressors while supporting economic recovery and workforce development.” The conference panelists offered insight into some of the state’s 2021 priorities including Integrated Regional Water Management, Voluntary Agreements, water affordability and others.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) recently received a staff informational report titled “CA’s GHG Goals and Deep Decarbonization.” The presentation discussed how the state plans to move towards the 100 percent clean energy goal and what tools will be needed to hit that target. Notably the presentation included information about the transition to electric vehicles. The Governor’s Executive Order was unclear concerning the transition of medium and heavy-duty vehicles, leaving confusion as to whether the goal was to require complete fleet transition by 2045, or just limiting the new sale of vehicles starting in 2045. The presentation highlights that the 2045 requirement for medium and heavy-duty vehicles is limited to new sales. While this is a welcome clarification, the report was silent on off-road and heavy equipment vehicles leaving significant ambiguity about the EO’s goal of 100 percent zero-emission by 2035.

There remains a few races in the Senate that haven’t yet been called, but it looks like the scene is set for the 2021-2022 Legislative Session. Democrats maintain their super majorities in both houses and all in Sacramento are eagerly awaiting the announcement of committee chairs and membership in both houses. Legislators will return to Sacramento briefly in December for an “Organizational Session” then
will return in earnest in January. The legislature is expected to start the new year the same way it ended 2020, in a virtual legislative session.

**Inland Empire Utilities Agency**
**Status Report – November 2020**

**Water Supply Conditions**
The first major storms of the winter hit Northern California recently with a good dump of snow in the sierras. The “wildfire season ending storm” was welcome, but many more storms are needed for the state to make up for a dry 2020. Carryover storage in California’s reservoirs has gotten the state through the record-breaking heat this summer and the state could really use a strong winter snowpack to replenish supplies after a dismal winter of 2020. San Luis Reservoir, the main south-of-Delta storage facility for the State Water Project, is at 79 percent of average for this time of the year and 45 percent capacity. Oroville is at 64 percent of average and 39 percent capacity.

Drought conditions are about normal for this time of the year, with about 84 percent of the state experiencing at least abnormally dry conditions. Surprisingly, it is the northern portion of the state that is struggling with more serious drought conditions, where normally Southern California is more dry.

![Current Reservoir Conditions](image_url)
CA Water Commission Implements Water Resilience Portfolio in Delta

As part of the implementation of the Water Resilience Portfolio, the California Water Commission has started working on a white paper and recommendations for state policymakers related to water conveyance. Commission staff has made clear that this will not include Delta Conveyance because that has its own ongoing process. The recommendations are slated to be completed mid-2021. Below is a graphic with the schedule for the effort.

The CWC just completed Phase 1 which included a policy brief that outlines guiding questions for the eventual white paper. The three main sections included: 1) Resilience and conveyance in the context of climate change; 2) Determining and assessing public benefits; and 3) Assessing financing mechanisms and challenges. To develop the brief, they interviewed stakeholders including disadvantaged communities, tribal nations, growers, NGOs, legislators, state and federal agencies, water agencies, and others.

Phase 2 is about to get underway which will include collecting public input through expert panels at upcoming meetings as well as regional workshops held at different locations around the state.

DWR also provided presentations, noting that they are taking steps on Water Resilience Portfolio action 19.3 which directs DWR to conduct a feasibility analysis for improved and expanded capacity of federal, state, and local conveyance facilities to enhance water transfers and water markets and that incorporates climate change projections of hydrologic conditions.

There was another meeting 11/18 with multiple presentations. The next Commission meeting is Dec 16 but the agenda is not yet available so it is unclear if this topic will be covered. More presentations and discussion on the topic are likely in the future.

Workplan

- **Phase 1**: Staff Research and Background Document
- **Phase 2**: Gather Public Input
- **Phase 3**: Draft Paper
- **Phase 4**: Commission Approval
**US EPA Invites SWRCB to Apply for $500M in SRF Funds**

On November 17, the US EPA invited California to apply for $500 million (of $695 million available) in Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans through US EPA’s new state infrastructure financing authority WIFIA (SWIFIA) program. The funds are exclusively available through the CA State Revolving Fund (SRF).

As IEUA is well aware, there is a tremendous waiting list/backlog in the Clean and Drinking Water SRF programs at the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). While it is unclear how the funds would be administered, including conditions on the federal funding, it will go a long way to help clear the backlog and make way for more projects to receive funding.

In other SRF news, there is significant talk of more funding to the SRF program from the federal government. Matthew Muirragui, majority staff director, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, US House Committee on Natural Resources, mentioned in the 11/19 PPIC session “Priorities for a water-resilient California,” that as the federal government considers an infrastructure package, a bipartisan group of members are strongly pushing for significant funding to SRF or the Title 16 program as a means for economic recovery.

As the state budget will remain strained for the coming years, this federal funding would be very welcome because it may likely be difficult to secure voter approval for a resilience bond.

**PPIC Holds Virtual Conference**

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) held a three-session virtual conference to “explore ways to boost resilience to multiple stressors while supporting economic recovery and workforce development.”

Session 1: Funding water systems while ensuring affordability and equity
- Gloria Gray, board chair, MWD
- Greg Pierce, UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation
- Kathryn Sorensen, former director, Phoenix water Services

Session 2: Collaborative approaches to foster groundwater sustainability
- Eric Averett, General manager, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water District
- Paul Gosselin, director, Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation
- Angela Islas, community development specialist, Self-Help Enterprises
- Sandi Matsumoto, director, California Water Program, The Nature Conservancy

Session 3: Priorities for a water resilient California
- Joaquin Esquivel, chair, State Water Resources Control Board
- Karla Nemeth, director, California Department of Water Resources
- Matthew Muirragui, majority staff director, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, US House Committee on Natural Resources

While all three panels were interesting, the third session is worth watching- it’s only an hour long and the video can be found [here](#). Chair Esquivel talked about water affordability by breaking it down into two categories. He noted that there is a short-term emergency assistance need for the pandemic crisis and a long-term water rate assistance program need. He did not get into details about how either of these would be funded.

Director Nemeth, when asked what the most important things her department is doing highlighted two very important efforts for 2021. First, she noted how important collaboration, science and governance
in the Voluntary Agreement process is going to be. She also noted how IRWM 2.0 is going to be a necessary tool to achieve the collaboration necessary to meet the state’s water and climate goals. She specifically called out San Bernardino as an example for how to collaborate.

**CARB Gets Update on GHG Goals**

In a previous report, a story was included about the Governor’s Executive Order to mandate the sale of electric vehicles. The order mandates new light-duty vehicle sales to be all electric by 2035. The order also mandated the transition of medium and heavy-duty vehicles by 2045, but was not specific on if all vehicles had to be electric or if it was new sale like the light-duty part of the order. On November 19, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) heard an information item titled “CA’s GHG Goals and Deep Decarbonization.” The presentation included on slide 16, the line “100% zero-emissions medium and heavy duty vehicle SALES by 2045.” While there are still a significant number of steps and regulations to go through before any of this is final, this is a good first step into ensuring that it is the new SALE, and not a total changeover of medium and heavy-duty vehicles that will be required in 2045. CARB has, however, not provided any clarity off-road and heavy equipment (construction).

**Election Update**

There are still a few outstanding races, with final election results not due to the Secretary of State until the beginning of December. As shown below, unless something drastic happens, the legislature looks pretty set.

- SD 21 (Santa Clarita) Scott Wilk (R- Incumbent) leads Kipp Muelller (D) by about 6,000 votes
- SD 37 (Costa Mesa) Dave Min (D) leads John Moorlach (R- Incumbent) by about 12,000 votes

Within IEUA’s service territory:

**SD 23 (Rancho Cucamonga)** - Ochoa Bogh likely to hold onto lead with a 20,000 vote lead
Abigail Medina (D)- School Board President- 47.4%
Roslivia Ochoa Bogh (R)- School Board Member 52.6%

**SD 29 (Chino Hills)** - Newman likely to hold on to lead with a 10,000 vote lead
Ling Ling Chang (R) - Incumbent- 48.7%
Josh Newman (D)- Veterans’ Advocate/former Senator- 51.3%

There is soon to be a vacancy when Senator Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles) resigns her seat as she is sworn into the LA County Board of Supervisors. Senator Mitchell is the chair of the Senate Budget Committee, so a new chair will be named. This is a big loss because Senator Mitchell is a very well-respected chair and the Senate will miss her leadership.

There could be other vacancies, as there are rumors of several members being considered for posts within the Biden Administration.

**Legislative Update**

The Legislature will return to Sacramento in early December for an “Organizational Session” to swear in members. A few bills will be introduced on that day, with additional measures introduced in January when the legislature returns. Committee assignments are expected sometime in December. All of the committee chairs on the committees IEUA frequents have been re-elected or were not on the ballot. There could be some shuffling in the Senate with the departure of Senator Mitchell. Committee shuffling could make room for John Laird to become a chair in Natural Resources and Water. But this is only speculation at this point. More details will be reported when Senate and Assembly leadership make their announcements.
INFORMATION
ITEM 2C
MEMORANDUM

To: IEUA Community and Legislative Affairs Committee

From: Letitia White, Jean Denton, Drew Tatum, and Sarah Persichetti

Date: November 27, 2020

Re: November Monthly Legislative Update

Joe Biden Wins Presidential Race
Vice President Joe Biden has been projected to win enough votes to serve as the nation’s 46th president, defeating President Donald Trump and ending his presidency by winning a series of tight contests across national battlegrounds.

Five major news outlets called the race for Biden around 11:30am on Saturday, November 7 after a grueling vote count that had the country waiting for a result for days after election day.

The projections came seconds after Biden's lead in Pennsylvania grew to more than 30,000 votes after Philadelphia reported about 3,000 ballots. Biden won 85 percent of that count.

In a statement, Biden said he was “honored and humbled.”

"In the face of unprecedented obstacles, a record number of Americans voted. Proving once again, that democracy beats deep in the heart of America,” Biden said.

"With the campaign over, it’s time to put the anger and the harsh rhetoric behind us and come together as a nation. It’s time for America to unite. And to heal. We are the United States of America. And there’s nothing we can’t do, if we do it together," Biden added.

President Trump has refused to concede and has mounted various legal challenges in multiple battleground states.

“The simple fact is this election is far from over. Joe Biden has not been certified as the winner of any states, let alone any of the highly contested states headed for mandatory recounts, or states where our campaign has valid and legitimate legal challenges that could determine the ultimate victor,” Trump said in a prepared statement.

On Monday, November 23, the General Services Administration (GSA), the federal agency responsible for many of the federal government’s buildings, formerly notified President-elect Biden that the Trump Administration was ready to begin the transition. GSA had refused to make the official ascertainment despite mounting pressure from Democrats and some Republicans.
Following the announcement by GSA Administrator Emily Murphy, President Trump said he was recommending that his administration begin the transition, though he did not concede his loss to Biden and said he would keep fighting.

Senator Kamala Harris’s election as Vice President elevates her to become the highest elected woman in American history, ahead of Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA).

President-elect Biden has begun to name members of his staff and announce members of his cabinet that he plans to formally nominate. Among these officials are Ron Klain, who will serve as Biden’s Chief of Staff. Klain served as Biden’s Chief of Staff when he was Vice President.

Additionally, Representative Cedric Richmond (D-LA) will serve as Senior Adviser and director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, resigning from his House seat come January.

After the majority of networks called states that made Biden the apparent winner of at least 270 electoral votes, President-elect Biden cited “the battle to save the climate” among his top five priorities.

Early action on climate change from President-elect Joe Biden is likely to start with a series of executive orders reversing President Trump’s environmental policies, laying the groundwork for an administration that has vowed to sharply curb emissions.

He certainly faces a monumental task: The Trump administration has rolled back more than 100 environmental regulations and encouraged deregulation of polluting industries.

But his pledge to undo Trump administration rollbacks will likely require lengthy rulemaking of his own, while implementing his ambitious plan for reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 could run up against GOP senators, who appear poised to keep their majority in the Senate.

President-elect Biden has long said he will re-join the Paris climate accord on Day One of his presidency, and that he will move to halt new leases for drilling oil on public lands.

Additionally, in another move that had been discussed during his campaign, Biden announced on Monday, November 23 that John Kerry, former Secretary of State during the Obama Administration, would serve as special presidential envoy for climate.

The position will be embedded on the National Security Council (NSC), a sign of the gravity with which the administration views the issue.

“This marks the first time that the NSC will include an official dedicated to climate change, reflecting the president-elect’s commitment to addressing climate change as an urgent national security issue,” the Biden transition team said in a statement announcing Kerry’s selection among other top security officials.
Innovative Federal Strategies LLC

Biden has consistently framed climate as part of his economic vision, a way to inject as much as $2 trillion into renewable energy, retrofitting homes and buildings, and investing in infrastructure like public transit and electric vehicle charging stations.

COVID-19 Relief Negotiations Remain at a Standstill as White House Takes Back Seat

Negotiations between congressional leaders on a fifth coronavirus relief bill are at a standstill, further dimming prospects for an end-of-year deal. White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows said on Wednesday, November 18 that it’s up to Congress to proceed with any talks.

Chief of Staff Meadows and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin had been the primary negotiators on COVID-19 relief with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) before the election. His remarks are further evidence that the White House is pulling back from the discussions after Trump’s loss to President-elect Joe Biden. He said getting another stimulus deal “has been a priority for the president.”

He spoke a day after Speaker Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) wrote Majority Leader McConnell on Tuesday, November 17th calling for him to engage in talks on a potential deal. Their letter stated they were “encouraged” by Leader McConnell’s comments on the importance of another relief package and asked him to return to the negotiating table.

For his part, Majority Leader McConnell dismissed the $2.4 trillion Democratic bill that Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Schumer have said should be the starting point for negotiations. Majority Leader McConnell, speaking from the Senate floor, said Republicans have had an “entirely consistent” position. “There’s no reason why doing right by struggling families should wait until we resolve every difference on every issue,” he added. Leader McConnell reiterated that any package be “targeted” and around $500 billion in new spending.

Leader McConnell hasn’t responded to the letter from Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Schumer. However, on Thursday, November 19, Minority Leader Schumer said that McConnell has agreed to resume negotiations with House Democrats yet both sides remain far apart on key issues.

On Friday, November 20, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Senate Majority Leader McConnell discussed the stimulus strategy. Secretary Mnuchin is bidding to revive stalled coronavirus stimulus talks with congressional Democrats by proposing the use of untapped Federal Reserve relief funding as part of a new package of aid. McConnell has backed Mnuchin’s proposal to use $580 billion that was allocated for Federal Reserve loan guarantees, small business aid and other virus relief programs that is unspent.

“Congress should repurpose this money toward the kinds of urgent, important, and targeted relief measures that Republicans have been trying to pass for months, but which Democrats have repeatedly blocked with all-or-nothing demands,” he said.

For his part, Mnuchin has asked the Federal Reserve to return the unused money before the end of the year that has gone unspent from programs established in the CARES Act meant to provide
additional liquidity to financial markets. The funds will be returned to the Treasury’s general account—putting it out of easy reach for the next administration, as money spent from the fund requires Congressional approval.

In addition to differences over the price tag, the Democrats and Republicans are still at odds over more help for state and local governments, legal protections against coronavirus related lawsuits and unemployment insurance.

The Senate recessed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Wednesday and will not return until November 30th, leaving little hope that an agreement will be reached any time soon.

Additionally, the odds of relief legislation passing before the end of the year remain very unlikely because when both chambers return from the Thanksgiving holiday, efforts will be focused on passing legislation to fund the government prior to the expiration of the Continuing Resolution on December 11th.

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**Senate Appropriators Release Fiscal Year 2021 Bills as Funding Deadline Approaches**

On Tuesday, November 10, the Senate Appropriations Committee released the Chairman’s recommendations for all 12 of the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bills.

The Committee had not released any of their bills prior to the Chairman’s recommendations, and there are no plans to mark up the bills before they are conferenced with the House. These bills serve as the opening offer from Senate Republicans for negotiations with the House on an end of year omnibus or series of minibus packages.

The Republican-led Senate is proposing modest spending increases for environmental agencies compared to last year’s budget, diverging from proposed cuts that the Trump White House put forward earlier this year.

In its $38 billion Interior-environment spending bill for fiscal 2021, the Senate Appropriations Committee proposed giving about $13.6 billion to the Interior Department and about $9.09 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including $2.35 billion for the wildfire suppression cap adjustment funding.

That’s up from the $13.5 billion given to Interior last year and the about $9.06 billion appropriated for the EPA in the last fiscal year. The Senate has also proposed increasing the Energy Department’s budget to about $42 billion, an approximately $3.45 billion increase over last year.

While the House bills included a greater funding increase for these agencies, both the House and Senate included more funding than originally proposed by the Administration.

The Senate bill does not include policy provisions in the House-passed bill that would ban fiscal 2021 funds for several administration initiatives that Democrats object to, including an overhaul
of the National Environmental Policy Act and oil and gas drilling leases on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The bill also did not include language from the House bill that would ban fiscal 2021 money for offshore oil and gas drilling in areas currently off limits.

The Senate bill would fund the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds at $2.765 billion, billions less than the House figure, though the additional money provided for in the House bill came from “emergency” spending.

The Interior-Environment section of the House package includes $15 billion for a supplemental critical infrastructure fund, with the bulk of that going toward EPA’s Clean Water and Drinking Water state revolving funds.

The Senate bill would provide $20 million to the agency to help address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination and remediation.

Under the Senate’s funding bills, the Energy Department would also increase spending on energy efficiency and renewable energy as well as nuclear energy research and development, along with maintaining levels for fossil energy research and development.

Republicans and Democrats have disagreed over how much money to spend in several of the annual funding bills. Those disagreements focus largely on the coronavirus response. House Democrats included $234.9 billion in emergency spending, exempt from statutory spending limits, which Republicans cast as largely unrelated to the COVID pandemic. Senate Republicans didn’t include any of those spending cap exemptions in their bills, though the two sides did agree on a $12.5 billion cap exemption for the implementation of the VA MISSION Act.

As a reminder, House Democrats included cap-exempt emergency spending in the following amounts.

- Energy and Water: $43.5 billion
- Financial Services: $67 billion
- Interior-Environment: $15 billion
- Labor-HHS-Education: $24.4 billion
- State and Foreign Operations: $10 billion
- Transportation-HUD: $75 billion

Appropriations staff are also now working on paperwork that will help negotiations, such as side-by-side comparisons of the two chambers’ spending bills. “Side-by-sides” aren’t a required step in negotiations, but are particularly useful to help conferees identify and compare the corresponding House and Senate provisions of large and complex bills.

Congress needs to pass fiscal 2021 spending bills, or a continuing resolution, before the December 11 deadline to fund the government.
On Thursday, November 19th staff from the offices of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) met in an effort to work on an agreement that would set the topline figures for the 12 individual appropriations bills that would make up the end-of-year omnibus spending bill.

While there had been concerns about where President Trump would come down on an omnibus appropriations package, Republican leaders have indicated that he has expressed a willingness to consider a package. Earlier in his administration, Trump indicated he’d never again sign an omnibus appropriations package—leading Congress to send minibus packages to the White House over the last several years.

"It's our hope ... that we can come together on an omnibus and pass it," Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said, adding that he believed that was also the "preference of the White House."

One sticking point of the funding negotiations, which led to the shutdown in 2019, is funding for the border wall. The White House in its fiscal year 2021 budget request asked for about $2 billion to continue building the wall, while Pelosi and House Democrats have countered with no new money for construction.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has recommended $1.96 billion for 82 miles for the "border wall system," in their version of the fiscal year 2021 bills released earlier in the month.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) and House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) reportedly agreed to a topline agreement before the Thanksgiving recess—including on some level of emergency spending—but details have not yet been released. Additionally, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) reportedly rejected the agreement framework, leaving questions about the viability of the agreement.

Once lawmakers return on November 30th, they will have roughly 10 working days to find a compromise on funding packages before the current CR expires.

**House Passes FEMA COVID-19 and Disaster Aid Legislation**

On Tuesday, November 17, the House passed the FEMA Assistance Relief Act of 2020 under suspension of the rules. If the legislation, which is now under consideration in the Senate, becomes law, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would have to provide full federal funding for virus-related emergency aid instead of requiring recipients to cover some costs.

FEMA’s cost share would be at least 90% for other emergencies and natural disasters declared in 2020. It typically covers at least 75% of costs for disaster aid under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

The provisions would apply to funds appropriated following the bill’s enactment.
“Our state and local governments in my district and up and down the West Coast have been hit with dual crises – the Coronavirus pandemic with a devastating economic impact and some of the worst fires in our history. The Federal government needs to provide every resource and dollar possible to help with the recovery process.” Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA) said of the legislation.

Additionally, the legislation would:

- Clarify that FEMA could provide assistance for certain costs incurred by state, local, and tribal governments during the Covid-19 crisis, including payments for first responders, remote test sites, personal protective equipment, medical supplies, and food distribution.
- Direct FEMA to help individuals and households pay for disaster-related funeral expenses during the pandemic, subject to appropriation.
- Allow FEMA to provide advance assistance to eligible applicants to ensure they can carry out covered activities. Advance payments would be audited by the Homeland Security Department inspector general.
- Require FEMA to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to convene an expert panel to study the use of federal disaster aid following emergencies that don’t cause physical damages, such as the coronavirus emergency.
- Extend by one year, through October 5, 2021, FEMA’s authority under a 2018 disaster aid law (Public Law 115-254) to carry out a pilot program establishing a new process for state and tribal governments to administer federal disaster aid for temporary and permanent housing.

While the legislation is unlikely to move as a stand-alone bill, it may be considered in a larger coronavirus relief bill either later this year or in early 2021.

**Legislation Introduced to Create Conservation Corps**

On Thursday, November 12, Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL) introduced legislation that would establish a conservation corps in the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture in an effort to boost employment related to outdoor recreation and green infrastructure.

The Restore Employment in Natural and Environmental Work (RENEW) Conservation Corps Act establishes the new conservation corps program at the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture and authorizes more than $55 billion over a five-year period to put one million Americans to work to address the backlog of deferred conservation projects.

To ensure a diverse workforce, the bill requires participants be reflective of the demographics in the area where the project is being completed. In addition, those participating in the program that complete a full year of work would be eligible to receive up to $5,500 credit for post-secondary education.

The bill provides anyone 16 years or older at least two weeks of training for positions lasting a minimum of twelve weeks, but no longer than one year. All participants will receive at least $15 an hour, with some wages determined based on work performed.
A companion bill was introduced by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) in September.

Representative Rush says the legislation “would deliver much-needed workforce training and employment opportunities within our communities by tackling the backlog of deferred conservation projects.”

**House Democrats, Republicans Hold Leadership Elections**

House Democrats chose their leadership team last week on the heels of a dispiriting election cycle when they’d expected significant gains to pad their majority in the 117th Congress.

House Democrats voted to nominate current Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) to another term as speaker. Speaker Pelosi said Wednesday that her next term as Speaker will be her last, making good on a promise she’d made in 2018 to relinquish power after the next midterm elections.

To secure the gavel, Speaker Pelosi will still need to secure a majority of the full House in January. Depending on the outcome of the remaining uncalled House races, Pelosi may only be able to lose a handful of Democrats and still secure another term as Speaker.

The caucus on Wednesday also reelected Speaker Pelosi’s top lieutenants, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC). Representative Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) also ran unopposed and won a second term as House Democratic Caucus chairman.

Additionally, Representative Katherine Clark (D-MA), currently Democratic Caucus Vice Chairwoman, was elected as Assistant Speaker. She will succeed current Assistant Speaker Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) who was recently elected to the Senate. To fill Representative Clark’s role as Democratic Caucus Vice Chair, Representative Pete Aguilar (D-CA) was elected on Thursday.

The race for Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) chair has been postponed until the week after Thanksgiving to give the candidates, Representatives Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY) and Tony Cárdenas (D-CA), more time to campaign and lock down votes. Current DCCC Chair Cheri Bustos (D-IL) announced that she would not seek a second term for the post after Democrats underperformed expectations in the elections. Pelosi has announced that she will appoint Bustos to serve as Chair of the Democratic Caucus Steering Committee.

For House Republicans, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) and House Republican Conference Chair Liz Cheney (R-WY) will all remain in the House GOP’s leadership spots. Each ran unopposed for their post.

Three other Republicans ran unopposed for spots in leadership: Representative Mike Johnson (R-LA), head of the conservative Republican Study Committee, will be vice chair of the conference; Representative Richard Hudson (R-NC), a deputy whip, will serve as conference secretary; and Representative Gary Palmer (R-AL) will serve another two-year term as policy chair.
Forest Service Finalizes Rule Weakening Environmental Review of Its Projects

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on Wednesday, November 18 finalized its decision to weaken environmental analysis of many of its plans, excluding a number of actions from scientific review or community input.

The new rule allows the service to use a number of exemptions to sidestep requirements of the bedrock National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), something critics say will speed approval of logging, roads, and pipelines on Forest Service land.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said the changes “will ensure we do the appropriate level of environmental analysis to fit the work, locations and conditions,” arguing the streamlining could better help the Forest Service aid areas hurt by wildfires, and quickly repair roads, trails and campgrounds.

The White House Council on Environmental Quality also finalized a rule this summer gutting NEPA and setting the stage for additional rollbacks at various agencies.

The Forest Service rule has been scaled back since it was first proposed last year, cutting the scale of projects that are eligible for the so-called categorical exclusions that allow them to proceed with little review.

Colorado River Users Expect Biden Administration to Put Focus on Climate Change

The incoming Biden administration will lead efforts to craft a new water-management regime for the seven-state Colorado River Basin, and people involved in the process expect any changes to reflect the impact of climate change in the basin.

The Bureau of Reclamation, under the Interior Department, will lead negotiations to replace 13-year-old interim guidelines used to operate the basin’s two major reservoirs, Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The Interior secretary also manages the lower basin, containing all the water below Hoover Dam.

Revisions should reflect ecological values, water rights of American Indian tribes, and the need for more conservation measures by users in the seven states—Arizona, California and Nevada in the lower basin and Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming in the upper basin, those involved in the process said.

Recently, President-elect Biden named someone to his Interior Department transition team who knows about the Colorado River—Tanya Trujillo, a water lawyer who works as a project director for the conservation group Colorado River Sustainability Campaign.

Trujillo was previously the Interior Department’s counselor to the assistant secretary for water and science and senior counsel to the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. She also has served as executive director of the Colorado River Board of California, which represents the state negotiations about the river basin.
The 2007 guidelines, which expire on December 31, 2025, provide flexibility to conserve and store water in the basin and certainty to water users about the timing and volumes of potential reductions in state water allotments.

Mitchell said the states will need to have negotiations wrapped up by 2023 to allow time to get new guidelines in place by 2026.

The guidelines are one set of principles among the multiple compacts, federal laws, court decisions, decrees, contracts, and regulations known collectively as the “Law of the River,” determining water allotments and governing water use and management by the seven basin states and Mexico. The Endangered Species Act and numerous Native American water rights settlements also influence water use in the basin.

Bureau of Reclamation officials in the Trump administration recently reviewed the 2007 guidelines and will release its final conclusions before the end of the year. Those conclusions will serve as a reference point and source of data for negotiations between the Biden administration, the seven states, and Mexico.

**Bipartisan Energy Legislation Close to Moving Ahead in the Senate**

Broad bipartisan energy legislation is close to moving ahead in the Senate but faces one last obstacle in Senator Rand Paul (R-KY).

Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) said the only thing holding up the energy innovation package now is “one recalcitrant and difficult senator from Kentucky.”

Senator Coons, who has four bills included in the American Energy Innovation Act, said lawmakers, including sponsor Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), discussed the legislation on the Senate floor last week. “If we get floor time, we can roll Rand, and that can become law.”

Senator Coons said the bill will resurface and move early next year if it isn’t passed in the lame-duck session. “It is strongly bipartisan, and it has taken years to be put together,” he added.

Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) is the lead Democrat Senator on the bill. The legislation is a compilation of more than 50 energy-related measures considered and individually reported by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last year.

**States Can Kill Land Protection Efforts Under New Interior Order**

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on Friday, November 13 signed an order giving states and local counties veto power over land acquired under the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The order requires the affected state governor and the local county government to sign off on any fund-acquired land, effectively giving local jurisdictions authority to kill any individual conservation effort proposed under the fund.
Secretary Bernhardt’s order gives states and local governments veto power as a way to “be a good neighbor,” Interior spokesman Ben Goldey said Friday.

“We have lots of needs and opportunities for acquisitions across the country and we want to focus on areas where there are willing sellers and a welcoming community.” Goldey said. “This is intended to limit the conflicts between the government and the local communities.”

Congressional Democrats quickly condemned the directive.

“This order is a perfect example of why they can’t be trusted to protect our environment,” Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, said in a statement. “They have no interest in conservation; even with clear direction and guidance from Congress they are doing their best to sabotage the Land and Water Conservation.”

Congress approved $900 million in permanent annual funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund this summer when it passed the bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act. The fund pays for federal land acquisition as well as parks, wildlife refuges, ball fields, and other conservation projects in states and local communities across the country, both rural and urban.

The order says “a written expression of support by both the affected Governor and local county or county government-equivalent (e.g. parish, borough) is required for the acquisition of land, water, or an interest in land or water under the Federal LWCF program.”

The order echoes calls by Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), who opposed the bill and proposed amendments that, if they had been included in the final bill, would have required states to approve of LWCF land acquisitions.

Senator Lee said Friday after Berhnardt signed the order that he appreciates the Trump administration’s “collaboration” with state and local governments.

“The federal government already controls nearly 70 percent of the land in my state and Utahns deserve a say in whether the federal government acquires yet more land,” Senator Lee commented.

The order will likely be rescinded in the incoming administration.

**Lawmakers Begin to Map out Priorities for Next Congress**

Lawmakers have begun speculating on priorities for the 117th Congress, potential leadership positions on key committees, and what a new balance of power in the White House and Congress could mean for legislative priorities.

House Democrats this year passed measures on rejoining the Paris climate accord and banning offshore drilling, but the Senate hasn’t taken them up and has no plans to do so in the new Congress, especially if they keep majority in the Senate, which is likely that they will unless they lose both runoff elections in Georgia in early January.
This year's COVID-19 relief packages did not include any renewable energy provisions, but with the apparent victory of Vice President Joe Biden, the odds of inclusion in future bills increases if additional legislation is passed in 2021.

The Republican chairs of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and possibly the Environment and Public Works Committee, which review nominees and legislation before floor votes, face a potential leadership shake-up. Senator Lisa Murkowski’s (R-AK) tenure as chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will come to an end next year under conference rules limiting the number of years Senators can serve as Chair or Ranking Member, freeing up a spot that will be occupied by Senator John Barrasso (R-WY).

Extra coronavirus relief and several reauthorization bills, including for child nutrition programs, lead the list of priorities in January for the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee.

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO), Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry, and Natural Resources Subcommittee said focus in the 117th Congress should be on forest health, wildfire recovery, and climate change. “As a Committee, we should consider how to dramatically increase our investment in broadband, water, and other rural infrastructure,” he said.

With Senator Barrasso becoming Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) is in line to become the next Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Senator Capito has stated that a multi-year highway bill is “probably my top priority” and joined Democrats in calling for more stringent regulation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Capito played a major role in the creation of the Water Resources Development Act in the Senate in 2020.

She vowed to push the EPA to speed up the agency’s efforts to set limits for the contaminants in drinking water. “I personally am going to hold EPA’s feet to the fire until they do a protective standard,” Senator Capito. “I don’t think we can wait five years to find out what this is doing to our water. I’m going to be on EPA’s heels on this—and I don’t think I’ll be alone in that.”

Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), the Senate Environment and Public Works Ranking Member, who will remain the ranking member in the new congress, said he will continue to push for climate action where possible in committee, including making transportation infrastructure more resilient to rising sea level and other climate effects.

He also touted his ability to reach across the aisle to advance water infrastructure; more aggressive regulation of so-called forever chemicals; a still-in-the-works highway bill reauthorization; and a 2015 law that streamlined environmental permitting.
On the House side, House Energy and Commerce Democrats expect to return to Congress next year with a similar agenda: advance environmental protection and clean energy, strengthen the Affordable Care Act, and protect consumers’ data privacy.

Chairman Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ) plans to formally introduce climate legislation that aims to achieve a 100% clean economy by 2050, which some progressives say isn’t far-reaching enough.

Chairman Pallone has worked over the last year to refine the CLEAN Future Act with Energy Subcommittee Chairman Bobby Rush (D-IL) and Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee Chairman Paul Tonko (D-NY), both of whom expect to retain their leadership positions in the next Congress.

Democrats and Republicans also will seek to improve energy access, affordability, and reliability—critical issues to the country’s recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, and to parts of the U.S. that continue to suffer severe natural disasters.

Trump Administration Misses Deadline on Conservation Projects
On Monday, November 9, the Trump administration submitted a list of projects that will receive funding under a conservation program — a week after it was due to Congress.

The Great American Outdoors Act, bipartisan legislation enacted on Aug. 4, gave the Interior Department 90 days to prepare two lists of projects that would receive money under two separate conservation funds established by the legislation. Interior has failed to provide one of the lists, according to House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ). The deadline for submission was Monday, November 2.

The statute permanently provides $900 million in annual funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which helps the federal government acquire new land for parks and trails and works to protect sensitive forest and endangered species habitat.

It also provides up to $1.9 billion annually for five years dedicated to addressing a maintenance backlog at existing national parks.

The new list came as the White House also on Monday, November 9 formally delegated the responsibility to submit the list to the Interior and Agriculture departments and Interior Secretary David Bernhardt said in a letter accompanying the list that it was benign submitted “pursuant to the president’s delegation.”

The document submitted to Congress on Monday lists 20 Fish and Wildlife Service projects and 26 National Park Service projects that will receive LWCF funding. They’re located at places including part of the Everglades in Florida, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio and the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in Alaska.

President Trump’s support for funding the LWCF was something of a reversal after previously proposing significant cuts to the fund.
The Interior Department met the deadline for the list of projects that would be prioritized for maintenance, but Chairman Grijalva said officials failed to submit a list of projects that would get funds through the LWCF.

“Congress sent clear instructions to the administration: transmit a detailed LWCF project list 90 days after enactment. This is a routine task the bureaus do every year, so the fact that it’s missing is somewhat perplexing and raises a lot of questions about this administration’s intent,” he said in a statement.

**U.S. Officially Exits Paris Climate Accord**
On Wednesday, November 4, the U.S. officially left the Paris Climate Accord. The withdrawal, set in motion by a letter from President Trump exactly one year ago, caps a long-promised move from the president and leaves the U.S. as the only country in the world to withdraw from the landmark climate agreement.

“The Paris Climate Accord is simply the latest example of Washington entering into an agreement that disadvantages the United States to the exclusive benefit of other countries, leaving American workers — who I love — and taxpayers to absorb the cost in terms of lost jobs, lower wages, shuttered factories and vastly diminished economic production,” Trump said at a speech in the Rose Garden in June 2017.

The move was celebrated by many in Republican circles, even as Democrats and environmentalists lament the implications the U.S. exit will have for the climate and the American economy.

Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, however, said the deal “would have disadvantaged the U.S. economy and compromised American competitiveness.”

Former Vice President Joe Biden has said he favors signing the U.S. back up to the Paris Accord. Because the deal was set up as an executive agreement, not a treaty, congressional approval is not required. Vice President Biden has pledged to rejoin the Paris agreement on Day 1 in office if elected, a move that would leave the U.S. out of the deal for a little more than three months.

“I will bring us back into the Paris Agreement. I will put us back in the business of leading the world on climate change. And I will challenge everyone to up the ante on their climate commitments,” Vice President Biden said in a September speech on climate change as wildfires ravaged California.

**Administration Transition**
Please see below for a table of potential officials that President-elect Biden may pick for various roles in his cabinet, as well as officials that he has announced his intention to nominate.

**Officials already announced by President-Elect Biden:**
### Position
### Official
### Career History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Official</th>
<th>Career History</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief of Staff</td>
<td>Ron Klain</td>
<td>Former Chief of Staff to Joe Biden when he was VP; former Chief of Staff to VP Al Gore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief of Staff to Jill Biden</td>
<td>Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon</td>
<td>Partner at the law firm Winston &amp; Strawn; former U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay and deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Obama Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsel</td>
<td>Dana Remus</td>
<td>General counsel to Joe Biden’s campaign; deputy assistant and deputy counsel for ethics to President Obama.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselor</td>
<td>Steve Ricchetti</td>
<td>Chief of Staff to Vice President Joe Biden during the Obama administration and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations under President Bill Clinton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Chief of Staff</td>
<td>Jennifer O’Malley Dillon</td>
<td>Joe Biden’s presidential campaign manager, Former Executive Director of DNC, deputy manager of President Obama’s 2012 campaign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Oval Office Operations</td>
<td>Annie Tomasini</td>
<td>Currently Joe Biden’s traveling Chief of Staff. Former deputy Press Secretary for Joe Biden when he was VP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs</td>
<td>Julie Rodriguez</td>
<td>Deputy campaign manager of Joe Biden’s presidential campaign. served as special assistant to the president and senior deputy director of public engagement in the Obama Administration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Adviser</td>
<td>Mike Donilon</td>
<td>chief strategist for the Biden campaign; previously served as a counselor to then-Vice President Biden in the Obama White House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Adviser to Jill Biden</td>
<td>Anthony Bernal</td>
<td>Deputy campaign manager and Chief of Staff to Jill Biden during the presidential campaign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Advisor and Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement</td>
<td>Cedric Richmond</td>
<td>Currently U.S. Representative to Louisiana’s 2nd congressional district who also served as co-chairman of President-Elect Biden’s campaign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Security Adviser</td>
<td>Jake Sullivan</td>
<td>Former National Security Adviser to VP Biden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of State</td>
<td>Antony Blinken</td>
<td>Served in various roles in the Obama Administration including deputy secretary of state, assistant to the president and principal deputy national security adviser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of National Intelligence</td>
<td>Avril Haines</td>
<td>Former Deputy NSA, Former Deputy Director of the CIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Presidential Envoy for Climate</td>
<td>John Kerry</td>
<td>Former Secretary of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasury</td>
<td>Janet Yellen</td>
<td>Served as the Chair of the Federal Reserve from 2014 to 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White House Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs</td>
<td>Shuwanza Goff</td>
<td>Currently Deputy Director for Legislative Operations for House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Officials under consideration for various cabinet positions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Possible Candidate</th>
<th>Prior Administration Experience / Current Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Heidi Heitkamp</td>
<td>Former U.S. Senator from North Dakota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Karen Ross</td>
<td>Secretary of CDFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Marcia Fudge</td>
<td>Current U.S. Representative from Ohio's 11th congressional district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>David Zuckerman</td>
<td>Lieutenant Governor of Vermont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Cheri Bustos</td>
<td>Current U.S. Representative from Illinois's 17th congressional district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Chellie Pingree</td>
<td>Current U.S. Representative from Maine's 1st congressional district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Amy Klobuchar</td>
<td>Current Senator from Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Randi Weingarten</td>
<td>President of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Lily Eskelsen Garcia</td>
<td>A former teacher and former president of the National Education Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Tim Walz</td>
<td>Governor of Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Michael Bennet</td>
<td>Current U.S. Senator from Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Pete Buttigieg</td>
<td>Former Mayor of South Bend, Indiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Linda Darling-Hammond</td>
<td>Professor of Education at the Stanford Graduate School of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Jahana Hayes</td>
<td>Current U.S. Representative from Connecticut's 5th congressional district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Tony Thurmond</td>
<td>California State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Donna Shalala</td>
<td>Current U.S. Representative from Florida's 27th congressional district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Jay Inslee</td>
<td>Governor of Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Jennifer Granholm</td>
<td>Former Governor of Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Mitch Landrieu</td>
<td>Former Mayor of New Orleans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Katie McGinty</td>
<td>Former Secretary of the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Dan Reicher</td>
<td>Former Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Dept. of Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Andy Levin</td>
<td>Current U.S. Representative for Michigan's 9th congressional district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Ernest Moniz</td>
<td>Former Secretary of Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall</td>
<td>Former Deputy Secretary of Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Arun Majumdar</td>
<td>First Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA Administrator</td>
<td>Jay Inslee</td>
<td>Inslee is the governor of Washington state, and previously served in the US House of Representatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA Administrator</td>
<td>Heather McTeer Toney</td>
<td>National Field Director for Moms Clean Air Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA Administrator</td>
<td>Mary Nichols</td>
<td>Chair of the California Air Resources Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA Administrator</td>
<td>Jared Blumenfeld</td>
<td>California Secretary of Environmental Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Position/Role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Tom Carper</td>
<td>Current U.S. Senator from Delaware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Daniel Esty</td>
<td>Former Commission of the Connecticut Department of Energy &amp; Environmental Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Collin O'Mara</td>
<td>CEO of the National Wildlife Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Richard Revesz</td>
<td>NYU Law Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Mustafa Santiago Ali</td>
<td>Vice President at the National Wildlife Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Michelle Lujan Grisham</td>
<td>Former Rep. Grisham served three terms in the U.S. Congress representing New Mexico's 1st congressional district.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Vivek Murthy</td>
<td>Murthy is the co-chair of Biden's coronavirus advisory board. He previously served as the US surgeon general in the Obama Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Gina Raimondo</td>
<td>Raimondo is the first woman governor of Rhode Island. She previously served as the general treasurer of the state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Karen Bass</td>
<td>Current U.S. Representative from California’s 37th congressional district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Nicole Lurie</td>
<td>Former HHS Assistant Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Ezekiel Emanuel</td>
<td>Vice Provost for Global Initiatives at the University of Pennsylvania, Former Chief of the Dept. of Bioethics, NIH, Former Special Advisor for Health Policy to the OMB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Andy Slavitt</td>
<td>Former Acting Administrator of CMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Jack Markell</td>
<td>Former Governor of Delaware, Former State Treasurer of Delaware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Andrea Palm</td>
<td>Secretary of the Wisconsin Dept. of Human Services, Former Assistant Secretary for Health and Chief of Staff, HHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Mandy Cohen</td>
<td>Secretary of the North Carolina Dept. of Health and Human Services, Former COO and Chief of Staff of CMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Chiquita Brooks-LaSure</td>
<td>Former HHS official who helped lead the department’s steps to carry out the ACA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUD</td>
<td>Keisha Lance Bottoms</td>
<td>Mayor of Atlanta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUD</td>
<td>Eric Garcetti</td>
<td>Mayor of Los Angeles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUD</td>
<td>Karen Bass</td>
<td>Current U.S. Representative from California’s 37th congressional district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUD</td>
<td>Jesus &quot;Chuy&quot; Garcia</td>
<td>Current U.S. Representative from Illinois's 4th congressional district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUD</td>
<td>Alvin Brown</td>
<td>Former Mayor of Jacksonville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUD</td>
<td>Maurice Jones</td>
<td>Former Deputy Undersecretary of HUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUD</td>
<td>Diane Yentel</td>
<td>President and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition; Former director of the public housing management and occupancy division at HUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>Deb Haaland</td>
<td>Current congresswoman from New Mexico, and leads the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>Tom Udall</td>
<td>Current U.S. Senator from New Mexico who is retiring at the end of 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>Martin Heinrich</td>
<td>Current U.S. Senator from New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>Jamie Rappaport Clark</td>
<td>President and CEO of Defenders of Wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>John Berry</td>
<td>Former United States Ambassador to Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>Michael Connor</td>
<td>Former Interior Deputy Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>Andy Levin</td>
<td>Current Representative for Michigan's 9th Congressional district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>Bernie Sanders</td>
<td>Current third-term U.S. Senator from Vermont.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>Sara Nelson</td>
<td>international president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>Marty Walsh</td>
<td>Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>Bill Spriggs</td>
<td>Former Assistant Secretary of Labor for Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>Sharon Block</td>
<td>Former Head of Policy at the Department of Labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>Julie Su</td>
<td>Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>Tom Perez</td>
<td>Chair of the Democratic National Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>Seth Harris</td>
<td>Former Deputy Labor Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Rahm Emanuel</td>
<td>Former Chicago Mayor and Chief of Staff in Obama Administration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Eric Garcetti</td>
<td>Los Angeles Mayor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>John Porcari</td>
<td>Former Deputy Secretary of Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Janette Sadik-Khan</td>
<td>former NYC Transportation Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Jay Inslee</td>
<td>Governor of Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Earl Blumenauer</td>
<td>Current U.S. Representative from Oregon's 3rd congressional district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Beth Osborne</td>
<td>Director of Transportation for America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Eric Garcetti</td>
<td>Mayor of Los Angeles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Sponsor/ Cosponsor</td>
<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 7608</td>
<td>Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)</td>
<td>First House Minibus Appropriations Package: State, Foreign Operations, Agriculture, Rural Development, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2021</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sponsor/ Cosponsor</td>
<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 7617</td>
<td>Rep. Pete Visclosky (D-IN)</td>
<td>Second House Minibus Appropriations Package: Defense, Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Homeland Security, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL)/Senator Pat Leahy (D-VT)</td>
<td>Senate Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations bills</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R.8746/ S.4538</td>
<td>Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL)/Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)</td>
<td>Restore Employment in Natural and Environmental Work (RENEW) Act</td>
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<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.4862</td>
<td>Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)</td>
<td>Undoing NEPA’s Substantial Harm by Advancing Concepts that Kickstart the Liberation of the Economy (UNSHACKLE Act)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 8632</td>
<td>Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)</td>
<td>Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 8569/ S.4815</td>
<td>Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA)/ Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)</td>
<td>Disaster Learning and Lifesaving Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Sponsor/ Cosponsor</td>
<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 8406</td>
<td>Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)</td>
<td>The Heroes Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 4447</td>
<td>Rep. O'Halleran, Tom (D-AZ)</td>
<td>Expanding Access to Sustainable Energy Act of 2019 [Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Sponsor/ Cosponsor</td>
<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 3884/ S.2227</td>
<td>Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY) / Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA)</td>
<td>Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act of 2019</td>
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<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.4596</td>
<td>Sen. Ernst, Joni (R-IA)</td>
<td>Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020</td>
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<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 7575</td>
<td>Rep. DeFazio (D-OR)</td>
<td>Water Resources Development Act of 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 6084</td>
<td>Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)</td>
<td>Water Power Research and Development Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Sponsor/ Cosponsor</td>
<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 2</td>
<td>Rep. DeFazio (D-OR)</td>
<td>Moving Forward Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 6622</td>
<td>Rep. David McKinley (R-WV)</td>
<td>Assuring Quality Water Infrastructure Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Sponsor/ Cosponsor</td>
<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R.6800</td>
<td>Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)</td>
<td>The HEROES Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Sponsor / Cosponsor</td>
<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>S.3752 / H.R.6954</td>
<td>Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) / Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) / Reps. Mikie Sherril (D-NJ) / Rep. Peter King (R-NY)</td>
<td>SMART Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R.7073 / S.4308</td>
<td>Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) / Sen. Krysten Sinema (D-AZ)</td>
<td>Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Sponsor/ Cosponsor</td>
<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.3591</td>
<td>Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) / Tom Carper (D-DE)</td>
<td>America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3590</td>
<td>Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) / Tom Carper (D-DE)</td>
<td>Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Sponsor/ Cosponsor</td>
<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.1932</td>
<td>Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) / Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)</td>
<td>Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Legislation</td>
<td>Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)</td>
<td>FUTURE Drought Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. 2356</td>
<td>Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN)</td>
<td>Define WOTUS Act of 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Sponsor/ Cosponsor</td>
<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. 1087</td>
<td>Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)</td>
<td>Water Quality Certification Improvement Act of 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 1764</td>
<td>Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)</td>
<td>The bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Sponsor/ Cosponsor</td>
<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R.1497</td>
<td>Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR)</td>
<td>Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Sponsor/ Cosponsor</td>
<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 1508 / S. 146</td>
<td>Rep. Blumenauer (D-OR) / Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)</td>
<td>Move America Act of 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R.1162</td>
<td>Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)</td>
<td>Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. 361/H.R. 807</td>
<td>Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) / Rep. Ken Buck (R-CO)</td>
<td>Water and Agriculture Tax Reform Act of 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Sponsor/ Cosponsor</td>
<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R.579</td>
<td>Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO)</td>
<td>Water Rights Protection Act of 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R.34</td>
<td>Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)</td>
<td>Energy and Water Research Integration Act of 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 2313</td>
<td>Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)</td>
<td>Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
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<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R.1747</td>
<td>Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA)</td>
<td>National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1419</td>
<td>Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)</td>
<td>Early Participation in Regulations Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
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<td>Title and/or Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. 1087</td>
<td>Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)</td>
<td>Water Quality Certification Improvement Act of 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 1695</td>
<td>Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)</td>
<td>Community Services Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2019</td>
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<td>H.R. 1744</td>
<td>Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA)</td>
<td>S.T.O.R.A.G.E. Act (Storage Technology for Operational Readiness And Generating Energy Act) Energy Storage Systems by Electric Utilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 579</td>
<td>Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO)</td>
<td>Water Rights Protection Act of 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>H. R. 855</td>
<td>Rep. Scott Peters  (D-CA)</td>
<td>STRONG (Strengthening the Resiliency of our Nation on the Ground Act) Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.420 /H.R. 1120</td>
<td>Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) / Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)</td>
<td>Marijuana Revenue and Regulation Act</td>
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<td>H.R. 3794</td>
<td>Rep. Paul A. Gosar (R-AZ)</td>
<td>Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. 1344</td>
<td>Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Tim Scott (R-SC)</td>
<td>Reinstate Opportunity Zone Data Mandates</td>
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<td>H.R.535</td>
<td>Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI)</td>
<td>PFAS Action Act of 2019</td>
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<td>H.R.4236</td>
<td>Rep. Quigley, Mike (D-IL)</td>
<td>Reducing Waste in National Parks Act</td>
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<td>S.3263 / H.R.5845</td>
<td>Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)</td>
<td>Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act of 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 8337</td>
<td>Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)</td>
<td>Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>S. 3051</td>
<td>Sen. John Barrasso (D-WY)</td>
<td>America's Conservation Enhancement Act</td>
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</table>
Date: November 30, 2020

To: Inland Empire Utilities Agency

From: John Withers, Jim Brulte

Re: California Strategies, LLC November 2020 Activity Report

1. This month Jim Brulte and John Withers participated in the monthly senior staff meeting November 3rd via Microsoft Teams due to the Coronavirus.

2. There was ongoing discussion of the MEU rate and the issues associated with fee calculation and billing. IEUA received a letter from five member agencies requesting that IEUA bill the agencies directly rather than through Water Facilities Authority.

3. There was a discussion related to the Chino Basin Project. Staff is awaiting a response from member agencies and reconfiguring the Program with corresponding outreach plan. IEUA will continue to work with the Cal Water Commission and MWD to address stakeholder concerns. Goal is to make a go/no go decision.

4. Urban Water Management Plan. City of Ontario is taking the lead on the study. IEUA General Manager meeting with Scott Burton Nov 4 to discuss.

(Withers left the meeting at this time)

5. Calstrat was asked about its relationships with members of the San Antonio Water Company. Our firm has strong relationships with 3 of the Board members. Follow-up discussions with staff were held regarding the agency.

6. Senator Brulte (Ret.) had a follow up conversation with Kathy Besser regarding surveying local elected officials.

7. Senator Brulte (Ret.) had a follow up conversation with the General Manager about ways to reach out to local elected officials.