



Government Affairs and Community
Outreach Committee Meeting and Special
Meeting of the Board of Directors

Wednesday, June 03, 2026
4:30 P.M.

Committee Members:

Anthony R. Fellow, Chair
Edward Chavez, Vice-Chair

*The Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee meeting is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to the Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee may attend and participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the Committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to the Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee will not vote on matters before the Committee.

Communications

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment

Discussion/Action

3. Legislative Update
 - a. Washington D.C.
 - b. Sacramento
4. Review of State Legislation Positions and Status

Oral Reports

5. Conservation Outreach Review – Summer Programs

Other Matters

- 6.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 1, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

American Disabilities Act Compliance (Government Code Section 54954.2(a))



To request special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District office at (626) 443-2297.





Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

May 26, 2026

Ana Schwab, Lowry Crook, Michael Brain, Madeline Voitier, Chris Keosian, and Alex Dunn

Congress



On April 30, 2026, Congress resolved the impasse over funding the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) by passing the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) funding bill—H.R. 7147, the Homeland Security and Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026. President Trump swiftly signed the legislation into law later that same day, officially ending the nearly three-month DHS shutdown.

The compromise—brokered in the Senate and approved by the House—fully funds the Coast Guard, Secret Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), along with other sub-agencies within DHS that do not pertain to immigration enforcement. Funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) was purposefully excluded from the agreement, to be picked up in a separate reconciliation package currently being debated by the U.S. Senate. Concerns over the Trump Administration’s immigration enforcement tactics was the core driver of the shutdown, and Democrats remained unified in opposing additional funding for those agencies without added guardrails. Ultimately, Democrats did not secure policy concessions from the Trump Administration regarding immigration enforcement. Both ICE and CBP continue to operate using surplus funds appropriated in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025.

As noted above, Congressional Republicans are now working to fund ICE and CBP through the party-line reconciliation process. Budget reconciliation requires only a simple majority in the Senate rather than the 60 votes typically needed for appropriations legislation. Congressional Republican leadership is also currently discussing a separate “Reconciliation 3.0” legislative vehicle to enact many of the Trump Administration’s legislative priorities prior to November’s midterm elections. However, discussions remain fluid and substantive details remain limited.



Additionally, the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) appropriations cycle is now underway as congressional appropriators have begun the annual hearing and markup process (more information below). The House of Representatives also recently passed its reauthorization of the Farm Bill, which encompasses agricultural policy and nutrition assistance programs. The Farm Bill now awaits consideration in the Senate, but controversy over provisions regulating E15 ethanol production and the application of certain pesticides in agriculture could cause issues between the House and Senate versions of the legislation.

Looking ahead, Congress faces an increasingly crowded legislative calendar this summer as the FY27 funding deadline approaches this fall and midterm election activity intensifies. Significant items on the summer agenda include surface transportation reauthorization (the “Highway Bill”), the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and work between lawmakers in both chambers to reconcile differences between competing House and Senate housing affordability reform proposals.

The scope of activity and competing priorities will require congressional leadership to sequence negotiations carefully and, where possible, rely on procedural tools that allow for expedited action—leaving little margin for delay in the months ahead.

House Republicans Forced to Postpone Consideration of ESA Reform Legislation

On April 22, 2026, House Republican leaders postponed consideration of legislation that would significantly revise the Endangered Species Act (ESA) after internal opposition emerged from lawmakers within the party concerned about potential impacts on offshore drilling and wildlife protections.

The proposed bill, championed by House Natural Resources Committee Chair Bruce Westerman (R-AK-04), aimed to increase consideration of economic impacts when listing species as endangered and to limit lawsuits from environmental organizations, reflecting long-standing Republican efforts to reduce regulatory barriers to development projects.

However, several Republican lawmakers, especially from Florida, raised objections to provisions that could expand the authority of the so-called “God Squad,” a federal panel empowered to exempt projects from ESA requirements even if endangered species are harmed. Critics argued that the bill could weaken environmental safeguards and increase risks to sensitive ecosystems and coastal economies dependent on tourism and conservation. Supporters maintained that reforms are necessary because the current law has not effectively recovered many listed species and can hinder energy and infrastructure projects.

Although party leaders and bill sponsors indicated the legislation could return after revisions, its future remains uncertain as negotiations continue within the House Republican Conference.

Federal Budget/Appropriations



Appropriators Express Concerns Regarding Proposed USFS Reorganization and Cuts

At recent congressional hearings on the U.S. Forest Service’s Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget request, lawmakers in both chambers raised concerns about the proposed reorganization of the U.S. Forest Service and significant funding reductions outlined in the Trump Administration’s request.

During an April 16, 2026, U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior & Environment hearing, Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz testified that the proposal seeks approximately \$2.1 billion in discretionary funding, roughly \$6.5 billion below enacted FY26 levels. Chief Schultz testified that the request prioritizes core activities such as timber production, grazing, recreation, and National Forest System management. It would also eliminate or reduce funding for several programs, including forest and rangeland research, state and private forestry, and wildland fire management accounts. A central feature of the proposal is the proposed transfer of federal wildland fire responsibilities, including more than 11,000 personnel, to a new entity within the Department of the Interior.

Lawmakers, including Subcommittee Chairman Mike Simpson (R-ID-02) and Ranking Member Chellie Pingree (D-ME-01), highlighted the policy implications of this shift and the lack of detailed information needed for Congress to appropriately evaluate the proposal. They noted that wildfire management changes could significantly affect forest health, public safety, watershed conditions, and water supply reliability across the West. Chief Schultz indicated that an independent feasibility study on the proposed consolidation is forthcoming and may take up to six months to complete.

In a subsequent Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior & Environment hearing on April 30, 2026, Senators reiterated concerns about whether the agency can maintain adequate staffing and operational capacity under the proposed restructuring. Subcommittee Chair Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) emphasized the need to ensure sufficient



personnel to meet land management and wildfire preparedness responsibilities, particularly in light of forecasts for an intense fire season.

During the Senate hearing, Chief Schultz reported that the agency is actively hiring to fill approximately 1,600 positions and has recruited nearly 9,700 firefighters, slightly ahead of the prior year's pace. Some Senators, however, including Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), raised concerns about the proposed elimination of research funding and the potential closure or consolidation of research facilities in their states. Chief Schultz responded that while facilities may be reconfigured or shared with other federal entities, the agency intends to retain its research functions and personnel.

While the FY27 appropriations process is still in its early stages, the response from appropriators in both chambers suggests Congress may be unlikely to fully embrace the Administration's sweeping reform proposals and budget reductions for the Forest Service.

Appropriators Press DHS on Budget Cuts and Disaster Readiness as Shutdown Ends

On April 16, 2026, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on the Department of Homeland Security's Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget request. Lawmakers raised concerns about proposed funding cuts and the operational toll of the extended partial government shutdown that paralyzed DHS components for nearly three months. As noted above, Congress subsequently resolved the impasse on April 30, 2026, when it passed the FY26 funding bill for DHS.

The compromise fully funded the DHS subordinate agencies that testified at this hearing, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the Coast Guard, the Secret Service, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) was left out of the agreement, reflecting the core dispute that drove the shutdown. Those sub-agencies, however, continue to operate using surplus funds appropriated under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025, and Congressional Republican leadership plans to pursue five additional years of ICE and CBP funding through the budget reconciliation process this summer.

Witnesses from each of the five agencies testified to the operational toll of the lapse, citing unpaid personnel, delayed technology deployment, and stalled hiring and security clearance processes. The Administration's FY27 request proposes \$63 billion for DHS overall—a \$2.2 billion or 3.3-percent decrease from the FY26 Continuing Resolution level—and includes a \$1.3 billion reduction to FEMA's non-disaster grant programs, which fund state and local preparedness and first responder activities.



During the hearing, lawmakers raised concerns about the adequacy of FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund heading into wildfire season. Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ-06) noted that the fund stood at approximately \$3.36 billion due to the funding lapse and pressed FEMA Administrator Karen Evans on whether full-year FY26 Appropriations would be sufficient or whether supplemental resources would be required. Administrator Evans testified that, under full-year FY26 Appropriations and current assumptions, FEMA does not anticipate needing a supplemental at this time—but cautioned that operating the agency under another continuing resolution scenario in FY27 would require a reassessment. Evans acknowledged that active wildfires, ongoing Pacific disaster recovery, and a growing backlog of prior-year obligations leave the agency concerned about its ability to respond to new disasters should conditions deteriorate.

Subcommittee Chairman Mark Amodei (R-NV-02) expressed frustration that House-passed FY26 DHS funding bills had stalled in the Senate, while members on both sides of the aisle praised agency personnel for sustaining operations under constrained conditions. Ranking Member Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14) and other Democratic members raised concerns about FEMA workforce reductions, the potential for religious discrimination in grant awards, and the Administration's proposal to privatize TSA screening operations. Republican members pressed agencies on cyber defenses against threats from China and Iran, FEMA's readiness ahead of wildfire season, and the Secret Service's preparations for the 2028 Olympics and the upcoming presidential campaign cycle.

While the resolution of the funding lapse provides near-term relief for FEMA, TSA, CISA, and other funded components, the FY27 Appropriations process remains in its early stages. The response from members of both parties suggests Congress may resist the Administration's most significant proposed reductions—particularly cuts to FEMA grants and the TSA privatization proposal—as agencies work to recover from the disruptions of the extended shutdown and manage an active disaster season.



House Energy and Water Subcommittee Releases and Marks-Up FY27 Appropriations Bill

On May 14, 2026, the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water released its Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Appropriations bill. The Subcommittee marked up and approved the bill the next day, and on May 20, 2026, the full House Appropriations Committee approved the legislation.

The Committee rejected many of the steepest cuts proposed by the Trump Administration in the FY27 President's Budget Request, and favorably considered many of the accounts Upper Water supported in its FY27 Appropriations advocacy letter to the Subcommittee.

Notable appropriations include:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- \$1.86 billion in total FY27 funding for the agency
 - Up from \$1.3 billion in President's FY27 Budget Request
- \$1.6 billion for Reclamation's Water and Related resources account
 - Up from \$1.112 billion in President's FY27 Budget Request
 - Up from \$1.47 billion enacted in FY26
- \$41 million for the WaterSMART Title XVI Program
 - Up from \$0 in President's FY27 Budget Request
 - Up from \$12.5 million enacted in FY26
- \$12 million for WaterSMART Grants
 - Up from \$0 in President's FY27 Budget Request
 - Down \$3 million from FY26 enacted
- \$201 million for WIIN Act Water Storage Projects
 - Up from \$0 in President's FY27 Budget Request
 - Up from \$50 million FY26 enacted
 - These funds could support water storage projects in California including Sites Reservoir, Shasta Dam, and/or B.F. Sisk Dam
- \$112.61 million for the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund
 - Equal to President's FY27 Budget Request
- **\$5.05 million** for the **San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund**
 - Up from \$0 in President's FY27 Budget Request
 - Up from \$3.24 million enacted in FY26
- \$32 million for California Bay-Delta Restoration
 - Equal to FY27 President's Budget Request and FY26 enacted
- \$915,000 for Salton Sea Research Project



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program

- \$9.775 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works program
 - Up from \$6.663 billion in President’s FY27 Budget Request
 - Down from \$10.441 billion FY26 enacted
- \$2.382 billion for USACE Construction
 - Up from \$1.3 billion in President’s FY27 Budget Request
 - Down from \$3.2 billion FY26 enacted
- \$5 million for USACE WIFIA Program
 - Up from \$0 in President’s FY27 Budget Request
 - Down from \$7 million FY26 enacted

The next step for the FY27 Energy and Water Appropriations bill is to be considered and passed on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. The U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations is expected to draft and consider its version of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill later this year, which will then be sent to the Senate floor.

Once both chambers have passed their versions of the legislation, a Conference Committee will resolve any differences between the bills. Both chambers must then pass the final “confereced” version of the bill, before it can be sent to the President to be signed and enacted into law.

The numbers discussed in this report, which comprise the House Subcommittee’s bill, are subject to change throughout this negotiating process, and should not be considered final until enacted into law.

House Interior and Environment Subcommittee Releases and Marks-Up FY27 Appropriations Bill

On May 20, 2026, the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Environment released its Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Appropriations bill. The Subcommittee marked up and approved the bill the next day, and the full House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to consider the legislation on June 3, 2026.

In the \$39.8 billion bill, the Subcommittee rejected many of the steepest cuts proposed by the Trump Administration in the FY27 President’s Budget Request, and favorably considered many of the accounts Upper Water supported in its FY27 Appropriations advocacy letter to the Subcommittee.



Overall, funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was cut by 20% in the measure—after being cut by 4% last year. In addition, funding cuts were proposed for many agencies within the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)—despite an overall increase in DOI appropriations—reflecting the ongoing pressures and dynamics in the federal budgetary environment.

Notable appropriations include:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- \$7.04 billion in total funding for the agency
 - Up from \$4.2 billion in President’s FY27 Budget Request (proposed 52% cut)
 - Down from \$8.84 billion FY26 enacted (proposed \$1.8 billion/20% reduction)
- \$3.7 billion for State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)
 - Up from \$738 million President’s FY27 Budget Request
 - Down \$713.2 million (16.2%) from FY26 enacted
- \$2.102 billion for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program
 - \$1.192 billion for the Clean Water SRF
 - Up from \$155 million President’s FY27 Budget Request
 - Down from \$1.693 billion FY26 enacted
 - \$910 million for the Drinking Water SRF
 - Up from \$150 million FY27 President’s Budget Request
 - Down from \$1.126 billion FY26 enacted
- \$64 million for the WIFIA Program
 - Up from \$7.2 million President’s FY27 Budget Request
 - Down from \$72 million FY26 enacted
- \$5.2 billion for U.S. Forest Service Wildland Fire Management
 - Down from \$6.9 billion President’s FY27 Budget Request
 - Up from \$4.9 billion FY26 enacted

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)

- \$15.24 billion in total funding for the agency
 - Down from \$15.9 billion President’s FY27 Budget Request
 - Up \$694 million from FY26 enacted
- \$1.28 billion for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
 - Up from \$936.1 million President’s FY27 Budget Request
 - Down \$59.6 million (-4.4%) from FY26 enacted
- \$1.57 billion for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
 - Up from \$1.3 billion President’s FY27 Budget Request



- Down \$82.4 million (5%) from FY26 enacted
- \$3.23 billion for the National Parks Service (NPS)
 - Up from \$2.21 billion President's FY27 Budget Request
 - Down from \$37 million (1.3%) from FY26 enacted
- \$1.37 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
 - Up from \$892.7 million President's FY27 Budget Request
 - Down \$52.5 million (\$3.7) from FY26 enacted
- \$1.54 billion for the (recently proposed to be expanded) U.S. Wildland Firefighting Service
 - Down from \$6.91 billion President's FY27 Budget Request
 - Up \$36 million (3.05%) from FY26 enacted (FY26 funded the service under its previous mission, prior to the Trump Administration's proposed expansion, which is still being discussed in Congress)

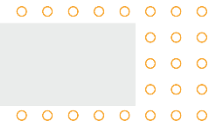
The next step for the FY27 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill is to be considered and passed by both the full U.S. House Committee on Appropriations, and then on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. The U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations will draft and consider its version of the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill later this year, which will then be sent to the Senate floor.

Once both chambers have passed their versions of the legislation, a Conference Committee will resolve any differences between the bills. Both chambers must then pass the final "confereced" version of the bill, before it can be sent to the President to be signed and enacted into law.

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Administration/Agency



Interior Adopts “Full Suppression” Wildfire Strategy Under New Centralized Fire Service

The Department of the Interior (Interior) is implementing a new wildfire management strategy under Secretary Doug Burgum that emphasizes “full suppression” of all wildfires on public lands. In an April 8, 2026 memorandum, Secretary Burgum directed Interior’s newly established Wildland Fire Service to prioritize extinguishing every fire—marking a shift from prior practices that allowed some fires to burn under controlled conditions. The directive comes as agencies are preparing for a potentially severe wildfire season driven by dry conditions across much of the West.

The U.S. Wildland Fire Service, created in January 2026 and housed within the Interior, consolidates firefighting personnel and resources from multiple Interior agencies under a single command structure, including the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service. The reorganization has already transferred roughly 4,000 employees into the agency and the Trump Administration aims to grow it to 13,000 staffers, according to its FY27 Budget Request. Interior officials state that the centralized structure is intended to improve coordination, streamline decision-making, and enhance response capacity across approximately 500 million acres of federal land.

The policy shift has raised concerns among wildfire experts and former officials who argue that a strict suppression approach may conflict with established land management practices. Current wildfire science supports the use of “prescribed burns” to reduce fuel loads and maintain ecosystem health. Critics warn that abandoning these strategies could increase long-term wildfire risk.

Interior’s implementation plan preserves a limited role for prescribed burns but subjects them to tighter controls, including centralized approval requirements and restrictions during periods of elevated fire activity. At the same time, the transition shifts key authorities—such as cooperative agreements and fire management decisions—from land management agencies to the new fire service, raising questions about how expertise will be integrated across agencies. The plan also leaves unresolved whether the U.S. Forest Service, which manages a significant share of federal wildfire response, will ultimately be incorporated into the new structure. It remains unclear whether congressional approval is



required to transfer those firefighting functions to the Interior department—a move Congress declined to approve last year.

President Trump Nominates Cameron Hamilton to Lead FEMA

On May 11, 2026, President Donald Trump nominated Cameron Hamilton to permanently lead the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Hamilton served as FEMA Acting Administrator in 2025 but was removed after publicly opposing efforts to eliminate the agency. The nomination reflects a broader shift within the Trump Administration away from earlier proposals to dismantle FEMA.

If confirmed, Hamilton would oversee an agency facing operational challenges tied to staffing losses, administrative disruptions, and preparations for the upcoming disaster season. Hamilton has advocated for significant reforms to FEMA, arguing that the agency should operate more efficiently and that states should take greater responsibility in disaster management. The U.S. Senate will now begin the vetting and confirmation process for Hamilton’s nomination.

BLM Removes Conservation as “Beneficial Use” of Public Land

On May 12, 2026, the U.S. Department of the Interior formally published plans to rescind the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Conservation and Landscape Health Rule. This policy was adopted during the Biden Administration and formally recognized conservation and ecosystem restoration as “uses” of public lands alongside activities such as energy development, recreation, and grazing.

According to the agency, the repeal is intended to emphasize multiple-use land management, increase local decision-making authority, and align public land policies with the current Administration’s energy and resource development priorities. Supporters of the changes—including energy and livestock industry organizations—argue that the revisions reduce regulatory burdens and restore balance in land management practices. Meanwhile, environmental groups contend that these actions weaken conservation protections, reduce public oversight, and could increase environmental degradation associated with resource extraction and grazing activities.

Senate Confirms BLM Director Pearce

On May 18, 2026, the U.S. Senate confirmed former New Mexico Representative Steve Pearce as the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), making him the first permanent leader of the agency during President Trump’s Administration. Pearce’s



confirmation, approved largely along party lines as part of a broader package of nominees, comes as BLM undergoes significant policy and organizational changes affecting federal land management, energy development, grazing regulations, and wildfire services.

Supporters, including several Republican lawmakers, described Pearce as experienced and well-suited to oversee the agency’s responsibilities across millions of acres of public land and mineral resources. Critics, however, raised concerns about his longstanding connections to the energy industry and previous support for public land sales, while emphasizing the need for accountability in protecting public lands and enforcing environmental laws.

EPA Seeks Public Comment on Recently Proposed PFAS Drinking Water Rule Revisions

The following is a legal alert [published](#) by BBK on May 26, 2026:

On May 18, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced two different proposed rules that would both significantly revise the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) for several PFAS under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which were implemented during President Biden’s Administration.

Proposed Rule to Rescind Regulatory Determinations and Drinking Water Limits for Select PFAS Chains

The [first proposed rule](#) would rescind the regulatory determinations and drinking water limits for four PFAS — including PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA (GenX Chemicals), as well as Hazard Index mixtures of these three PFAS chains, plus PFBS. The EPA argues this action is necessary because the previous Administration did not adhere to the procedural requirements of the SDWA when it simultaneously issued regulatory determinations, Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) and enforceable drinking water limits, known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for these PFAS.

Proposed Rule to Allow for System to Request Extension of PFOA and PFOS Compliance Deadline

The [second proposed rule](#) would retain the existing MCLs for PFOA and PFOS at four parts per trillion (ppt) individually and allow for drinking water systems to apply for a two-year compliance extension—moving the deadline from April 26, 2029, to April 26, 2031. The compliance extension would not be automatic.



Drinking water systems would need to affirmatively apply and demonstrate eligibility criteria established in the final rule. Water systems that do not pursue an extension would remain subject to the original 2029 compliance deadline. The EPA stated in its announcement that “[t]his design ensures that systems prepared to meet 2029 are not slowed down, while systems facing legitimate implementation hurdles have a transparent, accountable path to additional time.”

Under the proposal, systems with PFOA or PFOS concentrations at or above 12 ppt would still be required to implement short-term exposure reduction measures during any extension period.

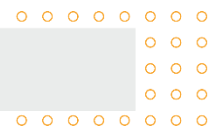
In tandem with the proposed rules, the EPA announced nearly \$1 billion in grant funding to address PFAS and other emerging contaminants in drinking water through the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant.

For both proposed rules, the EPA is seeking public comments for 60 days, with comments due on **July 20, 2026**.

The agency will also host a public hearing on **July 7, 2026**. Registration is required, and the last day to pre-register to provide public comment is **July 1, 2026**. Registration for the hearing is available [here](#).

BBK is available to assist interested clients in submitting comments on the proposed rules, either independently or through BBK’s Protecting Our Water, Environment, and Ratepayers (POWER!) Coalition. For additional information, please contact Ana Schwab.

Judicial/Courts



Supreme Court Ruling Reshapes Congressional Redistricting Landscape

On April 29, 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a landmark ruling in *Louisiana v. Callais*. The 6–3 decision, split along the Justices’ ideological lines, significantly limits the application of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA)—a central provision historically used to challenge voting maps that disadvantage racial minorities. Although the Court did not declare Section 2 unconstitutional, it reinterpreted its scope by requiring plaintiffs to demonstrate intentional discrimination when contesting electoral maps. Previously, it was



often sufficient to show that district boundaries reduced minority voters' ability to elect candidates of their choice.

The ruling arose from a dispute in Louisiana, where the state was compelled to create a second majority-Black congressional district under Section 2 of the VRA in 2024 following a previous legal challenge to the state's 2022 redistricting plan. In *Callais*, the Supreme Court determined that this action relied too heavily on race and therefore violated constitutional protections for the plaintiffs.

The decision is expected to have substantial implications for redistricting nationwide. By raising the legal standard for proving violations, it may make it more difficult to challenge maps that dilute minority voting strength. This shift could encourage states—particularly those with unified Republican control of the legislature—to redraw district boundaries in ways that alter existing majority-minority districts. As a result, the ruling could affect electoral outcomes, including the composition of the U.S. House of Representatives—especially in the South, where such “VRA districts” are more prevalent and have historically elected Democratic lawmakers.

At the same time, the decision could create opportunities for Democrats in states under their control. In heavily Democratic states, loosening VRA constraints may enable mapmakers to disperse minority voters across districts to maximize overall partisan advantage—an approach that has historically been constrained by requirements to preserve majority-minority districts. The timing is notable, as it coincides with an unusual wave of mid-decade redistricting efforts by both major political parties seeking favorable district boundaries ahead of November's midterm elections.

The Court's majority opinion emphasized constitutional concerns, arguing that earlier interpretations of Section 2 of the VRA sometimes compelled states to engage in race-based decision-making that conflicts with equal protection principles. In contrast, the dissenting justices argued that the ruling weakens one of the last effective tools for addressing racial discrimination in voting and may lead to a decline in minority representation. Legal scholars and civil rights organizations have similarly expressed concern that the decision reduces the practical ability to enforce the tenets of the Voting Rights Act, even if the statute remains formally intact.

Overall, the ruling introduces new uncertainty into how states will approach redistricting and how courts will evaluate future claims of voting discrimination—with potential long-term consequences for political representation and electoral outcomes in the United States Congress. For more detailed information on the ruling, see BBK's recent [Legal Alert](#).



BBK

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FEDERAL REPORT



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Aaron Read & Associates, LLC

LEGISLATIVE AND
GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATION

Date: May 27, 2026

To: Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee, Upper San Gabriel Valley
Municipal Water District

Re: Legislative Update

As we head into the summer season, California's water infrastructure systems will be under the microscope. We will see if the late spring rainfall this year was enough for California to avoid a summer of drought-like conditions.

For the capitol community, the month of May was eventful to say the least. The Governor announced his budget revision which coincided with the Appropriations Committee dispensing with the suspense file.

By the time of writing, we are tracking developments regarding the May 29th deadline for each house to pass bills that were introduced in that house, as well as the June 2nd primary election for Governor.

When our June 3rd meeting rolls around, we will have a better sense of what bills will reach the Governor's desk come September and know the two in the running to be California's next Governor.

LEGISLATION

The following bills represent the active legislation that we are currently tracking.

These bills span a range of policy areas directly relevant to Upper Water's operations and strategic interests, including invasive mussel management and groundwater replenishment protections, State Water Project permitting, wildfire preparedness for water utilities, water affordability infrastructure, and Delta conveyance reliability.

Upper Water has taken formal support positions on the majority of these measures and has engaged directly — through letters of support and coalition sign-ons.

AB 2215 (Calderon), which extends State Water Project water rights permit deadlines to 2046, is scheduled for an Assembly floor vote. By the time of our June 3rd meeting, we will have the outcomes of that bill and will report back.

AB 2032, AB 2739, and SB 1153 have already passed their house of origin and are advancing to the second chamber, which reflects meaningful legislative momentum on issues of direct importance to Upper Water.

Unfortunately, AB 1893 and SB 1001 were both held in its respective appropriation suspense files and are now unmovable for the 2025-26 legislative session.

BILL SUMMARY TABLE MAY 27, 2026

| Bill | Topic | Author | Position | Status |
|---|---|------------------|----------------|---|
| AB 35 | Prop 4 Bond Act: APA Exemption for Program Guidelines | Alvarez, D | Support | Senate Natural Resources and Water |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Proposition 4 (2024) authorized \$10 billion in bonds for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparedness, and clean air programs. This bill would exempt regulations needed to implement Prop 4 programs from the Administrative Procedure Act, streamlining the rulemaking process. State entities receiving grant funds would still be required to develop and post draft solicitation and evaluation guidelines through the Natural Resources Agency.</p> | | | | |
| <p>NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS</p> <p>AB 35 is in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. The committee will schedule a hearing to consider the bill. If approved, it proceeds to Senate Appropriations, then the Senate Floor. If passed by the Senate, it returns to the Assembly for concurrence.</p> | | | | |
| AB 1772 | Fish and Wildlife: Invasive Mussels — Drying Period & Plan Updates | Papan, D | Support | Passed — Next Chamber |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Would require a conveyance not to be launched until a specified drying period has completed to prevent invasive mussel spread. Would also require water supply system operators to update their control plans to address all invasive mussel species present in their water systems as of January 1, 2026. Extends existing law on invasive mussels beyond dreissenid mussels to any nonnative detrimental mussel.</p> | | | | |
| <p>NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS</p> <p>AB 1772 is on the Assembly Third Reading File (#52) for TODAY, May 27, 2026. A floor vote is imminent. If passed by the Assembly, it moves to the Senate for committee hearings and a Senate floor vote.</p> | | | | |
| AB 1894 | Invasive Mussels: Imported Water Deliveries for Groundwater Replenishment | Rubio, Blanca, D | Support | Senate Natural Resources and Water |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Directly relevant to Upper Water's operations. This bill would prohibit a public agency from banning imported water deliveries for groundwater replenishment due to the presence of invasive mussels unless there is substantial, documented evidence of a proven health and safety risk. Protects the ability of agencies like Upper Water to continue groundwater replenishment programs even when invasive mussels are detected.</p> | | | | |
| <p>NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS</p> <p>AB 1894 has been referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water. The committee will schedule a hearing. If approved, it moves to Senate Appropriations, then the Senate Floor.</p> | | | | |

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|--------------------|---|-----------|----------------|------------------------------|
| AB 2032 | Fish and Wildlife: Golden Mussels — Restricted Species Permit Exemption | Ransom, D | Support | Passed — Next Chamber |
|--------------------|---|-----------|----------------|------------------------------|

Summary

URGENCY BILL — Takes effect immediately upon signature. Would exempt from the restricted species permit requirement any public or private water supply system operator that has submitted a control plan to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for maintenance and operational activities to control the spread of golden mussels in the water supply system. Highly relevant given ongoing golden mussel infestation concerns in California water systems.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS
 AB 2032 passed the Assembly on May 26, 2026 with an urgency clause and is now at the Senate Desk awaiting referral to committee. It will be referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water and Senate Appropriations. Given the urgency clause, expedited handling is likely. Governor signature required for immediate effect.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| AB 2125 | Groundwater Basin Adjudication: Notice Affidavit Requirements | Bennett, D | Watch | Senate Judiciary |
|--------------------|---|------------|--------------|-------------------------|

Summary

Would impose additional procedural requirements when a plaintiff files a notice of completion of mailing in a groundwater basin adjudication. The plaintiff would be required to include an affidavit from the person who completed the mailing, plus certified/registered mail delivery receipts for each parcel. Upper Water's Watch position indicates monitoring for potential impacts on adjudicated groundwater basins.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS
 AB 2125 is double-referred to Senate Judiciary AND Senate Natural Resources and Water. Senate Judiciary hearing is scheduled for June 9, 2026.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| AB 2215 | Water Rights: Permits: State Water Project — 2046 Deadline Extension | Calderon, D | Support | Assembly 3rd Reading |
|--------------------|--|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------|

Summary

Would set December 31, 2046 as the deadline for the Department of Water Resources to apply water to beneficial use and complete construction work under specific State Water Project water right permits. Provides regulatory certainty for SWP operations. Upper Water joined a coalition letter of support on March 13, 2026.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS
 AB 2215 is on the Assembly Third Reading File (#16) for TODAY, May 27, 2026 — a floor vote is imminent. If passed by the Assembly, it moves to the Senate for committee hearings.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--|------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| AB 2568 | Water District Directors: Compensation | Johnson, R | Watch | Senate Local Gov |
|--------------------|--|------------|--------------|-------------------------|

Summary

Authorizes specified water districts to compensate its board members for up to 15, instead of 10, days a month.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

AB 2568 passed the Assembly on May 11, 2026 and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Local Government.

**AB
2619**

Water Resources: Data
Centers

Papan, D

Watch

**Assembly 3rd
Reading**

Summary

Requires data center developers to provide information on water use to water suppliers and local governments prior to being issued a business license and upon renewal of a business license, and requires urban water suppliers to consider data center demand in water shortage planning.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

AB 2619 is on the Assembly Third Reading File (#125) for TODAY, May 27, 2026 — a floor vote is imminent. If passed by the Assembly, it moves to the Senate for committee hearings.

**AB
2739**

Water Affordability and
System Stabilization Fund

Soria, D

Support

**Passed — Next
Chamber**

Summary

Would establish the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund and Trust in the State Treasury, with the Treasurer as trustee. The fund would provide a growing, perpetual source of annual funding to the Water Rate Assistance Fund and Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund beginning 25 years after the Legislature transfers General Fund moneys into the trust. Implements the state's human right to water policy.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

AB 2739 passed the Assembly on May 26, 2026 and is at the Senate Desk. It will be referred to the Senate for committee hearings.

SB 58

Air Quality: Hydrogen Sulfide
Health-Based Threshold

Padilla, D

Watch

**Assembly Natural
Resources**

Summary

Would require the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to develop health-based threshold levels for hydrogen sulfide by January 1, 2030. At least three public workshops would be required, including in the Tijuana River Valley and Salton Sea regions. Watch position suggests monitoring for potential operational implications for wastewater treatment or water infrastructure.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

SB 58 is in Assembly Natural Resources Committee. A hearing will be scheduled. If approved, it moves to Assembly Appropriations, then the Assembly Floor. If passed, it returns to the Senate for concurrence.

SB 149

Public Resources Trailer Bill
— Invasive Mussels
Expansion

Committee on
Budget and Fiscal
Review

Support

**Assembly 3rd
Reading**

Summary

Budget trailer bill that would expand the scope of invasive mussel provisions to cover all invasive mussels (defined as any nonnative detrimental mussel species), beyond the current dreissenid mussel scope.

Aligns with other invasive mussel bills tracked this session. As a budget trailer bill, it moves on an expedited schedule tied to budget negotiations.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

SB 149 is in the Assembly Third Reading file, having been re-referred to the Assembly Budget Committee. This trailer bill's fate is tied to overall budget negotiations. Resolution expected by mid-June 2026.

SB 239

Open Meetings:
Teleconferencing for
Subsidiary Bodies

Arreguín, D

Watch

**Assembly Local
Government**

Summary

Would authorize subsidiary bodies of local agencies (e.g., advisory committees, subcommittees) to use alternative teleconferencing provisions under the Brown Act, with requirements for notice, agenda posting, and public participation. Members would be required to visibly appear on camera during open portions of meetings accessible online. Watch position reflects potential operational impact on water district committees and advisory bodies.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

SB 239 is in Assembly Local Government Committee. A hearing will be scheduled. If approved, it moves to Assembly Appropriations and the Assembly Floor. If passed, it returns to Senate for concurrence.

SB 742

Electricity: Abandoned
Transmission Facilities:
Wildfire Mitigation

Pérez, D

Watch

**Assembly Utilities
and Energy**

Summary

Would require the CPUC to update a general order requiring electrical corporations to remove all permanently abandoned transmission facilities. Would also require wildfire mitigation plans to account for and schedule removal of abandoned transmission facilities. Watch position reflects potential impact on wildfire risk affecting water infrastructure.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

SB 742 has a hearing scheduled in Assembly Utilities and Energy on June 10, 2026. If approved, it moves to Assembly Appropriations, then the Assembly Floor. If passed, it returns to the Senate for concurrence.

SB 872

Delta Levees and Canal
Subsidence Fund

McNerney, D

Support

**Assembly Water,
Parks and Wildlife**

Summary

Would establish the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund in the State Treasury to support Delta levee preservation and canal subsidence mitigation. The fund could accept state bond funds, General Fund, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, and federal/private moneys. Nonstate moneys would be continuously appropriated. Critical for protecting California's water conveyance infrastructure.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

SB 872 was referred to Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife on May 26, 2026. A hearing will be scheduled. If approved, it moves to Assembly Appropriations and the Assembly Floor.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|----------|--------------|---|
| SB 1139 | Monterey Peninsula Water Management District: Nonfunctional Turf Enforcement | Laird, D | Watch | Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife |
|--------------------|---|----------|--------------|---|

Summary

Would authorize the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to impose civil liability and penalties for violations of the nonfunctional turf irrigation prohibition, pursuant to locally adopted ordinances or policies. Watch position reflects monitoring for precedent that could affect local enforcement authority for other water districts.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

SB 1139 is in Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife. A hearing will be scheduled. If approved, it moves to Assembly Appropriations and the Assembly Floor. If passed, it returns to the Senate for concurrence.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| SB 1153 | Disaster Preparedness: Urban Retail Water Suppliers — Wildfire Plans | Caballero, D | Support | Passed — Next Chamber |
|--------------------|--|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|

Summary

Beginning January 1, 2028, would require all urban retail water suppliers serving a high or very high fire hazard severity zone to include incident-specific wildfire response procedures in their disaster preparedness plans. Plans must include mitigation actions, procedures, and equipment that can reduce wildfire impacts on water systems and drinking water supply. Passed the Senate unanimously (33-0). Highly relevant to Upper Water's operations.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

SB 1153 passed the Senate 33-0 on May 22, 2026 and is now held at the Assembly Desk awaiting referral to Assembly committee(s). It will be referred to Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| AB 1893 | Wildfire Prevention: Local Assistance Grant Program — Mobile Dip Tanks | Gallagher, R | Support | DEAD |
|--------------------|---|--------------|----------------|-------------|

Summary

Would have expanded eligible activities under CAL FIRE's local assistance grant program to include acquisition or installation of mobile rigid dip tanks or similar infrastructure providing helicopter-accessible water supplies for firefighting in very high and high fire hazard severity zones. Died in Assembly Appropriations Suspense File.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

AB 1893 is DEAD for the 2025-26 session, having failed the May 14 appropriations deadline.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| SB 1001 | Local Agency Personnel Access: PIV-I Credentialing | Archuleta, D | Support | DEAD |
|--------------------|--|--------------|----------------|-------------|

Summary

Would have required Cal OES, beginning July 1, 2028, to issue PIV-I (Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable) credentials to local agencies, public utilities, and mutual water companies for personnel access to disaster areas during or following natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters. Died in Senate Appropriations Suspense File.

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

SB 1001 is DEAD for the 2025-26 session.

MAY REVISE:

The Governor's May Revision, released for fiscal year 2026-27, is largely a budget-balancing exercise built on a surprise revenue windfall. General Fund revenues from the Big Three sources are \$16.5 billion higher than projected in January, driven primarily by a 2025 spike in capital gains realizations.

Despite that good news at the top line, the Governor has taken a disciplined approach, avoiding new ongoing expenditures and instead shoring up reserves.

For Upper Water, the May Revision contains no new direct appropriations for local water agencies, but several items in the Natural Resources and Environment chapter are worth tracking closely.

Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program — Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan

The most consequential item for Upper Water in the May Revision is a \$25 million one-time General Fund augmentation to the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program. The Administration frames this as support for environmental flows, habitat restoration, science, and monitoring. This is tied directly to the upcoming update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

Critically, the State Water Board is expected to adopt an updated Bay-Delta Plan by the end of 2026, with the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program serving as a compliance pathway for participating water agencies.

Proposition 4 Bond Funds

The May Revision confirms continued deployment of Proposition 4 (2024 Climate Bond) funds, with \$1.9 billion in bond funds included within the Natural Resources Agency's total \$10.5 billion budget.

The absence of new water infrastructure or invasive mussel-specific appropriations, however, is a gap that the Legislature may need to address through the budget process before final enactment in mid-June.

WATER NEWS:

Water Advisory Committee

An advisory committee to the California Department of Water Resources held its first meeting last week to begin work on the next update to the California Water Plan, the state's long-range strategy for managing water resources across all sectors.

The effort follows Governor Newsom's signing of SB 72 in 2025, which established an interim statewide planning target of 9 million acre-feet of additional water supply by 2040 and launched a multiyear modernization of California's water planning framework.

The 9 million acre-foot supply target and the emphasis on regional collaboration suggest that agencies with active replenishment programs will be well-positioned to shape how those priorities are reflected in statewide policy and investment decisions through 2028 and beyond.

Mussel Threat

Invasive mussels are rapidly becoming one of the most pressing water management concerns in California.

Infestations are already being documented in Delta-connected waterways, with the Port of Stockton reporting active cleanup of intake and outfall infrastructure, while nearby agencies like South San Joaquin Irrigation District have implemented boating quarantines and are on high alert.

The urgency has moved to the State Capitol, where AB 2032 (Ransom), a bill Upper Water is supporting, would streamline the permitting process currently preventing water agencies from performing basic mitigation work like scraping and removing mussels from infrastructure. As Assemblymember Ransom noted, water managers are ready to act but are blocked by regulatory barriers that the bill is designed to remove.

AB 2032 passed the Assembly on May 26 with an urgency clause, which means that it takes effect immediately upon the Governor's signature and is now advancing to the Senate.

For Upper Water, the rapid spread of golden mussels represents a direct operational risk, making the bill's swift passage a priority to watch this summer.