



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

Wednesday, November 4, 2026
4:30 PM

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 Water Resources and Facility Management 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 Water Resources and Facility Management 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. Professional Services Agreement with Aaron Read & Associates, LLC
5. Professional Services Agreement with Best, Best and Krieger
6. FY26–27 Water Education Grant Program

Oral Reports

7. FY25–26 Outreach Year End Review

Other Matters

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 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

October 26, 2026

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

Congress

Congress adjourned for the midterm elections with several priorities awaiting action upon its return, including government funding and a recently introduced bipartisan permitting reform package.

In the Senate, leaders of the Energy and Natural Resources and Environment and Public Works Committees introduced S. 5653, the *Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026*. The package seeks to accelerate federal reviews and approvals for energy, transmission, mining and other infrastructure projects by revising several federal permitting and environmental laws. Bipartisan momentum could help advance the permitting reform legislation, but lawmakers will need to balance that effort with other year-end priorities.

The compressed lame duck schedule and the December 11, 2026, government funding deadline will likely require lawmakers to prioritize must-pass legislation and defer other unfinished business to the next Congress.

Senate Committee Leaders Unveil Bipartisan Permitting Reform Package

On September 30, 2026, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chair Mike Lee (R-UT) and Ranking Member Martin Heinrich (D-NM), alongside Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chair Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Ranking Member Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), unveiled the *Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026*.

The broad permitting reform package seeks to accelerate federal review and approval of energy, infrastructure, transmission, mining, and other major projects. The bill reflects months of bipartisan committee negotiations and proposes changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Federal Power Act, and National Historic Preservation Act.

Among its most significant permitting provisions, the bill would revise NEPA to standardize environmental reviews, improve coordination across agencies, and limit the time allowed for those reviews. The bill clarifies that NEPA is a procedural statute rather than a mandate and narrows the definition of “major federal action.” The legislation would generally require environmental assessments under NEPA to be completed within one year and environmental impact statements within two years, while also establishing a 150-day statute of limitations for many judicial challenges. It would expand agencies’ ability to use categorical exclusions and state or Tribal environmental reviews, shorten certain ESA consultation timelines, and provide greater protection for previously issued federal permits from later agency reversal.

The legislation would also make substantial changes to the CWA. The legislation would require the EPA to use rulemaking procedures when developing water quality criteria under 304(a) and direct lawsuits that challenge the definition of WOTUS to go to federal circuit courts. Additionally, the bill includes an extension of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and Section 404 permits from five years to 10 years.

The package also includes extensive energy and transmission provisions intended to expand grid capacity and address rising electricity demand. These include expanded Federal Energy Regulatory Commission authority over certain interstate transmission projects, requirements to make greater use of existing rights-of-way and advanced transmission technologies, reforms to transmission planning and interconnection queues, and provisions requiring large data centers and other high-density computing facilities to bear the incremental transmission and generation costs associated with serving their load rather than shifting those costs to other customers.

The agreement aims to overcome longstanding partisan divisions over permitting reform by supporting a broad approach that includes accelerating fossil fuel, mining, transmission, renewable energy, and other infrastructure projects. Business and energy groups have generally welcomed the effort as a means of providing greater certainty and shorter approval timelines, while environmental organizations have raised concerns that changes to judicial review and federal environmental laws could reduce opportunities to challenge projects or weaken existing safeguards. The Senate introduced the legislation shortly before adjourning for the midterm elections, leaving possible consideration for the post-election lame-duck session.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Advances Desalination Reauthorization

On September 30, 2026, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee advanced Sen. Alex Padilla's (D-CA) S. 5352, the *Desalination Reauthorization Act*, by voice vote with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. The bill, cosponsored by Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), would reauthorize and modify Bureau of Reclamation authorities supporting desalination construction projects and research that are otherwise set to expire on December 16, 2026.

The legislation would extend Reclamation's authority to provide grants for ocean and brackish-water desalination projects, allow public-private partnerships to participate, and prevent Reclamation from administratively imposing a per-project funding cap that could prevent larger projects from receiving the full 25 percent federal cost share. It would also expand Reclamation's desalination research program to support advanced pilot projects intended to help move emerging technologies from smaller-scale demonstrations toward commercial deployment.

The substitute amendment adopted by the Committee would also increase the maximum federal grant for desalination research projects at institutions of higher education from \$1 million to \$2.5 million. With Committee approval, S. 5352 now moves toward consideration by the full Senate.

Federal Budget/Appropriations

Congress Adjourns Until After Midterms, December Government Funding Deadline Ahead

Both chambers of Congress are currently out of session and will return after the midterm elections. In the meantime, the current continuing resolution (CR)—H.R. 6500, the *Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2027*—maintains federal funding at fiscal year 2026 (FY26) levels through December 11, 2026.

Congress has not yet passed any of the 12 full-year FY27 appropriations bills, making government funding top priority in the compressed lame-duck session. Once lawmakers return, they will have limited time to pass full-year appropriations bills or potentially another continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown.

Administration/Agency

Reclamation Proposes Changes to Water Recycling and Desalination Feasibility Reviews

On September 29, 2026, the Bureau of Reclamation released proposed revisions to WTR 11-01, which governs feasibility-study reviews for Title XVI water recycling projects, desalination construction projects, and large-scale water recycling and desalination projects.

The revisions are part of Reclamation's broader implementation of Secretary's Order 3446, "Cutting Red Tape and Reducing Consumer Costs at Reclamation Construction Projects." The Order, issued in November 2025, seeks to streamline Reclamation construction and project-delivery processes, reduce administrative burdens and costs, and give qualified local water and power partners a greater role in procuring and managing certain federally funded projects. The proposed WTR 11-01 changes similarly seek to streamline Reclamation's evaluation of the technical, financial, environmental, and other information submitted in support of water recycling and desalination projects.

The draft also adds feasibility-study requirements for the Large-Scale Water Recycling Program. Reclamation notes that if Congress does not extend or reauthorize the program, future water recycling feasibility studies would instead be reviewed under the existing Title XVI framework.

Comments are due October 29, 2026, and prospective WaterSMART applicants will be expected to use the revised requirements for feasibility studies submitted after **January 15, 2027**.

EPA Releases FY2026–2030 Strategic Plan With Water Reuse and Resilience Priorities

On October 2, 2026, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its FY2026–2030 Strategic Plan outlining the agency's priorities for drinking water, wastewater, watershed protection, and water-sector resilience. For water and wastewater agencies, the plan emphasizes expanding the reuse of treated wastewater and stormwater, improving water efficiency and supply resilience, and helping utilities prepare for infrastructure failures, natural disasters, contamination events, cyber incidents, and other emergencies.

The plan also signals continued EPA attention to emerging drinking-water contaminants and water-sector cybersecurity, including implementation of the Sixth Contaminant Candidate List and Sixth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule and continued cybersecurity technical assistance for drinking water and wastewater systems. While the plan does not itself establish new regulatory requirements, it provides an indication of where EPA intends to focus future policy, technical assistance, and program resources affecting the water sector.

FEMA Signals Shift of Disaster Response Burden to State and Local Managers

On October 20, 2026, FEMA Administrator Cameron Hamilton told state emergency managers at the National Emergency Management Association's annual conference that states should build up their financial reserves and emergency management capabilities so they can handle more disasters without a federal declaration. Hamilton explained the current Administration's goal is to reduce reliance on FEMA by strengthening state and local capacity, which would let recovery begin without waiting on the federal declaration process. He indicated that changes to FEMA's approach could begin within six months.

Hamilton also said FEMA will place more emphasis on disaster-risk reduction and state-to-state mutual aid, and will seek more flexibility from the federal environmental and historic preservation reviews that apply to FEMA-funded rebuilding. His remarks follow an October 15, 2026 internal FEMA memo directing the agency to strengthen state and local capacity, and came days after an October 16, 2026 FEMA-funded study found that local emergency management agencies are typically understaffed and underfunded. FEMA has not yet announced formal changes to disaster declaration criteria or assistance programs.

Judicial/Courts

Federal Court Temporarily Halts Key Portions of USDA Reorganization Plan

On October 13, 2026, U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria of the Northern District of California temporarily halted key portions of the Trump Administration's plans to reorganize the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) while the underlying litigation continues. Federal employee unions, local governments and nonprofit organizations brought the lawsuit challenging the reorganization. The Court found that the challenged activities likely violate statutory restrictions on appropriated funds. The order applies to the Forest Service, the Agricultural Research Service, Rural Development, and several others.

The order bars USDA from redirecting congressionally appropriated funds to pay for the challenged reorganization activities, including employee relocations and office closures, but does not prevent USDA from moving employees or closing offices within the Washington, D.C. area. The reorganization halt relies on congressional appropriations statutes that are set to expire in December 2026. After expiration, Congress could ultimately allow the reorganization to proceed if it agrees with USDA's plan.

USDA's reorganization plan, announced in July 2025, proposed relocating much of its Washington, D.C. headquarters workforce to five regional hubs throughout the country. USDA argues that the reorganization is intended to move federal employees closer to the communities they serve.

The Trump Administration promptly appealed the ruling to the Ninth Circuit.



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MEMORANDUM

ITEM 4. Action Item

DATE: November 4, 2026

TO: Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee

FROM: General Manager

SUBJECT: Professional Services Agreement with Aaron Read & Associates, LLC

Recommendation

Approve the professional services agreement with Aaron Read & Associates, LLC for state advocacy services for a term commencing January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2028, for a monthly retainer of \$10,000 with a total not to exceed a maximum of \$245,000.

Background

Upper Water has a professional services agreement with Aaron Read & Associates for state legislative advocacy services. Terry McHale, a principal with Aaron Read, represents Upper Water in Sacramento. Mr. McHale's experience in state politics, along with his knowledge of key legislation, legislators, legislative staff, and the Governor's Administration, proved valuable to Upper Water over the past year.

During the concluding year of the current two-year legislative session, Mr. McHale and Upper Water staff monitored 4,200 bills introduced in the California Legislature since February 2026. Of those bills, more than 54 were identified as priority water-related measures. Consistent with Upper Water's adopted legislative priorities, staff actively advocated for 16 priority bills. Additionally, Mr. McHale was instrumental in the advocacy of Upper Water's sponsored bill, AB 1894 (Rubio) Fish and Wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water. AB 1894 received unanimous support in the Assembly and Senate and negotiated amendments to the bill successfully.

Staff recommends that Upper Water continue working with Aaron Read & Associates to provide general legislative advocacy services. Generally, these services include: advocate for Upper Water's legislative priorities for the 2027-28 legislative session; draft advocacy position letters for legislation pursuant to Board approval; provide legislative tracking of all new bills for the 2027-28 legislative session; monitor legislative hearings; continue established relationships with returning and new legislators, Department of Water Resources, the State Water Board and the incoming Governor's Administration to ensure that Water's priorities and projects are recognized as a beneficial contribution toward the goals of the California Water Action Plan. Mr. McHale will also lead the advocacy efforts with staff to reintroduce new legislation pertaining to the golden mussel.

Mr. McHale's efforts will be managed by the General Manager and/or the Assistant General Manager pursuant to the Board's 2027-28 legislative policy principles. Mr. McHale will provide a monthly written activity report to the Assistant General Manager and attend the monthly Government Affairs and Community Affairs committee. The two-year contract term is reflective of the 2027-28 California Legislative session schedule. The monthly retainer fee for Aaron Read & Associates remains unchanged, in the amount of \$10,000 per month with an allocation of \$5,000 for potential travel expenses.

Attachments

None

MEMORANDUM

ITEM 5. Action Item

DATE: November 4, 2026
TO: Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee
FROM: General Manager
SUBJECT: Professional Services Agreement with Best, Best and Krieger

Recommendation

Approve the professional services agreement with Best, Best & Krieger for federal advocacy services for a term of January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2028, with a monthly retainer of \$9,000 and a total not to exceed maximum of \$221,000; and approve a budget adjustment increasing the Lobbyist budget by \$2,100 in FY 2026/27 and \$10,200 in FY 2027/28.

Background

Upper Water has contracted with Best, Best & Krieger (BB&K) for federal advocacy services since May of 2014 with representation from Ana Schwab, Partner and Director of Government Affairs, Lowry Crook, Partner, Michael Brain, Partner and Madeline Voitier, Assistant Director of Governmental Affairs. Together, they provide multidisciplinary and bi-partisan legislative expertise that has positively served Upper Water in advancing legislative priorities for the region, such as PFAS, WaterSMART/Title XVI funding, WOTUS, protection of water rights and water tax parity.

Staff recommends for the upcoming 120th Congress, Best, Best and Krieger will continue to advocate for Upper Water's legislative priorities in Washington, D.C. The contract's scope of work will consist of advocating for Upper Water's legislative priorities; draft position letters for bills pursuant to Board approval; provide legislative tracking of all new bills for the 2027-28 legislative session; monitor legislative hearings and provide strategic advice on: the Congressional political landscape, positioning with incoming Administration staff, government reorganizations, federal funding opportunities and maintaining existing congressional relationships.

BB&K's advocacy efforts will be managed by the General Manager and/or the Assistant General Manager pursuant to the Board's adopted 2027/28 legislative priorities and policy principles. BB&K will provide monthly written activity reports to the Assistant General Manager and attend the monthly Government and Community Affairs committee. The monthly fee for BB&K's services for this upcoming 2-year contract will increase from \$7,500 to \$9,000 retainer with an allocation of \$5,000 for potential travel expenses.

Fiscal Impact: The total proposed contract amount for a term ending December 31, 2028, is

\$221,000. The Board's adopted FY 2026/27 and FY 2027/28 Biennial Budget includes \$97,900 in FY 2026/27 and \$100,800 in FY 2027/28 for Lobbyist services within Recycled Water expenses. Approval of this item increases the Lobbyist budget to \$100,000 in FY 2026/27 and \$111,000 in FY 2027/28, an increase of \$2,100 and \$10,200, respectively, for a total increase of \$12,300 over the biennium.

Attachments

1. Review of BBK and Upper Water Advocacy during the 119th Congress 2025-2026_FINAL-c1



To: Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
From: Best Best and Krieger
Date: October 30, 2026
Re: Review of BBK and Upper Water Advocacy during the 119th Congress – 2025-2026

OVERVIEW

The below provides an overview of the actions BBK took, as of the date of this memorandum, on behalf of and with Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper Water) throughout the 119th Congress – which spans 2025-2026.

BBK is incredibly grateful and honored to work with Upper Water. Thank you for the opportunity and we look forward to continuing to work with you all.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

BBK works with Upper Water staff to prepare the annual legislative priorities document governing Upper Water's advocacy efforts. These priorities are prepared to focus on Upper Water's priorities with consideration given for the priorities of organizations important to Upper Water such as: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Association of California Water Agencies, San Gabriel Valley Water Association, WaterReuse, and California Special District Association.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ADVOCACY LETTERS AND COMMENTS

During this Congressional term, BBK drafted and sent several dozen individual letters to Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, and Congressional Committees on a range of Upper Water's federal priorities, some of these include:

- Water Conservation Tax Parity Act
- Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act
- Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act
- Appropriations for the State Revolving Funds

- Appropriations for Bureau of Reclamation Programs
- Appropriations for U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture's Proposed Reorganization Plan
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Proposed Rule to Extend the Compliance Deadline for the PFOS and PFOS Maximum Contaminant Levels
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Joint Proposed Supplemental Update to the Definition of "Waters of the United States"

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY MEETINGS

BBK has scheduled and executed legislative advocacy meetings on behalf of Upper Water over this past Congress. Meetings include:

- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Senator Alex Padilla
- U.S. Senator Adam Schiff
- Congresswoman Judy Chu
- Congressman Gil Cisneros
- U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee – Majority
- U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee – Minority
- U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries – Majority
- U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment – Minority

In direct support of meetings for members of Upper Water's Board of Directors and Staff, BBK worked with staff to prepare talking points.

KEY ADVOCACY MEASURES

Throughout this Congress, BBK worked with and on behalf of Upper Water to navigate and promote a number of different items in line with Upper Water's priorities.

One of the main legislative efforts this term has focused on the proposed designation of forks of the San Gabriel River as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In 2025, legislation was introduced by both Congresswoman Chu and Senator Padilla that included these designations, without protections for water resources and infrastructure. The concern of this was shared with the legislative authors. Senator Padilla's staff responded with an open door to work together, and other outside stakeholders to find language that all parties can be supportive of. While this work has been taking place, the bill has been on hold – ensuring legislation that is not complete does not risk becoming law. While the bill has been on hold, BBK has worked with Upper Water to amend the legislation, propose new provisions, and work with the stakeholders, including

the bill's proponents, to ensure the proposed language would provide mutually agreeable, necessary protections.

Some of other key advocacy measures include:

- Affirming and reassuring the relationship between the U.S. Forest Service and Upper Water
- Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) – advocated for amendment to WRDA water supply provision to ensure clarity and authority for groundwater recharge, water deliveries, and water storage
- Community Project Funding – advocated for Community Grant for the Water Supply Reliability Project which Senator Adam Schiff advanced on behalf of Upper Water for consideration in the Senate's FY 2027 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill for \$1.5 million
- Low Income Household Water Assistance Program
- The ubiquitous nature of PFAS and requesting the polluter's pay principle of CERCLA be upheld
- Mitigation, response, and recovery of wildfires and the impacts to Upper Water's service area and operations
- Advocated for the Pure Water Southern California project

HIGH-QUALITY FEDERAL REPORTS AND ANALYSIS

BBK's comprehensive monthly Federal Reports frequently spark robust interest and discussion from Upper Water. During this term, BBK's monthly reports have grown more thorough and in-depth, averaging 10 or more pages in length, and covering a wide range of topics, a sampling of which include:

- Detailed analysis surrounding Congressional dynamics, deadlines, activity, priorities, and legislation
- Insight into the federal appropriations and budgetary process
 - Detailed tracking of the President's Budget Request to Congress, House and Senate appropriations bill development and passage, short term funding measures, supplemental appropriations, and final passage of omnibus appropriations measures
- Actions of the White House and Federal Agencies pertaining to Upper Water, including;
 - Water Infrastructure Funding
 - EPA Regulations and Policies
 - U.S. Department of the Interior and Forest Service land management practices impacting water supply, headwaters, and wildfire mitigation
 - Personnel moves
- Analysis of Federal Court proceedings with jurisdiction over Upper Water or its retailers, including Waters of the United States (WOTUS) holdings, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) holdings, agency rulemakings, and challenges to agency actions and rules

- Comprehensive lists of currently available federal funding opportunities relevant to Upper Water's work
- An all-inclusive matrix of federal legislation relevant to Upper Water
- Bill recommendations for Upper Water to consider supporting or opposing

MEMORANDUM

ITEM 6. Action Item

DATE: November 4, 2026
TO: Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee
FROM: General Manager
SUBJECT: FY26–27 Water Education Grant Program

Recommendation

Staff recommends the funding of 22 grant applications totaling \$18, 975.61 for FY 26-27 of the Water Education Grant Program.

Background

Background

The open application period for Upper Water's Water Education Grant Program (WEGP) was announced during public comment at various school districts across the service area from July through September 2026. School districts were subsequently notified via email and mail. In addition, staff made the application available on Upper Water's website, social media accounts, and e-Newsletter. The deadline for the first round of completed applications was October 16, 2026.

Discussion

For the fiscal year 2026-27, the Board of Directors approved a budget allocation of \$40,000 for educational materials and grant programs, with \$20,000 dedicated to the Water Education Grant Program (WEGP) and the remaining \$20,000 allocated to educational videos and other materials.

Staff has reviewed all grant applications in accordance with the program's criteria, conditions, and educational goals, receiving a total of 28 applications. Of these, 22 meet the program guidelines and fall within the approved budget allocation. Staff does not recommend funding the six applications that do not meet program requirements and seeks the committee's direction on whether to approve funding for them. If the committee decides not to approve funding, the total funding amount for the eligible applications would be \$18,975.61. However, if all six applications are approved, the total funding amount would increase to \$21,562.19, exceeding the allocated budget by \$1,562.19.

The review criteria included the following:

- Does the project offer a better understanding of water and the important role it plays?
- Does the project actively engage students in the learning process and enhance the classroom experience?
- Are components of the project inter-disciplinary?

- Does the budget cover the activities proposed?
- Are the student activities, goals, and objectives clearly defined?

The attached table lists each of the 28 applications with a project summary.

Attachments

1. WEGP Apps Summary FY 26-27 (F)

Upper Water - Water Education Grant Applications Received for FY 2026-27

ID	Received	Project Title	Applicant Name	School	School Address	City	Zip	School Phone #	Contact Person's #	Email	Div.	Grade Levels	Total Students	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Summary	Items Needed for Project
1	10/8/26	School Garden Water Conservation	Jessica Trinh-Roseli	Hollenbeck Middle School	2101 E. Merced Ave.	West Covina	91791	(626) 931-1760	(909) 569-5237	jroseli@wcusd.org	4	6-8th	791	\$948.90	\$948.90	Establish a student-led Living Hydrology Lab to compare conventional garden irrigation with sub-irrigated wicking beds designed to reduce water loss from evaporation and runoff. Students in grades 6–8 will use water meters and soil moisture sensors to monitor and compare water consumption, calculate water savings, and create data graphs over a 24-week growing season. The project will provide hands-on STEM learning in water conservation, capillary action, plant science, and sustainable gardening while demonstrating the potential for water-efficient gardening practices at other schools.	1. (2) Foodcube garden beds (Large)
2	10/8/26	Waterwise School Garden	Amber Le	Hollenbeck Middle School	2101 E. Merced Ave.	West Covina	91791	(626) 931-1762	(714) 851-8100	ale@wcusd.org	4	6-7th	500	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Improve the school's existing garden with drought-tolerant California native plants, including succulents, poppies, and sage, to withstand Southern California's summer heat while supporting edible plant growth. The project will provide hands-on science learning about photosynthesis, cellular respiration, water conservation, and the local ecosystem, helping students understand the importance of native plants and sustainable gardening.	1. Plant pots 2. Poppy seeds 3. Sage seeds/sprouts 4. Aloe vera seeds/cuttings/starters 5. Prickly Pear seeds/cuttings/starters 6. Beavertail Cacti seeds/cuttings/starters
3	10/8/26	Mt. SAC Nature Center & Water Efficient Garden Bed	Eloise Gomez	Bassett High School	755 N. Ardilla Ave.	La Puente	91746	(626) 931-2800 x2669	(626) 931-2800	egomez@bassettusd.org	3	9-12th	100	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Transport 50 students to the Mt. SAC Nature Garden Preserve to learn about California native plants, drought tolerance, and plant propagation. Grant funds will also replace damaged garden beds and purchase equipment to install drip irrigation on campus, supporting hands-on learning in water conservation, sustainable gardening, and stewardship of the San Gabriel Valley's native chaparral habitat.	1. (1) 18'x 72" raised garden bed 2. Equipment for drip irrigation for garden bed 3. Bus transportation to Mt.SAC Nature Preserve 4. Drought tolerant plants and fertilizer
4	10/12/26	Water Filtration: A STEM Stewardship to a Social Struggle	Cuong Luu	Royal Oaks STEAM Academy	2499 Royal Oaks Dr.	Duarte	91010	(626) 599-5400	(626) 599-5475	cluu@duarteusd.org	1	7-8th	40	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Combine Project Learning Tree and Project WET lessons to teach students about watersheds, local water needs, and water quality. Students will test water samples and design, build, and evaluate solar-powered desalination devices to explore evaporation, condensation, and methods of producing freshwater from saltwater. Through hands-on STEM activities, students will learn about Southern California's water supply challenges, water treatment, and sustainable water solutions while collecting and analyzing data to improve their designs.	1. Solar Powered Water Desalination Kit (12 kits + shipping + tax) 2. Drinking Water Test Strips - Quick Kit (12 kits + shipping + tax) 3. Delivery: 2 Rolls of Member's Mark Plastic Cling Wrap (12" x 3000') 4. Delivery: 2 Bags of Morton's Table Salt (without iodine, 25 lbs) 5. T-Rex 1 in X 10 yd L Bright Color Duct Tape (12 rolls + tax)
5	10/12/26	Reclaiming Sewage: Urban Planning for Alternative Water	Cuong Luu	Duarte High School	1565 Central Ave.	Duarte	91010	(626) 599-5700	(626) 599-5784	cluu@duarteusd.org	5	10-12th	48	\$1,000.00	\$1,017.50	Engage 48 students in exploring Southern California's water history, local watersheds, wastewater treatment, and water reuse. Students will tour the San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant to learn about primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment, then build and test multi-stage filtration systems using water-quality testing kits. Through data analysis, model development, and presentations to community stakeholders, students will explore water conservation, recycled water applications, groundwater recharge, and sustainable urban planning.	1. Complete water treatment system (12 kits x \$65.45/unit + tax) 2. Drinking water test strips (8 kits x \$16.99/unit + tax)
6	10/12/26	On Campus Garden Refresh	Jeff Edward Torpey	Bassett High School	755 N. Ardilla Ave.	La Puente	91746	(626) 931-2800	(626) 665-9604	jeff.torpey@bassettusd.org	3	9-12th	50	\$997.00	\$997.00	Enhance Bassett High School's demonstration garden with drought-tolerant succulents, cacti, and edible plants while incorporating water-efficient practices such as drip irrigation, mulching, companion planting, and vermicomposting. Students will gain hands-on experience in botany, soil science, ecology, and sustainable gardening while observing pollinators, growing food, and exploring the benefits of water conservation. The garden also serves as a shared learning space for students, teachers, and staff.	1. Succulents 2. Cacti 3. Sages, herbs, flowers 4. Growing pots 5. 72" planter 6. Soil
7	10/12/26	Xeriscaping Student Garden	Jessica Schoenfeld	Twin Lakes Elementary	3900 Gilmann Rd.	El Monte	91732	(626) 652-4400	(951) 809-8668	jschoenfeld@mtviewschools.net	5	7-8th	26	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Transform 400 square feet of underutilized campus space into a drought-tolerant xeriscape garden that demonstrates climate-appropriate landscaping and water conservation. Students in grades 4–8 will participate in garden installation, hands-on lessons, and ongoing stewardship activities to learn about water-wise landscaping, local ecology, and sustainable practices. The project will also reduce long-term landscape maintenance needs and provide an outdoor learning space for the school community.	1. Gravel and rocks 2. Succulents, Native Perennials 3. Landscape fabric, mulch and edging 4. Drip irrigation 5. Soil
8	10/13/26	Nurtured by Nature	Nicole Melamed	Baldwin Park High School	3900 N. Puente Ave.	Baldwin Park	91706	(626) 960-5431	(626) 960-5431	namelamed337@bpusd.net	5	9-12th	1250	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Transform an existing high school garden into a water-wise outdoor classroom by installing drip irrigation, organic mulch, and drought-tolerant California native plants. Students will participate in the garden's design, installation, and ongoing maintenance while learning about water conservation, sustainable landscaping, and local biodiversity. The space will also support outdoor learning activities, gardening workshops, and student-led stewardship through a future Garden Club.	1. Mulch to cover 580 sq.ft. of garden (2 cubic ft. bag = \$3.98/50 bags) 2. Drip tubing, hosing, taping, fittings, connectors, end caps 3. Drought-tolerant pollinator friendly native plants 4. Garden workshop supplies
9	10/13/26	School Community Garden	Brent Pattison	Orangewood Elementary	1440 S. Orange Ave.	West Covina	91790	(626) 939-4820	(909) 993-2455	bpattison@wcusd.org	4	K-5th	100	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Improve the elementary school garden with fresh soil, compost, seeds, and seasonal flowers suited to the local climate, including pollinator-friendly varieties. Through the IB theme Sharing the Planet, students will explore plant growth, seasonal changes, and the relationships between plants, pollinators, and people. Hands-on activities will integrate science, math, and literacy while teaching students about environmental stewardship, cooperation, and responsible garden care.	1. Soil and compost 2. Seasonal flower seeds, starter plants (native & pollinator-friendly varieties) 3. Child-sized gardening tools and gloves 4. Watering cans/supplies 5. Plant labels and materials for student-created garden signs
10	10/14/26	Healthy Soil, Water-Wise Garden: Student Soil Investigations	Matthew Pasos	Hollenbeck Middle School	2101 E. Merced Ave.	West Covina	91791	(626) 931-1760	(626) 931-1762	mpasos@wcusd.net	4	6-8th	800	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Conduct soil experiments in the school garden to investigate how compost and mulch affect water retention and soil health. From January through May 2027, students in grades 6–8 will compare three soil treatments by measuring infiltration, drainage, retained water, and drying rates. Students will analyze and graph results, assess soil texture and pH, and develop evidence-based recommendations for water-wise soil management. Findings will be applied to selected garden areas and shared through student-created guides and displays, promoting water conservation, sustainable gardening, and hands-on science learning.	1. Finished compost, 1-cu.ft bags 2. Organic mulch, 2-cu.ft bags 3. Soil pH/nutrient test kits with refills 4. Soil expirement sets: trays, pots, collection cups 5. Graduated cylinders for water measurements 6. Hand towels for soil sampling and amendments

Upper Water - Water Education Grant Applications Received for FY 2026-27

ID	Received	Project Title	Applicant Name	School	School Address	City	Zip	School Phone #	Contact Person's #	Email	Div.	Grade Levels	Total Students	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Summary	Items Needed for Project
11	10/14/26	Hollencrest Waterwise Garden Project	Manuel Barron	Hollenbeck Middle School	2101 E. Merced Ave.	West Covina	91791	(626) 931-1760	(626) 487-2026	mbarron@wcusd.org	4	6-8th	150	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Expand the Hollencrest Water-wise Garden with drought-tolerant California native plants and edible crops, using compost, mulch, and drip irrigation to conserve water. Students will research and plant selected species, monitor soil moisture and plant growth, and analyze data to understand how water-wise gardening supports biodiversity and sustainable food production. The garden will serve as an outdoor classroom for hands-on science, nutrition, and environmental education, promoting water conservation and stewardship across grade levels.	1. Drip irrigation kit 2. Irrigation timer 3. Soil moisture meters or probes 4. Hose water-flow meter 5. Mulch and spreading rakes 6. Compost bin and compost tools
12	10/15/26	Water Filtration Engineering Design Project	Brieanne Sapienza	Sierra Vista Middle School	777 E. Puente Ave.	Covina	91723	(626) 974-7300	(626) 974-7315	bsapienza@c-vusd.org	4	6th	115	\$700.00	\$700.00	Engage students in the engineering design process by designing, testing, and improving water filtration systems using materials such as gravel, sand, activated carbon, and filter materials. Working in teams, students will develop their own filtration methods, measure water clarity, filtration time, and water recovery, and analyze results to improve their designs. This hands-on STEM project will build problem-solving, collaboration, and data-analysis skills while teaching students about water quality, water treatment, and the importance of protecting local water resources.	1. Water-quality testing kit 2. Water filtration materials (cotton, sand, activated charcoal, etc.) 3. Reusable filtration containers and equipment 4. Replacement filters and consumables
13	10/15/26	Water Molecules in Action	Maria Susana Flores	West Covina High School	1609 E. Cameron Ave.	West Covina	91791	(626) 859-2900	(714) 514-1302	msflores@wcusd.org	4	9th	160	\$1,040.45	\$1,000.00	Provide hands-on science activities that explore water molecules, the properties of water, and the water cycle. Students will build water molecule models, examine pond water organisms under microscopes to investigate biodiversity, and explore how mosquito life cycles depend on water and how climate change can influence mosquito-borne diseases. These activities will strengthen students' understanding of water's role in supporting life, ecosystem interactions, and the importance of protecting water resources.	1. Wards Science: Model Kit 3D Water 1 Cup 2. Wards Science: Investigating Pond Life 32 oz 3. Wards Science: Kit Mosquito Invasion 10 pk with taxes & shipping
14	10/16/26	From Raindrops to Roots!	Brielle Peich	Grovecenter Elementary	775 N. Lark Ellen Ave.	West Covina	91791	(626) 974-4400	(626) 862-0287	bpeich@c-vusd.org	4	K-1	75	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Establish a kindergarten garden where students will plant and grow vegetables and herbs while learning about plant needs, water sources, and water conservation. Students will practice water-wise gardening by monitoring soil moisture, exploring different watering methods, and caring for their plants. Through hands-on activities, students will develop responsibility and teamwork while experiencing the process of growing, harvesting, and sharing their own produce with the school community.	1. Raised Garden Beds 2. Garden Soil, Compost, and Mulch 3. Vegetable Seeds and Starter Plants 4. Drip Irrigation and Water Conservation Supplies 5. Gardening Tools, Gloves, and Watering Cans 6. Plant Labels, Harvesting Baskets, and Garden Supplies
15	10/16/26	FLOW: Future Leaders Optimizing Water Through Aquaponics	Cameron Edwards	Barnhart School	240 W. Colorado Blvd.	Arcadia	91007	(626) 446-5588	(310) 926-1525	Cedwards@barnhartschool.org	1	1st-5th; 8th	25	\$936.00	\$936.00	Introduce 25 eighth-grade science and elementary gifted-program students in designing, building, and maintaining three aquaponic systems that combine fish and plant production through water recirculation. Students will monitor water quality, explore nutrient cycling, and investigate sustainable food production and water conservation. Through classroom presentations and a community STEAM Night, students will share their findings with approximately 130 classmates and 350 community members, promoting water stewardship and innovative agricultural practices.	1. (3) 10 gallon (used) aquariums + (3) plastic storage containers 2. DIY Platform + 45 lbs. Clay pebbles + 3" Net Pots 3. (3) Water pumps + (3) Air pumps w/ tubing 4. Drip Irrigation and Water Conservation Supplies 5. (3) LED lighting units + Fish & feed 6. Paint and design embellishments
16	10/16/26	Medicinal Herbs/Wellness in the Garden	Jamila Daulatzai	Bassett High School	755 N. Ardilla Ave.	La Puente	91746	(626) 931-2800		jdaulatzai@bassetтусd.org	3	9-12th	120	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Update the school garden with raised planters for growing herbs while teaching students about plant growth, climate change, and the importance of plants to people and the environment. Students will research medicinal herbs, explore the history of herbal medicine, and learn how plants have been used in community wellness practices. Through hands-on gardening and student-led wellness activities, the project will encourage environmental stewardship, cultural learning, and student participation in the school's Garden Club.	1. Planters, pots, seeds, plants and soils 2. Pain pens, rocks, and books on medicinal herbs
17	10/16/26	Butterfly Garden and Nature Classes	Ginger Demers	Rio Hondo Prep School	5150 Farna Ave.	Arcadia	91006	(626) 444-9531	(626) 260-3957	gdemers@rhprep.org	1	8th & 10th	60	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Revitalize a vacant school planter with drought-tolerant California native plants and milkweed to support pollinators, including Monarch butterflies. Eighth-grade students will lead the planting project while learning about native plants, water-wise landscaping, local watersheds, and Southern California's water sources. The project will also expand water education activities led by 10th-grade biology students for first-grade students, connecting younger learners with local waterways, wildlife, and water conservation.	1. Various plants for a 30' x 3' planter including Milkweed 2. Binoculars for student bird watching at Peck Park x 6
18	10/16/26	Walnut Grove Eco Water Hub	Maria Arellano	Walnut Grove Intermediate	614 E. Vine Ave.	West Covina	91790	(626) 919-7018	(626) 549-8111	marellano@wcusd.org	4	7-8th	90	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Provide hands-on STEM investigations exploring Southern California's water quality, conservation, and stormwater management. Students will analyze water samples from local sources, compare water use and soil moisture between turf grass and drought-tolerant native plants, and build watershed models to test filtration and runoff reduction methods. Students will also design rainwater harvesting and graywater reuse systems to explore sustainable water management, water quality, and practical conservation strategies for local homes and communities.	1. Water Quality & Testing Equipment 2. Native Plants & Turf Grass 3. Runnoff & Filtration Equipment 4. Rainwater Catchment Equipment 5. Graywater Engineering Supplies 6. Data Logging Sensors
19	10/16/26	Hollencrest Garden Project	Hayden Nelson	Hollenbeck Middle School	2101 E. Merced Ave.	West Covina	91791	(626) 931-1760 x30	(951) 642-0641	hnelson@wcusd.org	4	6-8th	800	\$1,036.00	\$1,000.00	Establish a sustainable school garden that serves as an outdoor classroom and living laboratory for middle school students. Students will design, install, and maintain the garden using drought-tolerant native plants, drip irrigation, mulch, and rainwater conservation practices. Through hands-on STEM activities, students will monitor soil conditions, measure water use, and analyze plant growth while learning how water-efficient gardening can reduce consumption, support healthy plants, and address California's water scarcity challenges.	1. Rachio 3: Smart Sprinkler Controller x2 2. Sprinklers Valves 3. Irrigation Sprinklers
20	10/16/26	TapTrak	Michael Naka	Richard Garvey Intermediate	2720 N. Jackson Ave.	Rosemead	91770	(626) 307-3385	(626) 307-3385	mnaka@gesd.us	2	7-8th	4	\$57.98	\$57.98	Develop a faucet-mounted water measuring device to monitor flow rates, total water consumption, and potential leaks. Students will use real-time data to identify excessive water use from high-flow faucets and running taps and explore opportunities to reduce waste. The project will promote hands-on STEM learning, water conservation awareness, and practical strategies to help schools and households improve water efficiency and reduce utility costs.	1. YF-S201 (Water Flow Sensor) 2. Arduino UNO Rev3 (Micro Controller) 3. LCD 1602 16x2 Serial Interface Adapter Module Compatible with Arduino UNO R3 4. Lead Free Brass Close Threaded Pipe

Upper Water - Water Education Grant Applications Received for FY 2026-27

ID	Received	Project Title	Applicant Name	School	School Address	City	Zip	School Phone #	Contact Person's #	Email	Div.	Grade Levels	Total Students	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Summary	Items Needed for Project
21	10/16/26	Infinite Water Wheel	Michael Naka	Richard Garvey Intermediate	2720 N. Jackson Ave.	Rosemead	91770	(626) 307-3385	(626) 307-3385	mnaka@gesd.us	2	8th	4	\$73.00	\$73.00	Build a model water wheel using craft sticks, recycled plastic bottles, plastic spoons, and a small pump to create a continuous water cycle. Students will observe how flowing water generates motion and explore how water can be used to produce energy. Through designing, building, testing, and improving their models, students will develop hands-on STEM skills and learn about the role of water in energy generation.	1. Craft Sticks (1000pc) 2. Plastic Spoons 3. Wooden dowels or steel dowels 4. Plastic Container Tub 5. Water pump 6. Power source (portable battery)
22	10/16/26	Rainwater Harvest	Michael Naka	Richard Garvey Intermediate	2720 N. Jackson Ave.	Rosemead	91770	(626) 307-3385	(626) 307-3385	mnaka@gesd.us	2	8th	2	\$245.23	\$245.23	Develop a rainwater harvesting project to demonstrate how rainwater can be collected from rooftops, directed through pipes, and stored in covered containers for later use. Students will learn how harvested rainwater can be reused to water plants and gardens, reducing reliance on tap water and helping lower water bills at homes and schools. The project will promote water conservation, responsible water use, and practical ways to reduce water waste.	1. Afoxsos Rainwater Collection 2. EarthMinded DIY Kit 3. 55-gallon barrel
														Total Project Cost	Grant Funds Requested		
														\$19,034.56	\$18,975.61		

NOT RECOMMENDED																	
1	10/16/26	Lucky Water Rewards	Michael Naka	Richard Garvey Intermediate	2720 N. Jackson Ave.	Rosemead	91770	(626) 307-3385	(626) 307-3385	mnaka@gesd.us	2	7th	3	\$282.59	\$282.59	Establish a community outreach booth to educate residents about water conservation through presentations, interactive quizzes, and educational giveaways such as reusable tote bags, pens, and pins. Students will develop their knowledge of water-saving practices while teaching community members how to conserve water. The project aims to raise awareness, encourage water-wise habits, and extend conservation messaging throughout the community.	1. Canopy tent (<i>school may have one available</i>) 2. Pins 3. Tote Bags 4. Pens 5. Plastic foldable table (<i>school may provide</i>)
2	10/16/26	Saving Water All Around the World	Michael Naka	Richard Garvey Intermediate	2720 N. Jackson Ave.	Rosemead	91770	(626) 307-3385	(626) 307-3385	mnaka@gesd.us	2	7-8th	5	\$304.99	\$304.99	Create an educational video to raise awareness about water shortages in California and their effects on people, wildlife, plants, and the environment. Students plan to act out a superhero movie and will need props & costumes for it. Students will explain how water waste contributes to water supply challenges and demonstrate simple ways to conserve water at school and home. The project will promote water conservation, responsible water use, and the importance of protecting California's water supply.	1. Props 2. Costumes 3. Adobe Photoshop 4. Camera stabilizer
3	10/16/26	Water Grant - Water Awareness Through Student Design	Michael Naka	Richard Garvey Intermediate	2720 N. Jackson Ave.	Rosemead	91770	(626) 307-3385	(626) 307-3385	mnaka@gesd.us	2	7-8th	5	\$700.00	\$700.00	Design and sell custom shirts featuring water conservation messages and graphics illustrating the effects of water depletion, such as dried-up rivers. Students will promote the shirts through online advertising and social media to raise community awareness about the importance of saving water. Any proceeds remaining after production and advertising costs will be donated to support other water conservation programs.	1. Shirt printer 2. 100 polyester/synthetic t-shirts (white & black) 3. Social media posts 4. 100 sheets of iron on heat transfer paper
4	10/16/26	Badge the Flow	Michael Naka	Richard Garvey Intermediate	2720 N. Jackson Ave.	Rosemead	91770	(626) 307-3385	(626) 307-3385	mnaka@gesd.us	2	7-8th	3	\$98.00	\$98.00	Create custom pins featuring fun, creative, and youth-oriented designs to promote water conservation awareness. Students will develop original artwork or printed designs that encourage responsible water use and serve as daily reminders to conserve water. By wearing and sharing the pins at school and in the community, students hope to inspire water-saving habits and promote the importance of protecting local water resources.	1. Happizza button maker machine 2. 245XL 246XL Ink Cartridge for Canon PG 245 246 XL Black Color Combo MG2522 3. PrintWorks 100% Recycled Printer Paper 8.5" x 11" White - 20 lb Copy & Multipurpose Computer Paper - 1 Pack, 400 Sheets
5	10/16/26	Water Conservation Contest	Michael Naka	Richard Garvey Intermediate	2720 N. Jackson Ave.	Rosemead	91770	(626) 307-3385	(626) 307-3385	mnaka@gesd.us	2	7th	4	\$201.00	\$201.00	Create eye-catching informational posters to promote a community water conservation challenge, rewarding participants who demonstrate the greatest reduction in water use. Students will encourage water-saving habits, such as taking shorter showers and watering plants efficiently. The project aims to raise awareness of water conservation, motivate participation through incentives, and help households reduce water waste.	1. 10 posters 2. (1) Disneyland ticket 3. \$50 4. Water-drop plushie
6	10/16/26	Water, Homeostasis, and Human Health	Annie Tam	West Covina High School	1609 E. Cameron Ave.	West Covina	91791	(626) 859-2900	(626) 541-5598	teacherannietam@gmail.com	4	11-12th	178	\$1,012.00	\$1,000.00	Explore the role of water in human health and environmental sustainability through hands-on anatomy and physiology investigations. Students will examine organs involved in water absorption and regulation, conduct osmosis experiments to understand water movement across cell membranes, and research Southern California's water challenges, including drought and water availability. Students will apply their findings to create educational materials promoting water conservation and environmental awareness within their school and community.	1. Fetal pigs SKU: FP0911D 2. MedPRide Powder Free Nitrile Exam Gloves, Small (Pack of 10) 3. MedPRide Powder-Free Nitrile Exam Gloves, Medium (Pack of 10) 4. MedPRide Powder-Free Nitrile Exam Gloves, Large (Pack of 10) 5. Voice recorder (student accomodation)