WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
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SPECIAL EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Friday, December 4, 2026, 9:00 AM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that West Valley Water District has called a meeting of the External Affairs Committee to meet in the Administrative Conference Room, 855 W. Base Line Road, Rialto, CA 92376.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vice President Angela Garcia, Chair
President Kelvin Moore

Members of the public may attend the meeting in person at 855 W. Base Line Road, Rialto, CA 92376, or you may join the meeting using Zoom by clicking this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8402937790. Public comment may be submitted via Zoom, by telephone by calling the following number and access code: Dial: (888) 475-4499, Access Code: 840-293-7790, or via email to administration@wvwd.org.

If you require additional assistance, please contact administration@wvwd.org.

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Any person wishing to speak to the Board of Directors on matters listed or not listed on the agenda, within its jurisdiction, is asked to complete a Speaker Card and submit it to the Board Secretary, if you are attending in person. For anyone joining on Zoom, please wait for the Board President's instruction to indicate that you would like to speak. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. Under the State of California Brown Act, the Board of Directors is prohibited from discussing or taking action on any item not listed on the posted agenda. Comments related to noticed Public Hearing(s) and Business Matters will be heard during the occurrence of the item.

Public communication is the time for anyone to address the Board on any agenda item or anything under the jurisdiction of the District. Also, please remember that no disruptions from the crowd will be tolerated. If someone disrupts the meeting, they will be removed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Minutes for the October 26, 2026 External Affairs Committee Meeting PG. 4
2. Updates to the External Affairs Committee
3. State Lobbyist Discussion PG. 6
4. Review and Update 2027-2028 WVWD Legislative Priniciples PG. 8

ADJOURN

Please Note:

Material related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Board of Directors after distribution of the agenda packet is available for public inspection in the District's office located at 855 W. Base Line Road, Rialto, CA 92376, during normal business hours. Also, such documents are available on the District's website at www.wvwd.org subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a), any request for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to attend or participate in the above agendized public meeting should be directed to the Board Secretary, Brandon Yoshida, at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation. Brandon Yoshida may be contacted by telephone at (909) 875-1804 ext. 703, or in writing at the West Valley Water District, P.O. Box 920, Rialto, CA 92377-0920.

DECLARATION OF POSTING:

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury, that I am employed by the West Valley Water District, and that the foregoing agenda was posted at the District Office's bulletin boards and the District website at www.wvwd.org on November 25, 2026, by 6:00 pm., in compliance with the provisions of the Brown Act.

Brandon Yoshida

Brandon Yoshida, Board Secretary

Date Posted: November 24, 2026

MINUTES
SPECIAL EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING
of the
WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
October 26, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Kelvin Moore	☑	☐	☐	
Angela Garcia	☑	☐	☐	
John Thiel	☑	☐	☐	
Linda Jadeski	☑	☐	☐	
Mary Jo Hartley	☑	☐	☐	

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chair Garcia inquired if anyone from the public would like to speak. No requests were received, therefore Chair Garcia closed the public comment period.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Updates to the External Affairs Committee

The Committee was informed that the Public Outreach and Government Affairs (POGA) Representative II Isabelle Medina has accepted a position at IEUA

The Committee was informed that this year, the POGA department received twice as many entries for our annual poster contest.

The Committee was provided an update on several collaboration opportunities with Rialto Unified School District

The Committee was provided an update on the Find Your Flow Video Series campaign and the Empowering Success Now Pathways opportunity. Direction was provided to bring additional information regarding the program to the next External Affairs Committee Meeting.

2. Minutes for the October 7, 2026, External Affairs Committee Meetings

Minutes were approved.

3. Sponsorship Request – 2026 Rialto Turkey Giveaway

The Committee provided direction to sponsor the event at the $2,000 bronze level.

4. Federal Lobbyist Discussion

The Committee reviewed a cost comparison of the District's current federal lobbyist with that of its other clients and surrounding water agencies that was put together by the POGA team. The committee requested that the item be brought to the next board meeting as a business item to discuss next steps.

IV. ADJOURN

Chair Garcia adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Brandon Yoshida, Board Secretary

STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 4, 2026

TO: External Affairs Committee

FROM: Socorro Pantaleon, Public Outreach & Government Affairs Manager

SUBJECT: State Lobbyist Discussion

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Strategic Goal 3 - Develop and Grow Effective Communication and Advocacy Practices; F. Increase Efficacy of Advocacy Efforts at the Local, State, and National Level

Strategic Goal 6 – Demonstrate Effective Financial Stewardship; D. Maintain a Data Driven Approach and Financial-Based Decision-Making;

MEETING HISTORY:

N/A

BACKGROUND:

The External Affairs Committee requested a cost comparison of the District's current state lobbyist, Cal Strat to support ongoing financial review and evaluate the continued value of the District's federal lobbying services.

DISCUSSION:

Staff seeks direction from the External Affairs Committee on evaluating the District's current federal lobbying services. One option is to research alternative federal lobbying firms by issuing a Request for Proposals to assess firms available.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item has no immediate fiscal impact. Any potential costs or savings resulting from a review of state lobbying services would be evaluated as part of the process.

REQUESTED ACTION:

It is respectfully recommended that the External Affairs Committee:

Provide direction to staff in regards to current federal lobbying services, including the potential issuance of a Request for Proposals.

STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 4, 2026

TO: External Affairs Committee

FROM: Socorro Pantaleon, Public Outreach & Government Affairs Manager

SUBJECT: Review and Update 2027-2028 WVWD Legislative Priniciples

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STRATEGIC GOAL:

Strategic Goal 3 - Develop and Grow Effective Communication and Advocacy Practices; F. Increase Efficacy of Advocacy Efforts at the Local, State, and National Level; G. Seek New Partnerships to Address Existing and Future Opportunities and Changes

MEETING HISTORY:

N/A

BACKGROUND:

West Valley Water District's Legislative Principles serve as the foundation and guiding framework for the District's legislative program, helping shape its advocacy efforts and guide positions on proposed legislation, regulatory matters, and policy initiatives that may impact the District and the water industry.

Through a proactive and strategic approach to legislative advocacy, the District has developed an award-winning legislative program focused on advancing policies that support water reliability, infrastructure investment, fiscal sustainability, and the interests of the communities it serves.

As part of the District's annual legislative process, the Legislative Principles are brought before the Board of Directors for review to ensure they remain current and aligned with the District's priorities, operational needs, and the evolving legislative landscape.

DISCUSSION:

Staff is presenting the District's Legislative Principles for the Committee's annual review and consideration. This review provides an opportunity to evaluate the existing principles and identify any areas where revisions, additions, or deletions may be appropriate.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the annual review of the District's Legislative Principles.

REQUESTED ACTION:

It is respectfully recommended that the External Affairs Committee:

Recommend forwarding the Legislative Principles to the Board of Directors for review and approval.

Attachments

2027-2028_Legislative_Principles.pdf

WVWD 2027-2028 Legislative Principles

Title	Content	Comments
Introduction	West Valley Water District (WVWD) recognizes the importance of an active legislative program to protect and advocate for the interests of its customers in a timely matter. This program aims to address the challenges posed by proposed legislation, define desired outcomes, and determine positions on issues impacting the region that align with our strategic plan adopted by the district. Developed by Public Outreach and Government Affairs in conjunction with, Lobbyist, management and the Board of Directors, this document strives to cover the District's anticipated needs and its positions for the legislative term. By adopting this platform, West Valley Water District's Board of Directors sets a clear direction for staff to recommend official district positions on clearly stated legislative issues throughout the year. On both federal and state levels, West Valley may support legislative proposals, policies, and regulatory actions that are consistent with the Platform. WVWD may oppose those legislative proposals, policies, and regulatory actions that are inconsistent with Platform. In cases where a legislative proposal, policy, or regulatory action is not a priority for WVWD but may affect the water industry, WVWD may choose to take a "watch" position. These principles lay out a collaborative approach to managing our local ground water, water resources, and water infrastructure and allows WVWD to advocate on behalf of its customers to ensure long-term resilience and reliability for the communities we serve. Once adopted, staff will use this document to recommend bill positions to the Board for their approval and direct advocacy for these priorities and principles at the state and federal level. ALL position will be taken to the Board of Directors at the regular scheduled meeting for approval. In some cases, legislative positions of the District are required prior to a scheduled Board of Directors meeting. In times where action is required prior to a scheduled Board of Directors meeting, the Board Secretary will work with the board of directors to plan a "special board meeting" to address the policy and ensure that we are engaging in important legislative matters in timely manner.	
	DISTRICT ROLES	
Board of Directors	Participates in meetings with legislators, agency representatives, and other stakeholders on behalf of WVWD. Review and advise on adopting a legislative platform for the incoming legislative year. Refrain from taking policy positions on behalf of WVWD, unless adopted by the full Board. Directors can take positions as private citizens of the community.	
General Manager and	Maintain a list of proposed legislation that may affect WVWD, its customers, and stakeholders.	

Public Outreach and Government Affairs Staff	Monitor bills and work with associations such as, but not limited to: Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), American Water Works Association (AWWA), California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP), Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC) and local water agencies. Work with our wholesale and local retail agencies to advocate on behalf of the needs of the region. Submit letters and give direction to lobbyists to advocate on behalf of WVWD in a timely manner. Participate in weekly meetings with lobbyists and other stakeholders. Establish relationships with stakeholders, legislators, staff and others on behalf of WVWD's advocacy efforts.	
Lobbyists	Provide regular reports to staff and members of the external affairs committee on appropriate bills. Advise staff on State and Federal legislation, relevant budget impacts, funding opportunities, and issues that directly or indirectly impact WVWD in a timely manner. As necessary, attend hearings and provide testimony on behalf of WVWD, as directed by staff. Maintain relationships with legislators, stakeholders and staff on behalf of WVWD. Maintain regular meetings with WVWD. Provide End of the Year update to WVWD Board of Directors.	
Summary of the positions considered by WVWD staff and Board of Directors	When considering legislative or regulatory proposals, the Board may support or oppose based on the adopted policy principles. Actions that can be taken: • **SUPPORT**: This position reflects the District's interest in seeing the legislation become law. District staff and legislative advocates will work for passage of the bill in its present form. • **SUPPORT IF AMENDED**: This is an affirmative position that suggests conditional support for a measure, but only if it is amended to incorporate specific amendments that directly address District priorities. Staff and legislative advocates will not advocate in support of the legislation unless it is amended as requested by the District. • **WATCH**: Take no action but monitor the bill to see if any amendments are added that may impact the District. • **OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**: This is a position that suggests conditional opposition to a measure, unless it is amended to incorporate specific amendments that directly address District priorities. District staff and legislative advocates will not advocate in opposition to the legislation if it is amended as requested by the District. • **OPPOSE**: This position reflects the District's interest in defeating the legislation. WVWD staff and legislative advocates will work for defeat of the measure in its present form and will not pursue amendments to address the measure's shortcomings.	

WVWD 2027-2028 Legislative Priorities

Legislative Priority	Content	Link to Strategic Plan	Comments
Water Supply Reliability	Support measures to expand surface and groundwater supply. Support legislation that enhances water reliability for the region and to the water supplies of West Valley Water District. Support funding, resources, and projects that promote sustainability and resiliency. Advocate for projects and initiatives that secure long-term water resources, including infrastructure improvements and new water sources.	Manage and Deliver a Safe, Reliable, and Sustainable Water Supply	
Water-Use Efficiency	Support legislation that encourages attainable water efficiency standards & best practices. Support funding for cost-effective water use efficiency and conservation measures. Support the implementation of advanced water technologies and practices that reduce water usage. Support public awareness campaigns to educate customers about the importance of water conservation. Support legislation and state guidance under the *Making Conservation a California Way of Life* framework that provides clear, consistent, and implementable direction for Urban Water Use Objectives and alternative compliance pathways, including clarification of data assumptions, MWELO applicability for special districts, statutory terminology, and plan content requirements.	Manage and Deliver a Safe, Reliable, and Sustainable Water Supply	
Local Control	Support legislation that is beneficial to Special Districts. Support legislation that expands options for local supply development. Oppose a “public goods charge” or “water tax” on public water agencies or their customers. Oppose measures that may impede the district's ability to maintain day-to-day operations.	Develop and Grow Effective Communication and Advocacy Practices	

	Support legislative and regulatory efforts that minimize cost impacts of new or expanded regulations and discourage measures that impose an undue burden on customers. Oppose legislation that pushes for a “one-size fits all” policy		
Strategic Partnership and Coalition Building	Promote collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies to achieve common goals and address shared challenges. Support initiatives that foster partnerships with other water districts, community organizations, and stakeholders. Advocate for policies that encourage resource sharing and joint projects to improve regional water management and service delivery.	Strengthen Partnerships with Outside Agencies	
Workforce	Support legislation that addresses economic equity across the water/wastewater industry and encourages more protected class inclusion. Support legislation and funding initiatives that expand workforce development, education, training, and career advancement opportunities within the water and wastewater industry, helping build a skilled, diverse, and sustainable workforce. Support policies that advance economic equity and inclusive employment opportunities across the water and wastewater industry, including efforts to expand access and representation for individuals from historically underrepresented and protected classes. Promote regional partnerships and collaborative workforce development programs that strengthen the water industry, enhance technical and professional skills, and create accessible pathways into water-related careers.	Be an Exemplary Employer	
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	Endorse initiatives that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the water industry and community. Advocate for investments and funding allocations that promote a fair and equitable funding process for the public, ensuring diversity and equity considerations for disadvantaged communities. Support policies that ensure equitable access to water services for all customers, regardless of background or socioeconomic status. Advocate for representation and inclusion of diverse voices in decision-making processes.	Public Trust & Integrity	

Transparency	Support legislation that allows for greater public access to public meetings. Support measures that encourage the streamlining of processes to respond to public records requests. Support measures that protect and advance local governance and transparency. Advocate for practices that build trust and accountability between WVWD and its customers.	Public Trust and Integrity	
Advancing District initiatives	Protect local revenue sources and reserve funds. Maintain local government control over the rate-setting process. Prioritize cybersecurity to protect sensitive information and ensure compliance with legislative regulations related to data privacy and security. Use Information Technology (IT) tools to facilitate collaboration and communication within the district and with external stakeholders. Embrace digital transformation initiatives to modernize processes and improve service delivery to our customers. Advance legislation that protects communities by improving fire resilience and increasing preparedness for extreme weather conditions.	Effective Financial Stewardship Sound Planning, Innovation, and Best Practices	
Water- Energy Nexus	Support funding opportunities for investment in backup energy storage and other infrastructure needs to prepare public agencies to address Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. Support preparation for broader deployment of zero-emission fleet vehicles and support efforts to manage energy use.	Sound Planning, Innovation, and Best Practices Health, Safety, and Regulatory Compliance	
Access to Safe Affordable Drinking Water	Support sensible, long-term solutions to assist disadvantaged communities with reliable access to safe, affordable drinking water. Oppose measures that impose fees on drinking water that would increase cost.	Manage and Deliver a Safe, Reliable, and Sustainable Water Supply	
Water Quality	Support measures that promote innovative technologies. Support measures that promote advanced water technologies and practices that reduce water usage.	Manage and Deliver a Safe, Reliable, and Sustainable Water Supply Health, Safety, and Regulatory Compliance	

	Support measures that promote environmental stewardship, consistent with District's mission and water rights. Support sound science & transparent regulatory processes in establishing drinking water standards**.** Advocate for funding and resources to address emerging contaminants and improve water treatment processes. Promote policies that protect water sources from pollution and degradation.		
Customer Connection	Support initiatives that improve communication and responsiveness to customer needs and concerns. Support initiatives that promote water awareness campaigns in the region to educate our customers on the value of water. Advocate for the implementation of technologies and practices that streamline customer interactions and service delivery.	Superior Customer Service	