



WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024 - 6:00 PM

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

Director Angela Garcia, Chair
Vice President Daniel Jenkins

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.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public may address the Board on matters within its jurisdiction. Speakers are requested to keep their comments to no more than three (3) minutes. However, the Board of Directors is prohibited by State Law to take action on items not included on the printed agenda.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Updates to the External Affairs Committee
2. Federal Update.
3. State Legislative Update - October 2024.
4. September - October 2024 Social Media Report.
5. Earth Day 2025.

IV. ADJOURN

DECLARATION OF POSTING:

I declare under penalty of perjury, that I am employed by the West Valley Water District and posted the foregoing External Affairs Committee Agenda at the District Offices on October 24, 2024.

Elvia Dominguez

Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

DATE: October 28, 2024
TO: External Affairs Committee
FROM: Socorro Pantaleon, Gov't and Legislative Affairs Manager
SUBJECT: FEDERAL UPDATE

BACKGROUND:

Jamie Jones, WVWD Federal Lobbyist from David Turch and Associates will provide a verbal report on Federal Activities.

DISCUSSION:

- S.2654/HR 5016 -- the Water Efficiency, Conservation and Sustainability Act (Exhibit A)
- S.4673/HR 7525 – Special District Grant Accessibility Act (Exhibit B)

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and File.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. WVWD Memo on S.2654 HR5016 Water Efficiency Conservation and Sustainability Act
2. WVWD Memo HR 7525 Special District Grant Accessibility Act (Exhibit B)

David Turch and Associates

TO: Socorro Pantaleon, Manager Government and Legislative Affairs
Isabelle Medina, Management Analyst
West Valley Water District

FROM: Jamie Jones
Jamie.jones@davidturch.com
202-543-3744

DATE: October 21, 2024

RE: S.2654/H.R.5016 – Water Efficiency, Conservation and Sustainability Act

Senator Alex Padilla introduced S.2654, the Water Efficiency, Conservation and Sustainability Act, on July 27, 2023. The bill is pending before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (Padilla is a Committee member). A companion bill, H.R. 5016, has been sponsored by Representative Mike Levin, a Democrat from Southern California. The House bill is pending before the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing and Critical Materials (Rep. Levin does not sit on the E&C Committee). Neither bill has cosponsors. S.2654 and H.R. 5016 are unlikely to move out of their respective committees in this Congress. We expect both bills to be reintroduced in the 119th Congress sometime next year.

The Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act is targeted at helping regions experiencing severe drought, as well as those in low-income communities. The bill authorizes tens of millions of dollars for areas across the country to upgrade water efficiency systems and establish programs to repair leaks. According to the EPA, installation of water-efficient fixtures and appliances can reduce water use by 20 percent.

The Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act of 2023 would establish three new EPA grant programs, providing a suite of options to address losses in public water systems and improve water efficiency. The programs include:

Water Efficiency and Conservation Grant Program:

- Authorizes \$50 million per year for grants to states, municipalities, and water systems to carry out water efficiency programs for purchase, installation, or use of efficient fixtures, appliances, and landscaping.
- Directs 50 percent of grants to entities that experienced drought conditions designated as D2 (severe drought), or were under a Governor-declared drought emergency, within 3 years preceding grant award.
- Requires at least 40 percent of funds to go towards low-income households and disadvantaged communities, aligned with President Biden's Justice40 initiative.

Sustainable Water Loss Control Program:

- Authorizes \$40 million per year for grants and technical assistance to public water systems to conduct an annual audit and establish a water loss control program. California already requires urban water suppliers to submit annual water loss audits as of 2017.

Assistance for Water Efficient Plumbing Code Adoption

- Authorizes \$20 million per year for grants to States, Tribal governments, and units of local government with authority to adopt plumbing codes that meet or exceed U.S. and international water use efficiency standards.

Bill Support:

The Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act of 2023 is endorsed by the Alliance for Water Efficiency, Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), the International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Natural Resources Defenses Council (NRDC), and the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP).

David Turch and Associates

TO: Socorro Pantaleon, Manager Government and Legislative Affairs
Isabelle Medina, Management Analyst
West Valley Water District

FROM: Jamie Jones
Jamie.jones@davidturch.com
202-543-3744

DATE: October 22, 2024

RE: H.R. 7525 – Special District Grant Accessibility Act

The House passed H.R. 7525, the Special District Grant Accessibility Act, by a vote 352-27, on May 6, 2024. Reps. Pete Aguilar and Norma Torres supported the bill. H.R. 7525 would require the White House Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to federal agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local governments for the purpose of federal financial assistance determinations.

While the Office of Management and Budget already recognizes special districts as units of local government, similar to townships or villages, special districts often struggle to compete for or access federal funding. The Special District Grant Accessibility Act works to solve this problem and ensures that special districts are on equal footing with other units of local government. H.R. 7525 requires the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to federal agencies, emphasizing how special districts should be recognized as a unit of local government for the purpose of being eligible for federal grants and other federal assistance.

More specifically, under the bill, a special district is defined as a political subdivision of a state, with specified boundaries and significant budgetary autonomy or control, that was created by or pursuant to state law to perform limited and specific governmental or proprietary functions that distinguish it as a significantly separate entity from the administrative governance structure of any other form of local government unit within a state. The bill requires federal agencies to implement OMB's guidance within one year of the date it is issued.

According to the National Special District Coalition (NSDC), who supports the bill, there are more than 35,000 special districts in the U.S. providing a range of infrastructure and essential community programs across the country including parks, water, sanitation, fire protection, ports, cemeteries, healthcare, electricity, pest control, and libraries

The bipartisan bill, sponsored by Representatives Pat Fallon (R-TX) and Brittany Pettersen (D-CO), is pending in the Senate. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee favorably reported the bill out of Committee on July 31, 2024. The National Special District Coalition is urging the Senate to adopt the bill without amendments and send it to the White House for the president's signature before the end of the year.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

DATE: October 28, 2024
TO: External Affairs Committee
FROM: Socorro Pantaleon, Gov't and Legislative Affairs Manager
SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2024 SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

BACKGROUND:

The social media report provides updates on West Valley Water District's (WVWD) social media profile activity on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) including the reach, impressions and engagement of posts are condensed into one report to untangle audience insight, allowing staff to understand best practices for successful customer engagement.

DISCUSSION:

In this past reporting month, the Public Outreach and Government Affairs team enjoyed highlighting employees for California Water Professionals Appreciation Week from October 5th-October 13th. Our audience enjoyed listening to each employee's story. The Public Outreach and Government Affairs will analyze and assess engagement with this year's content and will use this data to plan for next year's California Water Professionals Appreciation Week.

Additionally, spotlighting our new board member, Estevan Bennett, generated an uptick in engagement on Facebook. Employee highlights continue to produce engagement on LinkedIn and X.

The Public Outreach and Government Affairs team will continue to monitor social media trends and create content that keeps the community informed about all things West Valley Water District.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and File.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Social Media Report - September - October 2024

SEPT - OCT

2024

SOCIAL MEDIA

Report



TO THE TEAM

Eric Mena-Rosales
Purchasing/Inventory Specialist I



MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers
1,145
+6



Reach
826



Engagement
193



No. of Posts
19 posts

TOP POST



Post Impressions

359 Impressions

Post Engagement

19 interactions

MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers

1,359

+4



Reach

2,000

+14



Engagement

458

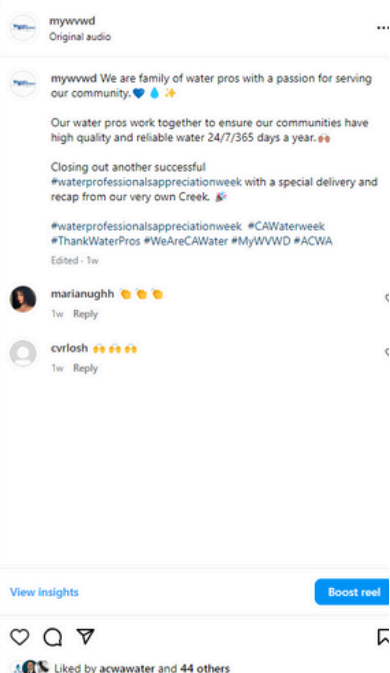
+24%



No. of Posts

20 posts

TOP POST



Post Impressions

1,200 Impressions

Post Engagement

53 interactions

MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers
684
+18



Reach/Impressions
6,270



Engagement
196



No. of Posts
13 posts

TOP POST



Post Impressions

880 Impressions

Post Engagement

63 interactions

MAIN KPI'S



No. of Followers
429



No. of Posts
18 posts

TOP POST

DARNELL WILLIAMS
Customer Service Rep. I

0:26



West Valley Water District

CALIFORNIA WATER PROFESSIONALS
APPRENTICESHIP

Post Impressions

54 Impressions

Post Engagement

3 interactions

The Public Outreach and Government Affairs team had a busy month highlighting our wonderful #waterpros for California Water Professionals Appreciation Week whose commitment and dedication ensure communities in Bloomington, Colton, Fontana, Jurupa Valley and unincorporated San Bernardino County have access to high-quality and reliable water.

Top posts ranged across all social media platforms. Highlighting employees, new board members, and videos showcasing our mascot continue to generate an increase in engagement across social media platforms. The Public Outreach and Government Affairs Team will continue to monitor trends to ensure constant engagement with the communities in our service area.

