



2025-2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON
JANUARY 16, 2025

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

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 adopt official district positions on clearly stated legislative issues throughout the year. By doing this, the legislative approval process is streamlined by receiving clear direction at the beginning of the legislative session from the Board on pertinent legislative issues.

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.

Any legislative positions and/or actions that are deemed as potentially "controversial" by the General Manager will be presented to the Board for further action. Generally, WVWD will not address matters that are not pertinent to West Valley's services, such as social or international issues. Items not addressed in the Platform or Priorities may require further Board direction.

For proposed legislation, consistent with West Valley's Legislative Platform, WVWD staff shall be authorized to prepare position letters for the General Manager's signature. The General Manager or the Public Outreach and Government Affairs Manager will inform the Board of Directors of WVWD's actions as soon as possible or at the following meeting of the External Affairs Committee on advocacy efforts.

There may be issues that arise that are not addressed in this platform or on which the Board may change its position. It is anticipated that staff will continue to interact with the Board to ensure the iterative process necessary to ensure that the advocacy needs of WVWD are met.

Throughout the year, the Board may also take additional steps to direct staff to oppose or support policy initiatives as they arise.

RULE AND RESPONSIBILITIES



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/Public Outreach and Government Affairs Staff

- Maintain a list of proposed legislation that may affect WVWD, its customers, and stakeholders.
- 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.

RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Lobbyist

- 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

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

Bill Positions Considered by the District:

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.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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.

WATER-USE EFFICIENCY



- Support legislation that encourages attainable water efficiency standards and 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.

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.
- 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.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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.

WORKFORCE



- Support legislation that creates workforce and training opportunities in the water industry.
- Support legislation that addresses economic equity across the water/wastewater industry and encourages more protected class inclusion.
- Support regional efforts/programs that strengthen the water industry and its workforce.

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.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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.

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.

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.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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.

WATER QUALITY



- Support measures that promote innovative technologies.
- Support measures that promote advanced water technologies and practices that reduce water usage.
- Support measures that promote environmental stewardship, consistent with District's mission and water rights.
- Support sound science and transparent regulatory processes in establishing drinking water standards.
- Advocate for funding and resources to address emerging containments 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.