West Valley Water District

2025 GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kelvin Moore
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Angela Garcia
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Dan Jenkins
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Estevan Bennett
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Introduction

On January 16, 2025, the West Valley Water District (WVWD) Board of Directors adopted the 2025–2026 Legislative Platform—our guiding document for the current legislative session. This platform outlines the District's priorities, defines desired outcomes, and establishes positions on proposed legislation and policy matters impacting our region, all in alignment with WVWD's strategic plan.

Developed collaboratively by the Public Outreach and Government Affairs team, in partnership with WVWD's lobbyists, management, and Board of Directors, the Legislative Platform reflects the District's anticipated needs and advocacy goals for the legislative term.

Throughout 2025, WVWD actively supported legislative proposals, regulatory actions, and policy initiatives at both the state and federal levels that aligned with our platform. We monitored over **50 bills** and formally took positions on **16**. Our team also participated in multiple advocacy trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C., collaborated with regional partners, and worked closely with key associations and lobbyists to advance our objectives.

This report provides a summary of the key achievements and impactful advocacy efforts that defined this successful legislative year.

Key Priorities:

- Strategic Partnership and Coalition Building
- Water Energy Nexus
- Water Supply Reliability
- Workforce
- Access to Safe Affordable Drinking Water
- Water-Use Efficiency
- Local Control
- Water Quality
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
- Customer Connection

State Report

The first year of the two-year session has wrapped and the California Legislature is now in Interim Study Recess. Both houses will reconvene on Monday, January 5, 2026, unless Governor Gavin Newsom calls for an Extraordinary Session in the Fall, which we do not anticipate him doing.

As you'll recall, the Legislative Session began with the Governor and Legislature responding to major fires in the Los Angeles metropolitan area that burned over 50,000 acres, ultimately killed 440 individuals, and destroyed numerous homes and businesses. Two bills amending the 2024 Budget--SBx1-3 and ABx1-4--were quickly moved through the Legislature and sent to the Governor's desk, appropriating $2.5 billion to support emergency fire relief efforts in the County of Los Angeles. Governor Newsom signed both measures into law on January 23rd.

In total, legislators from both chambers introduced **2,397 measures** in 2025, including policy bills, resolutions and budget bills. This year, **917 measures** were successful in making their way through the legislative process and onto the Governor's desk. The Governor had until **October 13th** to act on these bills. Of the roughly **900 measures** that were presented to the Governor, **794** were signed and **123** were vetoed, for a veto rate of **13.4%**. In his seven years in office, the Governor has acted on every bill that has reached his Desk, which now total more than **6,600** bills.

At the center of this year's Legislative Priorities was the extension of California's cap-and-trade system – rebranded by Newsom as "cap and invest" – through 2045. The extension, hammered out in backroom talks, was one of the most divisive elements of this year's end of session energy package. The package also included: regionalizing the energy market, replenishing the Wildfire Fund, streamlining permitting for oil and gas production in Kern County, and allocating Prop 4 climate resiliency bond funds.

Additionally, a significant and unexpected piece of legislation during the last month of session was the redistricting package put forward by Governor Newsom. Both houses passed and the Governor signed: SB 280 (Cervantes), which calls for a special election November 4, 2025 and designates ACA 8 as Prop 50; and AB 604 (Aguiar-Curry), which draws new Congressional maps for the 2026 election. This package passed, and Prop 50 was voted on November 4th.

Positions on State Legislation - Assembly Bills

BILL	AUTHOR	TTITLE	POSITION	STATUS
AB 259	Rubio	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences	Support	Assemblymember Rubio required that the bill be merged into her bill SB 707
AB 339	Ortega	Local public employee organizations: notice requirements	Oppose	Chaptered
AB 532	Ransom	Water rate assistance program	Support	2 year bill
AB 794	Gabriel	California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations.	Oppose	2 year bill
AB 810	Irwin	Local government: in internet websites and email addresses	Oppose	2 year bill
AB 1146	Papan	Water infrastructure: dams and reservoirs: water release: false pretenses	Oppose → Neutral	Failed

Positions on State Legislation - Senate Bills

BILL	AUTHOR	TTITLE	POSITION	STATUS
SB 72	Caballero	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets	Support	Chaptered
SB 90	Seyarto	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024	Support	2 year bill
SB 350	Durazo	Water Rate Assistance Program	Support	2 year bill
SB 394	Allen	Enhanced Penalties for Water Theft from Fire Hydrants	Support	Chaptered
SB 454	McNerney	State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program	Support	Vetoed by Governor
SB 496	Hurtado	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions	Support	2 year bill

Positions on State Legislation - Senate Bills

BILL	AUTHOR	TTITLE	POSITION	STATUS
SB 601	Allen	Water: waste discharge	Oppose	2 year bill
SB 707	Durazo	Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements	Oppose	Chaptered

ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT

Washington D.C. Advocacy Trips

West Valley Water District joined water leaders from across California in Washington, D.C. for the annual Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Conference. Our board and staff met with federal partners and policymakers to advocate for the investments and infrastructure needed to secure a reliable, sustainable water future for our communities.

Bureau of Reclamation

Congressman Pete Aguilar

Halle and Creek visit the U.S. Capitol

Congresswoman Norma Torres

Sacramento Advocacy Trips

West Valley Water District Board of Directors and Legislative Team traveled to Sacramento to engage directly with state legislators, regulatory agencies, and policy leaders—advocating for our customers, advancing critical infrastructure projects, supporting water education initiatives, and contributing to the future of water policy in California.

Assistant Majority Leader Robert Garcia

Assemblymember James Ramos

SB 394 Testimony

Working with our Associations

Board and Staff at ACWA DC 2025 meeting with key policymakers shaping California's water future

Staff attended ACWA's legislative symposium and had the chance to meet with Senator Ochoa Bogh

Tour with Michael Cervantes, ACWA's Senior Regional Affairs Representative

ACWA Regions 8, 9 and 10 for the Southern California Water Forum

ACWA
Association of California Water Agencies

WVWD Receives ACWA Region 9 Outreach Award!

We're excited to announce that WVWD has been awarded the Region 9 Outreach Award from the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA).

Each year, ACWA encourages its member agencies to engage in key legislative and regulatory initiatives that shape California's water policy. The Outreach Awards recognize agencies that demonstrate exceptional leadership and involvement in advancing ACWA's legislative and regulatory priorities.

We are proud and grateful to be recognized among our peers for our commitment to advocacy and collaboration.

ACWA
Association of California Water Agencies

Bringing Water Together

October 28, 2025

John Thiel
General Manager
West Valley Water District

Dear John:

Congratulations! Your district is one of the top ACWA 2025 Outreach winners in your region. Your outstanding efforts as part of the Outreach Program have helped ACWA accomplish its legislative and regulatory goals this year.

Here is a list of the winning districts in each region for the 2025 Outreach Recognition Awards.

Region 1: Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District
Region 2: Bella Vista Water District
Region 3: Tuolumne Utilities District
Region 4: San Juan Water District
Region 5: Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Region 6: McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Region 7: Friant Water Authority
Region 8: Three Valleys Municipal Water District
Region 9: West Valley Water District
Region 10: Mesa Water District

ACWA will acknowledge your district and the other regional winners at ACWA's 2025 Fall Conference & Expo in San Diego, Thursday, Dec. 4 at the Keynote and Awards Program. The overall winner will be announced at this time. The regional winners will also be asked to stay after the program to collect the award and take photos.

Thank you for all of your hard work this year on helping advance ACWA's legislative and regulatory goals!

Sincerely,

Marwan Khalifa
ACWA Interim Executive Director

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Working with our Associations

Staff at a monthly ASBCSD dinner fostering regional collaboration

Board and staff attended Special Districts Legislative Days in Sacramento

Tour with Chris Palmer, CSDA's Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator

CSDA

California Special Districts Association

Districts Stronger Together

Working with our Associations

Creek and Halle made an appearance at CMUA's annual conference

Staff attended an in person CMUA Legislative Committee at LADWP

Board and staff in Sacramento for CMUA Advocacy Day

WVWD had the honor of hosting the CMUA team for a District tour

CMUA
CALIFORNIA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES ASSOCIATION

Regional Collaboration

WVWD Board and staff touring Cucamonga Valley Water District

Board and Staff had a grand time at Southern California Water Coalition Annual Dinner

Staff had the pleasure of attending IEUA's first ever Water Table. 🙂

Some of our favorite water leaders at BIA's 2025 Southern California Water Conference

West Valley Water District

District Tours

May 2025

WVWD's Board of Directors and staff had the pleasure of leading Senator Adam Schiff's Field Representative Mohamad Almouazzen, on a tour of our one-of-a-kind Fluidized Bed Reactor (FBR) Plant and the Oliver P. Roemer Expansion Project.

August 2025

We had the pleasure of welcoming Assistant Majority Leader Robert Garcia and his team to WVWD. During the visit we had the opportunity to share our District initiatives, talk about legislative priorities, and tour our facilities, highlighting how we deliver high-quality and reliable water to more than 100,000 residents.

Looking Ahead: 2026 Priorities

As West Valley Water District looks toward 2026, our government affairs efforts will continue to advance policies and partnerships that strengthen the reliability, safety, and sustainability of our water systems and workforce. The District will actively engage in legislative and regulatory issues that support our mission to provide high-quality water service to our customers today and for generations to come.

Proposition 4 Funding:

We will closely monitor Proposition 4 funding to make sure vital infrastructure and water reliability projects get the support they need to keep our water safe and sustainable. Our goal is to make the most of state and federal funding opportunities that improve system efficiency, strengthen drought resilience, and protect water quality.

Investing in Infrastructure:

WVWD is committed to keeping our water systems strong and reliable. We're investing in projects that replace aging pipes and equipment, make our systems more flexible, and help us respond quickly to emergencies or security concerns. By building a more resilient system today, we can protect our water supply for the future—while keeping costs as low as possible for our customers.

Workforce Development:

A resilient system depends on a skilled and sustainable workforce. WVWD will continue to support policies and programs that invest in education, training, and career development to build the next generation of water professionals. We will advocate for workforce development initiatives that reflect our commitment to safety, innovation, and diversity within the water industry.

THANK YOU

This year's efforts demonstrate the impact of staying engaged, informed, and united in our advocacy. From shaping key legislative outcomes to deepening partnerships across our region, we've built a strong foundation for the work ahead. With a clear focus on the 2026 landscape, we remain committed to advancing policies that support our mission, our stakeholders, and the communities we serve.

Contact Us

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