

CEAC Update from Sacramento

CEAC Flood and Water Committee March 23, 2022

California State Associations of Counties®



Upcoming Legislative Deadlines

Bills



May 27 Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house



August 31

Last day for bills to be passed (72hour in-print rule)

Budget

January 10 Budget introduced May 14 Governor submits May Revision (based on updated fiscal forecast)



June 15th Budget Bill must be passed by midnight. ... (followed by BB Jr. and Trailer Bills)



Budget Overview/Update

- Provides \$4.6 billion as part of 2021 budget agreement, over 3 years water supply and reliability/drinking water/flood (\$3.3 billion); water quality and ecosystem (\$1.2 billion); and immediate drought response (\$137 million).
- Total 2022 funding \$880 million (as part of 2021 multi-year agreement).
 - \$200 million as grants to local agencies for turf replacement and on-farm efficiency
 - \$150 million for water storage and reliability (urban, community, and groundwater systems).
 - \$250 million unspecified.
- Anticipates \$3.8 billion federal funds for water-related activities through federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).



A Few Water Bills

as of March 20, 2022

- **AB 2016 (Rivas) Stormwater Quality Permits.** Requires that on or before December 31, 2024, the state board to modernize its Stormwater Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS) database. (To be heard in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials). CSAC position pending—stay tuned—likely to be amended. Suggest Review.
- **AB 2201 (Bennet) Groundwater permitting.** Extensive well permitting bill that (among other things) requires a permit from certain GSAs for a groundwater well; prohibits the GSA from allowing a new well in a probationary GSA without State Water Board approval; and requires critical GSAs to adopt an ordinance for issuance of groundwater permits. *Referred to Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee. CSAC Position Pending—Suggest Review.*
- **AB 2421 (Rubio) Water Theft—Illegal Cannabis.** Enhances local enforcement authority to prosecute and enjoin water theft and water pollution in order to combat water theft and illegal cannabis grows. *CSAC support.*
- **AB 891 (Hertzberg) Business License/Discharge Compliance.** Prohibits a city or county from developing its own processes for determining whether a business is appropriately covered by the Industrial General Permit. (*Triple referral to Senate Gov/Finance, ESTM and Judiciary*). Position pending—follows SB 205 of 2019. Comments welcome, problem statement unclear, not all cities/counties issue business licenses).



Water-Goings On (1) as of March 20, 2022

- **Groundwater Oversight Hearing.** Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife with Local Government. Testimony from Sierra Ryan at (Santa Cruz County) and David Morrison (Napa County) discussing the local government perspective for SGMA implementation.
- **Drought, drought ... and more drought.** Continuing discussions with state leadership on opportunities to support local communities. Key funding through State Water Board, CDAA, and \$250 million "unspecified" in the budget. Lots of scrutiny on water transfers, reservoir management, and shallow water wells.



More Water Actions (2)

- **Groundwater**—Ongoing local/state advisory meetings to discuss implementation, funding and opportunity
- Stream Gage Technical Advisory Committee—Draft complete, anticipate release of public draft in spring 2022
- Water Plan 2023 Advisory Committee—CSAC providing feedback in development of 2023 Water Plan. Focus is on watershed approach; beyond IRWM.



Conclusion

If you have any questions or thoughts related to CSAC's work on resiliency, please feel free to contact CSAC staff:

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