

ZONE 7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 9, 2025
TIME: 4:00 pm
LOCATION: Boardroom
Zone 7 Administration Building
100 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore

Director Brown
Director Green
Director Palmer

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda
3. 2025 Legislative Communications Plan
4. Legislative Update – Consultant/Staff
5. Adjournment



100 North Canyons Parkway
Livermore, CA 94551
(925) 454-5000

DATE: January 9, 2025
TO: Legislative Committee
FROM: Carol Mahoney, Government Relations Manager
SUBJECT: 2025 Legislative Communications Plan

SUMMARY:

In preparation for the 2025 California legislative session, as well as other political activities, staff is developing a Legislative Communications Plan (Plan) as a tool to link the goals and objectives of the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan) with legislative engagement. This effort supports initiatives in the Strategic Plan under Goal G – Stakeholder Engagement, more specifically Initiative #20 - Pursuing opportunities for interagency cooperation.

The purpose of the Plan is to guide engagement on legislative matters and key interest of Zone 7 Water Agency (Agency). To ensure effective advocacy, the Plan is also a companion to the Legislative Framework and Platform. By engaging key audiences, delivering clear messages, and evaluating advocacy efforts, the Agency can achieve its objectives. Although intended to be reviewed and updated annually, the Plan will be adjusted for staff's use throughout the year to address changing conditions in the legislative environment and reported to the Committee in the Annual Legislative Outcomes Report. This document is primarily a reference for staff to track progress and serve as a record of engagement.

Key Objectives of the Plan

- **Document Elected Leadership Changes:** Leadership may change in any year but is more likely to change in even years. An update of election results was provided at the Legislative Committee meeting on December 12, 2024.
- **Identify Needs for Messaging:** Identify and prepare key messages on areas of interest where advocacy may be necessary in the coming year. As a part of this effort, staff will review and incorporate information that raises awareness of the needs and functions of the Agency as a wholesale water utility, groundwater manager, flood protection manager, and special district. Although this objective mainly targets legislators and their staff, it also requires clear language in communicating the Agency's legislative interests and the impact of recent laws that impact the Agency to the public.
- **Identify Opportunities to Build/Maintain Relationships:** Build and maintain relationships with legislators, legislative staff, state agencies, commissions, and departments. Continue to engage with membership organizations, retailers, and stakeholders.

- **Convey Legislative Calendar and Deadlines:** The state legislature’s deadlines for action change slightly in election years. Calendars for the 2025 Legislative Session are attached.

Strategies

The agency will employ a variety of the strategies including those listed below to accomplish the key objectives of this plan, which may vary from year to year and among various audiences.

- **Combined and Individual Legislative Briefings:** Organize briefings for legislators and their staff to present data on water-related interests and more general concerns, if necessary or requested.
- **Participate in Membership Organization Advocacy Days:** Meet with legislators and/or their staff as a part of targeted advocacy from organizations in which the Agency participates, such as the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) and similar.
- **Engagement on Specific Legislation (may include):**
 - Participation with membership organizations on collaborative comment letters.
 - Preparing comment letters that convey the Agency’s official position.
 - Meeting with legislators and their staff to provide direct comments on legislation.
 - More rarely, attend and/or comment at committee hearings.

In general, staff performs the following tasks in any given year to prepare messaging and engage elected officials:

- **Pre-Session (November – January)**
 - Research legislative priorities; develop materials and messaging; engage legislators and their staff on any key topics of interest.
 - Meet with Agency staff to explore upcoming events to evaluate if tours, ribbon cuttings, or other engagement opportunities warrant reaching out to legislators to attend.
- **Session (January - August)**
 - Monitor legislative developments; engage with membership organizations and attend advocacy days; hold briefings.
 - Reach out to any new legislators to introduce the Agency and begin engagement.
 - Review legislative positions during the session and reach out to individual legislators, as needed.
 - Schedule any facility tours, ribbon cuttings or other engagement events.

- **Post-Session (September - December)**
 - Evaluate and report on outcomes.
 - Continue advocacy and initiate Pre-Session activities.

LEGISLATIVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR EARLY 2025:

As indicated by membership organizations and early discussions with legislative staff, key topics of interest that may be the subject of legislation include Net Energy Metering (NEM), energy-related incentives, water rights/groundwater management, permit streamlining, stormwater management, and emerging contaminants.

Engagement: Staff will continue to engage legislators and their staff to educate them on Agency goals and needs. No specific meetings have been planned at this time to allow incoming members to hire and develop staff. Agency staff will continue to monitor the topics of “townhall” style meetings held by elected officials and reach out as needed on topics of mutual interest.

February 2025: Association of California Water Agencies Washington, D.C. Conference Directors Benson and Green will accompany staff to meet with U.S. House and Senate representatives to discuss agency needs and explore opportunities for the agency to seek federal funding for future projects. Targeted messaging will be developed to augment information provided in 2024 regarding the Mocho PFAS Treatment Facility progress and construction needs. *Potential Meetings: Sen. Alex Padilla, Sen. Adam Schiff, Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, Rep. Eric Swalwell*

Spring 2025: Ribbon Cutting event for Chain of Lakes PFAS Treatment Facility
In conjunction with the Agency’s Communications Specialist, local elected officials or their staff (such as members of the Board of Supervisors and city councils) will be identified as interested parties and invited to attend. In addition to these, staff will work to identify which elected officials at the state level may be interested in this event. *Potential Invitations: Asm. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Asm. Liz Ortega, Sen. Jerry McNerney, Sen. Tim Grayson*

FUNDING:

N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information only.

ATTACHMENT:

2025 Legislative Calendars for the California Senate and Assembly

2025 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK
Revised October 16, 2024

DEADLINES

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Jan. 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 6** Legislature Reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(1)).
- Jan. 10** Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- Jan. 20** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Jan. 24** Last day to submit **bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.

- Feb. 17** Presidents' Day.
- Feb. 21** Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(a)(1), (J.R. 54(a)).

- Mar. 31** Cesar Chavez Day

- Apr. 10** **Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment of this day's session (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
- Apr. 21** Legislature reconvenes from **Spring Recess** (J.R. 51(a)(2)).

- May 2** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to **fiscal committees** fiscal bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(2)).
- May 9** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the Floor **nonfiscal** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(3)).
- May 16** Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 9 (J.R. 61(a)(4)).
- May 23** Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(5)). Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to June 9 (J.R. 61 (a)(6)).
- May 26** Memorial Day.

*Holiday schedule subject to Senate Rules committee approval.

2025 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK
Revised October 16, 2024

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

June 2 - 6 Floor Session Only. No committees, other than conference or Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(a)(7)).

June 6 Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(a)(8)).

June 9 Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(a)(9)).

June 15 Budget Bill must be **passed by midnight** (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).

JULY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

July 4 Independence Day.

July 18 Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(a)(10)). **Summer Recess** begins upon adjournment of session provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(a)(3)).

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Aug. 18 Legislature reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(a)(3)).

Aug. 29 Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills to the Floor. (J.R. 61(a)(11)).

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sept. 1 Labor Day.

Sept. 2-12 Floor Session Only. No committees, other than conference or Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(a)(12)).

Sept. 5 Last day to **amend** on the Floor (J.R. 61(a)(13)).

Sept. 12 Last day for **each house to pass bills** (J.R. 61(a)(14)). **Interim Study Recess** begins at end of this day's session (J.R. 51(a)(4)).

*Holiday schedule subject to Senate Rules committee approval.

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING INTERIM STUDY RECESS

2025

Oct. 12 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before Sept. 12 and in the Governor's possession after Sept. 12 (Art. IV, Sec.10(b)(1)).

2026

Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
Jan. 5 Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).

2025 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Revised 10-16-24

DEADLINES

JANUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3	4
Wk. 1	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wk. 2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Wk. 3	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Wk. 4	26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4							1
Wk. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Wk. 2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Wk. 3	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Wk. 4	23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4							1
Wk. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Wk. 2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Wk. 3	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Wk. 4	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Wk. 1	30	31					

APRIL							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1			1	2	3	4	5
Wk. 2	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Spring Recess	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Wk. 3	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Wk. 4	27	28	29	30			

MAY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4					1	2	3
Wk. 1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Wk. 3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Wk. 4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Jan. 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 6** Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(1)).
- Jan. 10** Budget bill must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- Jan. 20** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed.
- Jan. 24** Last day to submit **bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.

- Feb. 17** Presidents' Day observed.
- Feb. 21** Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(a)(1), J.R. 54(a)).

- Mar. 31** Cesar Chavez Day observed.

- Apr. 10** **Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
- Apr. 21** Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess (J.R. 51(a)(2)).

- May 2** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(2)).
- May 9** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the Floor **nonfiscal** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(3)).
- May 16** Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 9 (J.R. 61(a)(4)).
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Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to June 9 (J.R. 61(a)(6)).
- May 26** Memorial Day observed.

*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

2025 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Revised 10-16-24

JUNE							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
No Hrgs.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wk. 1	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Wk. 2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Wk. 3	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Wk. 4	29	30					

June 2-6 Floor Session only. No committee may meet for any purpose except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to A.R. 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(a)(7)).

June 6 Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(a)(8)).

June 9 Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(a)(9)).

June 15 Budget bill must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).

JULY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4			1	2	3	4	5
Wk. 1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wk. 2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Summer Recess	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Summer Recess	27	28	29	30	31		

July 4 Independence Day observed.

July 18 Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report bills (J.R. 61(a)(10)).

Summer Recess begins upon adjournment, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(a)(3)).

AUGUST							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Summer Recess						1	2
Summer Recess	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Summer Recess	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wk. 3	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Wk. 4	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
No Hrgs.	31						

Aug. 18 Legislature reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(a)(3)).

Aug. 29 Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report bills to the Floor (J.R. 61(a)(11)).

SEPTEMBER							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
No Hrgs.		1	2	3	4	5	6
No Hrgs.	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Interim Recess	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Interim Recess	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Interim Recess	28	29	30				

Sept. 1 Labor Day observed.

Sept. 2-12 Floor session only. No committees may meet for any purpose, except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(a)(12)).

Sept. 5 Last day to **amend** on the Floor (J.R. 61(a)(13)).

Sept. 12 Last day for each house to pass bills. (J.R. 61(a)(14)).

Interim Recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(a)(4)).

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING FINAL RECESS

2025

Oct 12 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 12 and in the Governor's possession on or after Sept. 12 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(1)).

2026

Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).

Jan. 5 Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).

*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.