

ZONE 7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, December 10, 2024
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. Draft 2025 Legislative Framework and Platform
4. November 2024 Election Update
5. Legislative Update – Gualco/Staff
6. Adjournment



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

DATE: December 10, 2024
TO: Legislative Committee
FROM: Carol Mahoney, Government Relations Manager
SUBJECT: Draft 2025 Legislative Framework and Platform

SUMMARY:

In preparation for the 2025 California legislative session, as well as other political and regulatory activities, staff prepared a Draft Legislative Framework and Platform for Board consideration. This effort supports initiatives in the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan) under Goal G – Stakeholder Engagement and Goal H – Fiscal Responsibility.

The attached Legislative Framework and Platform builds on the previous framework and adds information about the process the agency takes to determine when, and if, to take positions on legislation. The basis for the Framework and Platform is the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan that was adopted on November 20, 2024. Although the Framework and Platform are speaking specifically to legislation and political matters, the document can also stand as a guide for staff when commenting on related regulatory and financial matters.

FUNDING:

N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss and provide direction.

ATTACHMENT:

Draft 2025 Legislative Framework and Platform

DRAFT

ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY

Legislative Framework and Platform

January 2025



Water Quality

Water Supply and Treatment



Stormwater Runoff

Flood Protection



Water Storage

Groundwater Management

ZONE 7
ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

IN S LD

**UPDATE WITH NEW
RESOLUTION ONCE
PASSED**

Adopt Legislative Framework

WHEREAS, it was the Board intent to create a Legislative Committee to review and recommend positions on key legislative actions; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a legislative framework will provide a roadmap for the Legislative Committee and staff and supports Strategic Plan, Goal F – Stakeholder Engagement, engage our stakeholders to foster understanding of their needs, the Agency, and its function; and Goal G - Fiscal Responsibility, Initiative No. 23 – Track State and Federal funding opportunities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Zone 7 Board of Directors of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District does hereby adopt the attached Legislative Framework.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

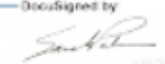
AYES: DIRECTORS FIGUERS, GAMBS, GREEN, PALMER, SANWONG, SMITH MCDONALD

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: DIRECTOR RAMIREZ HOLMES

ABSTAIN: NONE

I certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Zone 7 of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District on December 15, 2021.

Decafigned by

By: _____
Vice President, Board of Directors

PURPOSE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The purpose of the Legislative Framework (Framework) is to provide the Board, Legislative Committee (Committee), staff, and the public with an understanding of what actions may be taken by Zone 7 Water Agency (Agency) to address legislative concerns. Additionally, this Framework explains the process for engagement and contains guiding principles, goals, focus areas, strategies for engagement, position definitions, and the Legislative Platform – which will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect changing conditions and needs.

The guiding principles for legislative engagement by the Agency, its staff and Board are representative of adopted policies/plans, and frames the legislative interests with respect to the Agency’s mission, vision, and values. In addition to these, the other primary guiding document for evaluating legislation is the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, which was updated and approved by the Board on November 20, 2024. Legislative action may also be considered for topics that were not known at the time of adoption provided they fall within the broader goals. Staff routinely review and comment on regulatory matters separately.

GOALS

Advocate

the Agency’s legislative interests at the:

- State
- Region
- Federal Levels

Inform

by providing information to:

- Legislators, Board of Directors, other elected officials and staff on key issues and legislation that could have an impact on the Agency

Serve

by actively participating with:

- Other water purveyors and special districts, the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) and regional agencies on legislative/regulatory issues that are important to the Agency

STRATEGIES FOR LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT

Communication:

Communicate legislative positions on proposed federal, state, county and local legislation, measures, initiatives, and governmental regulations.

- Work with legislative advocates to develop positions on proposed legislative measures.
- Review positions taken and analysis produced by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), and others in formulating Agency's position.
- The Agency will only take positions on proposals that clearly impact our Agency or state water policy.
- Actively track key bills through the legislative process.
- Communicate the Agency's position through correspondence, meetings, and testimony, if necessary.
- Meet with legislators and their representatives to discuss issues, proposed legislation, and educate them on Agency services.
- Develop an Annual Legislative Communications Plan.

Advocate and Seek Funding:

- Seek federal, state, regional, and county funding for Agency projects.
- Advocate and request letters of support for Agency projects and grant applications.

PROCESS

Government Relations Manager will monitor and review legislation in conjunction with the Agency's advocacy consultant and membership organizations. The Committee will meet at strategic times throughout the legislative session to review and discuss pending legislation. Should a bill warrant a formal position, a recommendation from the Committee will be sent to the Board for consideration and adoption. If amendments are requested, the Board approval will include the position that the agency would move to should amendments be adopted. A letter outlining the Agency's position will be drafted for the Board President or General Manager's signature. A copy of all Agency legislative letters will be distributed to the Board of Directors.

When a time-sensitive action is necessary, the Government Relations Manager and General Manager will evaluate if it is critical for the Agency to take or amend a position on legislation where there is insufficient time to follow the formal process. In this event, the Government Relations Manager, with the General Manager's approval, is authorized to take a position on behalf of the Agency that is in the best interests of the Agency and notify the Board as soon as practicable following the decision.

Membership organizations often request immediate action to join with them in advocating a position on a specific bill. In these instances, staff will use the Legislative Platform to determine if the Agency's logo should be added to position letter. Other agencies and membership organizations may have slightly different positions or may include rankings in their positions to indicate the level of effort that will be employed in their advocacy. When joining with membership organizations, staff will review the positions for consistency in spirit with those adopted by the Agency. The following describes positions the Agency make consider.

POSITIONS

- **Support (S)** — Agency actively supports the proposed legislation.
- **Support if Amended (S/A)** — Agency will actively support the proposed legislation, if it is amended to address specific shortcomings identified by the Agency.
- **Favor (F)** — Agency will join with other organizations in support but will not engage separately in advocacy for the measure.
- **Favor, if Amended (F/A)** — Agency will join with other organizations in support, if legislation is amended to address specific shortcomings identified by the Agency, but will not engage actively in advocacy for the measure.
- **Watch (W)** — Measures or general issues have not been sufficiently defined for a formal position.
- **Neutral (N)** — Agency determines that a formal position no longer meets the Agency objectives.
- **Not Favor (NF)** — Agency will join with other organizations in opposition, but will not engage actively in advocacy against the measure.
- **Not Favor Unless Amended (NF/A)** — Agency will join with other organizations in opposition, unless the legislation is amended to address shortcomings identified by the Agency, but will not engage actively in advocacy against the measure.
- **Oppose Unless Amended (O/A)** — Agency will actively oppose the proposed legislation unless it is amended to address specific shortcomings.
- **Oppose (O)** — Agency actively opposes the proposed legislation.



Zone 7 Water Agency 2025 Legislative Platform

The purpose of the Legislative Platform (Platform) is to define interests and concerns of the Agency for evaluating legislation. The priorities identified in the Platform mirror the goals of the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan.

Reliable Water Supply and Infrastructure/Safe Water/Groundwater Management:

- Join membership organizations in taking supporting positions or separately take a supporting position on legislation that furthers Agency's ability to manage and protect the groundwater basin, provides customers with a reliable water supply, meets the goals of the Agency's Water Quality Policy without conflicting with other goals and priorities.
- Join membership organizations in opposing and/or recommend for formal oppositional positions legislation that impedes the Agency's ability to provide a reliable, safe water supply, operate as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), or reduces local control.

Effective Operations/Flood Protection:

- Join membership organizations in taking supporting positions or separately take a supporting position on legislation that furthers Zone 7's operational functionality including energy projects and programs, agency administration, governance, construction, maintenance, permitting, safety and security.
- Join membership organizations in opposing and/or recommend for formal oppositional positions legislation that may impede Zone 7's ability to operate as a special district, water supplier, flood protection manager and government organization.

Fiscal Responsibility/Workforce Excellence:

- Join membership organizations in taking supporting positions or separately take a supporting position on legislation that promotes or enhances Zone 7's ability to manage revenue, administer financial accounts, achieve fiscal stability, and maintain a professional workforce.
- Join membership organizations in opposing and/or recommend for formal oppositional positions legislation that may impede Zone 7's ability to achieve fiscal stability and maintain a skilled, motivated, professional workforce.

Energy Planning and Investment:

- Join membership organizations in taking supporting positions or separately take a supporting position on legislation that furthers energy projects and programs, including funding, permitting, construction, and maintenance.
- Join membership organizations in opposing and/or recommend for formal oppositional positions legislation that may impact funding, permitting, construction or maintenance of energy facilities or programs.



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DATE: December 10, 2024
TO: Legislative Committee
FROM: Carol Mahoney, Government Relations Manager
SUBJECT: November 2024 Election Update

SUMMARY:

The information below provides an overview of state and federal elected officials, their tenure, and districts where Zone 7 is represented. Included in this report is an update on election results from November 2024. The certified election results will be posted to the California Secretary of State's website (<https://electionresults.sos.ca.gov/>) by December 13, 2024.

Background on Election Schedule, Limits and Districts

- **STATE:**
 - **California Assembly**
 - Elections every two years in even years for all 80 seats.
 - The Agency has representation in two districts – 16 and 20.
 - Term limit of 12 years combined Assembly/Senate.
 - **California Senate**
 - Four-year terms with elections every two years for half of the 40 seats, with odd numbered districts on the ballot in presidential election years. Even numbered State Senate districts will be on the ballot in 2026.
 - The Agency has representation in two Senate Districts – 5 and 9.
 - Term limit of 12 years combined Assembly/Senate.
 - **California Constitutional Offices** (e.g. Governor, etc.)
 - Elections every four years – held two years apart from Presidential elections.
 - Term limit of two terms.
- **FEDERAL:**
 - **U.S. Senators**
 - Elected every six years in staggered elections.
 - California has two senators who represent the state at large.
 - There are no constitutional time limits for U.S. Senators.
 - **U.S. House of Representatives**
 - Elected every two years.
 - California has 52 Representatives, of which the Agency is represented by two in Districts 10 and 14.
 - There are no constitutional time limits for U.S. Representatives.

Zone 7 Service Area Representation:

District	Elected Official	Party	Area Represented	Term Start
Assembly 16	Rebecca Bauer-Kahan	Dem	Eastern Dublin, Livermore, Eastern Pleasanton, San Ramon	2025
Assembly 20	Liz Ortega	Dem	Western Dublin, Western Pleasanton	2025
Assembly 24	Alex Lee	Dem	Western unincorporated Alameda County, Sunol	2025
Senate 5	Jerry McNerney	Dem	Eastern Alameda County	2025
Senate 9	Tim Grayson	Dem	San Ramon	2025
U.S. House 10	Mark DeSaulnier	Dem	Eastern Dublin, San Ramon	2025
U.S. House 14	Eric Swalwell	Dem	Western Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton	2025
U.S. Senator	Alex Padilla	Dem	Statewide	2023*
U.S. Senator	Adam Schiff	Dem	Statewide	2025

*Sen. Padilla was elected in a special election in 2022 with the term ending in January 2029.

FUNDING:

N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information only.