

Sonoma Water State Legislative Platform 2019-2020

Funding Sources

- Work with the Water Bond Coalition to advocate for increased funding for resiliency programs, climate adaptation, watershed protection, Integrated Regional Water Management Plans, water use efficiency programs, small community wastewater systems, groundwater, recycled water, storm/flood risk reduction projects and watershed improvements
- Monitor development of statewide water bond or water public goods charge initiatives.
- Advocate for fairness in the allocation of future infrastructure funding to ensure that our region receives equitable funding
- Support funding for Coastal Salmon, ground water and Youth Ecology Corps programs
- Advocate for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund appropriations for climate resilience at the local level and to rural communities
- Monitor state legislation that could alter the allocations of property tax revenue at the local level or reduce tax revenue for Sonoma Water programs

Clean and Affordable Drinking Water

- Monitor legislation and the budget for efforts to create a fee or tax to fund programs and projects to provide clean and affordable drinking water to many disadvantaged communities in the state
- Seek opportunities to shape the language, so that Sonoma Water's watershed restoration fee is unharmed

Groundwater

- Work with the Ground Water Coalition and other state or regional organizations to support legislation to improve access to and quality of well log information
- Advocate for regulatory policy that does not apply waste discharge requirements to aquifer recharge projects
- Support legislation that removes regulatory barriers to future groundwater banking projects
- Support legislative and regulatory efforts approved by local Sustainable Groundwater Management Agencies

Invasive Species

- Work with state agencies to ensure enforcement of existing policies for prevention of infestations
- Protect, and increase if necessary, funding for the statewide mussel prevention grant program

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

- Support legislative and regulatory efforts to secure funding from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund to local and regional projects

Atmospheric Rivers

- Work with coalition of water agencies to advocate for appropriations to California Department of Water Resources' Atmospheric Rivers program
- Support legislation that expands the use of atmospheric river research and data to other disaster preparedness and response efforts
- Support additional funding and equipment for the Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information program including but not limited to x-band radars and stream gages

Disaster Preparedness and Response

- Support legislation and advocate for funding for greater disaster preparedness and response efforts as the effects of climate change continue to impact California
- Support legislation and advocate for funding for cameras and technology that senses and gathers data on fire conditions and ignition
- Support legislation and advocate for funding for greater deployment and utilization of stream gages

Permitting and Regulations

- Monitor and support legislative efforts to reform and create efficiencies in permitting processes for watershed restoration and habitat programs at California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Water Conservation Board, Department of Water Resources, and others
- Monitor proceedings at State Water Resources Control Board and potential follow up actions in the legislature regarding new definitions and ensuing regulations of wetlands

Water Use Efficiency

- Advocate for statewide deployment of state-of-the-art water use efficiency measures
- Monitor legislation and regulatory policy and support bills and actions that improve efficiency of water use statewide and locally
- Promote adoption of advanced programs for water use efficiency including Direct Install Programs and Advance Metering Infrastructure

Recycled Water

- Support legislation that advances the beneficial use of recycled water
- Monitor implementation of current and future water bond funds to ensure funding for recycled water projects
- Work proactively with Watereuse California, North Bay Water Reuse Program and other organizations on policy initiatives to expand opportunities for beneficial reuse of recycled water

Flood Protection

- Support increasing funds for flood protection programs
- Monitor legislation in this area and work to optimize and support beneficial bills
- Review alternative means to replace revenue lost with expiration of the flood zone special taxes and support legislation that could provide replacement funds.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

- Support funding efforts to upgrade and improve aging water, wastewater infrastructure
- Research funding mechanisms and partnerships to increase awareness of aging infrastructure

Climate Adaptation

- Monitor legislative and regulatory climate adaptation rules and regulations that could impact Sonoma Water's systems and infrastructure
- Support funding opportunities, such as water bond funding, to secure facilities due to climate adaptation

Storm Water

- Support legislative efforts to secure funding for storm water pollution prevention initiatives
- Support the Slow it, Spread it, Store it, message in legislative and funding efforts to support local partners