

Attachment 7 – List of State and Federal Advocacy Priorities and History

State and Federal Advocacy Priorities

The current list of state and federal advocacy priorities for Sonoma Water and Districts include support and often funding for:

1. Climate resiliency, planning, and adaptation.
2. Source water protection and wildfire risk reduction.
3. Hazard mitigation programming and funding.
4. Weather-related initiatives: Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) system, Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) at Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Hydrometeorology Testbed Project Implementation, atmospheric rivers research, flood modeling and drought, and subseasonal-to-seasonal (S2S) precipitation forecasting.
5. The Russian River Biological Opinion.
6. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' operations and maintenance activities at Warm Springs and Coyote Valley dams and related fish facilities.
7. Central Sonoma Watershed Project comprehensive planning and rehabilitation.
8. The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.
9. Quagga/zebra/golden mussel prevention.
10. San Francisco Bay Restoration.
11. Technical collaboration with United States Geological Survey and NOAA.
12. Agricultural Water Enhancement program.
13. Wastewater treatment and collection funding opportunities.
14. Recycled water production and distribution funding opportunities.
15. Enhanced funding and support for groundwater sustainability.
16. Support for the New Eel-Russian Facility through partnership with the Eel Russian Project Authority.

History of State and Federal Advocacy

State Advocacy:

Recent state legislative successes include creation of a California office of FIRO, funding for quagga/zebra/golden mussel prevention through the Department of Boating and Waterways, and language and funding the 2024 climate bond that supports groundwater sustainability agencies, along with funding support for the New Eel-Russian Facility through the Eel-Russian Project Authority.

Federal Advocacy:

Together, the federal legislative advocates have successfully secured ongoing funding for AQPI development, maintenance and operations of Warm Springs Dam and Coyote Valley Dam, S2S forecasting programs within the National Weather Service, and quagga/zebra/golden mussel prevention. In addition, the federal legislative advocates continued to support coalition-building and funding requests for atmospheric river research programs and appropriation requests for local wastewater system upgrades. The federal legislative advocates also organized and submitted community funding requests for Sonoma Water to local federal representatives.