

**Sonoma County Water Agency Legislative Platform
2021-2022**

FEDERAL

Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information Program

- Seek appropriations for operations of the radars through NOAA's OAR account
- Educate relevant Capitol Hill policymakers on program
- Coordinate with NOAA for long term federal support
- Work with partners on the ground to build robust coalition to support the program at the federal level
- Support the Floods Act, which creates a flood information system at NOAA

Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations

- Educate policymakers on Final Viability Study
- Ensure sufficient funding is provided to support FIRO
- Monitor regulations or legislative efforts in support of FIRO
- Seek as needed funding to support FIRO efforts throughout the nation

Seasonal to Sub-seasonal Forecasting

- Support funding for increased modeling and technology for enhanced weather forecasting

Watershed Recovery

- Establish and fund an improved U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mechanism for emergency response and resiliency to disasters on Corps property (Walbridge fire recovery)
- Support funding and legislative and regulatory language for fire prevention and vegetation management initiatives at both Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino
- Promote efforts to protect coho populations impacted by wildfires

Wildfire Response and Resiliency

- Advocate federal support for fire relief and fire prevention measures
- Identify and pursue assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for recovery efforts

Russian River Biological Opinion

- Monitor U.S. Army Corps of Engineer implementation of Dry Creek habitat restoration (Previously funding in FY20 at \$28.367 million)
- Begin strategic planning for next Biological Opinion, including funding strategies

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Projects

- Support funding for ongoing maintenance and operations of Warm Springs Dam (Lake Sonoma) and Coyote Valley Dam (Lake Mendocino), including dam safety and hatchery operations
- If the Water Resources Development Act is enacted in the 116th Congress and contains the expected \$30 million authorization for the Corps to assist financially in the ongoing water and boat inspection operations, including the mussel-sniffing dogs at Lakes Sonoma and Mendocino, work to secure funding for these provision through the appropriations process.
- Pursue efforts to update water control manual

Pacific Coastal Salmon Restoration Fund

- Support continued federal funding at or above \$65 million annually
- Coordinate with coalition to increase awareness of funding requests and project implementation

Climate Change Adaptation

- Support federal legislation that addresses climate change adaptation and mitigation measures
- Work with relevant policymakers to introduce ideas and advance solutions to address long term drought in California

Recycled Water

- Support Bureau of Reclamation loan and grant programs to assist with implementation of Phase 2 North Bay Water Reuse projects
- Continue to support increased funding for Reclamation's WaterSMART programs that provide assistance for recycled water and other water management projects

Wastewater Infrastructure Financing

- Support federal appropriations for the Clean Water and Drinking Water revolving loan and grant programs
- Review new infrastructure initiatives and position Sonoma Water to be eligible for funding from these programs
- Support funding for Occidental to Graton wastewater pipeline

Applied Solutions

- Support efforts of the National Council on Science and the Environment to expand the Applied Solutions program
- Support funding programs aimed at putting national climate change policies into practice at the local level

Renewable Resources

- Support legislation and programs increasing funding opportunities in alignment with Sonoma Water's Carbon Free Water program

Flood Protection Funding

- Support flood protection facility funding
- Seek authorization and appropriation of funding in the Farm Bill to support infrastructure improvements within the Central Sonoma Watershed Project

Potter Valley Project

- Develop and implement strategies to educate and seek support from federal policymakers to secure a new license for the Potter Valley Project
- Support associated Native American water rights settlements

Legislative and Regulatory Review

- Track legislative and regulatory developments as reported by Sonoma Water advocates and information provided by coalitions and trade organizations
- Communicate Sonoma Water positions on legislation or regulatory initiatives consistent with Board direction through engagement with policymakers and staff

STATE

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.
- Work with CA State Association of Counties and the Resiliency Coalition to advocate in the state budget process for increased funding for wildfire preparedness and other climate resiliency programs.
- Work with North Coast Resource Partnership and other regional collaboratives to advocate in the state budget process for wildfire preparedness funding, particularly the Regional Forest & Fire Capacity Program.
- 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 and Youth Ecology Corps programs.
- Advocate for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund appropriations for climate resilience at the local level and to rural communities.

Groundwater

- Work with the Ground Water Coalition to support legislation expanding access to 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 DWR's Atmospheric Rivers program.
- Work with DWR to identify and secure potential funding for research and demonstration projects associated with the Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information system.
- Build support for AQPI within the Legislature and Administration and expand the coalition of supporters around the Bay Area.
- Support legislation that expands the use of atmospheric river research and data to other disaster preparedness and response efforts.

Potter Valley Project

- Pursue, through special legislation, the creation of a regional entity that would take ownership of the Potter Valley Project.
- Advocate for budget appropriations and/or bond funding for feasibility studies and infrastructure upgrades at the Potter Valley facility.

Permitting and Regulations

- Monitor and support legislative and administrative efforts to implement Cutting the Green Tape recommendations that seek to reform and create efficiencies in permitting processes to increase the pace and scale of restoration projects to increase the resilience of California's environment.