

2026 Legislative Session Summary — City of Coachella

Chromium-6 Funding, the State Budget, and Bills of Note





Session at a Glance

Adjournment

California Legislature adjourned
August 31, 2026 — the
constitutional deadline

Governor's Deadline

Governor has until September
30, 2026 to sign or veto
legislation

Three Areas of Focus

Chromium-6 compliance funding, the State Budget Act of 2026, and
bills of note

Chromium-6: The Challenge

The State Water Board established a **10 parts-per-billion hexavalent chromium standard**, creating a significant compliance burden for the City of Coachella.

The City's rate study shows compliance costs are **unaffordable for ratepayers** even with low-interest financing — making state-level funding support essential.

Sacramento Meeting

On May 20, City representatives met in Sacramento with Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, Assemblymember Carrillo, and the office of Senator Steve Padilla to press the City's chromium-6 funding case.



Chromium-6: The Win

1 Primary Ask

Preserve the State Water Board's policy allowing up to **\$50 million in principal forgiveness** for qualifying chromium-6 systems.

2 Secondary Ask

A dedicated budget appropriation to backfill compliance costs statewide, building on a framework advanced by Assemblymember Gonzalez and Wallis.

3 Outcome

As adopted in August, the Intended Use Plan for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund confirmed the **\$50 million total-project principal forgiveness cap was maintained.**

✓ The \$50 million principal forgiveness cap was preserved — a key win for the City of Coachella.

Chromium-6: A Structural Concern

Very few of the cities and water systems actually impacted by the chromium-6 standard have submitted funding applications to the State Water Board to date.

Low application volume risks creating the impression that existing funding is sufficient to meet statewide demand, making a direct dedicated appropriation less likely.

Going Forward

Build coalition with the **Community Water Systems Alliance** to encourage more impacted jurisdictions to file applications, so the true statewide funding shortfall becomes visible.



Without more applications on file, the case for a dedicated statewide appropriation is weakened.



State Budget Act of 2026 — Overview

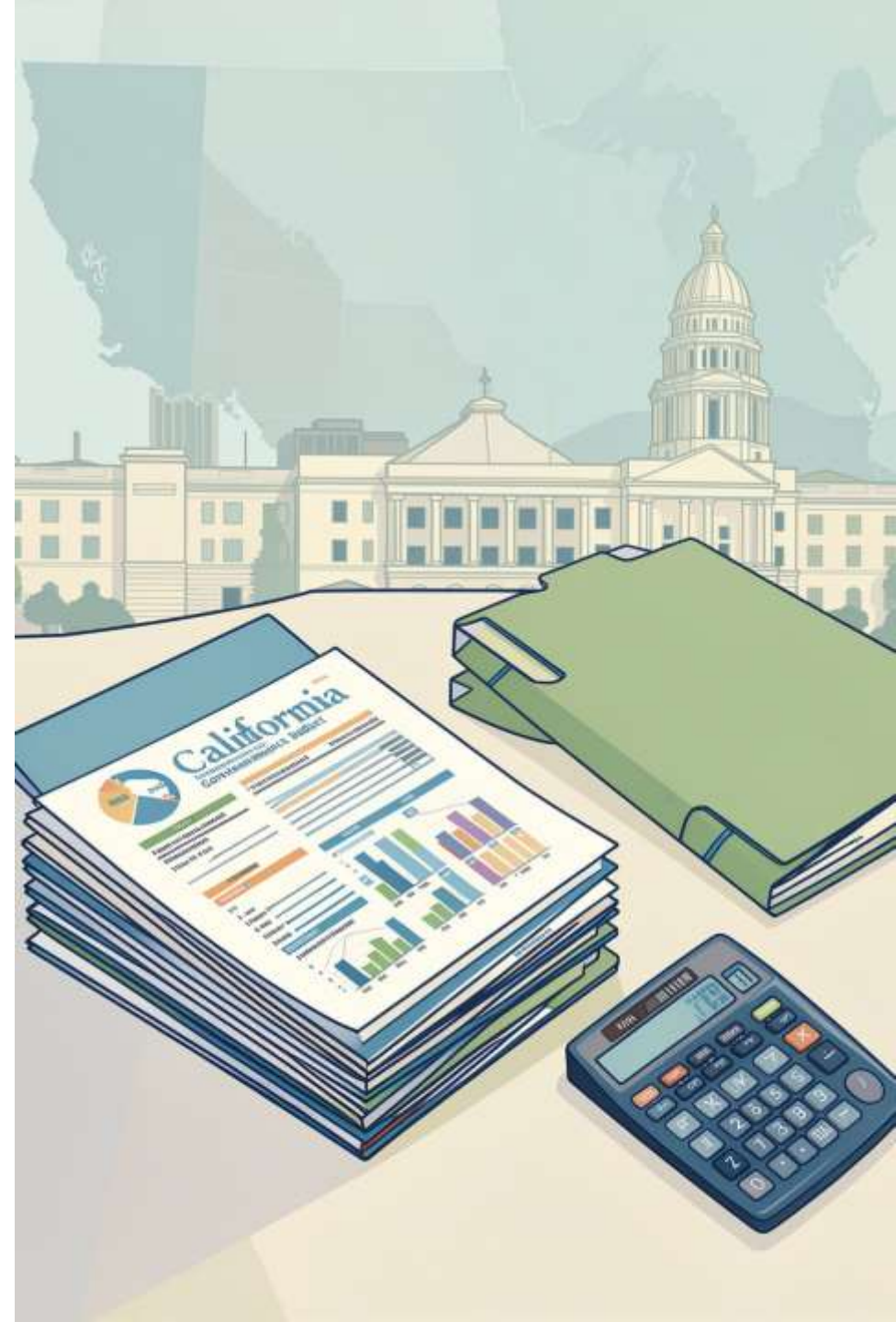
\$351.7B

Total Budget

Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on June 29, 2026

The budget was heavily shaped by the state's response to **federal House Resolution 1**, which threatened significant cuts to CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and other safety-net programs.

On balance, the adopted budget is **good news for Coachella**: the budget protected many of the programs most relevant to City residents.



Budget and the Undocumented Community: Health Care

Medi-Cal Protections

Cuts to dental, clinic payment, and full-scope Medi-Cal for undocumented residents were **delayed through July 1, 2027**

Rejected Cuts

Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly rate caps and acupuncture benefit elimination were **rejected outright**; In-Home Supportive Services cuts were also rejected



⚠ Caution: this protection is time-limited and will need renewed advocacy before mid-2027.

Budget and the Undocumented Community: Legal Aid and Navigation

This is the **single largest area of budget enhancement** over the Governor's proposal and is highly relevant given Coachella's immigrant community.

\$175M

Immigration Legal Aid

Statewide funding for immigration legal aid services

\$10M

Inland Empire & Imperial Valley

Targeted specifically to Inland Empire and Imperial Valley capacity-building

\$39M

Medi-Cal Navigators

Funding for Medi-Cal transition navigators

Budget and the Undocumented Community: Food Security

CalFood

Funded at **\$100 million** — \$70 million above the Governor's budget

CalFresh Eligibility Workload

\$223 million for county CalFresh eligibility workload increase, plus **\$14 million** for outreach

Local Impact

Directly supports local food banks such as the **Galilee Center** and Riverside County enrollment capacity for mixed-status households as federal CalFresh eligibility tightens



Bills of Note: Immigration

AB 2393 (Addis)

Makes it easier for people wrongfully detained by immigration authorities to sue for damages. *On the Governor's desk.*

AB 1633 (Haney)

Taxes companies that operate Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities in California, directing 50 percent of proceeds to fund immigration services. *On the Governor's desk.*

AB 2624 (Bonta)

Extends "Safe at Home" address-confidentiality protections to immigration support workers and volunteers. *Signed into law August 22.*

AB 1896 (Gonzalez)

Bars federal immigration officers and current federal administration employees from being hired as California state employees. *On the Governor's desk.*

SB 1013 (Cervantes)

Would have limited automated license plate reader data access, retention, and sharing. *Failed passage.*

Bills of Note: Housing, Fiscal, and Other

SB 1117 (Cervantes) & AB 956 (Quirk-Silva)

Reform Accessory Dwelling Unit impact fees and allow up to two detached Accessory Dwelling Units per single-family lot. *Both on the Governor's desk.*

AB 2739 (Soria)

Establishes a Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund and Trust, relevant to the City's broader chromium-6 affordability framing. *On the Governor's desk.*

Data Center (7 bill Package)

Package regulates Data Centers across energy use and rate protection, environmental review, and transparency. *On the Governor's desk.*



Questions & Discussion

Thank you for your time. We welcome your questions, comments, and concerns.

Your Feedback Matters

Council input helps shape our legislative advocacy priorities and ensures

Follow-Up

For questions after today's meeting, please don't hesitate to reach out directly. We are happy to provide additional information.