



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Board of Directors

Title: Resolution to Amend Department of Water Resources Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant and Receive Legislative Update

From: Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources

Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager

Meeting Date: May 20, 2025

TYPE OF ITEM: X Action Information

RECOMMENDATION: Receive a legislative update and approve a resolution amending the project scope and agreement end date for the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief (UMDR) Grant Program

SUMMARY: Staff is recommending approval of a resolution amending the project scope and extending the completion date for DWR UMDR grant funding. Additionally, the District regularly tracks state and federal legislation that may affect District interests; staff will provide a presentation to the Board on bills introduced in the 2025-2026 legislative session that the District is tracking.

DISCUSSION: The Budget Act of 2021 allocated \$300 million to DWR to deliver grants for interim and immediate drought relief to urban communities and for multibenefit projects. These grants were intended to provide water to communities that face the loss or contamination of their water supplies, to address immediate impacts on human health and safety, and to protect fish and wildlife resources. On March 23, 2022, the District was awarded \$2,000,000 from the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program to support the Emergency Intertie Project in response to historic drought conditions. The original grant-funded scope of work was to advance an emergency water supply project; however, due to winter rains, the project was not pursued and the District amended the grant to instead support the Strategic Water Supply Assessment (SWSA). In order for the District to formalize the project change, DWR requires that the Board adopt a resolution approving an amendment to the grant agreement documenting these changes. In addition, the District is extending the grant timeline to support final reporting and closeout for the SWSA project from December 31, 2024 to September 30, 2025.

In addition to the continued monitoring and administration of grants, staff have also been working with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and other coalitions to track legislation relevant to the work of the District. Key dates of the 2025-2026 California State Legislature session include:

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE 2025-2026	
Item	Deadline
Session begins	January 6
Deadline to submit bills	February 21
Committees review and vote on bills	February through May
Deadline for each house to pass bills introduced in that house	June 6
Deadline for state budget to be passed	June 15
Deadline for each house to pass bills	September 12
Deadline for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature	October 12

The table below, in addition to the attached *Legislative Items to Watch*, summarize legislation relevant to the District, as well as the positions staff is recommending that the District take. Staff recommendations are based on vetting of each bill, as well as alignment with ACWA. Bills recommended for District support generally provide financial and regulatory support for disaster mitigation, including increasing the scale of forestry work and watershed restoration. A District position of *support* indicates that the district will send letters of support on these items, both through ACWA and independently. A position of *watch* indicates that the District will continue track the item as it progresses through the legislative process. Staff is requesting that the Board review and comment on staff's recommended positions on the following legislative items. Based on input from the Board, staff will bring legislative items back for formal Board action to adopt a position at a future date.

SUPPORT			
FEDERAL			
Item	Introduced	Summary	Status
H.R. 403 Preventing Our Next Natural Disaster Act	Swalwell	To enhance predisaster mitigation to prevent future natural disasters, and for other purposes.	In committee
S. 670 Protect the West Act	Bennet	Invests \$60B in forests across the West to reduce wildfire risk, restore watersheds, protect communities, and reduce wildfire suppression costs.	In committee
STATE BILLS			
Item	Introduced	Summary	Status
AB 372 Office of Emergency Services: state matching funds: water	Bennett	This bill is a reintroduction of SB 1088 (Alvarado-Gil, 2024) and is intended to establish a program within CalOES to administer matching funding for water infrastructure and backup power generation in the wildland urban interface,	In committee

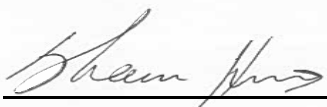

system infrastructure improvements.		contingent on funding being appropriated pursuant to Proposition 4.	
AB 846 Endangered species: incidental take: wildfire preparedness activities.	Connolly	This bill is a reintroduction of AB 2330 (Holden, 2024). AB 846 would develop a voluntary, streamlined process for wildfire preparedness activities by allowing local agencies to submit wildfire preparedness plans to CDFW and seek approval to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the take of an endangered, threatened, or candidate species.	In committee

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. DWR Grant Resolution
2. Legislative Items to Watch

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Watershed	 Shaun Horne Watershed Resources Director	 Ben Horenstein General Manager