



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Board of Directors
Title: Consider a Position of Support for Certain Federal and State Legislation
From: Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources
Through: Paul Sellier for Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: June 17, 2025

TYPE OF ITEM: X Action Information

RECOMMENDATION: Adopting a position of support on House Resolution (H.R.) 403, Senate Bill (S.) 670, Assembly Bill (AB) 372, and AB 846

SUMMARY: The District regularly tracks state and federal legislation that may affect District operations. The Board reviewed and commented on the aforementioned bills on May 20, 2025. Staff is proposing that the Board adopt a support position on H.R. 403, S. 670, AB 372, and AB 846.

DISCUSSION: The table below summarizes legislation relevant to the District that staff is recommending for support. Staff recommendations are based on vetting of each bill, as well as alignment with ACWA. Generally, the bills recommended for District support 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.

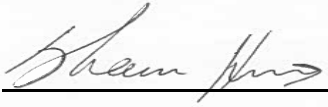

SUPPORT			
FEDERAL			
<i>Item</i>	<i>Introduced</i>	<i>Summary</i>	<i>Status</i>
H.R. 403 Preventing Our Next Natural Disaster Act	Swalwell	To enhance pre-disaster mitigation to prevent future natural disasters, and for other purposes. H.R. 403 is of interest to the District as it would increase FEMA funding for pre-disaster mitigation assistance in high risk communities (including Marin County) for projects such as water infrastructure upgrades and forest health work.	In committee

S. 670 Protect the West Act	Bennet	<p>Invests \$60B in forests across the West to reduce wildfire risk, restore watersheds, protect communities, and reduce wildfire suppression costs.</p> <p>S. 670 is of interest to the District as it could provide additional funds for restoration and resilience projects that measurably improve watershed function, forest conditions, and wildlife habitat.</p>	In committee
STATE BILLS			
<i>Item</i>	<i>Introduced</i>	<i>Summary</i>	<i>Status</i>
AB 372 Office of Emergency Services: state matching funds: water system infrastructure improvements.	Bennett	<p>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.</p> <p>AB 372 is of interest to the District as the program would provide state matching funds to communities within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) to improve water system infrastructure. The bill is contingent upon Prop 4 funding being appropriated by the Legislature to CalOES. The bond allocates \$1.5 billion to wildfire and forest resilience.</p>	In committee
AB 846 Endangered species: incidental take: wildfire preparedness activities.	Connolly	<p>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.</p> <p>While AB 846 isn't directly applicable to the District because we currently have a document that we conduct wildfire preparedness work under, staff feel that it's of interest to the District more broadly because it could support wildfire mitigation activities County-wide and would help our partners streamline and scale their wildfire mitigation work.</p>	In committee

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.

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