



2019 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The legislative platform will help guide staff and district lobbyists when analyzing legislation or administrative actions at both the federal and state levels. Maintaining an updated platform provides for directed action and strategy development to address the most critical issues facing the organization. The platform will be updated annually to reflect changes in priority issue areas but shall not prohibit advocacy on additional matters that may arise during the legislative session.



Federal Priorities - Energy

Municipal Bonds

- Oppose efforts to eliminate tax-exempt status or to cap municipal bonds as part of tax legislation.
- Support legislative efforts to reinstate advance refunding bonds.

Regional Planning and Renewables

- Continue to monitor administrative action from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as it relates to Order No. 1000 and Order No. 1000A.
- Monitor efforts to transform the California Independent Systems Operator (CAISO) into a multistate regional transmission system organization.
- Monitor the Department of Energy's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Docket No. AD18-7-000) on grid reliability and resiliency pricing to increase the role and procurement of geothermal resources in the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area.
- Monitor regulatory efforts to modify environmental regulations such as the Clean Power Plan.
- Support long-term tax credits for geothermal energy development and energy storage technologies.

Grid Security

- Monitor implementation of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act enacted in 2015 and resulting regulatory changes.
- Monitor all cybersecurity provisions in energy policy legislation regarding electromagnetic pulse (EMP) events that would authorize FERC to develop a mandatory EMP standard.
- Monitor activities of the Electric Sub-Sector Coordinating Council, which serves as the principal liaison between the federal government and the electric power sector, with the mission of coordinating efforts to prepare for, and respond to, national-level disasters or threats to critical infrastructure.
- Monitor all legislation that may undue, duplicate or add to mandatory and enforceable FERC standard setting process for utilities.

Hydroelectric Power

- Support legislation that extends and/or expands renewable energy credits for all hydroelectric facilities, regardless of size or capacity.
- Monitor legislation that seeks to improve the FERC hydropower licensing/relicensing process.

Federal Lands

- Monitor legislative and regulatory efforts that encourage geothermal energy development on federal lands.
- Oppose proposals to eliminate or reduce the sharing of federal energy royalties/revenues with local governments.
- Monitor administrative efforts to revise or eliminate federal participation in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP).
- Monitor legislative and regulatory efforts to improve forest management practices by federal land management agencies to mitigate loss of life and reduce the threat of wildfires.
- Support federal funding for wildfire disasters as well as wildfire control and management.

Drones and Telecommunications

- Monitor legislative and regulatory efforts to regulate the use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) for electric utility restoration, emergency response and facility inspections.
- Oppose legislative and regulatory efforts to weaken or eliminate the municipal exemption that public power utilities have from federal "pole attachment" regulations.



Federal Priorities - Water

Colorado River

- Monitor legislation that would authorize a Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan and ensure it is consistent with the district's position and interests.
- Continue to monitor federal agency coordination and administrative actions related to the Quantification Settlement Agreement.
- Continue to monitor and participate in the International Boundary and Water Commission's Minute 319 and Minute 323 implementation efforts and assessments as well as planning efforts and negotiations for subsequent Minutes.
- Support legislative efforts to protect interstate water supply operations from disruptive regulation of invasive species, including quagga mussels, under the Lacey Act.
- Support continued funding and implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program.
- Support continued funding and implementation of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.
- Support continued funding for the WaterSMART grant program for water and energy conservation and Title XVI grants for water reuse projects that provide additional non-agricultural sources of water to urban users in Southern California.

Farm Bill

- Advocate for a matching federal-to-state funding commitment of at least \$200 million from U.S. Department of Agriculture programs that fund watershed-based conservation, mitigation and restoration programs to benefit the Salton Sea, per the authorities expanded under the 2018 Farm Bill.
- Monitor and advocate for improved water conservation and management funding for eligible irrigation districts to utilize in coordinating water delivery efficiency improvements with on-farm conservation activities.
- Support implementation of provisions that exempt industrial hemp from the Controlled Substances Act.

Salton Sea

- Support legislation or administrative actions to facilitate the development of renewable energy resources at the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area.
- Support federal appropriations for Salton Sea restoration projects, consistent with the District's initiatives, from U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and by the Army Corps of Engineers under the authority of the 2007 Water Resources Development Act. (P.L. 113-121).

Western Drought

- Monitor Western water policy/drought legislation, national infrastructure legislation, administrative actions, executive orders and ongoing negotiations for a Drought Contingency Plan.
- Oppose legislation or administrative actions that would direct Colorado River operations traditionally addressed through cooperation among Basin States.
- Monitor appropriations and grant funding for projects that may lead to increased supplies and drought management statewide, including, FY 2019 and FY 2020 appropriations for Bureau of Reclamation drought response activities.
- Advocate for additional cost share funding for local water storage projects (as provided by the passage of the WIIN Act) that can regulate Colorado River water supplies to improve efficiencies, and monitor WIIN Act implementation for funding opportunities.
- Monitor regulatory efforts to streamline the permitting and environmental reviews of water infrastructure projects.



(continued) Federal Priorities - Water

Clean Water Act

- Monitor legislative or administrative actions that may affect compliance activities as they relate to pollutant discharges into waterways.
- Monitor legislative or administrative actions that may lead to increased regulation of water quality standards of irrigation water supplies.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory initiatives, and judicial action, to revise the “Waters of the United States” and support efforts that add flexibility in determining how to manage land and water resources.
- Support continued use of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s regulatory guidance on Clean Water Act exemptions for construction and maintenance of irrigation ditches and maintenance of irrigation drains.



State Priorities - Energy

Regional Planning and Renewables

- Oppose legislation that would transform the California Independent Systems Operator into a multistate regional transmission system organization, as proposed in AB 813 (Holden) from 2018.
- Monitor legislative proposals related to the formation of a state-level energy procurement entity and its impact on investor owned utilities as well as publicly owned utilities.
- Monitor efforts related to increases and/or modifications to the Renewable Portfolio Standard, including enforcement penalties.
- Participate in and monitor the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative update stakeholder process.
- Participate in and monitor the California Energy Commission's Integrated Energy Policy Report update stakeholder process.
- Participate in and monitor the California Public Utilities Commission's proceedings related to the Integrated Resource Plan, de-energization, physical security and resource adequacy.

Wildfires

- Monitor legislative proposals that would impose new requirements on publicly owned utilities for wildfire mitigation, prevention and response.
- Monitor actions and recommendations from the Commission on Catastrophic Wildfire Cost and Recovery.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Monitor legislative/administrative proposals to accelerate climate change actions, including electric vehicle electrification and new emission regulations.
- Monitor regulatory actions related to the Air Resources Board's (CARB) Cap-and-Trade program, including involvement in the Western Climate Initiative.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory efforts to retire gas generation power plants and associated emission reduction efforts, particularly in environmental justice communities as defined by the CalEnviroScreen.
- Monitor legislation and administrative proposals that would modify or add new requirements on publicly owned utilities for energy storage systems.

Other Energy Policy Areas

- Monitor legislative proposals that would enact changes to the current Net Energy Metering requirement for publicly owned utilities.
- Monitor legislation to expand community choice aggregation and oppose if such policy negatively affects publicly owned utilities.
- Continue to monitor and participate in the DRECP process to ensure that implementation of the final plan reflects priorities of the district.



State Priorities - Water

Water Tax/Fees and Drought

- Oppose legislative or administrative efforts to establish a statewide tax on water sales and/or the agriculture industry.
- Monitor State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) proceedings on water rights fees and oppose proposals that disproportionately burden irrigation districts.
- Monitor SWRCB proceedings on drought-driven policy changes such as recycling, re-use, recharge anti-degradation, storm water and overall conservation.

Salton Sea

- Support legislation or administrative actions that prioritize geothermal energy procurement from the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area.
- Monitor and participate in the California Energy Commission's lithium extraction and recovery from geothermal energy production at the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area.
- Monitor implementation of the state's 10-year Salton Sea Management Program and related expenditures from the \$200 million approved by California voters in 2018.
- Monitor and support efforts by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to advance New River project goals, given the river's nexus to the Salton Sea.

Colorado River

- Continue to monitor and engage in state agency coordination and administrative actions related to the Quantification Settlement Agreement, including ongoing coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy.
- Monitor legislative and administrative proposals that would make changes to water efficiency standards for both irrigation delivery systems and on-farm conservation.

Other Water Policy Areas

- Monitor SWRCB proceedings on the Safe Drinking Water Plan update and related needs assessment workshops.
- Continue to monitor the 2019-20 state budget for proposals that may have an impact on the district and/or its operations.