



### **Government Affairs Update May 2022**

Below is an update from the Sonoma Water Government Affairs team including its representatives from Washington, D.C. and Sacramento. Please contact Brad Sherwood, assistant general manager of community/government affairs and administrative services, with any questions – [brad.sherwood@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:brad.sherwood@scwa.ca.gov).

#### **FEDERAL**

##### **FY 22 Appropriations**

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, 6 months into FY22, President Biden signed the FY22 omnibus appropriations bill into law. The bill provided funding for a number of Sonoma Water support projects and programs. Highlights include:

- \$8.2 million for Coyote Valley
- \$9.52 million for Dry Creek
- \$5.5 million for USACE’s Water Operations Technical Support (WOTS) Program
- \$1.6 million for USACE Scheduling Reservoir Operations (SRO) in California
- \$45.5 million for the Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Grant Program
- \$53.2 million for the Bureau of Reclamation’s Title XVI Program
- \$69.5 million for EPA’s WIFIA Program
- \$65 million for NOAA’s Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF)

##### **FY 23 President’s Budget**

On Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, President Biden released his FY23 budget request. The transmittal of the President’s budget to Congress will kick off the appropriations process in earnest. House and Senate offices accepted appropriations requests and federal agencies will soon begin testifying on their budget requests before the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Highlights include:

- \$6.05 million for Coyote Valley
- \$8.36 million for Dry Creek
- \$5.5 million for USACE’s Water Operations Technical Support (WOTS) Program
- \$13.69 million for the Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Grant Program
- \$4 million for the Bureau of Reclamation’s Title XVI Program
- \$80.3 million for EPA’s WIFIA Program
- \$65 million for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

## **Sonoma Water Appropriation Requests**

- AQPI: \$4.8M. Funding this program at \$28.2 million over 5 years, starting at \$4.8 million for Fiscal Year 2023 to implement AQPI Phase 2, will enable better forecasting of extreme storm events to help San Francisco Bay Area communities prepare for flooding and droughts.
- Fire Resiliency: \$250,000 at each Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino for fire resiliency projects for the USACOE.
- Invasive Mussel Inspection: \$3 million to support watercraft inspections at Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino, WRDA authorization language.
- Occidental County Sanitation District request: \$1.5M Pipeline Design and Preconstruction Activities.

## **Infrastructure**

With the recent passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the focus in Washington D.C. has shifted to implementation of the legislation. We are starting to see federal agencies, including Reclamation, put out initial spend plans for how they intend to use IIJA funding in FY22. Reclamation plans to spend \$1.6 billion from IIJA in FY22 and their spend plan allocations include:

- \$420 million for rural water projects that benefit various Tribal and non-Tribal underserved communities by increasing access to potable water.
- \$245 million for WaterSMART Title XVI that supports the planning, design, and construction of water recycling and reuse projects.
- \$210 million for construction of water storage, groundwater storage and conveyance project infrastructure.
- \$160 million for WaterSMART grants to support Reclamation efforts to work cooperatively with states, Tribes, and local entities to implement infrastructure investments to increase water supply.
- \$100 million for aging infrastructure for major repairs and rehabilitation of facilities.
- \$100 million for safety of dams to implement safety modifications of critical infrastructure.
- \$50 million for the implementation of Colorado River Basin drought contingency plans to support the goal of reducing the risk of Lake Mead and Lake Powell reaching critically low water levels.
- \$18 million for WaterSMART's Cooperative Watershed Management Program for watershed planning and restoration projects for watershed groups.
- \$15 million for Research and Development's Desalination and Water Purification Program for construction efforts to address ocean or brackish water desalination.

- \$8.5 million for Colorado River Basin Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation Programs.

## **WRDA**

House Transportation & Infrastructure and Senate Environment and Public Works are currently in the process of reviewing WRDA submissions from members of Congress. House T&I received a staggering total of nearly 1,500 requests from member offices. While timing is somewhat fluid, we expect House T&I to mark up a bill sometime in mid-May while Senate EPW is hoping for a markup the first week of May.

## **STREAM Act**

*STREAM Act (Senator Feinstein)* – Senator Feinstein is circulating a discussion draft of a western drought bill that she has been working on for over two years. The legislation authorizes:

- \$750 million for non-Federal storage projects
- \$250 million for water recycling projects
- \$250 million in environmental funding, including \$150 million for competitive grants for habitat restoration per Senator Wyden’s S. 4189 from the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress
- \$100 million in desalination funding
- \$100 million for drinking water assistance to disadvantaged communities
- \$50 million for natural water retention and release projects
- \$150 million for loans at 30-year Treasury rate for water supply projects (expected to make available \$8 to \$12 billion in lending authority under OMB scoring protocols)

## **STATE**

### **California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force**

Meeting in Santa Rosa on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> with tours scheduled for Friday, May 6. Visit <https://www.addevent.com/event/KO13458571>

### **Atmospheric River, FIRO, AQPI**

The AR-FIRO Coalition is requesting \$10 million be included in the 2022-23 State Budget to the Department of Water Resources through the AR-FIRO Program to bring FIRO to additional reservoirs as well as provide additional O&M funding for AQPI. In addition to the funding request, the coalition is sponsoring (with Turlock Irrigation District and Yuba Water Agency as the lead) AB 2087 (Flora) which makes statutory updates to the DWR AR Program to better align the program with FIRO practices.

### **Drought Funding**

The Governor has proposed \$500M in drought response this year and is likely to propose at least another \$750M.