



Government Affairs Update

December 23, 2022

Please contact Brad Sherwood (sherwood@scwa.ca.gov) with any questions.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

State Relations:

February 2, 2023 Sacramento Lobby Day: Please let Brad Sherwood know if a representative from your city/water district is interested in attending a Sacramento lobby day on Thursday, February 2, 2023. The agenda for the day will include meeting with local elected representatives, committee staff and administration/agency officials regarding the drought, aging infrastructure awareness, atmospheric river forecasting funding and more. A detailed agenda and issue talking points is being developed now.

Federal Relations:

Omnibus bill: Lawmakers have released the text of the FY2023 omnibus spending bill, which Congress needs to pass by Friday at midnight when current government funding expires.

The bill text is available [HERE](#). Below is a snapshot of how Sonoma Water fared on our priorities:

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies [\[Explanatory Statement\]](#) [\[Bill Summary\]](#)

\$1M Subseasonal to Seasonal (S2S) Weather Prediction. The agreement provides \$12,100,000 across NOAA line offices for its efforts to improve S2S Weather Prediction. This includes \$5,000,000 in NWS Science and Technology Integration for the development of the Seasonal Forecast System and \$7,100,000 for the S2S research program in the OAR U.S. Weather Research Program, including \$1,000,000 to seed innovative research testbeds. As part of these efforts, NOAA is encouraged to pursue a pilot project for S2S precipitation forecasts for water management in the western United States. The pilot project should be carried out in coordination with NWS and should be focused on achieving measurable objectives for operational forecast improvement, including forecasts of seasonal mountain snowpack accumulation and total seasonal precipitation. The S2S work should be integrated, as much as is practicable, with the Water in the West Initiative and Fire Weather.

\$900,000 Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) System. The agreement provides \$900,000 within the U.S. Weather Research Program for a regional radar array demonstration project to enable better forecasting of extreme West Coast precipitation events, like atmospheric rivers.

\$65M Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery. The agreement includes \$65,000,000 for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) and directs that funds will be available to Tribes without a matching requirement. NOAA is directed to report on how its current priorities meet the intent of the PCS RF to support the recovery and protection of all declining salmon stocks.

\$1.45M Occidental County Sanitation District: \$1.45M for pipeline design and preconstruction activities.

Energy and Water Development [[Explanatory Statement](#)] [[Bill Summary](#)]

Army Corps of Engineers – Operations and Maintenance

- Coyote Valley Dam, Lake Mendocino, CA - \$6,054,000 (same as budget request)
- Dry Creek (Warm Springs) Lake and Channel, CA - \$8,369,000 (same as budget request)

Civil Works Water Management System. Additional funding is included for incorporation of ensemble forecasts within the suite of numerical modeling tools in support of water management operations to advance the Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) effort.

\$5.7M Water Control Manuals. The Corps is encouraged to continue to update water control manuals across its projects. The agreement provides additional funding of \$5,700,000 in this account for other authorized project purposes, for water control manual updates at projects located in states where a Reclamation facility is also located, in regions where FIRO projects exist, and where atmospheric rivers cause flood damages. The agreement also provides \$1,000,000 of additional funding provided in this account for other authorized project purposes to expand the scope of the water control manual update prioritization report funded in fiscal year 2020 to other projects within the Corps portfolio to ensure that actions being conducted for water control manual updates and incorporation of FIRO-based principles are properly aligned with one another.

\$2.2M Water Control Manuals. Section 7 Dams. The agreement provides \$2,200,000 of additional funding provided in this account for other authorized project purposes to update water control manuals for non-Corps owned high hazard dams where: (1) the Corps has a responsibility for flood control operations under section 7 of the Flood Control Act of 1944; (2) the dam requires coordination of water releases with one or more other high-hazard dams for flood control purposes; and (3) the dam owner is actively investigating the feasibility of applying FIRO technology.

\$5M Water Operations Technical Support (WOTS). The agreement provides \$5,000,000 in addition to the budget request to continue developing and incorporating improved weather forecasting for Corps reservoirs and waterway projects through the multiagency, multidisciplinary FIRO research effort by completing Phase 2 and starting Phase 3. The Corps is encouraged to consider applying FIRO to additional section 7 dams, including the Seven Oaks Dam in California.

\$3M Quagga/Zebra Mussel Prevention: Report language: “\$16,000,000 shall be for watercraft inspection stations” for the three basins authorized in WRDA '18 (Columbia River Basin; Upper Missouri River Basin; Upper Colorado River Basin and the South Platte and Arizona River Basin), and the one in WRDA '20; Russian River Basin. I'd note, as well, that they corrected the typo from the Senate report that might have slightly confused the matter.