



### Government Affairs Update – February 2023

Please contact Assistant General Manager Brad Sherwood with any questions at [brad.sherwood@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:brad.sherwood@scwa.ca.gov)

Gov Affairs TAC Update

#### State Update:

##### Executive Order

On February 13, Gov. Newsom signed an [executive order](#) to protect the state's water supplies from the impacts of climate-driven extremes in weather. The order helps expand the state's capacity to capture storm runoff in wet years by facilitating groundwater recharge projects. It also continues conservation measures and allows the State Water Board to reevaluate requirements for reservoir releases and diversion limitations to maximize water supplies north and south of the Delta while protecting the environment. Additionally, the order directs state agencies to review and provide recommendations on the state's drought response actions by the end of April, including the possibility of terminating specific emergency provisions that are no longer needed, once there is greater clarity about the hydrologic conditions this year. Leveraging the more than \$8.6 billion committed by Governor Newsom and the Legislature in the last two budget cycles to build water resilience, the state is taking aggressive action to prepare for the impacts of climate-driven extremes in weather on the state's water supplies. In the 2023-24 state budget, Governor Newsom is proposing an additional \$202 million for flood protection and \$125 million for drought related actions.

##### Water Supply Tours

In February, we hosted two water contractor tours, which included the City of Windsor along with Supervisor Gorin and staff. We highly encourage our water contractors to join us so they can learn about how their water is managed and collected.

In March we have a joint tour set up with Rohnert Park, and the City of Cotati.

#### Federal Update:

Sonoma Water continues to participate in legislative efforts that support coastal flood funding and will continue to monitor improvement efforts made by NOAA and other organizations following the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

The President's Budget is expected to be released on March 9 and will publicly flag the administration's priorities for FY 2024. The federal affairs team will monitor its release and inform our team of any impacts to Sonoma Water.

The federal appropriations process begins each year when the President releases the budget. Earmarks are part of the federal appropriations process and expected to continue in FY 2024. Earmarks have allowed Congress to direct funding to specific projects in their districts and states. The Sonoma Water federal affairs team is currently preparing funding requests and collecting ideas for Senator Padilla's FY 24 Appropriations process. Federal appropriations projects will be shared once they are finalized.

**ACWA Federal Affairs Outreach Award:**

Sonoma Water received the 2023 ACWA Federal Affairs Outreach Award for our work related to advocating on atmospheric river and Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations legislation/funding. Thank you to our Sonoma Water team and water contractor community for your ongoing support of our legislative platform and advocacy efforts.

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