



Government Affairs Update – January 2024

Please contact Assistant General Manager Brad Sherwood with any questions at brad.sherwood@scwa.ca.gov

WAC/TAC Water Transmission Tours

What better way to start off the new year than with a tour of our water transmission system! You and your teams are invited to attend a tour of our water transmission system on one of the two dates provided below:

January 17, 2024

Or

January 24, 2024

Both tours will start at 9am and conclude around noon. Choose the date that works best for you!

Tentative tour schedule is:

9:00am – Welcome at Sonoma Water HQ @ 404 Aviation Blvd, Santa Rosa.

9:30am – Tour operations desk (See the operations desk and how our system is monitored 24/7)

11:00am – Visit Todd Road well (Learn about the latest news on groundwater pumping)

11:30am – Wilfred booster station brief visit (A critical facility with a unique story!)

Noon – End at Cotati water storage tanks (Beautiful vista views and incredible improvements coming soon)

Goal: Education and awareness of water system, facilities, budget/funding

Attendees: Sonoma Water WAC/TAC elected officials, staff

RSVP: Please RSVP to Donna Boero(donna.boero@scwa.ca.gov) by January 5, 2024.

Questions? Let me know if I can answer any questions about this tour opportunity.

State Update:

- The Legislature is set to reconvene on January 3.
- On January 10, Governor Newsom will unveil his proposed 2024-25 budget. The state's budget is facing a \$68 billion deficit for 2024 and projections are for deficits near \$30 billion per year through 2027-28.
- The Department of Finance has issued an Administration-wide directive to agencies and departments to limit spending and prepare for cuts. I've been told that nearly all of DWR's

Watershed Resilience funding will be swept, other than the pilots money. The ongoing FIRO appropriation may also be reduced.

- Senator McGuire will take over as Pro Tem on Feb. 5.
- The deadline to introduce bills is Feb. 16.

Federal Update

Status of FY2024 Appropriations

Lawmakers continue to struggle to make progress on federal appropriations for FY2024, which began on October 1, 2023.

- On November 16, 2023, President Biden signed another Continuing Resolution to fund the federal government while lawmakers work out topline spending levels and negotiate final FY2024 spending.
- A two-tiered “laddered” approach extends funding for the Army Corps and Bureau of Reclamation, and the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Energy, Agriculture, some of Defense, and Veterans Affairs until January 19, 2024, while other government departments and agencies are funded through February 2, 2024.
- Little progress was made on final FY2024 appropriations before lawmakers left Washington for their holiday break, indicating a contentious battle on spending when they return in January. An inability to complete FY2024 appropriations bills prior to the deadlines noted above could result in additional short-term continuing resolutions or even a partial or complete government shutdown.

###