California State Assembly

Informational Hearing Agenda

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4
on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation

Assemblymember Steve Bennett, Chair

Wednesday, March 5, 2025
9:30 A.M. – State Capitol, Room 447

Items To Be Heard

Non-Presentation Items: The following items do not receive a formal presentation from the Administration in order to focus time on the most substantial proposals. Members of the Subcommittee may ask questions or make comments on these proposals at the time designated by the Subcommittee Chair or request a presentation by the Administration at the discretion of the Subcommittee Chair. Members of the public are encouraged to provide public comment on these items at the designated time.

Non-Presentation Items

Public Comment will be taken in person after the completion of all panels and any discussion from the Members of the Subcommittee.

Items To Be Heard

Various

Issue 1: Prop. 4 – Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience Spending Plan

Proposition 4 includes a total of $3.8 billion for various water resilience activities, addressing drought, flood, access to safe drinking water, water infrastructure, watershed management, among other purposes. The Governor's budget proposes to appropriate $1.1 billion—28 percent—of the $3.8 billion in 2025-26. The Governor's budget includes multi-year appropriations which would provide $972 million in 26-27, and $1.744 billion in future budget years. Under the governor's spending plan, $10 million would be left unallocated in the water chapter of the bond.

Chapter 2. Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood & Water Resilience

($ in Millions)

Department	Program	2025-26	2026-27	Out-Years	Pending Allocation
State Water Resources Control Board	Water Quality & Safe Drinking Water	$183	$160	$242	$0
	Tribal Water Infrastructure	$11	$13	$1	$0
	Multibenefit Urban Stormwater Management Projects	$1	$39	$70	$0
	Water Reuse & Recycling	$153	$78	$154	$0
	Cross-Border Rivers & Coastal Waters (Tijuana & New River)	$9	$21	$20	$0
Dept. of Water Resources & State Water Resources Control Board	Water Data Management & Stream Gages	$1	$2	$12	$0
Dept. of Water Resources	Groundwater Storage/Banking/ Recharge & Instream Flow	$10	$15	$361	$0
	Brackish Desalination & Salinity Management Projects	$0.2	$6	$56.7	$0
	Regional Conveyance Projects & Repairs to Existing Conveyances	$0.7	$11	$64	$0
	Water Conservation in Agricultural & Urban Areas	$0.3	$5	$69	$0
	Various Flood Management Projects	$173	$222	$155	$0
	Dam Safety & Climate Resilience	$232	$232	$17	$0
	Integrated Regional Water Management	$0.5	$3	$96	$0
	Riverine Stewardship Projects	$0.1	$0.4	$50	$0
	Urban Streams Restoration Program	$0.3	$23	$1	$0

Dept. of Conservation	Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program	$12	$51	$137	$0
California Water Commission	Water Storage Investment Program	$74	$0	$0.6	$0
Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Climate Resiliency & Protection of the Los Angeles River Watershed	$0.6	$8	$31.0	$0
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy		$15	$10	$14	$0
State Coastal Conservancy	Santa Ana River Conservancy	$10	$8	$7	$0
	Coyote Valley Conservation Program	$3	$0	$22	$0
	West Coyote Hills Program	$0	$0	$25	$0
Natural Resources Agency	Wildlife Refuges & Wetland Habitat Areas	$0.2	$23	$1	$0
	Clear Lake Watershed	$0.1	$19	$1	$0
	Nature, Climate Education & Research Facilities Grants	$0.1	$19	$1	$0
Natural Resources Agency & Dept. of Water Resources	Salton Sea Management Program	$148	$1	$11	$0
To Be Determined	Salton Sea Conservancy or Salton Sea Authority	$0	$0	$0.1	$10
Wildlife Conservation Board	Lower American River Conservancy	$3	$0	$7	$0
	Stream Flow Enhancement Program	$21	$1	$79	$0
	Habitat Enhancement & Restoration Program	$11	$1	$39	$0
	Total	**$1,074**	**$972**	**$1,744**	**$10**

Programs with General Fund Reductions Backfilled by Prop. 4 Funds:

Department	Program	Amount
State Water Resources Control Board	Water Recycling	$51 million
Department of Water Resources	Dam Safety	$47 million
Department of Water Resources	Systemwide Flood Risk Reduction Program	$15 million

Descriptions of Programs for Proposed Spending

Below are brief descriptions of the programs with proposed investments in the Administration's spending plan:

- Water Quality and Safe Drinking Water - grants or loans that improve water quality or help provide clean, safe, and reliable drinking water.

- Tribal Water Infrastructure - projects that provide safe, clean, and reliable drinking water to tribal communities.

- Multi-benefit Urban Stormwater Projects - projects addressing flooding in urbanized areas and provide multiple benefits; examples include stormwater capture and reuse, planning and implementation of low-impact development, restoration of urban streams and watersheds, debris flow mitigation, and increasing permeable surfaces to help reduce flooding.

- Water Reuse and Recycling - projects include treatment, storage, conveyance, and distribution facilities for potable and non-potable recycling projects, distribution infrastructure to serve residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial end user retrofit projects to allow use of recycled water, and multiple-benefit recycled water projects that improve water quality.

- Cross-Border Rivers and Coastal Waters (Tijuana and New River) - loans or grants for projects that will address water quality problems arising in the California-Mexico cross-border rivers and coastal waters.

- Water Data Management and Stream Gages - improve water data management and to reactivate existing stream gages and deploy new gages.

- Groundwater Storage/ Banking/ Recharge & Instream Flow - projects related to groundwater storage, groundwater banking, groundwater recharge, or instream flow projects that support the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water supplies.

- Brackish Desalination and Salinity Management Projects - capital investments in brackish desalination, contaminant and salt removal, and salinity management projects to improve California water and drought resilience.

- Regional Conveyance Projects and Repairs to Existing Conveyances - competitive grants for regional conveyance projects or repairs to existing conveyances with priority given to projects that improve regional or interregional water supply or water supply reliability, improve groundwater recharge or mitigation of conditions of groundwater overdraft, salinity intrusion, water quality degradation, or subsidence, adapt to impacts of hydrologic changes, improve water security from drought, natural disasters, or other events that could interrupt water supplies, or provide safe drinking water.

- Water Conservation in Agricultural and Urban Areas – program still in development; Department of Water Resources plans to use the initial year to focus on scoping a grant program in combination with the $100 million set aside for integrated regional water management projects; the department will adjust funding needs in out-years based on the scoping process.

- Various Flood Management Projects – includes the following sub-allocations:

1. Flood Control Subventions Program – provides financial assistance to local agencies partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to construct federally authorized flood control projects that are not part of State Plan of Flood Control facilities; Department of Water Resources is currently in partnership with 10 active and 2 future projects; $110 million is requested for the budget year.

2. Funding for State Plan of Flood Control Projects will be allocated across three different flood programs:

    a. Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program ($50 million): Funding will be used to plan and implement projects that will address climate change impact risks, repair known deficiencies in the State Plan of Flood Control Projects flood management facilities (such as levees, weirs, and channels), and improve operation and maintenance of facilities that are vital to flood safety and the economy of more than 60,000 residents in the small communities of the Central Valley.

    b. USACE Projects/Studies and the Urban Flood Risk Reduction Program ($123 million): To support state cost-share of critical flood risk reduction projects, $13.9 million in capital outlay funds are requested in 2025-26 and $109 million is requested in 2026-27. USACE leads the design and construction of these projects, which directly contribute toward 300-year flood protection required under Chapter 364, Statutes of 2007 (Senate Bill 5), and will benefit various disadvantaged communities in Lathrop/Manteca, Natomas, West Sacramento, and the Stockton area.

    c. Systemwide Flood Risk Reduction Program ($75 million): Funding will be allocated to the Yolo Bypass levee enhancement and repair work that supports systemwide flood risk reduction.

- Dam Safety and Climate Resilience – projects to enhance dam safety and reservoir operations and protect public benefits pursuant to the existing Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program.

- Integrated Regional Water Management – the first year of funding will be used for scoping a grant program in combination with the suballocation for Water Conservation in Agricultural and Urban Areas.

- Riverine Stewardship Projects – program will implement watershed-based riverine and riparian stewardship improvements via projects that reduce flood risk, restore and enhance fish populations and habitat, improve water quality, achieve climate change benefits, and in general ensure resilient ecological function.

- Urban Streams Restoration Program - for multiple-benefit urban stream and river projects under the Urban Streams Restoration Program established in Section 7048 of the Water

Code that protect and restore riparian habitats, improve climate resilience, enhance natural drainages, protect and restore watersheds, and provide public access.

- Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program - Department of Conservation's Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program for groundwater sustainability projects that reduce groundwater use, repurpose irrigated agricultural land, provide wildlife habitat, improve drought resilience or floodwater management, or support implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

- Water Storage Investment Program – administered the California Water Commission; funds large-scale water storage projects in California, including surface reservoirs, groundwater storage, and conjunctive use projects.

- Climate Resiliency and Protection of the LA River Watershed - projects that improve the climate resiliency or the protection of the Los Angeles River Watershed or are consistent with the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan.

- Santa Ana Conservancy – within the State Coastal Conservancy, the Santa Ana Conservancy addresses the resource and recreational goals of the Santa Ana River region including open space, trails, wildlife habitat, agricultural land protection, water quality protection, educational use, and public access.

- Coyote Valley Conservation Program – to be administered by the State Coastal Conservancy to protect and restore watersheds through the Coyote Valley Conservation Program in Santa Clara County.

- West Coyote Hills Program – to be administered by the State Coastal Conservancy to protect and restore watersheds through the West Coyote Hills Program.

- Wildlife Refuges and Wetland Habitat Areas - projects that improve conditions on wildlife refuges and wetland habitat areas; projects may include the acquisition and delivery of water from willing sellers and water conveyance rights to achieve compliance with Central Valley Project Improvement Act, a federal law passed in 1992 that reformed the operation of California's Central Valley Project (CVP) to include environmental protections along with its traditional water supply function, and the acquisition of water and conveyance rights for the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge.

- Clear Lake Watershed – to be administered by the Natural Resources Agency, to improve the climate resiliency or for the protection of the Clear Lake Watershed.

- Nature, Climate Education and Research Facility Grants - funding will support nature and climate education and research, to support the state's related goals as well as those pertaining to biodiversity and cultural literacy; this will be a competitive grant program with an anticipated solicitation release in February 2026 with awards announced in February 2027. This program will combine funding from the water chapter and the outdoor access chapter.

- Salton Sea Management Program – funding to further the Salton Sea Management Program, which includes a myriad of restoration projects at the Salton Sea to protect public health and restore environmental habitat for native species.

    - The administration is also requesting a reapprorpriation of $7.7 million Prop. 68 funds to support existing staff affiliated with the Salton Sea Management Program.

- Salton Sea Conservancy and Salton Sea Authority – The Governor's spending plan does not include funding authorized for the creation of the Salton Sea Conservancy established pursuant to Chapter 771, Statutes of 2024 (SB 583). To allow additional time for stakeholder and community input and organizational processes, the Administration plans to present a proposal to establish the Salton Sea Conservancy in the spring.

- Lower American River Conservancy – administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board, grants to restore, enhance, interpret, protect, and improve public access to the American River Parkway's natural, recreational, educational, and cultural resources.

- Stream Flow Enhancement and Restoration Program - projects pursuant to the guidelines of the Stream Flow Enhancement Program, including the acquisition of water or water rights, acquisition of land that includes water rights or contractual rights to water, and short- or long-term water transfers and leases.

Panel

- Samantha Arthur, Deputy Secretary for Water, Natural Resources Agency
- E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
- Kasey Schimke, Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs, Department of Water Resources
- Andrew Hull, Finance Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Sonja Petek, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

LAO Comments

Proposed Flood Management and Drinking Water Spending Responds to Demonstrated Needs and Timing Reflects Program Capacity and Plans. The Governor's proposals for flood management ($173 million in 2025-26) and drinking water programs including a separate subprogram for tribal projects ($194 million in 2025-26) will be administered through existing programs. These programs have well-established systems for assessing need, which in turn inform decisions about which projects to support.

For example, DWR conducts assessments of flood risk (particularly in the Central Valley where the state has liability for the State Plan of Flood Control), partners with—and leverages funding from—the federal government on certain critical flood management projects, and relies on needs assessments from local reclamation districts and the Delta Stewardship Council to inform spending on levee improvements in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. These

established processes can give the Legislature some assurance that implementing departments will spend Proposition 4 funds strategically and on vetted projects.

Nevertheless, the Legislature could consider requesting progress updates each year ahead of budget subcommittee hearings on which specific projects are being supported and are proposed to be supported with Proposition 4 funds to ensure spending is progressing as envisioned.

No Clear Rationale for Different Spending Periods for Tribal Projects as Compared to Other Drinking Water Projects. SWRCB administers all drinking water projects, including tribal water infrastructure projects, through the same programs.

However, the Governor's proposed budget bill language imposes shorter spending periods (for encumbrance and liquidation) for tribal water projects than for other drinking water projects. Specifically, while tribal projects would be given three years for encumbrance and six years for liquidation, other drinking water projects would be given five years and eight years, respectively. The administration indicates it based the length of the spending periods on the amount of funding being provided to a program (for example, giving longer periods for programs with larger total amounts of funding), rather than on programmatic considerations. Given that SWRCB administers all drinking water funds through the same programs, we do not find a strong rationale for requiring that tribal entities complete their drinking water projects on a more expedited time line than other grantees. Moreover, this could disadvantage tribes that cannot spend the funds as quickly. The Legislature could consider modifying the proposed budget bill language to align the spending periods for tribal and other drinking water projects.

For New and Modified Programs, Legislature Could Require More Detailed Proposals Before Signing Off on Future Years' Spending. For a number of programs, departments still are in the process of scoping the program or revising/updating guidelines (such as for programs that have not received funding in recent years).

These include urban stormwater management (SWRCB), regional conveyance projects and repairs (DWR), water conservation in agricultural and urban areas (DWR), and climate education and research (CNRA). The Governor proposes to provide funding in 2025-26 for program planning and then fund project implementation in later years, which is a reasonable approach. However, the proposal is asking the Legislature to sign off on the proposed multiyear funding plan now even though it provides limited information about how those future funds will be spent. Given the current planning stages of these programs, the Legislature could require the administration to submit more detailed proposals when project funding is requested in the future. This would allow the Legislature to review proposed implementation plans and determine if they align with its priorities before agreeing to the timing of when project funding will be provided.

Proposal for Forming the Salton Sea Conservancy Forthcoming. Proposition 4 includes two amounts for Salton Sea-related activities—$160 million for projects and $10 million to create the Salton Sea Conservancy. The conservancy will operate and maintain projects undertaken around the Salton Sea to mitigate the harmful effects of toxic air pollution resulting from the water receding.

The Governor proposes to allocate nearly all of the project funding ($148 million) to DWR in 2025-26 to commence construction on three projects totaling approximately 4,900 acres. (The state's current Salton Sea ten-year plan requires completion of habitat restoration or dust mitigation projects on 29,800 acres by the end of 2028. Thus far, fewer than 3,000 acres of projects have been completed, with another approximately 15,000 acres currently undergoing planning or permitting.) While the Governor's budget did not include a proposal to create the Salton Sea Conservancy, the administration indicates that it plans to present one this spring.

The Governor's proposal for project funding seems reasonable. It will support three projects that are about ready to start construction in furtherance of the state's goals at the Salton Sea. However, given the priority the Legislature placed on creation of a Salton Sea Conservancy through its approval of Chapter 771, the short time line for completing projects by 2028, and the serious public health risks posed by the receding Sea, the Legislature likely will want to monitor these issues closely.

Staff Comments

1. For new programs included in the spending plan (i.e. Regional Conveyance Projects and Repairs to Existing Conveyances, Water Conservation in Agricultural and Urban Areas, Wildlife Refuges and Wetland Habitat Areas, and Salton Sea Conservancy) what is the Administration's justification for including multi-year appropriations? What unique and specific benefits would those new programs receive by including a multi-year appropriation?

2. Measurements taken across the Sierra Nevada show that California's snowpack, which typically supplies nearly a third of the state's water supply, now stands at 85% of average for this time of year. Scientists are also seeing a trend linked to human-caused climate change where snowpack is significantly smaller at lower-elevation sites. How does this spending plan respond to California's future reality where we will see a drop in the state's cheapest source for water storage, our snowpack?

3. For existing programs proposed to receive funding, how does the Administration plan on measuring the effectiveness of those programs?

4. Where can the Legislature find examples in the water chapter of the spending where the Administration has provided built-in flexibility to respond to economic uncertainties?

5. What is the status of federal funding the state receives for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund? Is the state preparing for a potential rollback of recent one-time multi-year augmentations that were included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for those programs?

6. How many dams has the Department of Water Resources classified as extremely high of potential downstream impacts to life and property (i.e. expected to cause considerable

loss of human life and property)? What percentage does that classification of dams represent in proportion to all dams in California?

7. What is the estimated need/cost to address statewide dam rehabilitation? Who has historically been responsible for funding dam rehabilitation? What role has the federal government historically played in funding dam rehabilitation, versus the state, versus dam owners?

8. What is the status of implementing the Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program?

9. In previous budget hearings, the Administration noted there are certain programs that lend themselves to serving and uplifting disadvantaged communities? What programs fall into that category within this chapter of the spending plan?

10. Why is the Administration choosing to combine the funding, sub-allocated for the Water Conservation in Agriculture and Urban Areas, with the funding for the Integrated Regional Water Management program?

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open.

Various

Issue 2: Prop. 4 – Coastal Resilience Spending Plan

Proposition 4 includes a total of $1.2 billion for various coastal resilience activities. The Governor's budget proposes to appropriate $173 million—14 percent—of the $1.2 billion in 2025-26. The Governor's budget includes multi-year appropriations which would provide $129 million in 26-27, and $899 million in the future budget years. Under the governor's spending plan, no bond funds would be unallocated in the coastal resilience chapter of the bond.

Chapter 4. Coastal Resilience

($ in Millions)

Department	Program	2025-26	2026-27	Out-Years	Pending Allocation
State Coastal Conservancy	Coastal Resilience	$31	$33	$266	$0
	San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act & San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program	$20	$21	$44	$0
	Coastal & Combined Flood Management Projects & Activities for Developed Shoreline Areas	$33	$35	$282	$0
	Dam Removal & Related Water Infrastructure	$9	$9	$57	$0
Ocean Protection Council	Increase Ocean & Coastal Resilience to Impacts of Climate Change	$8	$0.2	$127	$0
	Sea Level Rise Mitigation and Adaptation	$20	$0.5	$54	$0
Dept. of Parks & Recreation	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy	$24	$0.3	$26	$0
Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Protect and Restore Island Ecosystems, Advance Climate-Ready Fisheries Management & Support the Restoration & Management of Kelp Ecosystems	$24	$10	$41	$0
	Central Valley Chinook Salmon Hatcheries	$5	$20	$0.2	$0
	Total	**$173**	**$129**	**$899**	**$0**

Descriptions of Programs for Proposed Spending

Below are brief descriptions of the programs with proposed investments in the administration spending plan:

- Coastal Resilience - administered by the Coastal Conservancy, funding would help achieve the goals and objectives in the Coastal Conservancy's Strategic Plan, which are:

    1. **Protect and Restore the Coast:** land protection and habitat restoration projects along the coast and in coastal watersheds.

    2. **Enjoy the Coast:** public access projects, such as statewide and regional trails and lower-cost coastal accommodations.

3. **Climate Ready:** sea level rise adaptation projects along undeveloped portions of the coast.

- San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act & San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program – the State Coastal Conservancy plans to utilize existing regional plans and coordinate with project partners and stakeholders in the Bay Area to expend these funds. Examples of projects include the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration, protection and restoration throughout the Napa-Sonoma marshes, oyster and eelgrass restoration in multiple locations in San Francisco Bay, Bay Trail and Ridge Trail segments, and protection and restoration of lands in San Francisco Bay watersheds.

- Coastal & Combined Flood Management Projects & Activities for Developed Shoreline Areas - funding for projects including planning and implementation of flood risk management in disadvantaged or under-resourced communities, planning and implementation of projects to help protect urban waterfronts, ports, transportation, and other public infrastructure from flooding, and projects being conducted in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers or FEMA/CalOES.

- Dam Removal & Related Water Infrastructure - The Conservancy's highest priority dam removal project is Matilija Dam in Ventura County. There is significant downstream work (including levees, bridges, and land acquisition) that needs to occur prior to dam removal and a project team is in place to plan, design, permit, and construct the phased project.

- Increase Ocean & Coastal Resilience to Impacts of Climate Change – administered by the Ocean Protection Council, funds will further the following priorities:

    1. **Marine and coastal habitat conservation**, including research and monitoring, to advance 30x30, and build resilience for coastal communities.

    2. **Habitat restoration,** including kelp forests and rocky intertidal, to support ecosystem health and coastal economies, including scientific guidance to support the creation of acreage targets.

    3. **Reducing threats from land-based pollution**, including but not limited to nutrients and plastic pollution.

    4. Advancing improvements in management and technology to support sustainable, **climate-ready fisheries**, including economically important fisheries like Dungeness crab.

- Sea Level Rise Mitigation and Adaptation – funding to implement the California Sea Level Rise Mitigation and Adaptation Act of 2021 (Ch. 236, Statutes of 2021; Senate Bill 1) and provides funding to local, regional and tribal governments to develop sea level rise adaptation plans and on-the-ground resilience projects.

- Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy – allocated to state parks to implement the Strategy; State Parks manages close to one quarter of the state's coastline with 128 coastal units.

- Protect and Restore Island Ecosystems, Advance Climate-Ready Fisheries Management & Support the Restoration & Management of Kelp Ecosystems – funding would be used for the following programs at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife:

    1. $11.8 million - Salmon Monitoring and Parental Based Tagging and Cohort Reconstruction Program.

    2. $5.1 million - Whale Safe Fisheries Program.

    3. $6 million - to support the transition to electronic logbooks for key fisheries and enhance electronic data flow and modernize existing data management systems.

    4. $774,000 - to administer the program activities related to climate-ready fisheries management.

- Central Valley Chinook Salmon Hatcheries - $5 million for Central Valley Chinook Salmon Hatcheries; $19.8 million to implement projects from the salmon strategy analysis.

Panel

- Kaitlyn Kalua, Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy and Executive Director of the Ocean Protection Council
- Amy Hutzel, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy
- Lizzie Urie, Principal Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Sonja Petek, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

LAO Comments

Proposed Time Lines Reflect Appropriate Considerations About Project Readiness, Staffing Capacity, and Availability of Existing Funds. For example, of the $135 million authorized for OPC for projects to increase ocean and coastal resilience, the proposal would provide $7.5 million in 2025-26, while waiting to allocate more significant project implementation funding until 2027-28. The proposed timing reflects current funding availability and demand. OPC has $46 million still available and unspent from recent Proposition 68 and GGRF funds the Legislature already appropriated. Because it has identified more than $50 million in priority projects, OPC would use the $7.5 million from Proposition 4 in 2025-26 together with its existing funds to help support these projects.

While both Parks and SCC also have projects lined up that are ready to be funded in 2025-26, neither has significant amounts of funding remaining from previous appropriations and therefore each is requesting comparatively larger amounts from Proposition 4 in the budget year—$24 million and $31 million, respectively. However, the Governor's multiyear spending plan would

take a different approach for each of these two departments in the out-years, reflecting their unique considerations.

From the total of $50 million available in Proposition 4 for implementing Parks' Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy, the multiyear proposal would provide a small amount of planning funds in 2026-27 to scope more complex projects, and then provide the final $24 million for project implementation in 2027-28.

For SCC's coastal resilience funding ($330 million total Proposition 4 funds), the proposal would allocate about 10 percent each year for the next decade. SCC indicates that it took two main factors into account in proposing a steady distribution of funds over a longer time frame: departmental capacity and uncertainty about whether it would receive General Fund over the coming decade.

By contrast, the Governor's budget would provide nearly all of SCC's funding for dam removal and related water infrastructure ($75 million) over just three years, with most in 2026-27 and 2027-28. This decision reflects the schedule and budget for the one major project SCC proposes to support with the funding—removal of the Matilija Dam (which has numerous funding partners and an established schedule for sediment release, dam removal, and site restoration).

One of CDFW's Allocations Reflects Administration's Priority Activity, but Legislature Could Provide Statutory Direction if It Has Different Intentions. Proposition 4 authorizes $75 million for CNRA and CDFW to: (1) protect and restore island ecosystems; (2) advance climate-ready fisheries management; and (3) restore and manage kelp ecosystems. The Governor proposes to have CDFW administer all of this funding and to use it for only the second purpose—fisheries management. (CDFW notes that OPC will provide some support for kelp ecosystems with one of its separate allocations.)

The administration's proposed activities—including salmon monitoring through parental-based tagging and cohort reconstruction, undertaking new approaches for data collection and resource management, and expanding the Whale Safe Fisheries Program—could all provide valuable information to help to improve fisheries management. However, given the Legislature included three different categories of activities in its drafting of Proposition 4, it may have had a different set of actions and priorities in mind for these funds. If that is the case, the Legislature may wish to provide additional direction in budget bill language to ensure its objectives are met.

Staff Comments

1. How has previous statewide planning (ex. Coastal Conservancy's Strategic Plan, State Park's Climate Adaptation Strategy) assisted in prioritizing investments reflected in the Coastal Resilience spending plan?

2. How does the State partner with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration? Does the Administration expect recent layoffs at NOAA to impact work the state has partnered with the federal government from being completed? Could these layoffs impact the planned work that Prop. 4 is funding?

3. How are departments measuring and evaluating if previously-funded projects are having the intended effects once they are completed?

4. Can the Department of Fish and Wildlife share more about its specific plans for utilizing the funding to 'Protect and Restore Island Ecosystems, Advance Climate-Ready Fisheries Management, and Support the Restoration and Management of Kelp Ecosystems'? How do the Department's plans complement other investments a part of the Coastal Resilience spending plan? Will this funding all go towards existing programs?

5. What has the state's role been up until this point in planning the Matilija Dam removal, and how does the Prop. 4 funding support that effort?

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open.

Issue 3: Brine Discharge Management, Disposal, and Opportunities

Brine is a water solution with a high concentration of salt. It can result from desalination of brackish groundwater and seawater, and it can also be a byproduct of water recycling and waste water treatment.

With both high salinity and the potential to contain chemical residues, brine disposal and management may be a growing issue as we expand and develop new water supplies. For example, within California's Water Supply Strategy, there are targets to:

1. Expand brackish groundwater desalination production by 28,000 acre-feet per year by 2030 and 84,000 acre-feet per year by 2040.

2. Reuse at least 800,000 acre-feet of water per year by 2030 and 1.8 million acre-feet by 2040, with most of that additional recycling involving direct wastewater discharges that are now going to the ocean.

The purpose of this discussion item is to: (1) ascertain if brine disposal is or will be an issue the state faces as it increases its efforts to develop new water supplies through desalination; (2) understand what the state's role is in terms of brine management and discharge; and (3) learn more about the research and innovation around brine and its potential productive uses beyond disposal.

Panel

- Sonja Petek, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
- E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
- Phil Crader, Deputy Director for the State Water Board's Division of Water Quality
- Dr. Peter S. Fiske, Executive Director, National Alliance of Water Innovation

LAO & Staff Comments

Questions for Legislative Consideration from the LAO:

1. How sufficient are current water quality regulations for protecting groundwater and surface water from the potentially negative impacts of brine discharge?

2. What challenges will the state face in monitoring brine discharge?

3. How can the state ensure that brine discharge from new desalination plants do not further compromise bodies of water that already face salinity challenges, such as the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta or inland aquifers?

4. What additional research is needed on the effects of brine discharge on aquatic ecosystems, agriculture, and drinking water supply? What can the state learn from other states or countries that rely on brackish desalination for water supply?

5. What role could regional collaboration play when it comes to brine disposal solutions, such as shared brine pipelines or regional treatment facilities?

6. What support is needed by inland desalination plants that lack ocean discharge options?

Other recommended questions:

7. What are the most promising technologies for extracting valuable materials from brine?

8. How does the cost of valorization compare to the cost of traditional brine disposal?

9. Are there successful case studies where brine valorization has been commercially implemented?

10. What are some advancements and innovations that increase freshwater recovery while minimizing brine discharge?

11. What are the energy requirements of these high-recovery technologies compared to standard desalination processes?

3940 State Water Resources Control Board

Issue 4: Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) drinking water program - Update

What is the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) drinking water Program?

The SAFER drinking water program is a set of tools, funding sources, and regulatory authorities designed to meet the goals of safe, accessible, and affordable drinking water for all Californians.

SB 200 (Chapter 120 of 2019, Monning) established the SAFER program and the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water (SADW) Fund. The SADW fund provides up to $130 million annually to address funding gaps and provide solutions to water systems, especially those serving disadvantaged communities, to address both their short- and long-term drinking water needs. The fund can be used for a broad range of activities for communities and water systems, including emergency water supplies, technical assistance, actions to consolidate water systems, planning support, funding for capital construction projects, and direct operations and maintenance support.

SB 200 tasked the State Water Resources Control Board with administering the SADW Fund. The board created the SAFER program, which pairs allocations from the SADW Fund with funding from other sources—as well as regulatory actions—to help struggling water systems provide safe drinking water to their customers. The Fund is particularly focused on addressing drinking water needs in disadvantaged and historically disenfranchised communities, and California Native American Tribes.

Why is the SAFER Program needed?

Despite California being the first state in the nation to adopt a policy stating that clean water is a human right, prior to the launch of the SAFER program, an estimated one million Californians lacked access to safe and affordable drinking water. Many of the communities experiencing water contamination and shortages are located in the San Joaquin Valley. Additionally, low-income and Latino residents disproportionately lack access to safe and affordable drinking water.

What has the SAFER Program achieved since its establishment?

Since the 2019 launch of the SAFER Program, 900,000 more Californians have gained access to safe, affordable drinking water, reducing the number of people without access to safe drinking water from 1.6 million to 700,000. Over the same period, the State Water Resources Control Board distributed more than $1 billion in grants to disadvantaged communities.

Panel

- Sonja Petek, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
- E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
- Andrew Hull, Finance Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Viet-Long, Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance

LAO & Staff Comments

Questions for Legislative Consideration from the LAO:

Policy and Governance

1. How well is the SAFER program meeting its objectives for expanding access to safe and affordable drinking water? What are the key measures that the state uses to assess progress and success, and are these adequate and effective?

2. What are the primary challenges in bringing safe and affordable drinking water to the remaining residents who do not have it?

3. Can the department share how they used funding from the SAFER program to increase well testing of harmful contaminants such as nitrates, arsenic, uranium, and 1,2,3-TCP and drinking water assistance in the groundwater basins throughout the Central Valley?

4. How are program objectives complicated by climate change, drought, and groundwater overdraft? How will these factors affect the number of failing and at-risk systems going forward?

5. How is measuring progress in the SAFER program complicated by changing definitions of "failing" and "at-risk," such as by the addition of new source capacity requirements? How will the State Water Resources Control Board ensure that recently improved systems can adapt to new requirements, such as limitations on emerging contaminants?

6. How can the state ensure that state-funded system improvements (and the quality of water provided by those systems) are maintained over time? Given that state small systems and domestic wells are subject to less state regulation, how can the state ensure they continue to perform going forward?

7. Although the state has improved methods for measuring and assessing affordability, its tools for *addressing* affordability are more limited. What options could the Legislature consider to increase affordability in disadvantaged communities?

8. How has State Water Resources Control Board used its relatively new authority to require consolidations of public water systems or of state small water systems located in disadvantaged communities and have these particular consolidations been successful? Would any statutory changes improve the process?

Funding

9. What is the appropriate role for the state—as compared to local water agencies or residents—in funding system improvements? What framework does the board use to think about where state funds should—and should not—be targeted?

10. How should the state use Proposition 4 funds within or to complement the SAFER program?

11. How is the board thinking about how to respond to potential reductions in funding for drinking water efforts, such as the scheduled expiration of SAFER funding after 2029-30 and uncertainty around federal funds? How should this inform and potentially change the approach the state takes to prioritizing funding for these efforts that may be even more limited in the coming years?

Staff Recommendation: Informational, no action needed.

Issue 5: Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

The Governor's budget requests a loan of $16.4 million from the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund to the Water Rights Fund to support 22 existing positions that implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Program.

Background

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), passed in 2014, requires local agencies to develop and implement groundwater sustainability plans to ensure long-term, sustainable management of the state's groundwater resources. That Water Board plays an integral role in implementing SGMA by managing groundwater basins if the Department of Water Resources (DWR) determines a local groundwater sustainability agency's actions to comply with SGMA are inadequate. In the scenario where a local agency's plans and actions are deemed inadequate, the basin is referred to the Water Board for state intervention.

State intervention has two main phases. The first phase of state intervention, "probation," starts with relatively passive management: the State Water Board will collect data on groundwater extraction and associated fees from extractors. If local efforts in a probationary basin remain inadequate, state intervention may progress to active management, potentially including direct regulation of parties' extraction.

Subbasins Determined Inadequate

As mentioned, DWR reviews groundwater basins' plans for achieving groundwater sustainability. If it determines that a basin's plans are inadequate, it refers the basin to the Water Board for possible state intervention, which would begin with a probationary period. Of the six basins currently referred to the Water Board by DWR, the Water Board has:

1. Designated two as probationary—Tulare Subbasin and Tule Subbasin.

2. Cancelled Kaweah Subbasin's January 7, 2025 probationary hearing to give Water Board staff additional time to review the subbasin's revised groundwater sustainability plans. If the Water Board determines that those plans adequately address deficiencies, it could remove Kaweah Subbasin from probationary consideration.

3. Extended the time for Kern County Subbasin to correct deficiencies in its plans. In its February 20, 2025 hearing, the Water Board cited significant progress made thus far by the subbasin's groundwater sustainability agencies as the reason for the continuance. The next hearing is scheduled for September 17, 2025.

4. Not yet scheduled hearings for two—Delta-Mendota and Chowchilla Subbasins.

Fee Collection

SGMA requires the Water Board to recover the costs of state intervention through fees. The Water Board has yet to collect fee revenues due to the implementation timelines of SGMA. Specifically, until only a few years ago, SGMA implementation focused on first establishing ground water sustainability agencies, and developing groundwater sustainability plans. DWR led on the initial review of those plans, and Water Board involvement did not occur until DWR's review and subsequent determinations were made. Therefore, up until this point, the Water Board's involvement was limited.

Despite having designated two basins as probationary, the Water Board has not yet collected any fee revenue for two different reasons.

In the case of Tulare Subbasin, which the board designated as probationary in April 2024, the Kings County Farm Bureau subsequently sued the state, alleging the Water Board overstepped its regulatory authority and violated procedural rulemaking laws. A superior court judge issued a preliminary injunction in July 2024, preventing enforcement—including collection of fees—by the Water Board. The injunction remains in place as legal proceedings—including appeals by the Water Board—continue.

In the case of Tule Subbasin, which the Water Board designated as probationary in September 2024, collection of annual well fees and volumetric extraction fees will not begin until February 2026 (extractors were required to begin tracking extractions in January 2025). (Of note, no parties filed suit to challenge the probationary designation in Tule Subbasin and the window for making such a challenge has now closed.)

Funding Positions

The State Water Board has 40 positions dedicated to SGMA. Due to the nature of the Board's SGMA fee authorities, the Water Board's resources have grown gradually, largely with one-time funding, and have relied on the General Fund, rather than fee revenues. After 2024-25, remaining ongoing state funding ($3.5 million annually, mostly from the General Fund) will only be sufficient to support 18 of the 40 positions.

The Water Board consequently has requested a loan from the Underground Storage Tank Fund. The administration indicates that the loan ($5.5 million annually for three years) would be taken from Underground Storage Tank Fund's cash balance, which is in the hundreds of millions, and that the proposal would not affect Underground Storage Tank Fund-related programs.

The Water Board would have four years to repay the loan. If The Water Board is legally unable to collect SGMA fees in time to repay the loan, the Governor proposes to repay the loan from the General Fund.

Panel

- Sonja Petek, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

- E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
- Andrew Hull, Finance Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Viet-Long, Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance

LAO Comments

LAO Bottom Line. The Governor's proposal to loan* SWRCB *$16.4 million over three years from the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund to support 22 existing positions in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) program seems reasonable and necessary given that the board is not currently collecting fee revenues from the two probationary subbasins.

SWRCB Believes Future Groundwater Fee Revenues Should Be Sufficient to Cover Costs. If SWRCB's authority to regulate and enforce SGMA—including through imposing fees—is upheld by the courts, SWRCB expects fee revenues will be sufficient to cover existing workload costs. The board notes that fee revenues will be variable. This is because: (1) the goal is to move basins off probation and into compliance, which consequently means the number of basins designated as probationary will change year-to-year (in addition, the amount of fee revenue will vary by basin); (2) the amount of groundwater extracted in a given year (and thus amount of fee revenue collected) will vary depending on that year's amount of precipitation (with more groundwater used in dry years); and (3) future compliance rates are unknown and difficult to predict. State statute provides SWRCB with the authority to adjust fee amounts periodically through emergency regulation and the board indicates that this will help it deal with the variability and ensure that revenue totals roughly align with actual costs.

LAO Comments. The proposed special fund loan seems like a reasonable and necessary stopgap measure to cover SWRCB's SGMA-related staffing costs given that ongoing litigation over SWRCB's regulation of the Tulare Subbasin has prevented SWRCB from collecting fees and fee collection has not yet begun in Tule Subbasin. The outcome of the Tulare case could affect SWRCB's ability to regulate SGMA more broadly. If SWRCB's appeals are ultimately unsuccessful, the administration and Legislature likely will need to revisit the issue to address the potential longer-term consequences on SGMA implementation.

Staff Comments

The Subcommittee members may wish to ask the following questions:

1. Why does the Water Board expect fee revenues will be sufficient to cover existing workload costs? If the Water Board's workload increases because more basins fall into probation, is the Water Board's expectation the same that they will be able to cover potential increased staffing costs?

2. Can the Water Board provide an update on the Tulare Subbasin litigation? What is the timeline for the expected decision? What are the potential impacts court decisions could have on the Water Board's regulatory authority?

3. Given that fees will be variable under the fee collection structure a part of SGMA, what does the Water Board plan to do to ensure there is consistent capacity to complete the work they are statutorily required to do? Are there legislative fixes or policy adjustments that need to be made in order for Water Board staff to have fiscal assurances as the State continues to implement SGMA?

4. How will Prop. 4 funds assist subbasins with groundwater recharge and other effectors to implement groundwater sustainability plans?

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open.

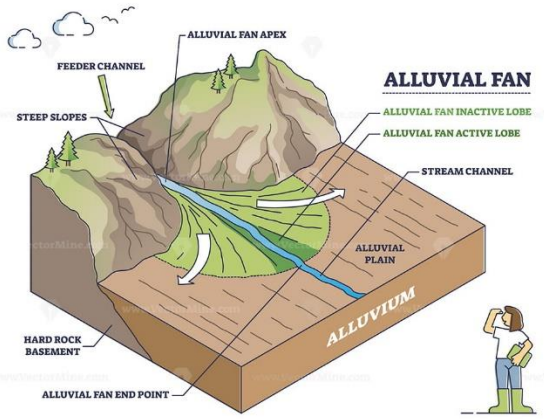
3860 Department of Water Resources

Issue 6: FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Reimbursement Authority

The Governor's budget requests $8.7 million in reimbursement authority over multiple years for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grants related to alluvial van hazard mitigation efforts.

Background:

An alluvial fan floodplain is a landform shaped like a fan which originates at its apex at the base of canyons or mountain ranges and is characterized by complex high-velocity flood flows which often carrying sediment and/or debris.



In California, warming climate, sequences of prolonged drought and wildfire, punctuated with or followed by periods of extreme rainfall will result in increased magnitude of flash floods and debris flows threatening life and property on alluvial fans. Extreme and sub-daily rainfall pertinent to alluvial fan flooding is anticipated to intensify at an even greater rate than more moderate rainfall at daily or longer timescales.

Over the past 25 years there have been seven presidential disaster declarations and numerous Governor's state of emergency declarations due to post-wildfire flash floods and debris flows.

After a presidential disaster declaration, FEMA funds projects that reduce the effect of national disasters through their Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. After the presidential disaster declaration in November 2018, the Department of Water Resources applied and was awarded $11.5 million from FEMA to conduct a pilot project for alluvial fan and watershed hazard assessments monitoring and mitigation.

Request:

These FEMA grants are passed through the California Office of Emergency Services and Department of Water Resources is a sub-recipient of the grant. The Department of Water Resources received initial reimbursement authority through the 2020 Budget Act for the Hazard Mitigation Grant, which is due to expire in 2025. Department of Water Resources needs a continuation of this reimbursement authority to leverage the federal funds for major disaster preparedness mitigation activities.

Panel

- Kasey Schimke, Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs Office, Department of Water Resources
- Andrew Hull, Finance Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Meghan Larson, Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Sonja Petek, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

Staff Comments

LA Fires and Post-Fire Recovery:

Given the significant risk of debris-flow after the LA Fires, this item is particularly timing. Specific geographic regions impacted by the fires are prone to post-wildfire flash floods and debris flows because they sit on top of alluvial fans.

The BCP notes that the framework developed through this pilot project when implemented on a statewide scale can provide risk information for future planning and development in high risk alluvial fan floodplains.

Staff recommends Subcommittee members ask the following questions to understand if and how the information Department of Water Resources used or plans to use the high resolution forecasting and data development for early warning system to support emergency management in situations like LA post-fire recovery:

1. Given that this pilot project is already underway, has the Department used the information gathered from the three watershed studies to inform planning and risk management in the areas impacted by the LA fires?

2. Have there been conversations about using future funding from the Hazard Mitigation Grant to map areas affected by the LA fires?

3. What three watersheds is the Department studying?

4. What more does the Department need to do a part of the multi-agency effort to complete the pilot project?

Staff Recommendation: Absent member questions or input from the public at this hearing, staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

Issue 7: Habitat Restoration Contracting – Trailer Bill Language

The Governor's budget requests trailer bill language to provide the Department of Water Resources authority to contract for the efficient delivery of multi-benefit habitat and environmental outcomes. This authority will enable the department to continue contracting for full delivery of multi-benefit and habitat restoration projects through Public-Private-Partnerships based on available funding.

The language can be found on Department of Finance's website.

Problem:

Under historic contracting practices, the Department of Water Resources has utilized the procurement method for infrastructure projects – conduct environmental review, acquire the land, design and permit the project, seek bids for implementation, and oversee and verify implementation. This age-old process is less effective for multi-benefit natural infrastructure projects like floodplain and riverine restoration where significant site-specific uncertainty requires substantial design adaptations in the field.

Additionally, while landowners are not included in the current procurement process, the proposed process offers a key advantage of including landowner participation where the landowner can be a factor in efficient development of projects and coordinating with the adjacent landholders. Finally, it's increasingly difficult to align the timing of funding for the current procurement process with the timing of a landowner's or project partner's willingness and readiness.

Solution:

For these reasons, the Department of Water Resources, Department of General Services and Department of Finance have worked together to craft the proposed language to utilize a delivery method that is demonstrated to be working well for natural infrastructure habitat restoration projects, is one that combines project delivery steps into a "full delivery" model, creating a simplified approach for Public-Private-Partnerships to achieve desired environmental outcomes. Essentially, one agreement initiates the planning, design and restoration work, after which the project is turned over to the state to complete.

Lastly, and importantly, the efficiency being sought here is specific to the need to move at a scale and scope that can match the effect climate pressures are exerting on our landscapes, and our state's ambitious environmental restoration goals. The "full delivery" model allows DWR to accelerate and maximize the amount of habitat created with the funding they possess.

Panel

- Brian Fuller, Executive Advisor, Department of Water Resources

- Kasey Schimke, Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs Office, Department of Water Resources
- Andrew Hull, Finance Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Meghan Larson, Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Sonja Petek, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

Staff Comments

The Subcommittee members may wish to ask the following questions:

1. Was there a specific project or set of projects that were the impetus for crafting this trailer bill language? If yes, what were those and what challenges did they face?

2. By how much would this new authority expedite project timelines compared to the current timelines?

3. What unique responsibilities and projects does the Department work on that warrant having this contracting authority?

4. Would this trailer bill language support meeting the state's 30X30 goals and/or expedited use of Prop. 4 funds?

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open.

Non-Presentation Items

3860 Department of Water Resources

Issue 1: Central Valley Flood Protection Board: Extension of Reimbursable Authority from Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

The Governor's budget requests to extend the reimbursable authority by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency of $1,000,000 annually for two years to support the existing permanent positions and work being completed in the 2019 Budget Act.

Staff Recommendation: Absent member questions or input from the public at this hearing, staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

Issue 2: Central Valley Flood Protection Board: Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership and Federal Comprehensive Studies

The Governor's budget requests $324,000 Proposition 68 in 2025-26 to provide planning and communication support for currently authorized positions to support the Central Valley Flood Protection Board's role in supporting the Yolo Bypass Comprehensive Study, Yolo Bypass Master Plan and associated environmental compliance, and the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership communication and engagement.

Staff Recommendation: Absent member questions or input from the public at this hearing, staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

Issue 3: Systemwide Flood Risk Reduction Projects, Yolo Bypass Fix-in-Place Projects

The Governor's budget requests the reversion and a new appropriation of $8 million Proposition 68 funds for the Yolo Bypass Fix-in-Place project and will complete construction of the levee rehabilitation project with Reclamation District 2068 in the Yolo Bypass.

Staff Recommendation: Absent member questions or input from the public at this hearing, staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

Issue 4: Water Desalination Grant Program – Planning, Monitoring, and Administration

The Governor's budget requests a new appropriation of $1.622 million in State Operations from Proposition 1 for the Water Desalination Program funding, consisting of approximately $540,000 annually over 3 years for administration of desalination grants.

Staff Recommendation: Absent member questions or input from the public at this hearing, staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

Issue 5: Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects and Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions

The Governor's budget requests a reversion of $8.7 million of Proposition 1 Local Assistance funds appropriated fiscal year 2021-22, and a corresponding new appropriation of $8.7 million for State Operations. These funds will allow continuation of the Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects and Delta Levee Maintenance Subventions Programs in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to implement and manage/administer projects for levee repairs, improvement and maintenance, and habitat mitigation and enhancement.

Staff Recommendation: Absent member questions or input from the public at this hearing, staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

3940 State Water Resources Control Board

Issue 6: CalEPA Chaptered Legislation Proposals

The Governor's budget requests resources from the General Fund and special funds to implement statutory requirements associated with legislation chaptered in 2024. Legislation to be implemented by the State Water Resources Control Board include:

Department	Issue Title, Chapter (Bill)	Fund Source(s)	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	Total Ongoing Positions
State Water Resources Control Board	Technical, Managerial, and Financial Standards - Chapter 507 (SB 1188)	0306 Safe Drinking Water Account 3324 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund	$925	$675	$675	$900	$900	4.0
State Water Resources Control Board	Drinking Water Outreach for Domestic Well Owners and Tenants - Chapter 506 (AB 2454)	0001 General Fund	$225	$225	$225	$225	$225	1.0

Staff Recommendation: Absent member questions or input from the public at this hearing, staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

Issue 7: US EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

The Governor's budget requests 8 permanent positions from the Public Water System, Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund which is continuously appropriated. Federal grant awards supporting position and contract funding will be expended from the same fund with no additional appropriation authority required, to implement a system (WaterTAP) for intake, management, analytics support, and federal reporting of lead and copper data in compliance with the revised Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. The 8 new positions will assist with the implementation of the new database, as well as with ongoing maintenance and reporting needs.

Staff Recommendation: Absent member questions or input from the public at this hearing, staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

This agenda and other publications are available on the Assembly Budget Committee's website at: Sub 4 Hearing Agendas | California State Assembly. You may contact the Committee at (916) 319-2099. This agenda was prepared by Shy Forbes / Christine Miyashiro.