



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments*
AGENDA AND NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL JOINT
MEETING OF THE ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND THE WATER POLICY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024 – 10:15 AM
1333 S. MAYFLOWER AVE, SUITE 360
MONROVIA, CA 91016

EENR Chair
Jennifer Stark
Claremont

EENR Vice
Chair
Vinh Truong
Duarte

EENR
Members
Claremont
Covina
Duarte
Glendora
Monrovia
Pasadena
Pomona
Rosemead
San Dimas
San Gabriel
South
Pasadena

WC Chair
Gloria
Crudgington
Monrovia

WC Vice Chair
Jennifer Stark
Claremont

WC Members
Claremont
Glendora
Monrovia
Rosemead
Diamond Bar
TVMWD

Thank you for participating in this afternoon's meeting. The SGVCOG encourages public participation and invites you to share your views on agenda items.

MEETINGS: *Regular Meetings of the Energy, Environment & Natural Resources (EENR) Committee are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:15 AM at the SGVCOG Monrovia Office (1333 South Mayflower Avenue, Suite 360, Monrovia, CA 91016). Regular Meetings of the Water Committee are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 PM at the SGVCOG Monrovia Office (1333 South Mayflower Avenue, Suite 360, Monrovia, CA 91016).* The agenda packet is available at the SGVCOG's Office, 1333 S. Mayflower Avenue, Suite 360, Monrovia, CA, and on the website, www.sgvkog.org. Copies are available via email upon request (sgv@sgvcog.org). A copy of the agenda is also posted for public viewing at the entrance of the SGVCOG Monrovia Office Building. Any additional agenda documents that are distributed to a majority of the Committee after the posting of the agenda will be available for review in the SGVCOG office during normal business hours and on the SGVCOG website noted above.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Your participation is welcomed and invited to all Energy, Environment and Natural Resources and Water Committee meetings. Time is reserved at each regular meeting for those who wish to address the Committee. SGVCOG requests that persons addressing the meeting refrain from making personal, slanderous, profane, or disruptive remarks. A person who continues to disrupt the orderly conduct of the meeting, after being warned by the Committee Chair or designee to cease the disruption, may be precluded from further participation in the meeting.

TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE: At a regular meeting, the public may comment: (i) on any matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the SGVCOG that is not on the agenda during the public comment period at the beginning of the agenda; (ii) on any item(s) that is on the Consent Calendar prior to action taken on the Consent Calendar; and (iii) on any other agenda item prior to the time it is considered by the Committee. At a special meeting, the public may only comment on items that are on the agenda. Members of the public are requested to state their name prior to speaking. Comments are limited to a maximum of three minutes per person. The Committee Chair may impose additional time limits if comments become repetitious, an individual member of the public seeks to speak on numerous items, or many members of the public seek to speak on an item. Except in limited situations, the Committee may not act on items not appearing on the agenda and/or discuss them at length.

AGENDA ITEMS: The Agenda contains the regular order of business of the Committee. Items on the Agenda have generally been reviewed and investigated by the staff in advance of the meeting so that the Committee can be fully informed about a matter before making its decision.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the SGVCOG office at (626) 457-1800 or via email to sgv@sgvcog.org. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the SGVCOG to make reasonable arrangement to ensure accessibility to this meeting.



CONSENT CALENDAR: Items listed on the Consent Calendar are routine and may be acted upon by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Committee Member so requests. In this event, the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered after the Committee acts on the balance of the Consent Calendar.

TELECONFERENCE LOCATIONS: State law allows Committee Members to teleconference from remote locations as long as certain conditions are met, including listing the teleconference locations in the agenda. The following locations are hereby noticed as teleconference locations, which are accessible to the public for the purposes of observing this meeting and/or addressing the EENR Committee.

City of Covina 125 E. College Street Covina, CA 91723	City of Duarte 2471 Calle Villada Cir. Duarte, CA 91010	Three Valleys Municipal Water District 1021 E Miramar Ave, Claremont, CA 91711
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Instructions for Public Comments: For those wishing to make public comments on agenda and non-agenda items, but within the SGVCOG’s subject matter jurisdiction, you may submit written comments via email or provide a verbal comment.

- **Written Comments (Email):** If you wish to submit written public comments to be distributed to the Committee Members at the meeting, please submit these materials via email to Mackenzie Bolger at mbolger@sgvcog.org at least 1 hour prior to the scheduled meeting time. Please indicate in the “Subject” line of the email “FOR PUBLIC COMMENT” and the agenda item number to which the public comment is addressed. Written public comments may include, but are not limited to letters, reports, and presentations.
- **Verbal Comments (In Person):** If you would like to make a public comment at the EENR Committee meeting location, please fill out a public comment card. Comment cards will be made available to you by staff at the entrance to the meeting room. If you are attending the meeting at a noticed teleconference location and would like to make a public comment, please raise your hand when the item upon which you wish to speak comes up on the agenda.
- **Verbal Comments (Zoom):** If you would like to participate by teleconference from a private location, please email Mackenzie Bolger (mbolger@sgvcog.org) to request an attendee Zoom link. Through Zoom, you may provide a verbal comment by using the web interface “Raise Hand” feature when the agenda item upon which you wish to speak is to be considered. You will then be called upon to provide your verbal comments.

For questions related to accessing the available teleconference locations, please contact Mackenzie Bolger (mbolger@sgvcog.org) or (626) 214-1316.

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

5 MINUTES

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Changes to the Agenda Order

CONSENT CALENDAR

1 MINUTE

5. Review Joint Water Policy and EENR Committee Meeting Minutes (**Page 1**)
Recommended Action: Review and approve.

ACTION ITEMS

20 MINUTES

6. State Legislative Position: AB 1912 (Pacheco) (**Page 4**)
Recommended Action: Recommend the Governing Board adopt Resolution 24-06 supporting AB 1912 (Pacheco).
7. State Legislative Position: SB 1060 (Becker) (**Page 7**)
Recommended Action: Recommend the Governing Board adopt Resolution 24-07 supporting SB 1060 (Becker).
8. State Legislative Position: SB 903 (Skinner) (**Page 10**)
Recommended Action: Recommend the Governing Board adopt Resolution 24-08 supporting SB 903 (Skinner).

PRESENTATION ITEM

25 MINUTES

9. PFAS Presentation – Yvana Hrovat, P.E., Associate Water Resources Engineer, and Sarah Mass, P.E., Haley and Aldrich, Inc. (**Page 13**)
Recommended Action: For information only.

UPDATE ITEM

5 MINUTES

10. Water Working Group Chair Report

LIAISON REPORTS

5 MINUTES

11. Clean Power Alliance
12. San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (**Page 15**)
13. Southern California Gas Company
14. South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) (**Page 24**)

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 MINUTE

15. Open Streets Mission-to-Mission Save the Date: Sunday, April 28, 2024

ADJOURN

March 6, 2024, 10:15 AM



SGVCOG EENR and the Water Committee Special Joint Meeting Minutes

Date: **March 6, 2024**

Time: 10:15 AM

Location: 1333 S. Mayflower Ave, Suite 360 Monrovia, CA 91016

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

EENR Chair and Water Committee Vice Chair Jennifer Stark called the meeting to order at 10:15 PM.

2. Roll Call

EENR Committee Members Present

Claremont	J. Stark
Covina	M. Flores Jr.
Duarte	V. Truong
Glendora	M. Allawos
Monrovia	T. Kelly
Pasadena	J. Guess
Pomona	J. Carver
Rosemead	M. Clark
San Dimas	J. Ebner
South Pasadena	M. Cacciotti

EENR Committee Members Absent

San Gabriel	T. Ding
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Guests

Gloria Crudgington, City of Monrovia
Karla Cardenas, Senator Susan Rubio's
Office
Sophia Sousa, City of Monrovia
Jazmine Hadden, City of Monrovia
Rainbow Yeung, SCAQMD
Eric Thronson, TPA
Carly Shelby, TPA
Chelsea Haines, ACWA

Staff Present

M. Bolger; S. Wong; M. Sharkey; K.
Ward; T. Lott; V. Guerra; N. Ryu; P.
Mejia; J. Read; J. Talla, SGVCOG Staff

Water Committee Members Present

Claremont	J. Stark
Diamond Bar	S. Liu
Glendora	D. Fredendall
Rosemead	M. Clark

Water Committee Members Absent

TVMWD	C. Goytia
Monrovia	S. Jimenez

Water Working Group Members Present

Monrovia	A. Tachiki
Alhambra	L. Waters
Pomona	A. Ortega
Pomona	J. Carver
LA County Sanitation District	J. Stotz
TVMWD	T. Love
SGVMWD	E. Reyes

3. Public Comment

Former South Pasadena Councilmember Diana Mahmud provided a public comment on the

March 6, 2024, 10:15 AM

Water Education for Latino Leaders Conference.

4. Changes to the Agenda Order
There were no changes to the agenda order.

EENR CONSENT CALENDAR

5. Review EENR Meeting Minutes
Action: Review and approve.
6. Review Joint Water Policy and EENR Committee Meeting Minutes
Action: Review and approve.

There was a motion to approve consent calendar. (M/S: Duarte, San Dimas)

[MOTION PASSED]

AYES:	Claremont, Covina, Duarte, Monrovia, Pasadena, Pomona, Rosemead, San Dimas, South Pasadena
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	Glendora
NO VOTE RECORDED:	
ABSENT:	San Gabriel

WATER CONSENT CALENDAR

7. Review Water Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
Action: Review and approve.
8. Review Joint Water Policy and EENR Committee Meeting Minutes
Action: Review and approve.

There was a motion to approve consent calendar. (M/S: Glendora, Diamond Bar)

[MOTION PASSED]

AYES:	Claremont, Diamond Bar, Glendora, Rosemead
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	
NO VOTE RECORDED:	
ABSENT:	Monrovia, TVMWD

PRESENTATIONS

9. AB 205 and AB 1999
Carly Shelby, Associate, Townsend Public Affairs, presented on this item.

There was a motion from the EENR Committee to recommend the Governing Board to issue a letter to the CPUC stating opposition to Fixed Rate Utility Fees and a second letter to Assemblymember Irwin in support of AB 1999.

(M/S: Glendora, South Pasadena)

[MOTION PASSED]

AYES:	Claremont, Covina, Duarte, Glendora, Monrovia, Pasadena, Pomona, Rosemead, San Dimas, South Pasadena
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	

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NO VOTE RECORDED:	
ABSENT:	San Gabriel

10. California Water Use Efficiency Plan
Chelsea Haines, Regulatory Relations Manager, Association of California Water Agencies, presented on this item.

There was a motion from the Water Committee to recommend the Governing Board to submit a letter to the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the water efficiency standards and schedule for implementation.

(M/S: Diamond Bar, Glendora)

[MOTION PASSED]

AYES:	Claremont, Diamond Bar, Glendora, Rosemead
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	
NO VOTE RECORDED:	
ABSENT:	Monrovia, TVMWD

WORKING GROUP & LIAISON REPORTS

11. Water Working Group Chair Report
A. Tachiki provided an update.
12. Clean Power Alliance
13. San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District
14. Southern California Gas Company
15. South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)
M. Cacciotti provided an update.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee members discussed the continuation and ongoing coordination of joint meetings between the Energy, Environment, & Natural Resources Committee and the Water Committee & Water Working Group.

ADJOURN JOINT MEETING

EENR Chair and Water Committee Vice Chair Jennifer Stark adjourned the meeting at 11:34 AM.

REPORT

DATE: April 3, 2024

TO: Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: **STATE LEGISLATIVE POSITION: AB 1912 (PACHECO)**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend the Governing Board adopt Resolution 24-06 supporting AB 1912 (Pacheco).

BACKGROUND

In recent years, many Californians have experienced record high electric and natural gas bills. According to a 2023 report by the California State Auditor, California has the seventh-highest average electricity rates and the 10th-highest average residential natural gas prices in the nation. While a utility rate is not the same as a customer bill, and electricity usage rates are lower in California than in some other states, usage and rates inform the amount on a customer's bill. While rates are high, the actual electric bill the average California residential and industrial customer pays is below the national average. However, about 2.4 million customers of California's three largest utilities are behind on their bills, accounting for approximately \$1.8 billion in energy debt.

The independent Public Advocates Office has reported that the primary drivers for utility cost increases in recent years are due to wildfire mitigation, distribution and transmission infrastructure investments, and rooftop solar incentives provided to some customers through net energy metering. While many of these costs are related to core utility functions (e.g. distribution costs) or the result of utility decisions in performing its core function (e.g. wildfire costs), other costs are more ancillary in nature, if not in size (e.g. solar incentives).

There is broad consensus that rate increases will continue as California utilities continue to adapt to the changing society they serve, including the effects of climate change, as well as policies intended to respond to climate change. Over the last few years, many mandated programs have added significant additional costs to rates. These include wildfire mitigation, wildfire response, electric grid hardening, transmission costs, transportation electrification, and decarbonization efforts, among others. In this regard, it is increasingly important for the Legislature to know and understand proactively the cost impact of legislative proposals that come before its respective committees.

DISCUSSION

AB 1912 (Pacheco) proposes that the California Council on Science and Technology develop a program to evaluate any legislation that would impact the state's electric ratepayers. Additionally, the bill requests that the council establish measures to prevent conflicts of interest for those involved in the evaluation process. To fund the council's work, the bill requires a yearly payment of up to \$2 million from large electric corporations, with the money being placed in a special

Electric Programs Benefit Fund. The collected funds will be continuously used to support the council's analyses until the provisions expire in 2030.

This bill is similar to AB 1083 Chapter 818, Statutes of 2019, which authorized the council, upon request by the chairperson of a fiscal committee or certain policy committees of either the Assembly or Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, or the President pro Tempore of the Senate, to complete an analysis of the impacts of legislation related to any of the following: procurement of electricity, electricity and gas products, energy storage, electrical or gas infrastructure by an electrical corporation, and community choice aggregation. The analysis must be completed within 60 days. However, use of this program was contingent upon CCST having funds to do the work required to complete this analysis — which it never received. This program sunset on January 1, 2023.

Status

AB 1912 passed out of the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee on March 13th and was amended into its current form on March 18th. It is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee awaiting hearing.

Author's Statement

“Californians are struggling with the rising costs of goods and services. The monthly strain created by utility, energy and water bills is more pronounced than ever. Part of the increase in utility bills is that they include the cost of well-intentioned policies that have been passed over the past decade.

The generation and distribution of energy is technical and complicated, and the Legislature must understand the impact of legislative mandates and programs that are passed on to ratepayers already struggling with rising costs. Unfortunately, the legislative calendar does not offer enough time for Legislators to study the multiple perspectives of each bill.

AB 1912 requests that UC Berkeley prepare a written analysis with relevant data on the efficacy and cost impact of each legislative proposal that mandates or requires electric services or programs prior to a committee hearing, assisting legislators in crafting energy policies that balance climate goals with affordable electric rates.”

Support and Opposition

According to the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee’s analysis for the March 13th hearing, AB 1912 is supported by San Diego Electric & Gas and there is no opposition.

SGVCOG POSITION

This bill aligns with SGVCOG’s adopted legislative platform. Specifically, this bill is consistent with our legislative priority to advocate for a balanced and sustainable mix of energy sources that provide reliable and environmentally responsible electricity at competitive rates.

This staff report was prepared by Townsend Public Affairs (TPA). TPA staff are available to answer any questions.

REPORT

Prepared by: Mackenzie Bolger
Mackenzie Bolger
Senior Management Analyst

Approved by: Marisa Creter
Marisa Creter
Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – [Bill Text](#)
Attachment B – Resolution 24-06 Draft
Attachment C – AB 1912 Position Letter - SUPPORT

REPORT

DATE: April 3, 2024

TO: Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: **STATE LEGISLATIVE POSITION: SB 1060 (BECKER)**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend the Governing Board adopt Resolution 24-07 support SB 1060 (Becker).

BACKGROUND

California has the highest wildfire risk in the US. In recent years, the state has experienced a growing number of highly destructive wildfires due to climate change and over a century of logging and fire suppression. Of the 20 most destructive wildfires in California's recorded history, 13 have occurred since 2017. Together, these 13 fires have caused tremendous damage, destroying nearly 40,000 structures, taking 148 lives, and damaging millions of acres.

The devastating impacts of these increasingly frequent and severe wildfires have accelerated insurance rate increases, non-renewals, and market instability, causing an insurance crisis in California. This has forced a rapidly increasing share of homeowners, particularly those in fire-prone regions, onto the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan (FAIR Plan) as a last resort to protect their homes. Since 2019, FAIR Plan enrollments have increased by more than 70 percent. However, the FAIR Plan currently offers reduced coverage at high prices.

In recent years, California has made significant investments to support wildfire resilience, forest health, and community safety. Since 2017, the state alone has committed more than \$3.6 billion in investments in forest treatment to address wildfire risk and protect communities. Additionally, homeowners, other property owners, and communities are investing in home hardening and defensible space to reduce the risk of loss due to wildfires and thereby lower the cost of wildfire disasters for communities, governments, and insurers. Recognizing the risk reduction benefits of these activities, in 2022, California's Insurance Commissioner issued a regulation that requires insurance companies to provide discounts to customers who implement wildfire safety measures including home hardening and defensible space.

DISCUSSION

SB 1060 (Becker) would mandate property insurance companies to use risk models that consider added protection against wildfire risk due to measures like hazardous fuel reduction, housing fortification, and defensible space for underwriting. Currently, the Department of Insurance is responsible for general regulation of insurance enterprises within the state, including the initial screening and continuous supervision of insured risks. Insurance providers or producers are generally obligated by law to possess underwriting guidelines, outlining the criteria and procedure

by which they decide to grant or refuse coverage. The bill empowers the department to audit underwriting to confirm adherence to the risk model requirements and to issue any necessary orders to ensure compliance.

Status

SB 1060 is awaiting a hearing in the Senate Insurance Committee.

Author's Statement

“To address the insurance crisis, insurance underwriting models should account for the mitigation benefits of the billions being invested in forest treatment, home hardening and defensible space. A 2021 study published by The Nature Conservancy and global insurance broker Willis Towers Watson found forest treatment reduced modeled average annual insurance losses for a community of 81,000 homes by 40-60% and could save a total of \$21 million annually by reducing premium prices.

By directing property insurers to incorporate wildfire risk reduction associated with hazardous fuel reduction, home hardening, and defensible space in underwriting risk models, SB 1060 will ensure that underwriting models fairly give credit for the billions of dollars that California has invested in wildfire resilience, forest health, and community protection. In doing so, this bill will result in more available insurance coverage for Californians.”

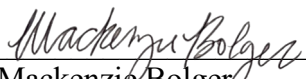
Support and Opposition


According to the author, SB 1060 is sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and there is no opposition.

SGVCOG POSITION

This bill aligns with SGVCOG’s adopted legislative platform. Specifically, this bill is consistent with our legislative priority for legislation that reduces wildfire risk, promotes wildfire prevention planning in San Gabriel Valley communities, and addresses evolving needs relating to homeowners’ insurance in high-risk fire areas.

This staff report was prepared by Townsend Public Affairs (TPA). TPA staff are available to answer any questions.

Prepared by: 
Mackenzie Bolger
Senior Management Analyst

Approved by: 
Marisa Creter
Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – [Bill Text](#)

Attachment B – Resolution 24-07 Draft

Attachment C – SB 1060 Position Letter - SUPPORT

REPORT

DATE: April 3, 2024

TO: SGVCOG Water Policy Committee

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: **STATE LEGISLATIVE POSITION: SB 903 (SKINNER)**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend the Governing Board adopt Resolution 24-08 supporting SB 903 (Skinner).

BACKGROUND

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a large class of fluorinated chemicals that do not break down or break down into other persistent PFAS, leading to their common description as “forever chemicals.”

PFAS spread quickly in the environment and are now found to be present at harmful levels in humans, animals, and food sources. The California State Water Board and United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) warn that some PFAS have the potential to harm health at very low levels, the equivalent of one drop of water in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools. According to the EPA, PFAS are highly carcinogenic, with other harmful health effects that include liver disease, decreased fertility, endocrine disruption, developmental harm, and immune system suppression.

The California legislature has previously acted to remove PFAS from a number of product categories, including firefighting foams, textiles, cosmetics, juvenile products, and paper-based food packaging. Despite the risks and legislative efforts, PFAS are still widely used in consumer products and industrial processes.

DISCUSSION

SB 903 prevents the sale and use of products containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances — commonly known as “PFAS” — unless the use of PFAS in the product is necessary and there is not a safer alternative available. Specifically, SB 903:

- Prohibits a person from distributing, selling, or offering for sale a product that contains intentionally added PFAS by 2030
- Provides a narrow exemption if the Department of Toxic Substances Control has made a determination that the use of PFAS in the product is currently unavoidable, the prohibition is preempted by federal law, or the product is used.
- Requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control to maintain on its internet website a list of each determination of currently unavoidable use, when each determination expires, and the products and uses that are exempt from the prohibition.

- Imposes a civil penalty for a violation of the prohibition. Additionally establishes the PFAS Penalty Account and requires all civil penalties received to be deposited into that account and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be used for the administration and enforcement of the provisions.
- Requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control to adopt regulations to implement the provisions of the bill by 2027.

Status

SB 903 has been referred to the Senate Environmental Committee with a hearing date set for April 3.

Author's Statement

“PFAS are used in a wide range of products because of their stain- and water-resistant and nonstick properties. Forever chemicals are used in clothing, packaging, plastic food ware, cleaning products, ski waxes, menstrual products, metal products, paints, propellants, coatings, and much more.

According to a new data report by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), PFAS has been found in water systems serving at least 25.4 million Californians. A study commissioned by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified PFAS in the breast milk, umbilical cord blood, or bloodstreams of 98% of participants. A 2023 report by the U.S. Geological Survey estimated that nearly half of the nation's tap water is contaminated with forever chemicals. In addition to being associated to higher rates of kidney and testicular cancer, exposure to PFAS has been linked to high cholesterol and harmful impacts on the liver, kidneys, and immune, nervous, and reproductive systems.

Toxic PFAS chemicals have contaminated our water, air, food, and even our bodies. PFAS can cause harm at vanishingly low levels — and yet we continue to pump out vast new quantities of them into the world. This bill is a sensible and comprehensive approach to phase out unnecessary uses of PFAS so that we stop adding to an already enormous problem.”

Support and Opposition

SB 903 is sponsored by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, Breast Cancer Prevention Partners, Clean Water Action, and Environmental Working Group. The release of the measure's first policy committee analysis will reveal more.

SGVCOG POSITION

SB 903 aligns with SGVCOG's adopted legislative platform. Specifically, this bill is consistent with our legislative priority of supporting sustainable waste management that contributes to a healthier environment for current and future generations.

This staff report was prepared by Townsend Public Affairs (TPA). TPA staff are available to answer any questions.

Prepared by: Mackenzie Bolger
Mackenzie Bolger
Senior Management Analyst

Approved by: Marisa Creter
Marisa Creter
Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – [Bill Text](#)
Attachment B – Resolution 24-08 Draft
Attachment C – SB 903 Position Letter - SUPPORT

REPORT

DATE: April 3, 2024

TO: SGVCOG Water Policy Committee

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: PFAS REGULATIONS IMPACTS ON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDED ACTION

For information only.

BACKGROUND

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of thousands of compounds characterized by carbon-fluorine bonds, the strongest chemical bond in nature. The carbon-fluorine backbones that comprise these molecules impart surfactant (oil- and water-repelling) properties that make them extremely useful in a variety of commercial and industrial products as well as resistant to ambient degradation.

Fluoropolymer coatings can be in a variety of products that include clothing, furniture, adhesives, food packaging, heat-resistant non-stick cooking surfaces, and the insulation of electrical wire. Many PFAS, including perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), are a concern because they do not break down in the environment, can move through soils and contaminate drinking water sources, and build up (bioaccumulate) in fish and wildlife.

One of the most widely studied sources of PFAS to the environment are aqueous film-forming foams (AFFFs), a type of firefighting foam used for managing Class B (hydrocarbon fuel-based) fires. AFFFs are highly concentrated PFAS products that are commonly used, stored, and/or released at airports, military bases, fire departments, and fire training facilities.

Due to their widespread presence in industrial and commercial products, PFAS are commonly found at wastewater treatment plants and landfills.

According to the California State Water Resources Control Board, PFAS does not naturally degrade in the environment over time. Some can accumulate within the human body and are toxic to human life at low concentrations. Exposure to unsafe levels of PFOA/PFOS may result in adverse health effects including liver damage, effects on the immune system, cancer and developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is in the process of evaluating the health effects for other PFAS compounds.

On October 18, 2021, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced an agency PFAS Strategic Roadmap identifying a whole-of-agency approach to addressing PFAS. The roadmap sets timelines by which the EPA plans to take specific actions and commits to new policies to safeguard public health, protect the environment, and hold polluters accountable. The EPA's program offices are tasked with key actions to help carry out protecting public health, ecosystems, and preventing further PFAS contamination which include the Office of Chemical

REPORT

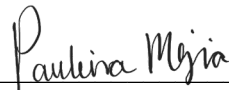
Safety and Pollution Prevention, Office of Water, Office of Land and Emergency Management, Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Research and Development, and Cross-Program.

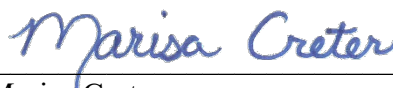
In September 2022, EPA proposed adding PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund. According to the EPA, this proposed rule would increase transparency around releases of PFOS and PFOA and help to hold polluters accountable for cleanup. The EPA originally estimated that the final CERCLA designation would be published in August 2023 and later extended that estimated publication to February 2024, but no recent updates have been published.

In March 2023, the US EPA announced proposed national primary drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for six PFAS. The regulation proposed by US EPA would require public water systems to monitor for these PFAS, notify the public of the levels of these PFAS, and reduce the levels of these PFAS in drinking water if they exceed the proposed MCLs. As of March 2023, MCLs for PFAS in California have not yet been established. The development of standards for PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS are among the priorities of the Division of Drinking Water.

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) has been coordinating with the US EPA and other governmental agencies over PFAS concerns since 2012. CalEPA has taken proactive measures to investigate and address PFAS contamination in California, as well as other US governmental PFAS-related actions.

At this Water Working Group meeting, Sarah Mass, PE, Senior Technical Specialist and Environmental Engineer at Haley & Aldrich, Inc., and Yvana Hrovat, PE, QSD, Associate Water Resources Engineer at Haley & Aldrich, Inc. will provide a presentation on PFAS basics, the occurrence of PFAS in the environment, an overview of current and proposed PFAS regulations, and the impacts of PFAS regulations on MS4s.

Prepared by: 
Paulina Mejia
Management Analyst

Approved by: 
Marisa Creter
Executive Director

REPORT

DATE: April 3, 2024

TO: SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee

FROM: San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

RE: **RMC LIAISON REPORT**

RMC EXECUTIVE OFFICER MARK STANLEY



A Message from the RMC's Executive Officer

Dear SGVCOG Water Policy and EENR Committees,

REPORT

In 1999, the idea of a state conservancy tasked with the acquisition and preservation of open space and parks along the San Gabriel and Lower LA rivers was quite controversial. In 1998, State Senator Tom Hayden introduced SB 2010 which would have allowed the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to manage projects along the San Gabriel River. The bill passed the Senate but failed in the Assembly. Local leaders from flood prone areas vehemently opposed the bill, and it was worried that the Malibu based conservancy couldn't adequately represent local interests. The next year, women with incredible political ability and vision united local interests, legislators, environmentalists, and the community to create the RMC as we know it today, our agency's founding mothers.

After the defeat of Senator Hayden's bill, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments sought to create a new conservancy that would serve as a clearinghouse for public and private grants to restore and protect the San Gabriel River, along with the Arroyo Seco in Pasadena. The effort was led by Monrovia Councilwoman Lara Blakely, who recognized the urgency of acquiring open space for the preservation purposes before developers. The COG began talks with then State Senator Hilda Solis about introducing legislation. As a child in La Puente, Solis would often visit Marrano Beach near Montebello to play in the river, she knew that the river could become a destination for the millions of residents living nearby. Shortly after Senator Solis introduced a senate bill, Assemblywoman Sally Havice introduced a similar bill that also included the lower half of the Los Angeles River in the new conservancy's territory.

While groups from the San Gabriel Valley envisioned a park lined naturalized river, city officials from lower-lying portions of the river remained more concerned with the river's use as a flood control channel. After months of negotiations, brokered in part by State Secretary of Resources Mary Nichols, the competing Assembly and Senate bills eventually mirrored each other. The conservancy's governing board would include members from both sides of the flood control issue, and its territory would be expanded to include the Lower LA River and portions of Orange County that are part of the greater watershed. Senator Solis's bill and Assemblywoman Havice's companion bill were signed by the Governor in 1999 creating the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy we know and love today.

In May of 2010 during the RMC's 10 year anniversary celebration, then-U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis was recognized for her many groundbreaking efforts to protect and enhance the health of the San Gabriel Mountains and watershed. The Hilda L. Solis River Overlook was dedicated in her honor, and remains a popular location for visitors to the mountains today. This Women's History Month, we pay homage to our agency's founding mothers, and recognize the contributions of all women who play a role in the preservation of our state's natural resources. We also remember the generations of women who preceded them paving the way to empowerment, and celebrate those who carry on their legacy. Happy International Women's Day and Women's History Month!

See you on the trails,

-Mark

Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Updates

Cudahy LA River Area Improvement Project



In January the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Board approved a \$2.1 million Proposition 1 grant to the City of Cudahy for its LA River Area Improvement Project, which

will support the transformation of three key sites for community access, habitat restoration and water management near the Lower LA River.

The first project site's enhancements include safety and lighting upgrades to the Lower LA River Bike Path and adjacent area along River Road, improving 98,427 square feet of degraded river parkway with over 5,000 drought tolerant native plantings. Other amenities include pedestrian upgrades, a robust community engagement process with interactive art workshops, bioswales and passive irrigation for water capture, public seating, and more.

The second project site, Clara Bridge Slopes, removes over 50,000 square feet of concrete to construct terraced California native plant restoration gardens that provide habitat for LA River birds, pollinators and small mammals. The project will help manage stormwater and increase groundwater recharge in an area that is prone to flooding. 42 large shade trees will be planted to promote carbon sequestration and reduce the urban heat island effect.

The third project site, the Otis Avenue Pocket Park, will convert an empty lot into a new recreation and gathering space near a dense residential neighborhood. The pocket park will include 15 shade trees and over 6,000 square feet of native landscaping and grasses. Work on this project has already begun, RMC funding will complete the latter portion of the total project scope. Cudahy residents can look forward to this project's completion by as soon as November 30, 2024.

Welcome Karen Diaz



WELCOME TO THE RMC KAREN DIAZ

CONSERVANCY PROJECT ANALYST

Welcome to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy's newest Conservancy Project Analyst, Karen Diaz!

As an Angeleno, Karen (they/she) is thrilled to join the RMC and work on projects rooted in community building, accessibility to urban green spaces for communities of color, and native California landscape stewardship. After graduating from UCLA with dual Master's degrees in Urban and Regional Planning and Public Health, they served as a Relationship Manager for NeighborWorks America. Here Karen managed a portfolio of community development and housing non-profit organizations providing technical assistance, board governance, grant opportunities, and leadership development so that their work can have a bigger impact in their respective neighborhoods. Karen is also a yoga teacher and enjoys taking dance classes, long walks along the LA River with their corgi (Blue) and visiting

National Parks. They are so incredibly excited to contribute to RMC's mission of accessibility to open spaces, education, and restoration.

Watershed Conservation Authority Updates

Azusa Wilderness Park Temporarily Closed, Wildfire Prevention Grant



Two atmospheric river events in February saturated the hillsides at Azusa Wilderness Park, home to WCA's El Encanto headquarters and a popular hiking trail. Shortly after a rain event, a massive landslide completely blocked the park's main trail in dramatic fashion. Los Angeles County, responsible for maintaining the park's trails, has begun its assessment of the situation and plans for trail restoration.

Assessments of the park's trees will also be conducted. As soil is saturated with water, tree roots can become unanchored which can lead to trees falling unexpectedly as they lean out of balance. Fortunately, no structures have been damaged and no injuries were reported as a result of the landslide.

Recent wildfires have contributed to the likelihood that such landslides will continue to occur. According to the California Department of Conservation, burnt soil and vegetation on slopes more than doubles the rate that water runs off which raises the risk of slides. In January the RMC awarded \$8.7 million in wildfire prevention grant funding to the Watershed Conservation Authority. Under this grant, WCA efforts will focus on areas at of risk for wildfire, such as the forest areas of the San Gabriel Mountains, brush along urban waterways and vegetative overgrowth in the Puente Hills and Palos Verde Hills, and areas in upper Orange County. The WCA will support its community partners in increasing their resilience to wildfire and improvement of fire safety. Additionally, these funds will be used to promote sustainable land use, investment in wildlands management, and the protection of cultural resources vulnerable to wildfire.

Announcements

RMC is Hiring!

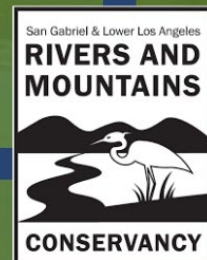
Conservancy Project Analyst

The Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) for the San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) implements the Conservancy's approved policies, work plans and programs. Major functions of the position include all activities related to the acquisition, development and restoration of open space, wildlife habitat, low impact recreation, watershed improvements, and related educational uses.

Eligible for telework up to four days per week in accordance with the State's Telework Policy



rmc.ca.gov



For more information on this opportunity, please visit [CalCareers](https://calcareers.org)

Upcoming Meetings

RMC Board Meeting: March 18, 2024

WCA Board Meeting: March 21, 2024

REPORT

LCWA Board Meeting: March 7, 2024

DATE: April 3, 2024

TO: SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee

FROM: South Coast Air Quality Management District

RE: **SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT LIAISON REPORT**

\$197 MILLION IN FUNDING AWARDED FOR CLEANER VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

At their February meeting, the South Coast AQMD Governing Board approved \$197 million in incentive projects under the Carl Moyer, Surplus Off-Road Opt-In for NOx (SOON), Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) and Community Air Protection Programs.



Nearly 560 heavy-duty on-road and off-road agricultural and construction equipment and vehicles, marine engines, and locomotives will be upgraded with cleaner-than-required, zero-emission technologies. Funding approved by the Board also includes electric charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure projects.

Under these awards, funding will also be provided for two zero-emission passenger locomotives, the first under the Carl Moyer Program. Collectively the emission reductions from these awards will provide estimated emission benefits of 458 tons/year of NOx and 14 tons/year of particulate matter. Nearly 75 percent of the awarded projects will directly benefit overburdened, environmental justice communities.



For more information, please visit www.aqmd.gov/moyer.



Celebrate Earth Day All Spring Long!

Earth Day is on April 22nd, but why not expand your efforts to help clean the environment to more than just one day? This year, show your support for the health of our planet and our communities throughout the season with these clean-air tips and celebrations:

MARCH



Get started early with [National Plant a Flower Day](#) on March 12th. This is the perfect time to plant fresh, California-native flora around your home or in your community. Involve kids in learning more about gardening and sustainability or look into starting a community garden in your area!



Mark [Earth Hour](#) on March 30th when residents and communities show their support by turning off all non-essential lighting for one hour from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

APRIL



April is [Keep America Beautiful Month!](#) Take time to beautify your area by reducing waste and finding creative ways to reuse old items and keep them out of landfills. Volunteer for a neighborhood clean-up event to pick up litter or plant trees.



April is also [National Lawn and Garden Month!](#) Now's the time to consider making changes with beautiful drought-resistant, California-native landscaping. Not only will you help our natural Southern California environment, but you may also save on water and maintenance costs for your yard!



As many Southern California cities examine ordinances to reduce the use of gas-powered lawn equipment, to trade in any old equipment for new, cleaner, quieter electric models. There are many incentive programs to help you choose a new green alternative, including South Coast AQMD's [Electric Lawnmower Rebate Program](#).



APRIL 22

April 22nd is [Earth Day!](#) This is a day to really focus in on our environment and what you can do to help keep it clean and healthy. Learn more about the annual celebration at www.earthday.org. This year's Earth Day focus is "Planet vs. Plastics" and reducing plastic waste at all levels of our society. Get involved with any of the numerous Earth Day community events being held in our region, from clean-up events at beaches, parks, city streets and other impacted areas, to visiting a community health and sustainability fair hosted by your city or local parks. Make your voice heard by supporting green businesses, especially those who've made the commitment to reduce or eliminate their use of plastics.



Finish up by celebrating [Arbor Day](#) on April 26th by planting trees. Join a tree-planting event and help combat climate change and extreme heat by broadening our local green spaces, especially in communities with heavily urban structure and little shade. Extreme heat can be deadly, especially in summer, so help keep neighborhoods healthy and beautiful with shade-giving trees.



Now is also a great time to start saving on your electricity bill by installing solar panels, requesting green power from your utility, or joining a community choice aggregator.



Shop smart and help your community thrive by buying locally grown produce and locally made products whenever possible. When ordering items to be delivered, consolidate packages to reduce shipping materials, and fuel used for transport.



Spread the word! Volunteer for clean air programs in your community!

UnTapped: Making a Difference in California Water Policy

WELL is currently recruiting for our 8th cohort. UnTapped is a selective, **six-month program** for local elected leaders that helps participants make an impact on California water policy while addressing individual community water challenges. The UnTapped program creates an opportunity for local leaders to engage with water issues by exploring governance, infrastructure, finance, the water-energy nexus, and the impact of climate change on water supply and water quality.

UnTapped sessions are hosted in-person, at various watersheds throughout California. Content includes a discussion with water professionals and skill-based exercises that help participants ask better public policy questions and strengthen public speaking and relational skills.

Developing a Network of Local Elected Officials

WELL's network is composed of more than 1,100 locally elected Latino leaders from throughout California. Local elected officials, whether city council members, school board members, or elected water district directors, have an incredible influence on water policy and on the delivery of water to our communities. Further, once UnTapped fellows graduate from the program, they are inducted into the WELL UnTapped Network (WUN), where they can continue to engage in learning and training opportunities focused on California water policy. Having such an extensive network means that together we can make our communities more resilient in the face of ongoing water challenges.



FAQ's

How many sessions are there?

There are five in-person sessions all hosted in-person. Session dates are listed below.

What is the cost of the program?

The cost to participate in the UnTapped Fellowship Program is \$3,000 for city council, county supervisors, and school board members, and \$4,000 for water district directors.

Are there any scholarship or payment options available?

Limited scholarships are available for elected officials who need assistance.

Do I have to identify as Latino to join the program?

WELL defines a Latino leader as any elected official representing a Latino constituency.

WELL UnTapped Fellowship Summer 2024 Session Dates:

- In-Person, Friday, July 19 – Sunday, July 21, 2024
- In-Person, Friday, August 9 – Saturday, August 10, 2024
- In-Person, Friday, September 13– Saturday, September 14, 2024
- In-Person, Friday, October 11 - Saturday, October 12, 2024
- In-Person, Tuesday, November 12 - Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Scan here
to apply



"The WELL UnTapped Fellowship Program equipped me with knowledge and awareness of the inequities within California's water systems, in addition to providing me with the tools necessary to support and advocate for equitable water policies. Furthermore, the program gave me the opportunity to grow as a leader by expanding my professional network with like-minded individuals that value social and environmental justice policies."

– Anna Velazquez, Mayor, City of Soledad
and WELL UnTapped Fellowship Graduate, Class of 2023



"Being part of the WELL UnTapped Fellowship Program allowed me to have a better understanding of the importance and intricacies of water systems in California, locally and state-wide. I learned how to ask meaningful and equitable action-driven questions as I represent my community as a city council member. "

– Heber Marquez, Councilmember, City of Maywood
and WELL UnTapped Fellowship Graduate, Class of 2023