



2021 Legislative Advocacy Plan

This plan establishes the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District legislative and government affairs priorities for 2021.

Federal Strategy

1) Continue relationship and services with The Ferguson Group

- Identifying legislation or proposed regulatory changes that may impact the District.
- Track additional Title XVI and WIIN Act funding for Pure Water Monterey
- Track Biden Administration budget actions and Infrastructure Funding/Financing Proposals
- Consult with staff to develop positions on relevant legislation.
- Advocate the District's position on bills and matters of interest.
- Identify funding opportunities and notify of timing, requirements, and advocate on behalf of District or District's partners (e.g. WaterSMART) for, but not limited to:
 - ✓ Fisheries and watersheds
 - ✓ Pure Water Monterey Expansion
 - ✓ CSIP Annexations
 - ✓ Desalination (if proceeding)
- Prepare materials for briefing – talking points, briefing books, letters, as necessary
- Coordinate with other water district lobbyists and organizations
- Maintain close relationships with Monterey legislative delegation

2) Maintain Washington DC profile:

- Work with The Ferguson Group to organize timely trips as needed, but at least once a year separate from ACWA trip (Covid-19 dependent)
- Both Congressional delegation and regulatory departments related to water, including but not limited to BLM, NOAA (NMFS), USBR, USDA, and EPA.
- Develop relationships with new legislative staff.
- Attend ACWA trip each year or every other year
- Direct contact with associations including ACWA, WateReuse, etc.

3) Provide support for relevant legislation.

- 4) Perform on existing federal grants:
 - Salinas and Carmel Rivers Basin Study (\$900,000 USBR to be completed in 2021)

State of California Strategy

- 1) Monitor and pursue grant opportunities:
 - Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP): Position the District for a 2021 application for Monitoring Watershed Restoration (MO) for Carmel River in the aftermath of the San Clemente dam removal.
 - IRWM: Updated IRWM Plan was accepted by the State in February. Will maintain our lobbying effort to retain the funding agreement to ensure we receive over \$3 million in the next IRWM rounds of Prop 1 moneys
- 2) Maintain Sacramento profile:
 - Work with JEA Associates to organize timely trips as needed, but at least once a year separate from needs-based visits.
 - Submit “Water for Housing” application to SWRCB and develop and execute advocacy plan.
 - Meet Governor Newsom’s appointee’s in relevant key positions
 - Meet with legislative team locally
 - Attend CSDA, ACWA, and/or WateReuse legislative days
- 3) Provide support/opposition for relevant legislation.
 - Maintain JEA bill-tracking
 - Provide letters of support or opposition on legislation and regulations that affect the water industry. Current effort on proposed SWRCB permanent conservation regulations.
- 4) Develop helpful relationships: ACWA, WateReuse, others

Local Strategy

- 1) Maintain District role in regional water issues related to:
 - Pure Water Monterey – CSIP expansion and expansion for MCWD
 - Los Padres Dam and Reservoir studies
 - Manage local IRWM effort
 - Groundwater Sustainability
 - Regionalism in water, generally
- 2) Encourage information flow and public participation in Rule 19.8/Measure J feasibility analysis where possible.

- 3) Participate in County-wide efforts (CEQA, OES, Water planning, Carmel River/Lagoon)
- 4) Maintain outreach to local associations government affairs committees (Chambers, MCAR, MCHA, Coalition of Peninsula Businesses, jurisdictions' mayors and councils); Meet new councilmembers and board members.
- 5) Better articulate CPUC activities to local ratepayer groups

Adopted on March 15, 2021 by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Board of Directors