



## \*Priority Bills

### **Bills Mandating Conservation & Climate Change Innovations & Rules**

\*AB 869 (Rubio) Sustainable water use and demand reduction: recycled water

*Status:* Referred to Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee.

**CalMutuals Position: Encourages continued investment in recycled water projects and use. Support.**

\*AB1323 (Weber) Sustainable water use and demand reduction: Stakeholder Group

*Status:* Referred to Committee on Water, Parks, & Wildlife

**CalMutuals Position: Stakeholders should include small systems, including mutuals. This bill is a priority from the perspective of San Diego MWC's. Support.**

\*AB 1343 (Chen) "Go Low Flow" Water Agreements

*Status:* Referred to Committee on Education.

**CalMutuals Position: Support.**

AB 1654 & AB 968 (Rubio) Urban water use efficiency

*Status:* This bill will be heard, along with the other "water use efficiency" and long-term conservation framework measures on April 25 in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee.

**CalMutuals Position: Watch.**

AB1667 (Friedman) Water Meters

*Status:* Bill has been significantly amended. Staff (Jim Metropolis) could not share amendments yet. More details forthcoming.

**CalMutuals Position: Watch**

AB1668, AB 1669 (Friedman) Conservation Guidelines

*Status:* Referred to Committee on Water, Parks, & Wildlife. Set for hearing April 25.

This bill is the vehicle for the Governor's Trailer Bill 810 – *Making Conservation a California Way of Life*.

**CalMutuals Position: Targets should account for property land use type and density given that current formulas do not account for unirrigated acreage in rural areas and multiple families on single parcels in urban areas as well as past conservation achievements (i.e. recycled water use). Watch.**

\*SB263 (Leyva) Climate Assistance Centers

*Status:* Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

**CalMutuals Position: AS community-based not-for-profit community water suppliers, mutual water companies should be included as potential outreach partners. This bill is a priority from the perspective of JPRIMA. Watch.**

## **Bills Funding Safe Drinking Water and Disadvantaged communities**

AB577 (Caballero) Disadvantaged Communities

*Status:* This is now a two-year bill. CalMutuals submitted a *support if amended* position.

**CalMutuals Position:** Given that in many disadvantaged communities, multiple families live in a single parcel, resulting in over calculations in Median Household Income (MHI) assessments, CalMutuals supports the definition of disadvantaged communities based upon per capita income.

\*SB427 (Leyva) Public Water Systems: Lead User Service Lines

*Status:* Re-referred to Committee on Environmental Quality. Set for hearing April 19.

**CalMutuals Position:** Many smaller, older and poor community water systems do not have the financial resources to conduct surveys and will require dedicated state monies or other assistance. Service laterals are owned by the property owners and there are property access and liability issues related to entering onto private property, as well as repair costs to facilities not owned by the water systems. Oppose.

SB778 (Hertzberg) Safe Drinking Water

*Status:* Set for hearing April 19. Re-referred to Committee on Environmental Quality.

**CalMutuals Position:** Mutuals are community-owned water systems whose members must be afforded the same services at the same costs based upon shares usually assigned to the property. Thus, there are potential legal implications of assessing charges by state agencies that benefit some community members and not others.

## **Water Bond and Greenhouse Gas Reduction-based Funding Proposals**

AB18 (Garcia) California Clean Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018

*Status:* In Senate. Read first time. To Committee for Rules for assignment.

**CalMutuals Position:** Request that mutual water companies be included as eligible for all fund categories as was the case with Proposition 1. Support.

AB196 (Bigelow) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Water Supply Repairs

*Status:* From to Committee on Water, Parks, & Wildlife: Do pass and re-refer to Committee on Natural Resources. (Ayes 14. Noes 0.) (March 21). Re-referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

**CalMutuals Position:** Request that mutual water companies be included as eligible for all fund categories as was the case with Proposition 1. Support.

\*AB 272 (Gipson) Southeast Los Angeles County Drinking Water Relief Act.

*Status:* Referred to Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee.

**CalMutuals Position:** Encourages agency coordination and technical assistance for disadvantaged systems. Watch.

SB5 (De León) California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018

*Status:* Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations. Set for hearing April 17.

**CalMutuals Position:** Request that mutual water companies be included as eligible for all fund categories as was the case with Proposition 1. Note that this bond would allocate \$1.5 billion for clean drinking water and drought preparedness and \$500 million would be allocated for flood protection and repair. Support.

\*SB 623 (Monning) Safe and Affordable Drinking Water

*Status:* Referred to Committee on Environmental Quality

**CalMutuals Position:** Watch.

## **Bills Potentially Impacting Water Rights & the Sustainable Groundwater Agencies (SGMA)**

AB313 (Gray) Water

*Status:* Referred to Committee on Water, Parks, & Wildlife. Set for hearing April 25.

**CalMutuals Position:** The designation of “probationary basins” could prove problematic in adjudicated basins that are currently exempt from most SGMA provisions, especially in Southern California which has a history of good stewardship and inclusion of broad stakeholders including mutual water companies. **Watch.**

AB321 (Mathis) Groundwater Sustainability Plans

*Status:* Referred to Committee on Water, Parks, & Wildlife. Co-authors revised.

**CalMutuals Position:** **Watch.**

SB564 (McGuire) Joint Powers Authorities: Water Bill Savings Act

*Status:* Referred to Committee on Governance and Finance. Set for hearing April 5.

**CalMutuals Position:** Many mutual water companies already successfully promote water conservation programs and work with public agencies to provide incentives. This bill could also create a new type of “service duplication” impairing water suppliers from sustaining debt repayment based upon dedicated water sales.

## **Federal Legislation**

S.384 and HR 4220 (Water Leasing & Water Transfers)

The WATER Act stimulates private financing for infrastructure by reforming section 501(c)(12) of the tax code. Section 501(c)(12) provides that tax-exempt mutual ditch, irrigation, and water companies must receive at least 85 percent of their income from members. This requirement presents significant challenges to infrastructure finance. The cost of maintaining aging infrastructure has skyrocketed making it impossible for many of these companies to finance repairs without dramatically raising water rates. Because of this, many companies have been forced to delay critical infrastructure improvements. The WATER Act would address these challenges by permitting additional sources of non-member income to be received by these companies provided that the proceeds are used for the operations, maintenance and capital improvements of water infrastructure.

**CalMutuals Position:** **Support.**

*Revised 4/29/17*