



Mutual Water Companies: *Not-for-profit community shareholder-owned corporations that provide water for the cost of service to the members of the community. Mutual water companies exist in every California county, tend to be smaller systems that in total provide water to 1.3 million Californians, many in disadvantaged communities.*

Categories of Bills Affecting California Mutual Water Companies in 2017

Bills Mandating Conservation & Climate Change Innovations & Rules

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

CalMutuals: Stakeholders should include small systems, including mutuals. Update:

May be heard on March 21st

AB1608 (Karla) Vibrant Landscapes for climate, people and multiple benefits

CalMutuals: Potential overlap with water agency conservation programs, potential to impose unsustainable costs to small systems, including mutuals.

Update: May be heard on March 21st

AB1667, AB1668, AB1669 (Friedman) Water Meters & Conservation Guidelines

CalMutuals: 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). Update:

May be heard on March 21st

SB263 (Leyva) Climate Assistance Centers

CalMutuals: As community-based not-for-profit community water suppliers, mutual water companies should be included as potential outreach partners.

Update: Will be heard on March 29th by Sen. Natural Resources & Water Committee

Bills funding safe drinking water and for disadvantaged communities

AB577 (Caballero) Disadvantaged Communities

CalMutuals: 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.

Update: Amended by author on March 9th, re-referred to committee on environmental safety & toxic materials. Amendments: This bill would define expand the definition of a disadvantaged community to include a community with an annual per capita income that is less than 80% of the statewide annual per capita income.

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

CalMutuals: 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.

Update: referred to Committee on Environmental Quality for March 18th hearing.

SB623 (Monning) Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund

CalMutuals: An office of Financial Assistance already exists under the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water and it is unclear how this bill will help older, smaller and poor communities.

Update: referred to Committee on Environmental Quality for March 23rd hearing.

SB778 (Hertzberg) Safe Drinking Water

CalMutuals: 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.

Update: Referred to Rules Committee for Assignment.

Water Bond and GHG-based funding Proposals

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

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

Update: May be heard on March 18th by Committee on Human Services.

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

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

Update: Amended by author - AB 196, as amended, Bigelow. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: water supply and wastewater systems. This bill would authorize the use of the moneys in the fund for electric pump efficiency, water and wastewater systems, pump and pump motor efficiency improvements, and drinking water transmission and distribution systems' water loss if the investment furthers the regulatory purposes of the act and is consistent with law. Referred to Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee, hearing not yet scheduled.

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

CalMutuals: 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.

Update: Amended by Author - This bill would enact the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$3,500,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. Hearing was moved up to March 7th --- no update.

Bills that could affect water rights, Sustainable Groundwater Agencies (SGMA)

AB313 (Gray) Water

CalMutuals: 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.

Update: Referred to Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife.

AB321 & AB487 (Mathis) Groundwater Sustainability Plans

CalMutuals: Extension of SGMA compliance to 2022 may be prudent especially as more stakeholders are included in devising sustainability plans, including mutual water companies. Request that mutual water companies be deemed eligible to participate in the formation of SGMA agencies.

Update: May be heard on March 16th – Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife.

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

CalMutuals: 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 re-payment based upon dedicated water sales.

Update: Set for hearing on April 5th by Committee on Governance & Finance.

SB750 (Hueso) Safe Drinking Water

CalMutuals: Interested party to the development of this spot bill Update:
Referred to Rules Committee.

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

CalMutuals: Many mutual water companies are TMF compliant and should not be included in the “zone” outlined in the bill’s text.

Update: CalMutuals Executive Director Ortega will take part in a stakeholder meeting to provide input on impacts to mutual water companies.