

Staff Report

Regular Board Meeting

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: General Manager/CEO

SUBJECT: Consider Adoption of 2025-26 Legislative Platform

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Directors adopt the 2025-26 Legislative Platform.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS

East Valley Water District (District) is committed to being an active and engaged public agency that advocates for legislation on behalf of the community. This includes monitoring, advocating, and engaging both the Federal and State legislations. Each year, the California Legislature introduces thousands of new bills and regulations that could impact District operations and customers. Given this high volume of activity, it is important to establish clear priorities through a Legislative Platform.

The Legislative Platform is updated with the start of each new legislative session, in this case 2025 and 2026. The Legislative Platform identifies different roles and responsibilities within the organization, including the Board of Directors (Board), General Manager/CEO, staff, and legislative advocates. It provides direction for activities that the District should consider supporting or opposing. On October 10, 2024, the Legislative and Public Outreach Committee recommended the updated Legislative Platform be brought to the Board of Directors for consideration.

Legislative activities require clear direction and concise perspectives to allow staff and advocates the ability to respond quickly to legislative actions. The Legislative Platform allows the Board to establish policy priorities, thus providing staff with a tool to assess which bills and regulations to engage. Staff may request the Board take a position on proposed legislative actions that are not covered in the Legislative Platform.

Maintaining an effective advocacy program consists of industry coalitions, legislative staff discussions, legislator engagement, and on-record positions. There are times where the District may not agree with the entire concept of a bill but may be willing to engage to negotiate the elements of concern. Legislative advocacy includes being part of discussions where staff can share how a bill could positively or negatively impact District customers. This is especially important in areas where there could be substantial unintended consequences of proposed legislation.

The District anticipates multiple matters of interest will be considered in the 2025-26

sessions. While it won't become entirely clear until after the bill introduction deadline, low-income rate assistance programs, water conservation requirements, clean fleet mandates, and water quality standards are items of interest the District will be closely monitoring. Staff will provide periodic updates on the session activity and items of interest to the Board.

AGENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- I - Implement Effective Solutions Through Visionary Leadership
- C. Strengthen Regional, State and National Partnerships

REVIEW BY OTHERS

This agenda item has been reviewed by Public Affairs and Administration.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this agenda item.

Recommended by:



Michael Moore
General Manager/CEO

Respectfully submitted:



William Ringland
Public Affairs/Conservation Manager

ATTACHMENTS

2025-26 Draft Legislative Platform
Presentation