

District Headquarters
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eastvalley.org

EAST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



2023-24 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



“THE DISTRICT
STRIVES TO PROVIDE
world-class service by providing
visionary leadership and supporting
beneficial legislation with our
regional and State partners.”

— Michael Moore, P.E., General Manager/CEO

The East Valley Water District 2023-24 Legislative Platform summarizes the organizational policy position regarding legislative and regulatory matters of concern. The Governing Board provides direction through this Legislative Platform that allows for optimal engagement in the development and implementation of rules that impact the community.

Maintaining this document allows for the timely response to issues identified as important and consistent with the District’s legislative priorities. Staff will seek the Board’s guidance on issues that are not addressed within the adopted Legislative Platform.

The Legislative Platform reflects the priorities adopted by Board of Directors through the Five-Year Work Plan, annual budget, and other planning documents. It is designed to serve as a guide for East Valley Water District’s legislative advocacy efforts.



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES



Board of Directors

- Review, advise and adopt the Legislative Platform.
- Participate in meetings with legislators, staff and other public officials, as needed.
- Testify at legislative and regulatory hearings on behalf of the District, as needed.
- Refrain from lobbying, advocating or taking a position contrary to the Board’s adopted position. Board Members may, as allowed by law, take positions as an individual citizen so long as the correspondence clearly identifies that it is the position of the individual rather than the District.



General Manager / CEO & Staff

- Monitor, analyze and take positions on potential actions that could impact the District.
- Coordinate advocacy efforts with the Board of Directors to promote the interests of the District to decision makers at all levels of government.
- Participate in meetings with legislators, legislative and administrative staff members, trade associations, coalitions, Board of Directors and other public officials, as needed.
- Seek timely Board of Directors approval of positions as needed for complex issues of significant concern where deviation from the principles may be advisable for community benefit.
- Update the Legislative Platform, as approved by the Board of Directors.
- Work with Legislative Advocates and Consultants to maintain Legislative Platform, as needed.
- The General Manager/CEO and designated staff may participate in legislative advocacy on behalf of the Board of Directors, so long as it is consistent with the Strategic Initiatives and Legislative Platform.
- Provide an exceptional level of transparency, ethics, and customer service in representing East Valley Water District’s interest to all State officials, staff, and agencies.



Legislative Advocate

- Monitor, review, and advise staff of State legislation, budget impacts, funding opportunities, and issues which may directly or indirectly impact the District.
- Obtain and monitor all bills, resolutions, files, journals, histories, etc. and share with District as appropriate.
- Communicate the District’s positions on key actions to Members of the State Legislature and staff, as well as Committee and State agencies (as appropriate) and other interest groups.
- As necessary, attend hearings and provide testimony on behalf of the District. Where appropriate, arrange opportunities for the District to participate in hearing testimonies or submission of comments.
- Actively establish a strong identity and presence in Sacramento on behalf of the District. This effort shall be reinforced by day-to-day involvement in the regulatory, and legislative actions on behalf of this organization.
- Provide an exceptional level of transparency, ethics, and customer service in representing East Valley Water District’s interest to all State officials, staff, and agencies.

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY PLATFORM



Consider Supporting

- Legislation and regulatory action that supports the successful construction of the Delta Conveyance, or successor project in a timely manner.
- Policies and funding opportunities that facilitate the implementation of alternative energy elements at District facilities to offset operational needs and/ or provide supplemental electricity to the larger energy grid.
- State legislation that focuses on technologically and economically feasible residential and commercial water use efficiency.
- Federal and State development of bond or general fund-supported funding programs for water supply development, including new surface and groundwater storage, water quality, recycled water, and conservation-related programs and efficient, fair implementation of such programs.
- Federal and State efforts to encourage Endangered Species Act implementing resource agencies to implement a more integrated and diversified approach to species recovery efforts.
- Federal and State efforts that ease the path to development of recycled water resources.
- Legislation that advocates mitigating operational costs to EVWD and/or its ratepayers, thereby enhancing water affordability.
- Policies and funding opportunities that assist disadvantaged communities but do not undermine affordability for all ratepayers and Proposition 218.



Consider Opposing

- State legislation that seeks to limit or alter the authority and fiduciary role of the Board of Directors to manage the water and wastewater collection systems, impose unreasonable unfunded state mandated programs, or increase fees, property-related charges or taxes on District customers.
- State legislation that would inappropriately assert the authority of the Legislature to alter or condition existing authority to construct, operate and maintain State Water Project facilities in order to convey water across the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Additionally, those that would negatively impact voluntary agreements reached relating to this statewide effort.
- State legislation that would hinder the exercise of existing District authority such as public contracts, procurement, rate and fee setting, financial administration, public records, and human resources.
- State legislation that would result in the implementation of a requirement which is duplicative or inconsistent with current regulations.
- Federal and State legislation and regulations that hinder the ability of the District to protect and secure critical infrastructure from cyber or physical threats and damages.
- Federal and State legislation to establish Public Health Goals and Maximum Contaminant Levels outside of the procedures set forth in the Federal and California Safe Drinking Water Acts.
- The expansion of water conservation and water use efficiency program mandates that unreasonably constrain the Board of Directors to design and implement restrictions at the local level.
- State legislation that would establish a statewide or locally implemented fee or tax on water use.
- Regulatory and legislative actions that would compromise the existing protections awarded to historical water rights.
- Legislation that implements requirements based on developing technology and markets which lack a competitive bidding environment.

