

ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY

Legislative Framework and Platform

January 2025



Water Quality

Water Supply
and Treatment



Stormwater Runoff

Flood
Protection



Water Storage

Groundwater
Management

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ZONE 7
ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-06

INTRODUCED BY DIRECTOR NARUM
SECONDED BY DIRECTOR BENSON

Adopt Revised Legislative Framework and New Platform

WHEREAS, the Board created a Legislative Committee to review and recommend positions on key legislative actions; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a legislative framework supports Strategic Plan, Goal G – Stakeholder Engagement, and Goal H - Fiscal Responsibility; and

WHEREAS, to provide a roadmap in supporting the goals of the Strategic Plan and to guide the Board, Legislative Committee, and staff on matters pertaining to Agency interests with respect to federal, state, and local government legislative actions, the Legislative Framework was first adopted in December 2021 and revised in March 2023; and

WHEREAS, a Legislative Platform has been developed as a companion document to the Legislative Framework to concisely describe under what circumstances positions may be considered by the Agency related to Goals identified in the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Committee plans to review the Legislative Framework and Platform annually, with updates as needed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Zone 7 Board of Directors of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District does hereby adopt the attached Legislative Framework and Platform.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DIRECTORS BENSON, BROWN, FIGUERS, GAMBS, GREEN, NARUM, PALMER

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

I certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Zone 7 of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District on January 15, 2025.

Dennis H. Gambs
By: _____
President, Board of Directors

PURPOSE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The purpose of the Legislative Framework (Framework) is to provide the Board, Legislative Committee (Committee), staff, and the public with an understanding of what actions may be taken by Zone 7 Water Agency (Agency) to address legislative concerns. Additionally, this Framework explains the process for engagement and contains guiding principles, goals, focus areas, strategies for engagement, position definitions, and the Legislative Platform – which will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect changing conditions and needs.

The guiding principles for legislative engagement by the Agency, its staff and Board are representative of adopted policies/plans, and frames the legislative interests with respect to the Agency's mission, vision, and values. In addition to these, the other primary guiding document for evaluating legislation is the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, which was updated and approved by the Board on November 20, 2024. Legislative action may also be considered for topics that were not known at the time of adoption provided they fall within the broader goals. Staff routinely review and comment on regulatory matters separately.

GOALS

Advocate

the Agency's legislative interests at the:

- State
- Region
- Federal Levels

Inform

by providing information to:

- Legislators, Board of Directors, other elected officials and staff on key issues and legislation that could have an impact on the Agency

Serve

by actively participating with:

- Other water purveyors and special districts, the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) and regional agencies on legislative/regulatory issues that are important to the Agency

STRATEGIES FOR LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT

Communication:

Communicate legislative positions on proposed federal, state, county and local legislation, measures, initiatives, and governmental regulations.

- Work with legislative advocates to develop positions on proposed legislative measures.
- Review positions taken and analysis produced by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), and others in formulating Agency's position.
- The Agency will only take positions on proposals that clearly impact our Agency or state water policy.
- Actively track key bills through the legislative process.
- Communicate the Agency's position through correspondence, meetings, and testimony, if necessary.
- Meet with legislators and their representatives to discuss issues, proposed legislation, and educate them on Agency services.
- Develop an Annual Legislative Communications Plan.

Advocate and Seek Funding:

- Seek federal, state, regional, and county funding for Agency projects.
- Advocate and request letters of support for Agency projects and grant applications.

PROCESS

Government Relations Manager will monitor and review legislation in conjunction with the Agency's advocacy consultant and membership organizations. The Committee will meet at strategic times throughout the legislative session to review and discuss pending legislation. Should a bill warrant a formal position, a recommendation from the Committee will be sent to the Board for consideration and adoption. If amendments are requested, the Board approval will include the position that the agency would move to should amendments be adopted. A letter outlining the Agency's position will be drafted for the Board President or General Manager's signature. A copy of all Agency legislative position letters will be distributed to the Board of Directors.

Membership organizations often request immediate action to join with them in advocating a position on a specific bill. In these instances, staff will use the Legislative Platform to determine if the Agency's logo should be added to the position letter. Other agencies and membership organizations may have slightly different positions or may include rankings in their positions to indicate the level of effort that will be employed in their advocacy. When joining with membership organizations, staff will review the positions for consistency in spirit with those adopted by the Agency. The following describes positions the Agency make consider and encompasses those most frequently used by membership organizations.

POSITIONS

- **Support (S)** — Agency actively supports the proposed legislation.
- **Support if Amended (S/A)** — Agency will actively support the proposed legislation, if it is amended to address specific shortcomings identified by the Agency.
- **Favor (F)** — Agency will join with other organizations in support but will not engage separately in advocacy for the measure.
- **Favor, if Amended (F/A)** — Agency will join with other organizations in support, if legislation is amended to address specific shortcomings identified by the Agency, but will not engage actively in advocacy for the measure.
- **Watch (W)** — Measures or general issues have not been sufficiently defined for a formal position.
- **Neutral (N)** — Agency determines that a formal position no longer meets the Agency objectives.
- **Not Favor (NF)** — Agency will join with other organizations in opposition, but will not engage actively in advocacy against the measure.
- **Not Favor Unless Amended (NF/A)** — Agency will join with other organizations in opposition, unless the legislation is amended to address shortcomings identified by the Agency, but will not engage actively in advocacy against the measure.
- **Oppose Unless Amended (O/A)** — Agency will actively oppose the proposed legislation unless it is amended to address specific shortcomings.
- **Oppose (O)** — Agency actively opposes the proposed legislation.



Zone 7 Water Agency 2025 Legislative Platform

The purpose of the Legislative Platform (Platform) is to define interests and concerns of the Agency for evaluating legislation. The priorities identified in the Platform mirror the goals of the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan.

Reliable Water Supply and Infrastructure/Safe Water/Groundwater Management:

- Join membership organizations in taking supporting positions or separately take a supporting position on legislation that furthers Agency's ability to manage and protect the groundwater basin, provides customers with a reliable water supply, meets the goals of the Agency's Water Quality Policy without conflicting with other goals and priorities.
- Join membership organizations in opposing and/or recommend for formal oppositional positions legislation that impedes the Agency's ability to provide a reliable, safe water supply, operate as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), or reduces local control.

Effective Operations/Flood Protection:

- Join membership organizations in taking supporting positions or separately take a supporting position on legislation that furthers Zone 7's operational functionality including energy projects and programs, agency administration, governance, construction, maintenance, permitting, safety and security.
- Join membership organizations in opposing and/or recommend for formal oppositional positions legislation that may impede Zone 7's ability to operate as a special district, water supplier, flood protection manager and government organization.

Fiscal Responsibility/Workforce Excellence:

- Join membership organizations in taking supporting positions or separately take a supporting position on legislation that promotes or enhances Zone 7's ability to manage revenue, administer financial accounts, achieve fiscal stability, and maintain a professional workforce.
- Join membership organizations in opposing and/or recommend for formal oppositional positions legislation that may impede Zone 7's ability to achieve fiscal stability and maintain a skilled, motivated, professional workforce.

Energy Planning and Investment:

- Join membership organizations in taking supporting positions or separately take a supporting position on legislation that furthers energy projects and programs, including funding, permitting, construction, and maintenance.
- Join membership organizations in opposing and/or recommend for formal oppositional positions legislation that may impact funding, permitting, construction or maintenance of energy facilities or programs.