



Flood or Drought? A Discussion of the Election's Potential Legislative Impacts on the Water Sector

December 3, 2020

Before We Begin...



Handouts are
available in the
side panel



We will send you
the recording and
the slide deck



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questions anytime in
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- During the webinar:
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 - You will receive a completion certificate via email within a week

Today's Presenters



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Agenda

- California water lobbying in a pandemic
- Wastewater tests as early COVID-19 outbreak warning
- Likely focus of Congressional legislation and policy

**Which of the following do you work
for or most closely identify with?**

A low-angle photograph of the California State Capitol building in Sacramento. The image shows the grand neoclassical architecture, including the large dome with a dark, ribbed top and a white base. The front facade features a portico with tall, fluted columns and a pediment adorned with sculptural reliefs. An American flag flies on a tall pole to the left of the dome. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy clouds.

CALIFORNIA WATER LOBBYING IN A PANDEMIC

CA Statewide Election Results

- CA's interactions with President-Elect Biden and new administration will impact public policy making
- Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris gives CA a direct line of communication to DC
- Gov. Newsom will appoint the next U.S. Senator
- Voters rejected several of the more progressive statewide ballot propositions presented to them
- Democrats still have a supermajority in both the CA Senate and Assembly, and picked up seats in both





Impact of COVID-19 on CA Public Policy

- Legislature will be sworn in December 7, 2020 and can introduce legislative proposals
- The Governor's January State Budget proposal will be released around January 10, 2020
- A lower number of legislative proposals means higher stakes and priorities
- Unplanned legislative recesses makes it more important than ever to focus legislative advocacy efforts and start early
- Consensus among the water industry, and a proactive approach, will help advance legislative goals under tight timeline pressures

COVID-19 Financial Pressures on Water Suppliers

- The Governor's Executive Order issued on April 2, 2020 restricts water shutoffs to homes and small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic
- The State Resources Water Control Board is currently gathering information about the financial impacts of the EO on water suppliers, through a statewide voluntary survey
 - Meant to inform the legislature and administration of the financial burdens water suppliers are faced with
- The CPUC is also collecting information from investor-owned water utilities about arrearages, customer participation in assistance programs and other data related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Anticipated Water Industry Issues for 2021

- Addressing Customer Debt
- Climate Change Impacts
- Continued SB 998 Implementation
- Investment in Water Infrastructure
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Social Inequities and Economic Hardships from Pandemic
- Water Affordability
- Wildfires and Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)



What water-related issue do you want to see the state and federal government try to address further in 2021?

A full-page photograph of a wastewater treatment plant. In the foreground, a worker wearing a red hard hat, yellow safety glasses, and an orange high-visibility vest over a green shirt is leaning over a concrete wall. He is holding a clipboard and a pen, appearing to be taking notes. Next to him is a large, horizontal metal pipe with a blue valve handle. In the background, there are large circular aeration tanks filled with dark, bubbling water. The sky is clear and blue.

WASTEWATER TESTS AS EARLY COVID-19 OUTBREAK WARNING

What sources of funding does your organization currently receive or is interested in?

LIKELY FOCUS OF CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION & POLICY



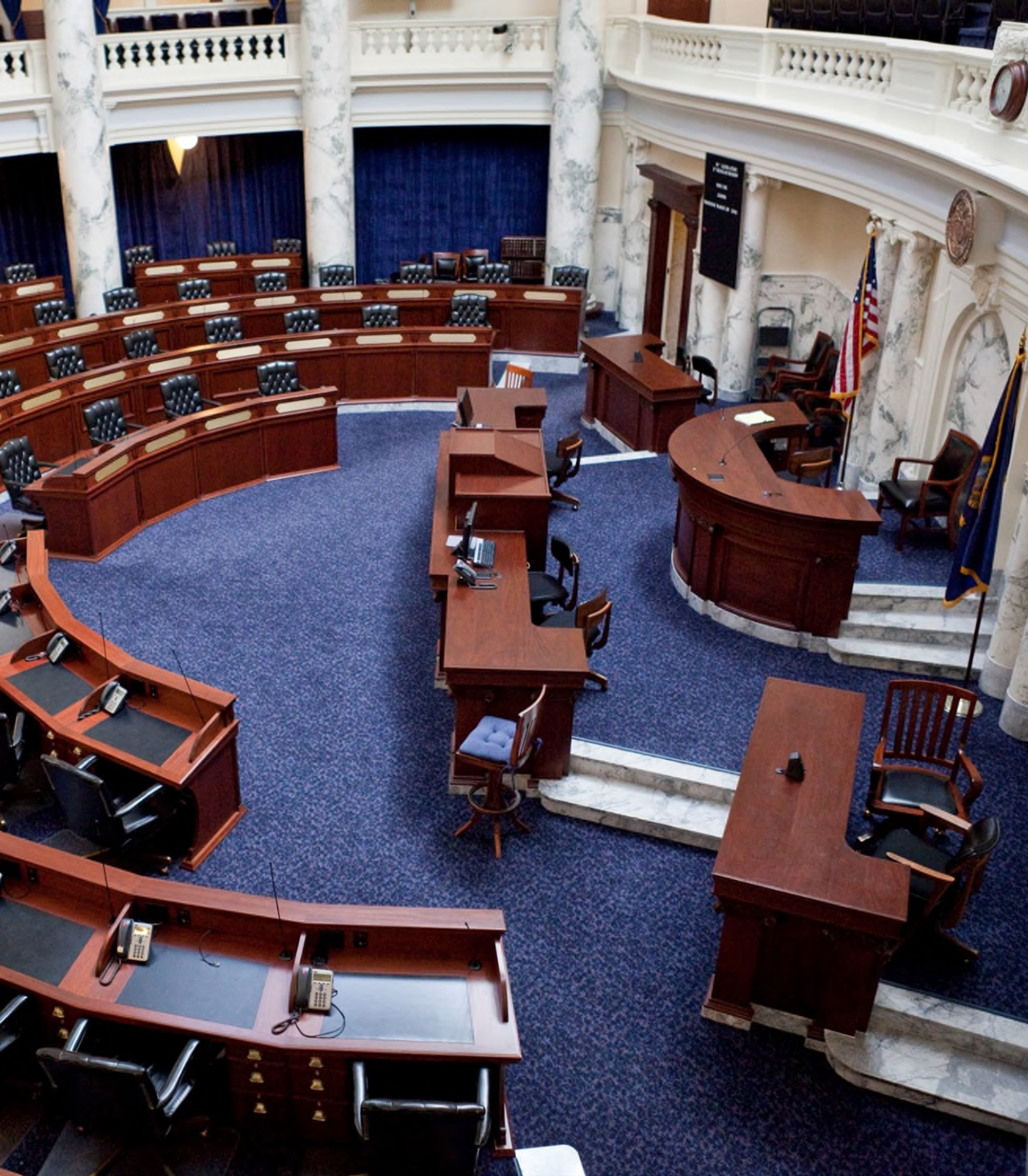
Three Areas of Legislation to Consider

1. Coronavirus-specific legislation (i.e., COVID Relief v.2.0)
2. Lame Duck legislation (i.e., Congressional funding bill, WRDA, others)
3. Future legislation (i.e., 117th Congress Priorities)

COVID Relief

- CARES Act v.2.0
 - Likely increase or replenishment of small business loans
 - Funding for unemployment
- Issues for the Water Sector
 - Forgiveness for customers
 - Status of shutoffs
 - Potential use of new technologies to help





Lame Duck Legislation

- Appropriations to fund the federal government
- Water Resources Development Act
- National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

Future Legislation

- Additional relief sought for individual taxpayers
- Decreased State revenues, how to make up for those
- Infrastructure needs (i.e., longer-term sustained recovery)
 - Water infrastructure
 - Energy infrastructure

Future Legislation

- Unfinished business could advance
 - Water Infrastructure
 - Surface Transportation Legislation
- Next round of appropriations funding



Do you need government relations and lobbying help with securing federal or state funds?

Government Relations Strategies for Funding

- Effective government relations strategies, including coordinated Federal and State actions, can impact outcomes for municipal entities
 - Competition is fierce for limited federal funds for a growing national need
- While facts and outcomes vary by project, client and many factors, the role of government relations is crucial to secure funding and support for projects and project funding
 - Case Studies

Questions?



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Up Next...

The New NEPA Regulations: A Practical Guide to What You Need to Know

December 10, 2020

10:30 – 12:00 p.m. PT

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