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**Date:** March 19, 2025

**To:** The Honorable Board of Directors                      **From:** Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

**Committee:** Community & Legislative Affairs

**Staff Contact:** Alyson Piguee, Director of External & Government Affairs

**Subject:** Adopt Positions on State Legislation (Community & Leg)

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**Executive Summary:**

Five bills have been introduced by California's Legislature, which align with IEUA's legislative priorities and policy principles.

**1. Assembly Bill 259 - Local Agencies: Teleconferences**

Introduced by Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, AB 259 seeks to extend indefinitely the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act concerning teleconference participation in local agency meetings. Specifically, the bill removes the January 1, 2026 sunset date, allowing local agencies to continue utilizing alternative teleconferencing procedures with no termination date. This bill aligns with IEUA's legislative priorities, specifically in the areas of **public accessibility** and **regional resiliency**, by promoting participation for stakeholders, including those from remote communities. The bill also supports efficient local governance, minimizing unnecessary costs and reducing barriers to public involvement by allowing the continued adoption of flexible, cost-effective meeting formats. By supporting this bill, IEUA reaffirms its commitment to transparent and efficient governance that empowers communities in IEUA's service area.

**2. Assembly Bill 514 - Water: Emergency Water Supplies**

AB 514, as introduced by Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, proposes to add Section 106.6 to the Water Code with language which encourages, but does not mandate, the development of emergency water supplies by local water suppliers. The language being proposed aligns with IEUA's commitment to ensuring a reliable and sustainable water supply for our communities, particularly in times of drought or service disruptions. AB 514, as currently written, aligns with IEUA's policy goals of **enhancing water supply & regional resiliency, supporting sustainable water management, and encouraging investment in water infrastructure**. This bill represents a step in ensuring that local water suppliers, including IEUA, are better prepared to meet the challenges posed by drought, and support will reaffirm IEUA's commitment to advancing policies that enhance and improve long-term water security. AB 514 is a reintroduction of SB 1218 (Newman, 2024) and is sponsored by Irvine Ranch Water District.

**3. Senate Bill 31 – Water Quality: Water Recycling Facilities: State Policy**

SB 31, as introduced by Senator McNERNEY, would amend various provisions of the Water Code relating to water quality and recycled water use. The bill aims to enhance the use of recycled

water in California by redefining “recycled water” for purposes of discharge regulations, expanding the mandatory use of recycled water for certain irrigation and sanitation applications, and improving regulations around the reuse of recycled water in residential, commercial, and industrial settings. Additionally, SB 31 addresses the use of recycled water in food processing facilities and outdoor spaces and sets updated standards for residential landscaping irrigation managed by homeowners’ associations. The changes proposed in SB 31 directly align with IEUA’s legislative priorities on **environmental sustainability, water quality, and water recycling**, and staff recommends the Board ratify support. The bill will help expand the use of recycled water for landscaping and other nonpotable water uses, reducing reliance on potable water for nonessential applications. The bill's emphasis on expanding recycled water use and modernizing regulatory frameworks for water recycling addresses California's growing need for sustainable water management and improved water conservation efforts.

#### 4. **Senate Bill 72 – California Water Plan: Long-Term Supply Targets**

Senator Caballero has introduced SB 72, which would amend and update provisions of the California Water Plan, focusing on long-term water supply targets and strategies. The bill requires the Department of Water Resources to update the California Water Plan every five years and to establish long-term water supply targets, with specific attention to urban, agricultural, and environmental needs. The bill also mandates the inclusion of an advisory committee composed of diverse stakeholders to provide input on the plan’s updates. IEUA’s legislative priorities and policy principles are in line with the proposals put forth in SB 72, specifically in the areas of **water supply reliability, regional resiliency, and environmental sustainability**. By advancing the California Water Plan’s update process and addressing long-term water needs across multiple sectors, the bill ensures a comprehensive approach to California’s water challenges. Furthermore, the bill's inclusion of cost-benefit analyses for water projects and strategies provides a fiscally responsible framework that supports IEUA's commitment to efficient and transparent operations, ensuring that investments in water infrastructure are both practical and beneficial to the region. SB 72 is a reintroduction of SB 366 (Caballero, 2024) and is sponsored by the California Municipal Utilities Association.

#### 5. **Senate Bill 496 – Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: Appeals Advisory Committee: Exemptions**

SB 496 has been introduced by Senator Hurtado and addresses concerns related to the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulations, which mandates the transition of local and state government fleets, including those operated by IEUA, to zero-emission vehicles. This regulation has created operational and financial burdens for public agencies. SB 496 proposes to establish an Appeals Advisory Committee to review denied exemption requests, adding necessary flexibility which will be essential for maintaining efficient operations without compromising IEUA’s service delivery or financial sustainability. Additionally, the bill would expand the emergency vehicle exemption to vehicles reasonably anticipated to be used by disaster service workers. Staff recommends supporting SB 496 due to its alignment with IEUA’s commitment to **operational flexibility, cost-effective regulations, and sustainability goals**. SB 496 offers crucial relief for IEUA in navigating the challenges posed by Advanced Clean Fleets, and by supporting this bill, the Agency can continue to contribute to California’s air quality and climate goals, while

ensuring that operational realities and resource constraints are taken into account. SB 496 is sponsored by the California Special Districts Association.

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**Staff's Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Board adopt positions on the following bills:

Bill Number	Author	Bill Title	Position Recommendation
AB 259	Rubio	Local Agencies: Teleconferences	Support
AB 514	Petrie-Norris	Water: Emergency Water Supplies	Support
SB 31	McNerney	Water Quality: Water Recycling Facilities: State Policy	Ratify Support
SB 72	Caballero	California Water Plan: Long-Term Supply Targets	Support
SB 496	Hurtado	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: Appeals Advisory Committee: Exemptions	Support

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**Budget Impact** *Budgeted (Y/N): N Amendment (Y/N): N Amount for Requested Approval*

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**Regional Sewerage** *Technical Committee (Y/N): N  
Policy Committee (Y/N): N*

**Attachments:**

- Attachment 1 - [Assembly Bill 259 \(Rubio\) Bill Text](#)
- Attachment 2 - [Assembly Bill 514 \(Petrie-Norris\) Bill Text](#)
- Attachment 3 - [Senate Bill 31 \(McNerney\) Bill Text](#)
- Attachment 4 - [Senate Bill 72 \(Caballero\) Bill Text](#)
- Attachment 5 - [Senate Bill 496 \(Hurtado\) Bill Text](#)