



State Advocacy Update - March 2026

State legislators introduced approximately 1,800 new measures ahead of the February 20 bill-introduction deadline. As is typical early in the session, many of these measures were introduced as intent or spot bills and will be amended into substantive proposals throughout the Spring.

At this point, the Legislature is actively engaged in the second year of its 2025-26 two-year legislative session. The following reflects the timeline for legislative activities into the second quarter of 2026:

- **February 20:** Bill introduction deadline
- **March 26-April 6:** Spring recess
- **April 24:** Policy committee deadline
- **May 15:** Fiscal committee deadline
- **May 29:** House of origin deadline

Budget committees in both the Senate and Assembly have begun reviewing the Governor's January budget proposal, which outlines approximately \$350 billion in state expenditures. Since releasing the initial plan, the Administration has provided additional detail on a new zero-emission vehicle purchase rebate, a sustainable aviation fuel tax credit, and proposed adjustments to the cap-and-invest program. The ongoing Budget Committee review process will also be informed by the release of the Governor's May Revise to the proposed State Budget, which will be available early in May 2026. The Legislature's budget committees and subcommittees will eventually conclude the review of the Governor's proposed State Budget and will construct budget proposals within the Assembly and Senate, ultimately leading to the Legislature's constitutionally-required adoption of a State Budget by June 15.

As part of the broader State Budget engagement over the coming months, the Legislature and Administration will also be engaging in discussions relative to a second round of allocations from Proposition 4. The following reflects the Governor's proposed allocation of Proposition 4 funds as part of the 2026 budget cycle:

Chapter 2. Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood & Water Resilience

(\$ in Millions)

Department	Program	2025-26 Appropriations	2026-27 Proposed Appropriations
State Water Resources Control Board	Water Quality & Safe Drinking Water	\$183	\$160
	Tribal Water Infrastructure	\$11	\$13
	Multibenefit Urban Stormwater Management Projects	\$1	\$39
	Water Reuse & Recycling	\$153	\$78
	Cross-Border Rivers & Coastal Waters (Tijuana & New River)	\$47	\$0.7
Dept. of Water Resources & State Water Resources Control Board	Water Data Management & Stream Gages	\$8	\$1
Dept. of Water Resources	Groundwater Storage/Banking/Recharge & Instream Flow	\$30	\$20
	Brackish Desalination & Salinity Management Projects	\$0.2	\$0.6
	Water Conservation in Agricultural & Urban Areas	\$0.3	\$1
	Various Flood Management Projects	\$187	\$232
	Dam Safety & Climate Resilience	\$232	\$2
	Integrated Regional Water Management	\$0.5	\$2
	Riverine Stewardship Projects	\$1	\$5
	Urban Streams Restoration Program	\$1	\$11
Natural Resources Agency	Regional Conveyance Projects & Repairs to Existing Conveyances	\$3	\$0
		\$0	\$69
Dept. of Conservation	Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program	\$32	\$65
California Water Commission	Water Storage Investment Program	\$74	\$0
Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Climate Resiliency & Protection of the Los Angeles River Watershed	\$0.6	\$11
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy		\$20	\$6
State Coastal Conservancy	Santa Ana River Conservancy	\$10	\$0.2
	Coyote Valley Conservation Program	\$3	\$14
	West Coyote Hills Program	\$0	\$23
Natural Resources Agency	Wildlife Refuges & Wetland Habitat Areas	\$0.2	\$0.2
	Clear Lake Watershed	\$2	\$17
	Nature, Climate Education & Research Facilities Grants	\$15	\$4
Natural Resources Agency, Dept. of Water Resources & Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Salton Sea Management Program	\$148	\$3
Salton Sea Conservancy	Salton Sea Conservancy	\$2	\$3
Wildlife Conservation Board	Lower American River Conservancy	\$5	\$0
	Stream Flow Enhancement Program	\$21	\$11
	Habitat Enhancement & Restoration Program	\$11	\$0.5
Total		\$1,199	\$792

The January budget also includes a new \$30 million proposal to expand planning and implementation of priority habitat-restoration projects at the Salton Sea and to create new public-access opportunities for surrounding communities. The Authority’s legislative team will continue to monitor this proposal and identify opportunities for the Authority to engage.

The Legislature has taken early action to expedite funding from the recently approved statewide climate bond (Proposition 4; 2024). The Authority's legislative team continues to monitor the budget process for opportunities related to climate, infrastructure, and transportation priorities.

The Authority engaged directly with Senator Padilla's office regarding the Authority's comment letter on the ongoing Colorado River negotiations. Discussions focused on anticipated environmental and economic impacts associated with the post-2026 operating framework, including increased exposed playa and related air-quality concerns.

The Authority also advanced a request for \$1 million in state funding to support a coordinated community-engagement program that will inform the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' feasibility study and ensure local perspectives are incorporated into federal decision-making. Engagement with Senator Padilla will continue throughout the year, as his partnership remains essential to elevating regional priorities and ensuring state leadership remains aligned with community needs at the Salton Sea. The Authority state advocacy team will also continue engaging Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez as a key partner in the Assembly.

The Authority's legislative team continues to review newly introduced measures for potential impacts to airport operations ahead of the March 25 amendment deadline. At this time, no new state legislation warrants a recommended Board position.