



State Advocacy Update – June/July 2026

The Legislature began its month-long Summer recess on July 3, and will return for the final month of the 2026 legislative session on August 3. The following reflects the timeline for legislative activities through the remainder of the 2026 session. When the Legislature returns from its Summer recess, there will only be 21 working days remaining in the legislative session.

- **August 3:** Legislature returns from Summer recess
- **August 14:** Fiscal committee deadline
- **August 17-31:** Floor session only
- **August 31:** Last day of 2025-26 legislative session

On June 29, the Legislature approved a series of budget bills and budget trailer bills to implement the State Budget, and the Governor signed the budget package in advance of the July 1 start of the new fiscal year.

Notably, the signed budget package includes the reversion of \$16.8 million from Proposition 68 (Section 80111(a)) and then new appropriations of:

- \$16.2 million capital outlay to the Department of Water Resources for the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project
- \$600,000 to the California Natural Resources Agency for an agreement with the Salton Sea Authority relative to implementation of the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project

The final three-party budget agreement that was approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor did not address Proposition 4 allocations or Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund allocations, among other budget items. The Legislature has indicated a desire to continue work and discussions on those items through the Legislature's Summer recess with a plan to revisit those issues in follow-up budget-related legislation in August.

Now that the primary budget package has been approved and is being implemented for Fiscal Year 2026-27, the Authority will be actively engaging with

the CNRA to memorialize the agreement provided for in the State Budget and execute the appropriations mechanism for the approved funding.

As part of the broader state budget conversations, the Authority engaged with Assembly and Senate budget committees, legislative leadership, and the Salton Sea legislative delegation members regarding the Authority's support for the May Revise budget proposal relative to the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project and agreement between CNRA and the Authority. Additionally, the Authority's budget engagement during June and continuing through the Summer recess and into August continued to socialize a request for a budget augmentation in the amount of \$5 million over three years to support a structured engagement and coordination program that empowers residents, Tribal governments, community-based organizations, and environmental justice advocates to meaningfully participate in shaping the federal feasibility study and responding to the environmental and public health consequences of the Colorado River agreement.

Discussions regarding remaining and outstanding budget matters are continuing in earnest through the Legislature's Summer recess and into August.

Soon, attention will turn to planning for the 2027 legislative session, including scoping and development of legislative concepts, socializing legislative concepts with broader stakeholder and potential partner organizations, and developing a comprehensive gameplan to advance legislative initiatives into the upcoming legislative session.