



TO: Rebecca Long

FROM: Eric Sapirstein

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SUBJECT: Washington Update

The House and Senate continued to organize for the new session. As a result, actual legislative hearings and bill introduction continue to be on hold. However, as of this week, both chambers are nearing completion on organizational matters that will allow for regular legislative business, including hearings and markups to commence.

Committee and Subcommittee Assignments

In the House, the key Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure has completed the process of identifying full committee membership and placing Members on subcommittees. Californians Doug LaMalfa (R), Duarte (R), Napolitano (D), Garamendi (D), Huffman (D), Brownley (D), Carbajal (D), and DeSaulnier (D) will sit on the committee. Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment with jurisdiction over the Clean Water Act will have LaMalfa, Duarte, Garamendi, Huffman, Brownley, and DeSaulnier as members and Napolitano will serve as the senior Democrat alongside Chairman David Rouzer of North Carolina.

In the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works has begun announcing appointments to its subcommittees. Senator Alex Padilla was appointed to chair the key Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water and Wildlife with jurisdiction over water quality protection related to the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and natural resources. Senator Dianne Feinstein will continue to serve as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Appropriations and a senior member of the Subcommittee on Interior and Environment that fund U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior programs including Community Project Requests.

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

The Administration announced that it will transmit its fiscal year 2024 budget to Congress on March 9. Once this occurs, the House and Senate will begin the task of developing spending priorities for the individual agencies. While the deadline for completion of the budget is September 30, it is unlikely that Congress will meet this deadline given the decades long experiences of requiring stop gap spending bills. Complicating the process this year is a House priority to reduce domestic spending that is likely to be resisted by the Senate and the Administration. However, the priority to address the looming debt ceiling issue could create a situation where a global agreement is reached in the late summer. If this were to happen, final spending bills could be agreed upon limiting if not eliminating the need for short term funding bills.