

Copy of OC San Federal Legislative Update

July 2026

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

S. 4603

Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act of 2026

No Priority No Stance

Summary: S. 4603 would create a pilot program to investigate the availability of control and eradication technologies to address the growing threats from the Golden Mussel. A task force would be created to develop the demonstration program that would conduct R&D into impacts upon fisheries, water quality, and ecosystems. The task force would also support development of control and eradication methods and plans to address impacts upon public infrastructure among other matters. The program would be targeted to Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and other waters as determined by the task force.

Introduced: 05/20/2026

Sponsor: Sen. Adam Schiff CA

Latest Actions:

05/20/2026 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

05/20/2026 - Introduced in Senate

Committees: Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Why it matters: S.4603 is the Senate approach to the investigation and mitigation efforts to address the invasive Golden Mussel that threatens wastewater and water agencies' infrastructure. S. 4603 is similar to H.R.3717 introduced by Harder (D-CA).

Outlook: Senate action on the bill is considered highly likely either as a stand alone measure or incorporation into a broader Water Resources Development Act or Clean Water/Safe Drinking Water Acts reauthorization.

H.R. 1267

Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act

High Priority Support

AI Summary: The Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act exempts water and wastewater treatment facilities from CERCLA liability for releases of certain perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, provided they comply with applicable laws and regulations.

Introduced: 02/12/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez WA-03

Latest Actions:

02/12/2025 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

02/12/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period ...

02/12/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period ...

Committees: House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

Why it matters: The legislation would provide important protection to water and wastewater agencies against third party litigation seeking to secure cost contributions for cleanups that involve PFAS contamination. Absent an explicit liability protection provision such agencies would be exposed to liability simply because an agency treated water and wastewater that contained PFAS chemicals and disposed of residuals and biosolids.

Outlook: H.R. 1267 represents a placeholder bill to address the water sector's concerns over the potential liability created by USEPA's designation of PFAS as a hazardous substance under CERCLA. Both the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over CERCLA have expressed interest in addressing PFAS liability. We expect that congressional action could later this summer on H.R. 1267 or other initiatives that would address nuisance litigation.

H.R. 1285

Water Infrastructure Subcontractor and Taxpayer Protection Act of 2025

No Priority No Stance

Summary: H.R. 1285 would amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014. The key points: Payment and Performance Security Requirements: The bill establishes new requirements for payment and performance security for projects funded under the act. Project Funding: Ensure that projects financed through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act have adequate financial safeguards.

Introduced: 02/13/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Mike Bost IL-12

Latest Actions:

02/13/2025 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

02/13/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to b...

02/13/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to b...

Committees: House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

S. 857

Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act

No Priority No Stance

Summary: Amends federal tax law so that homeowners would not need to pay income tax when they receive rebates from water utilities for water conservation and water runoff management improvements. S. 857.

Introduced: 03/05/2025

Sponsor: Sen. John Curtis UT

Latest Actions:

03/05/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

03/05/2025 - Introduced in Senate

Committees: Senate Finance Committee

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H.R. 2269

WIPPES Act

High Priority Support

Summary: H.R. 2269 would direct the Federal Trade Commission to establish federal "Do Not Flush" labeling requirements for nonflushable wet wipes packaging. The labeling requirements would be enacted one year after the bill's enactment. The bill mirrors California's state labeling law and is supported by clean water, industry, environmental advocates, and civil engineer stakeholders. Senate companion legislation is S. 1092.

Introduced: 03/21/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Lisa McClain MI-09

Latest Actions:

06/24/2025 - Received in the Senate.

06/23/2025 - Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

06/23/2025 - On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H2852-2853)

Committees: House Energy and Commerce Committee

Why it matters: H.R. 2269 provides a source control solution to the problem of the flushing of nonflushable wipes that will reduce costs associated with fixing damaged treatment infrastructure for wastewater utilities. The labeling requirements compliment existing "Do Not Flush" labeling state law. Rep. Lou Correa is a co-sponsor. OC San continues to publicly

support the effort and has sent support letters to the delegation this Congress.

Outlook: Final passage of the WIPPES Act is anticipated with the House accepting the Senate passed version to avoid the need for a formal conference committee that would delay final enactment. (see S. 1092 below)

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

S. 1092

WIPPES Act

High Priority Support

Summary: S.1092 would direct the Federal Trade Commission to establish federal "Do Not Flush" labeling requirements for nonflushable wet wipes packaging. The labeling requirements would be enacted one year after the bill's enactment. The bill mirrors California's state labeling law and is supported by clean water, industry, environmental advocates, and civil engineer stakeholders. House companion legislation is HR 2269.

Introduced: 03/24/2025

Sponsor: Sen. Jeff Merkley OR

Latest Actions:

03/24/2026 - Held at the desk.

03/24/2026 - Received in the House.

03/24/2026 - Message on Senate action sent to the House.

Committees: Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

Why it matters: S. 1092 provides a source control solution to the problem of the flushing of nonflushable wipes that will reduce costs associated with fixing damaged treatment infrastructure for wastewater utilities. The labeling requirements compliment existing "Do Not Flush" labeling state law. Senator Alex Padilla is an original co-sponsor. OC San continues to publicly support the effort and has sent support letters to the delegation this Congress.

Outlook: S. 1092 passed the Seante by unanimous consent. The bill was referred to the House. House action to accept the Senate version of the WIPPES Act is anticipated. House acceptance of the Senate-passed version could occur in June/July. (See above)

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

H.R. 2344

Water ISAC Threat Protection Act

No Priority No Stance

Summary: Would establish a program to enhance the preparedness and resilience of drinking water and wastewater systems against various threats. The bill's primary focus is on safeguarding these critical utilities from risks such as natural disasters, cyberattacks, and other vulnerabilities that could disrupt essential water services.

Introduced: 03/25/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Jan Schakowsky IL-09

Latest Actions:

03/25/2025 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and

Environment.

03/25/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to b...

03/25/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to b...

Committees: House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

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S. 1118

Water Intelligence, Security, and
Cyber Threat Protection Act of
2025

No Priority No Stance

Summary: S. 1118 would provide funding and additional access for clean water and wastewater utilities to become members of the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC). The WaterISAC is a critical source of information and best practices for water systems to protect against, mitigate, and respond to threats. House Companion bill H.R. 2344. Endorsed by American Water Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, National Association of Water Companies, and Water Environment Federation.

Introduced: 03/25/2025

Sponsor: Sen. Ed Markey MA

Latest Actions:

03/25/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

03/25/2025 - Introduced in Senate

Committees: Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

H.R. 3184

PFAS Alternatives Act

No Priority No Stance

AI Summary: The bill establishes a research and training program to develop PFAS-free turnout gear for firefighters, supporting innovation and safer protective equipment through grants and partnerships.

Introduced: 05/05/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Debbie Dingell MI-06

Latest Actions:

05/06/2025 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

05/05/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a...

05/05/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a...

Committees: House Science, Space and Technology Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

H.R. 3898

PERMIT Act

No Priority No Stance

AI Summary: The PERMIT Act amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to streamline water quality standards, improve transparency in criteria development, reduce regulatory burdens, and enhance permitting efficiency for infrastructure and agricultural projects.

Introduced: 06/11/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Mike Collins GA-10

Latest Actions:

12/15/2025 - Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

12/11/2025 - Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

12/11/2025 - On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 221 - 205 (Roll no. 330).

Committees: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Why it matters: H.R. 3898 represents a comprehensive Clean Water Act permitting reform bill.

Key provisions:

- mandates 10 year NPDES permits
- codifies exemption from WOTUS definition for wastewater and water storage facilities
- expedites review and approval of section 404 permit applications (dredge and fill)
- provides ten year general permits for dredge and fill activities with requirement for 2 year advanced notification if permit not to be renewed

- limits water quality certification reviews to project impacts on water quality (no down stream impacts or non-water quality related impacts)

Outlook. H.R. 3898's provisions could be incorporated into a broader permitting reform bill that addresses both energy and environmental permit mandates. As of this writing, the Senate Committees on Environment and Public Works and Energy and Natural Resources are negotiating on a bipartisan measure that would enhance prospects of final passage of H.R. 3898's permit terms provisions.

FEDERAL - 119TH CONGRESS

S. 3738

MORE WATER Act

○ No Priority ○ No Stance

AI Summary: The MORE WATER Act reauthorizes the large-scale water recycling and reuse program, establishes a Water Conveyance Improvement Program, and provides funding for projects that deliver water supply, safe drinking water for low-income communities, and environmental benefits.

Introduced: 01/29/2026

Sponsor: Sen. Alex Padilla CA

Latest Actions:

03/17/2026 - Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power. Hearings held.

01/29/2026 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S380-381)

01/29/2026 - Introduced in Senate

Committees: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Water and Power Subcommittee

Why it matters: S. 3738 would extend the authorization of the expiring large water recycling projects (\$500 million or greater) program. Authorized funding would be \$450 million and the program would be extended until 2032. It would also modify the the Title XVI program increasing federal cost share to \$50 million, providing \$550 million funding authorization and extending program to 2032. A new program authorizing \$250 million to support environmental and habitat restoration projects would be available to support the Great Salt Lake and other inland lakes (priority on Central Utah Project).

Outlook: The legislation received a positive hearing before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. USBR testified positively on the bill. S. 3738 could become part of a larger western water resources bill later in the year.

H.R. 7845

DROUGHT Act of 2026

AI Summary: The DROUGHT Act of 2026 modifies the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act to limit federal assistance for drought-affected water projects to 90% of total project costs, prioritizing projects in severely drought-affected states or counties, low-income areas, or those providing significant public health, environmental, or water reliability benefits.

Introduced: 03/05/2026

Sponsor: Rep. Scott Peters CA-50

Latest Actions:

03/06/2026 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

03/05/2026 - Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to b...

03/05/2026 - Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to b...

Committees: House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

Why it matters: The legislation would increase the federal cost share cap for the WIFIA Program from the current 80% to 90% for projects that are located in areas of extreme drought, projects of national significance, or serves disadvantaged communities. By raising the federal cap for these categories of eligible projects, H.R. 7845 aims to help address concerns about Western water supplies resiliency due to prolonged drought conditions. Importantly, the bill does not change borrowers' obligations, payment plans, or interest rates under WIFIA.

Outlook: H.R. 7845 has been referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. While the issue of Western water supply security continues to be a focus for lawmakers in the 119th Congress, the committee is currently focused primarily on drafting and advancing the Water Resources Development Act of 2026 (WRDA) later this summer. As a result, committee consideration on H.R. 7845 will likely be delayed until the summer at the earliest.