

**ACWA Legislative Report  
Calaveras County Water District  
June 2026**

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## ACWA Sponsored bills

### SB 1153 (Caballero, D-merced)

ACWA-sponsored SB 1153, by Senator Caballero, would clarify the limited role of public water systems during wildfires while strengthening emergency preparedness in high-risk areas. This bill was developed through a working group of the ACWA Legal Affairs Committee that drafted the language and proposed that ACWA sponsor the bill.

The bill would establish that limitations in water supply or pressure during a wildfire are not a substantial cause of damages, clarify that wildfire spread is not an inherent risk of public water system design or operation, and require certain urban water suppliers to include wildfire response procedures in their emergency response plans.

SB 1153 was passed by the Senate and is awaiting committee assignment in the Assembly.

### AB 2180 (Ward, D-San Diego)

ACWA-sponsored AB 2180 by Assemblymember Ward would codify the recent *Dreher vs. LADWP (Dreher)* decision, related to Proposition 218 and tiered water rates. This bill was developed by a subcommittee of the ACWA Legal Affairs Committee in response to the decision in the *Dreher* case.

Specifically, the bill would clarify in the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act that:

- Agencies may use any reasonable method to allocate costs to parcels.
- Tiered rate structures are permitted based on customer classes defined by common characteristics such as parcel size, land use, or peak use patterns.
- Agencies may allocate increasingly expensive water supply costs to higher tiers based on total water portfolio without tracing each source to specific parcels.
- Peak infrastructure and capacity costs may be allocated to higher usage tiers based on overall system projections without requiring time-of-use metering.

AB 2180 was passed by the Assembly and will be heard next week in the Senate Local Government Committee.

## Hot Bills

### AB 2013 (Bennett, D-Ventura)

AB 2013 by Assemblymember Bennett would have required community water systems that service more than 100 customers in high-risk areas to include an annex within their disaster preparedness plans with information regarding system preparedness and resiliency during a wildfire. The bill would have required the annex to be submitted to the county board of supervisors. The bill would have required the annex to include, among other elements, an assessment of the minimum water tank levels and minimum number and type of water pumps necessary to maintain average daily capacity during a wildfire.

AB 2013 failed to pass out of its first hearing in the Assembly Emergency Management Committee and is now dead.

### AB 2630 (Bennett, D-Ventura)

Assemblymember Bennett introduced AB 2630 on February 20 and ACWA adopted an oppose position at its March 6 meeting. This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt any water measurement and reporting regulations as emergency regulations that would remain in effect until revised by the board. This bill would have also permanently exempt these regulations from CEQA.

Due to strong opposition by ACWA and others, the bill was pulled from the Assembly Natural Resources hearing and is no longer moving this year.

### SB 1125 (Menjivar, D-Van Nuys)

SB 1125 is the latest iteration of several recent attempts to establish a Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program in California. ACWA's position has consistently been that the association would support a reasonable, implementable LIRA bill that did not rely on a funding mechanism that would further challenge affordability (i.e. a water tax). SB 1125 picks up where SB 350 (2025) left off. The introduced bill was based on the final negotiated version of SB 350 that didn't go into print before the bill was held.

ACWA adopted a "Support if Amended" position on the bill on April 6. ACWA's LIRA working group convened in April and identified a limited set of amendments that would resolve ACWA's remaining concerns with the bill. Specifically, ACWA requested amendments that would make clear that no water agency would be required to "front" funds while waiting for reimbursement or be required to maintain the administrative infrastructure for a LIRA program if the state program was not operational. ACWA

submitted those amendments to the author, who accepted them without changes. Those amendments went into print on May 22 and ACWA is now in full support of the bill.