

## **Legislative Priorities Policy Updated January 2025**

### **Mission Statement**

Calleguas Municipal Water District (“District”) has adopted a strategic objective to “Enhance Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy,” the components of which include engaging local, state, and federal elected officials and regulators, assembling coalitions, and influencing policymaking, rulemaking, and lawmaking processes that support the District's strategic priorities. To assist with achieving this objective, this Legislative Priorities Policy document, adopted by the Board of Directors annually, serves as a framework guiding the direction and actions undertaken in furtherance of the District's advocacy program.

### **Policy Goals**

1. *Advocate* for the District’s legislative interests at the local, state, and federal levels.
2. *Inform* the Board of Directors and District staff of legislation with potential impact on the District and/or its purveyors.
3. *Provide regional leadership* to the District’s member agencies through advocacy on their behalf, as well as regular communication and collaboration.
4. *Actively participate with* local, regional, and statewide partners regarding legislative and regulatory issues of importance to the District, its purveyors, and the region.

### **Foundational Policy Principles**

1. Promote the efficient, effective, and sustainable delivery of supplemental water to the District’s service area.
2. Oppose burdensome, costly, redundant, or one-size-fits all approaches to water management.
- 3.
3. Support cost-effective, sustainable policies and projects enhancing water supply reliability and resilience, including expeditious construction of the Delta Conveyance project.
4. Promote consistency between legislative and regulatory mandates.
5. Advance regional water resource development and watershed management through existing and new partnerships with retailers and / or local, regional, and cross boundary entities to plan for future water supply needs in a reliable, cost effective, and environmentally responsible manner.
6. Support policies that ensure equity in Southern California water management planning and delivery.
7. Support policies and proposals that expand programs to recruit, engage, retain, and develop highly qualified and top-performing staff.

## **Legislative Priorities**

### **1. *Finances***

- A. Advocate for funding to maintain system reliability, both via construction of new projects and maintenance of existing infrastructure.
- B. Protect against an unauthorized shift or diversion of revenues, including, but not limited to, redirection of funds to which the District is entitled, such as property tax, in order to backfill state funding obligations that are not linked to District services.<sup>1</sup>
- C. Promote the financial health of the District.
- D. Support opportunities that allow the District to compete for its fair share of regional, state, and federal funding, including grants and other funding programs.
- E. Preserve district and purveyor financial stability.
- F. Explore and support emerging opportunities in funding and revenue raising mechanisms.
- G. Ensure alignment between decision-making, cost responsibility, and receipt of benefit.
- H. Support proposals that provide cost effective flexibility for public works bidding and procurement.

### **2. *Resilience***

- A. Support policies and proposals that maintain, develop and improve critical infrastructure, maintain readiness for a variety of emergencies, and promote emergency planning and training efforts.
- B. Support efforts that improve the security, integrity, and reliability of operational and administrative computer systems and networks.
- C. Support actions and investments in cost-effective, beneficial renewable energy to increase energy reliability and reduce overall energy costs.
- D. Explore opportunities to support climate resilience programs, policies, and/or funding that would be of benefit to the District and/or region.
- E. Support actions and funding for local and regional drought-resilience projects that are cost-effective, feasible, and beneficial to the District and / or its member agencies.
- F. Support actions and funding to accelerate new local supply development.

### **3. *Operations***

- A. Oppose requirements that increase costs and reduce local flexibility.
- B. Support emerging technologies designed to assist in water supply management.
- C. Oppose water use efficiency regulations or proposals that limit local control and/or are burdensome, costly, or unattainable. Consider support of proposals that enhance water use efficiency cost-effectively and without undue burdens on water suppliers.
- D. Support legislative and administrative approaches promoting the “polluter pays” principle for known contaminants, plus Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs).
- E. Promote funding for costs associated with monitoring and remediation, support source control proposals, and oppose efforts to hold drinking water and wastewater facilities liable for cleanup of contamination.

- F. Support groundwater policies that promote conjunctive use.
- G. Oppose additional public meetings and records requirements that unnecessarily increase the burden on public resources without effectively fostering public engagement.

#### **4. Risk Management**

- A. Support policies and proposals that appropriately allocate risk and cost and provide flexibility for water agencies to utilize a variety of risk management tools, including insurance, while opposing policies and proposals that are disproportionately burdensome, limit flexibility, increase risk exposure, or increase insurance costs.

<sup>1</sup> this Priority is in response to the shift of property tax revenue away from local governments and to the state for its funding obligations starting in the 1992-93 state budget. Many public agencies across California were significantly harmed by this redirection of funds, upon which they depended for their service missions. Therefore, the District will oppose any similar actions in the future in order to protect ratepayer funds and preserve local control.