# **Legislative Update**

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# **Legislative Calendar:**

- September 1 Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills to floor.
- September 4 Labor Day.
- September 5 14 Floor session only. No committees, other than conference or Rules committees, may meet for any purpose.
- September 8 Last day to **amend** on the floor.
- September 14 Last day for **each house to pass bills Interim Study Recess** begins at the end of this day's session.

**Legislature Returns** Of 1,770 Assembly bills introduced this session, 1,055 have been sent to the Senate, and nearly 90 have already gone to Governor Newsom's desk. Of 890 Senate bills introduced, about 660 have been passed to the Assembly and nearly 50 to the governor.

## APM/DB/CMaR

AB 400 (Rubio, Blanca - D) This bill extends the sunset date from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2031, the law authorizing local agencies to use the design-build contracting method. **Status**: Concurrence in Senate amendments pending. Awaiting the Governor's action. **ASCE Position: Support** 

SB 617 (Newman - D) This bill would authorize a transit district, municipal operator, consolidated agency, joint powers authority, regional transportation agency, or local or regional agency to use the progressive design-build process. **Status**: Awaiting Governor's action. **ASCE Position: Support** 

SB 706 (Caballero - D) Senate Bill 706 allows cities, counties, and special districts to use progressive design-build for any project, not just water projects. The measure also changes the deadline for local agencies to submit required reports to the Legislature from January 1, 2028, to December 31, 2028. **Status**: Awaiting the Governor's action. **ASCE Position: Support** 

#### **Bonds**

<u>AB 305 (Villapudua</u> - D) Places a \$4.5 billion flood protection and dam safety improvement bond before the voters on the November 5, 2024, General Election ballot. **Status**: Two-year bill. **ASCE Position: Support** 

AB 1567 (Garcia - D) This bill would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2023, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds for \$15,105,000,000 under the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs. **Status**: Two-year bill. **ASCE Position: Support** 

#### Climate

<u>AB 30 (Ward</u> - D) Reconfigures the existing Atmospheric Rivers: Research, Mitigation, and Climate Forecasting Program (Atmospheric Rivers Program) within the Department of Water Resources (DWR). **Status**: Chaptered 9/1/23. **ASCE Position: Support** 

## **Practice**

AB 334 (Rubio, Blanca - D) Because of legislation and subsequent court cases, public agencies are being precluded from entering into follow-on contracts with design professionals on the same project, even if that design professional is the best fit for a subsequent portion or phase. AB 334 attempts to clarify COI rules for AE contracts. **Status**: Enrolled. **ASCE Position: Support** 

#### **STEM**

SB 444 (Newman - D) This bill: 1) encourages community colleges to establish and implement Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) programs; 2) requires that the regulations adopted by the Community College Board of Governors (BOG) regarding the operation of community college MESA programs be consistent with, and accomplish the specified goals and; 3) specifies that state funds provided for MESA programs and support that community colleges provide supplement existing resources **Status**: Assembly Third reading **ASCE Position: Support** 

## **Appointments**

<u>To the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board</u>: **Stephen Joslin**, Mount Shasta, Democrat, forest and watershed watch program manager for Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center since 2021. Salary: \$250 per diem.

# **Reports of Interest**

Public Policy Institute of California released "Heightened Concerns about Heat Waves and Flooding Due to Climate Change," cites its July statewide survey, which found: "85% of adults are concerned about climate change causing heat waves that are more severe;" "an all-time high of 69% of Californians are concerned about increased flooding due to climate change;" and that "strong majorities of Californians are also concerned about climate change causing greater

severity in droughts (63% very, 26% somewhat) and wildfires (62% very, 28% somewhat), as well as causing sea level rise (33% very, 36% somewhat)."