Forecasting a Dry Year Ahead

At the Energy & Water Committee's first meeting of the year, members received updates from Mike Anderson with DWR on the state’s water crisis and Dale Roberts with Sonoma Water on the AQPI Program. As Dr. Anderson highlighted in his presentation, the state has experienced the driest January-February recorded, with approximately half the precipitation level from the same period of the dry 2013 year. As Climate Change continues to alter the normal “wet season” forecast, drought effects are unavoidable despite the current snowpack levels. However, Dr. Anderson did note that unexpected snowmelt evaporation is likely to be less severe than 2021 as the riverbed conditions have changed.

In addition to the analysis of current hydrology, information forecasting with AQPI provided a positive note to the meeting, as the updated system produces a more accurate forecasting for California’s landscape. This advancement will provide more information to the state to coordinate water releases and make public safety decisions in response to atmospheric rivers, which account for 30-50% of the state’s rainfall during a “normal” year. In connection to AQPI forecasting, the committee heard from Rob Cifelli with NOAA regarding the various forecasting models from regional monitoring to global analysis. As Climate Change continues to alter weather patterns, the meeting’s speakers all underscored the need for adaptation and planning to navigate these changes, a cause that BPC continues to advocate for.

(Image: Jan/Feb 2013 vs. 2021; Source: Dr. Michael Anderson, DWR)
Lessons Learned: AB-617 Implementation Continues in the Bay

As Richmond is the second Bay Area city to implement AB-617’s Community Health Protection Program, BPC Air Quality Committee invited Hakim Johnson of Chevron to speak on the Richmond-San Pablo “Path to Clean Air” program. Following the first program, the West Oakland Community Action Plan (WOCAP), Richmond’s Steering Committee can look south to the first AB-617 community for lessons on plan development and implementation. BPC is looking forward to further discussions on AB-617 to better assist and support the Richmond community, and future implementation around the Bay. Join us at the next Air Quality Committee Meeting on **May 25th at 11 am**!

California Bills to Watch

This month, BPC’s Government Affairs Committee discussed bills of interest, including AB-1832, AB-1001, and **AB-2605**. During the meeting, committee members voiced concerns with language found in AB-1832 (Rivas), which addresses hard mineral extraction from tidelands and submerged lands. The committee agreed to send a letter to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources with amendments to the bill’s language to ensure that Bay industries that mine sediment and oyster shells are not impacted. As oyster shells are a main calcium source in agriculture feed, the California Grain & Feed Association (CGFA) and BPC submitted a letter of support if amended, which can be viewed [here](#).

AB-1001 (Garcia), which attempts to expand CEQA to include environmental justice considerations for mitigation measures, was of particular interest. While BPC and committee members agree with the need for environmental justice principles to protect disadvantaged communities, AB-1001’s subjective language concerns committee members. A letter from BPC is currently pending – here is a [link to the legislation](#).

As the Government Affairs Committee continues to identify bills of interest, we will be hosting staff from Assemblymember Mullin’s office to discuss AB-2387. The bill would authorize $7.3 billion for drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, heat mitigation, and workforce development, which would be voted on in the November 2022 general election. So, join us on **April 6th at 11:30 am** to learn more about AB-2387! Please register for the event by clicking the button below.
Bay Planning Coalition is excited to announce that our 2022 Spring Summit will be held virtually on May 13th at 9 am. This year’s theme is **Funding Resiliency**, which will focus on the financial and environmental needs of the Bay Area to ensure a resilient future against climate change. The symposium-style summit will include panelists from the public and private sectors, municipalities, and federal & state agencies to discuss municipal bonds, state & federal funding, regional assets, and beneficial reuse.

We are in the process of finalizing speakers for the event and plan to share this information shortly. To receive the most up-to-date information on the 2022 Spring Summit and register for the event, you can visit the events page on our website.

Though the event will be virtually this year (hopefully the last!), BPC will be hosting an evening reception on May 12th at 5 pm. Given the limited space available, only those who sponsor the event will be able to attend. If your organization is interested in sponsoring this year’s Spring Summit, please click the button below to view the sponsorship options.

Join us on **May 13th at 9am** by registering below. If you have any questions, contact Cameron Carr (cameron@bayplanningcoalition.org).
Bay Planning Coalition is thrilled to introduce two new members of our team.

**Sophie Douglas**

As a Bay Area native, Sophie is excited to be back in the region with a BA in World Politics and a Minor in Society & Environmental Issues from The Ohio State University. While attending OSU, she interned for an Ohio Statehouse Representative, US Senator Sherrod Brown at his regional office, and a bi-partisan statewide lobbying firm. With an interest in environmental issues and legislative experience, Sophie is looking forward to supporting BPC’s advocacy efforts.

**Cameron Carr**

Cameron is a recent graduate of the University of San Diego, with a BA in Political Science and Minor in History. When attending USD, he organized multiple trips with Medical Brigades to assist underserved communities, and hopes to support local disadvantaged communities through his policy work. Prior to joining BPC, Cameron worked on water policy at an irrigation district in the Central Valley, which jumpstarted his interest in Bay-Delta issues and promoting sustainability.

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**Upcoming Events**

**BPC Government Affairs Committee Meeting**  
April 6th | 11:30am - 12:30pm | Zoom | [Details/Register]

**BPC Dredging & Beneficial Reuse Committee Meeting**  
May 4th | 1:30pm - 3:30pm | Zoom | [Details/Register]

**2022 Spring Summit: Funding Resiliency**  
May 13th | 9:00am - 12/1:00pm | Zoom | [Details/Register]

**BPC Air Quality Committee Meeting**  
May 25th | 11:00am - 1:00pm | Zoom | [Details/Register]
If you are a member and would like to receive updates on upcoming committee meetings and events, please click the button below!

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