Legislative Process

WQCC

February 24, 2009
Office of Legislative Affairs

Primary Contact point between the Water Boards and the Legislature, and between the Water Boards, Cal/EPA and the Governor’s Office on legislative matters.

- Legislative Proposals
- Bill Review
- Bill Analysis and EBRs
- Education/Relationship Building/Partnerships
- Monitor Federal Legislation
- Report Tracking and Follow Up
- Legislative Correspondence and Communication
State of California’s Legislative Process
Branches of Government

Governor and State Agencies implement the laws

Judicial interprets the laws

Legislature writes the laws
The Legislature – the basics

- Composed of two houses - Senate & Assembly
- Two year bill cycle
- Majority vote needed for most bills
- 2/3 vote needed for bills that make an appropriation and urgency measures
How a Bill Becomes Law

1st House

Legislator Introduces a bill
Bill is heard in a Policy Committee i.e. Enviro. Safety, Natural Resources, etc.
Bill is heard in Fiscal Committee
Floor Vote

2nd House

Bill is heard in a Policy Committee i.e. Enviro. Quality, Natural Resources, etc.
Bill is heard in Fiscal Committee
Floor Vote

Governor's Desk
Enrolled bills

Veto – Bill dies
Sign – Most bills become law Jan. 1st of the next year
Not Signed or Vetoed – bill becomes law
State Water Board’s Internal Legislative Processes
Legislative Concepts and Proposals

Legislative Concept Development (July/August)

Legislative Proposal Development (Sept/October)

Cal/EPA Review and Approval

Governor’s Office Review and Approval

BOARD SPONSORED LEGISLATION!!!
State Water Board Internal Bill Analysis Process
**Time Frames and Routing of Analysis**

**OLA Daily Bill Review**

OLA assignment to SWRCB Divisions and Regional Boards as appropriate:
- Analyze
- Watch
- Info Res

**Bill Analysis Drafting and Comments--SWRCB Divisions and Regional Boards -- 10 days**

**OLA consolidates input, reviews, and edits analysis & routes to Executive Office and to Board Members**

Analysis revised as needed, Executive Director signature
Analysis to Cal/EPA

Ca/IEPA Review/Recommendation

Governor’s Office Review

Governor's Office approved position?

**Yes** – OLA communicate position

**NO** – No Action
Possible Positions

O = Oppose
OUA = Oppose Unless Amended
S = Support
SA = Support if Amended
N = Neutral
NA = Neutral if Amended
Some important reminders

- The State Water Board makes recommendations to Cal/EPA and the Governor’s Office, but only the Governor can approve a position.

- In order to lobby/communicate a position on legislation, the Waterboards must have an approved position from the Governor’s Office.

- With a Governor’s Office approved position, OLA is responsible for communicating the Administration’s position to the Legislature.

- Analyses and the discussion of analyses are CONFIDENTIAL.
HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

AS INTRODUCED

FIRST AMENDMENT

SECOND AMENDMENT

AS ENACTED

AS FUNDED BY JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

AS IMPLEMENTED BY THE STATE AGENCY

AS REPORTED BY THE MEDIA

AS UNDERSTOOD BY THE PUBLIC

WHAT WAS ACTUALLY NEEDED