

High Interest Bill Chart
September 2017

Legislation	Summary and ACWA's position	Status
Infrastructure Financing		
State Revolving Fund	EPA low interest loan and grant program funds clean water and drinking water infrastructure projects. 2017 omnibus included \$1.39 billion for the clean water SRF and \$863 million for the drinking water SRF. Support increased funding for both SRF programs.	Three month continuing resolution funds these programs at FY 2017 levels.
WIFIA	EPA program to provide low interest loans for large water projects costing > \$20 million. WIFIA funding can be used for 49% of project costs and municipal bonds can be used to fund the project sponsors 51% share of the costs. Support	Funded for the first time in FY 2017. EPA selected 12 projects to move forward in the loan application process on 7/19/2017, four of them are located in California.
Municipal Bonds	Proposal calling for taxing municipal bonds for individuals in the top 3 tax brackets circulating on Capitol Hill. ACWA opposes this change.	ACWA, as part of the Municipal Bond Coalition for America, sent letter supporting bonds to the House and Senate leadership on 2/21/2017.
S 1464/HR 448: Water Conservation Tax Parity Act	Clarifies that water conservation rebates are not subject to federal income tax. Support	HR 448 Introduced 1/11/2017 S 1464 Introduced 6/28/2017
Reclamation Issues		
HR 875: Bureau of Reclamation Streamlining Act	Facilitates and streamlines the Bureau of Reclamation process for creating or expanding surface water storage projects. Support	Introduced 2/06/2017
HR 4343: New WATER Act	Creates a Bureau of Reclamation financing program, similar to WIFIA, to provide low interest loans and/or loan guarantees for water recycling projects, water infrastructure projects, hydropower projects, and desalination projects. Support	Introduced 1/11/2017
HR 1654/S 677: Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act	Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate Federal and State permitting processes related to the construction of new surface water storage projects. Support	HR 1654: Passed house 6/22/2017 S 677: Introduced 3/21/2017
HR 660/S 216: Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act	Requires the secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets. Support if Amended	HR 660 Introduced 1/24/2017. Passed Natural Resources Committee 06/02/2017. S 216 Introduced 1/24/2017. Passed Energy Committee 6/08/2017.

Clean Water Act		
HR 2693: CWA Litigation	Amends the Clean Water Act to limit attorney fees and penalties in citizen suits. Support	Introduced 5/25/2017
Forestry/Headwaters Issues		
HR 865: Emergency Forest Restoration Act	Allows the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior to develop and carry out a forest management activity to address an insect or disease infestation that has been declared an emergency by the state governor. Support	Introduced 2/3/2017
HR 2862: Wildfire Disaster Funding Act	Provides funding for wildfire suppression operations. Support	Introduced 6/8/2017
S 879: National Forest Ecosystem Improvement Act	Amends the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species. Support if Amended	Introduced 4/06/2017
Endangered Species Act		
HR 1273/HR 3608/S 376: 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act	Amends the ESA to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered or threatened. Support	HR 1273 Introduced 3/01/2017 HR 3608 Introduced 7/28/2017 S 376 Introduced 2/14/2017
S 375: ESA Settlements Act	Amends the ESA to establish a procedure for approval of settlements to certain actions. Watch	Introduced 2/14/2017
HR 1274/S 735: State, Tribal, and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act	Amends the ESA to require disclosure to States of the basis of determinations under such Act. Support	HR 1274 Introduced 3/01/2017. Natural Resources Committee hearing held 7/19/2017 S 735 Introduced 3/27/2017
HR 3131: Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act	Amends the ESA to conform citizen suits under that Act to other existing law. Support	Introduced 6/29/2017. Natural Resource Committee Hearing held 7/19/2017
HR 2134/ S 935: Endangered Species Management Self-Determination Act	Creates an opt-out mechanism for states wishing to regulate endangered species within their borders. Ensures that, once a state elects to regulate its species, it has the exclusive authority to designate critical habitat, issue permits or licenses related to endangered species, and establish any goal with respect to the recovery plan on both state and federal land. Watch	HR 2134 Introduced 4/25/2017 S 935 Introduced 4/25/2017
Drought Policy		
HR 23: Gaining Responsibility on Water Act	Key elements: CVPIA Reforms including contract reforms, ESA protection to Bay Delta Accords, SJ settlement changes, and storage project authorizations. Watch	Passed House 7/12/2017