



Statement from Nicole Sandkulla, Chief Executive Officer, on the Passage of Assembly Bill 2962 (AB 2962, D. Papan) That Will Continue State Oversight of San Francisco's \$4.8 Billion Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) to Rebuild its Regional Hetch Hetchy Water System (System)

September 12, 2024

California Assembly Bill 2962, introduced by State Assembly Member Diane Papan, was signed into law on August 26, 2024 to protect the health, safety and economic well-being of the 1.8 million residents and over 40,000 businesses, including most of Silicon Valley, in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties who depend on the System.

AB 2962 amends the Wholesale Regional Water System Security and Reliability Act (AB 1823, 2002, L. Papan) that requires San Francisco to implement capital improvements for its System to ensure that it can withstand a major seismic event and continue to deliver essential water to the region that depends on it. AB 2962 extends State oversight of San Francisco's required capital improvement program for ten years from January 1, 2026 to January 1, 2036

After twenty-one (21) years of planning and construction, San Francisco's \$4.8 billion Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) is now 99% complete, but two critical drought water supply projects are not yet finished.

The Alameda Creek Recapture Project, currently scheduled for completion in 2032, is designed to provide over 5 million gallons per day (mgd) of dry year water supply. Estimated budget for this project is \$49 million.

The second project is the Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project with a current budget of \$158 million. This Project is designed to store up to 61,000 acre-feet of local rainwater underground in San Mateo County that will provide 6.2 mgd of dry year water supply to water customers, with an anticipated completion by 2028.

To date, State oversight of the WSIP provided by the Legislature has evaluated the impact to public health and safety resulting from adopted changes to the WSIP; increased clarity of seismic and other criteria for project design; provided independent, expert review of critical seismic design; and increased reporting about seismic reliability of vital projects in the WSIP.

BAWSCA represents the water interests of the 26 water suppliers in the Bay Area that purchase water from the System and deliver it to the residents, businesses, and communities they serve in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.

The passage of AB 2962 will ensure that the State oversight of this critically important capital plan will continue through its completion for the protection of the region's water users.

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