

URBAN WATER INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER



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In Focus: Infrastructure Investment And Jobs Act

InfrastructureLA Leveraging Unprecedented Federal Funding To Drive Infrastructure Equity

By TJ Moon, LA County Public Works Strategic Planning & Sustainability Office and Jeff Meerdink, Jacobs Vice President and Program Management Senior Director

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – or Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) – represents a historic opportunity for agencies across the US to meet community needs by advancing their longstanding infrastructure priorities.

Signed into law in November 2021, the BIL provides \$550 billion of supplemental federal funding over five years (FY2022 – 2026), creating one of the largest infrastructure investments in American history. Approximately half of the funding is allocated for transportation infrastructure, while the remainder is available for water, environment, and energy investments. Infrastructure owners of all kinds, therefore, stand to benefit from the landmark federal infusion.

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW



Despite this massive allocation of funding, the need for infrastructure improvements is expected to outstrip available funding. In its 2021 *Infrastructure Report Card*, the American Society of Civil Engineers identifies infrastructure investment needs totaling \$5.9 trillion over ten years, some \$2.6 trillion of which is unfunded.

Moreover, approximately 50 percent of the new BIL funding will be allocated through competitive grant programs, as opposed to funds distributed directly to state and local governments based on formulas such as population. The result, therefore, will be stiff competition for funding as agencies and municipalities nationwide look to secure funds for their preferred projects. The most successful communities will be those that have developed coordinated strategies to maximize their share. ... *(continued to page two)*

In Focus: Infrastructure Investment And Jobs Act (continued)

(from page one) ... **Build Back Equitably**

The County of Los Angeles is implementing an innovative equity-focused and coordinated multi-agency approach to BIL funding.

In April 2022, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directed County officials to launch an infrastructure initiative that would maximize the County's share of federal infrastructure spending. Importantly, the Board stipulated that the initiative would align with goals the County has established to advance equity, sustainability, and climate resilience through its infrastructure investments.

The result is InfrastructureLA, a collaborative initiative that brings together County agencies to secure BIL funding that will provide holistic and equitable benefits to the residents of Los Angeles County.

The primary way that InfrastructureLA will maximize BIL funding and community impacts for Los Angeles County is by facilitating cross-agency coordination and partnerships to break down traditional infrastructure silos. With the support of Jacobs as a consultant, the County is undertaking stakeholder engagement and outreach efforts to align local entities, coordinate grant applications, and reduce unintended competition for funding. ... (continued to page three)



Water infrastructure, power and grid

PRIORITIES



COMMUNITY

Meet the present and future infrastructure needs of our communities.



CULTIVATION

Create a space for innovation, growth, and development of regional projects and programs.



COLLABORATION

Encourage partnerships with infrastructure stakeholders to maximize collective community impacts.

VISION

To revitalize the Los Angeles region by investing in equitable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure.

MISSION

We seek to advance the development of 21st century infrastructure through cross-sector collaboration and coalition building. We work with infrastructure stakeholders to pursue funding opportunities, advocate for community-focused infrastructure, and to share strategies and tools for addressing infrastructure needs.

BENEFITS

- REGIONAL APPROACH
 - Develop competitive projects and programs that serve all of Los Angeles County.
- PROJECT EVALUATION
 - Strengthen applications and ensure projects serve marginalized, underserved, and overburdened communities.
- COST EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS
 - Coordinate projects and save time and money.

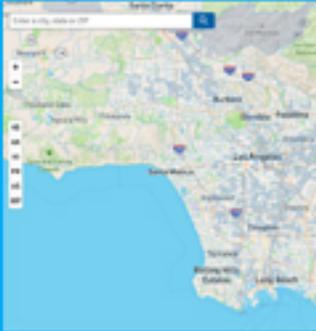
In Focus: Infrastructure Investment And Jobs Act (*continued*)

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An assessment is also being undertaken of the current project pipeline, funding streams, and stakeholders to create a comprehensive inventory of potential projects that aligns with available funding sources.

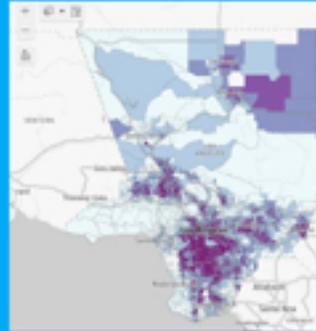
This coordinated approach will not only strengthen grant applications and save time and money, but will ensure projects are designed to serve marginalized and overburdened communities. The project inventory will integrate social, economic, and environmental considerations, enabling a community-focused approach to the evaluation and selection of projects that will combine traditional selection criteria (cost, schedule, risk) with imperatives such as environmental justice and diversity, equity, and inclusion. ... (*continued to page four*)

Evaluation Tools



Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

Identify communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.



LA County Equity Explorer

Explore data that may inform program and policy design.



EJ Screen

Environmental justice mapping and screening tool developed by the EPA.

Annual Water Conference: August 24-26, 2022



You are cordially invited to Urban Water Institute's Annual Water Conference - *Getting To The Heart Of The Matter*.

This three day, in person gathering will be held at San Diego Mission Bay Resort on August 24-26, 2022 in San Diego, CA.

For more details please visit the website and for more information you may contact us at: UrbanWater.com or (949) 679-9676.

In Focus: Infrastructure Investment And Jobs Act (*continued*)

(from page three) ...“As we look to an unprecedented investment in our infrastructure, we have a unique opportunity to Build Back Equitably and ensure that our communities do not just survive, but thrive,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell. “Building back equitably means we need to work together. We need to think beyond our silos about the ways our investments can help, or harm, our communities.”

“If we’re going to be resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and equitable, then it can’t be done alone,” added Mark Pestrella, Director of LA County Public Works. “InfrastructureLA will provide a forum for regional partners to work together.”

To facilitate coordination further, subcommittees have also been created for some of the individual infrastructure areas that InfrastructureLA is targeting: water, transportation, and environmental services. Among the priorities identified for water investments are sustainable regional water supplies – including water conservation and reuse – and improvements to drainage and stormwater capture.

As communities across the country prepare to secure their own slice of historic funding, the collaborative approach being undertaken in Los Angeles could serve as a replicable blueprint.

Los Angeles County held a virtual panel on May 18, 2022 discussing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the InfrastructureLA initiative, featuring representatives of the White House, US Department of Transportation, US Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and County officials. To view the recording, visit infrastructurela.org/getthejobdone.

Meet The Authors



T J Moon, LA County Public Works



Jeff Meerdink, Jacobs

Drought Resources Available

California Drought Monitor

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>

California Water Use Map

<https://pacinst.org/gpcd/map/>

Colorado River Reservoir Levels

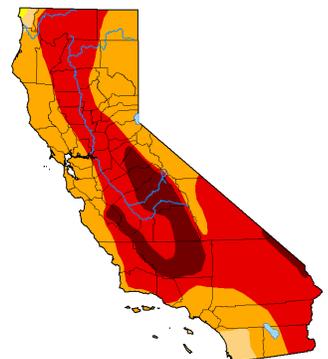
<https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/hourly.html>

Daily California Statewide Hydrology Update

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/floodER/hydro/>

Daily Reservoir Storage

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=RES>





URBAN WATER INSTITUTE'S ANNUAL WATER CONFERENCE AUGUST 24-26, 2022 | REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____
ORGANIZATION: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
PHONE WORK: _____ MOBILE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fees include handouts,
breakfasts, luncheon, breaks and receptions.

Note: Self parking for hotel guests is complimentary

_____ \$525 Urban Water Member EARLY BIRD Registration Fee for Conference August 24-26, 2022, *Ends June 14, 2022*

_____ \$575 Urban Water Member Registration Fee for Conference August 24-26, 2022

(Must be a member of the Urban Water Institute with 2022 dues paid in full, for more information on memberships please contact the Urban Water Institute at (949) 679-9676 or stacy@urbanwater.com)

_____ \$675 Non-Member Registration Fee for Conference August 24-26, 2022

_____ \$100 Spouse Registration - Includes breakfasts, luncheon, breaks and receptions.

Spouse Name For Nametag: _____

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

LOCATION

The 29th Annual Water Conference will be conducted at the San Diego Mission Bay Resort located at:
1775 E Mission Bay Dr, San Diego, CA 92109

WILL YOU STAY AT THE SAN DIEGO MISSION BAY RESORT?

Please contact the hotel directly to reserve your room, we have a special conference rate of **\$210 per night plus tax**. To make your room reservations, call the San Diego Mission Bay Resort directly at **1-(877) 313-6645** and reference **Urban Water Institute**. Please note the cut-off date for the group rate is **July 20, 2022**. Reservations can also be made online at www.hilton.com.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION *(All Registrations Should Be Made In Advance)*

To pay by credit card visit our website www.urbanwater.com. You can register online and pay with a Visa, MasterCard or American Express. To pay by check, please complete the Registration Form and send it along with a check made payable to:

Urban Water Institute: 24651 Evereve Circle, Suite 1, Lake Forest, CA 92630.

After **August 19, 2022** registrations will be accepted at the door on a space available basis, with an additional \$25 administrative charge.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations must be received in writing by **July 24, 2022**. Faxes are accepted at **(949) 305-9919**. Registration fee will be refunded, less a \$50 administrative charge if received by **July 24, 2022**. Substitutes are accepted. **No refunds after July 24, 2022**. The Institute reserves the right to substitute announced speakers and assumes no responsibility for personal expenses.

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

Information on sponsoring may be obtained by calling (949) 679-9676 or can be found on the Urban Water Institute Website www.urbanwater.com.

MAIL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Urban Water Institute: 24651 Evereve Circle, Suite 1 • Lake Forest, CA 92630

Tax ID # 33-0578523

**For More Information Contact the Urban Water Institute
at (949) 679-9676 or stacy@urbanwater.com**