

CWWA Legislative Update

CTAWWA/CWWA Annual Meeting 2026



HOUSING & ZONING

S.B. 151: LAND USE & ZONING LIMITS

- Would have capped residential lot sizes at 5,000 sq ft where public water/sewer exist or are “planned”
- Limited setbacks to 10 ft (front/rear) and 5 ft (sides)
- Eliminated local authority to impose exterior dimension limits or lot coverage maximums

Status: Died in Senate 🦴



HOUSING & ZONING

H.B. 5288: UTILITY CONNECTIONS FOR ADUs

- Extends existing ADU utility-fee protections to private water utilities
- ADUs cannot be treated as new residential uses for connection or capacity fees
- Prohibits requiring separate utility connections for ADUs

Status: Signed by Governor 



HOUSING & ZONING

H.B. 5503 & 5507

- HB 5503 – Wastewater Capacity Reporting
- Would have required annual WPCA reporting to OPM
- **Status: Died in House** 🦴

- HB 5507 – ADU Revisions
- Eliminated municipal ADU opt-out
- Required preapproved ADU program
- **Status: Died in House** 🦴



HOUSING & ZONING

S.B. 335: Utility Charges for Tenants

Prohibits residential rental agreements from requiring that tenants pay for utilities if there is no separate meter used to measure utilities delivered exclusively to their dwelling unit. (Existing law also prohibits rental agreements from requiring that tenants pay a heat or utilities surcharge if these costs are otherwise included in the rental agreement.)

Status: Awaiting Governor signature 



LABOR

H.B. 5496: Workplace Violence Protections

Requires water utilities to undertake a risk assessment of the factors that may place employees who provide services directly to customers at risk of being a victim of violence and develop a training program to address safety issues.

Status: Died in Appropriations 🦴

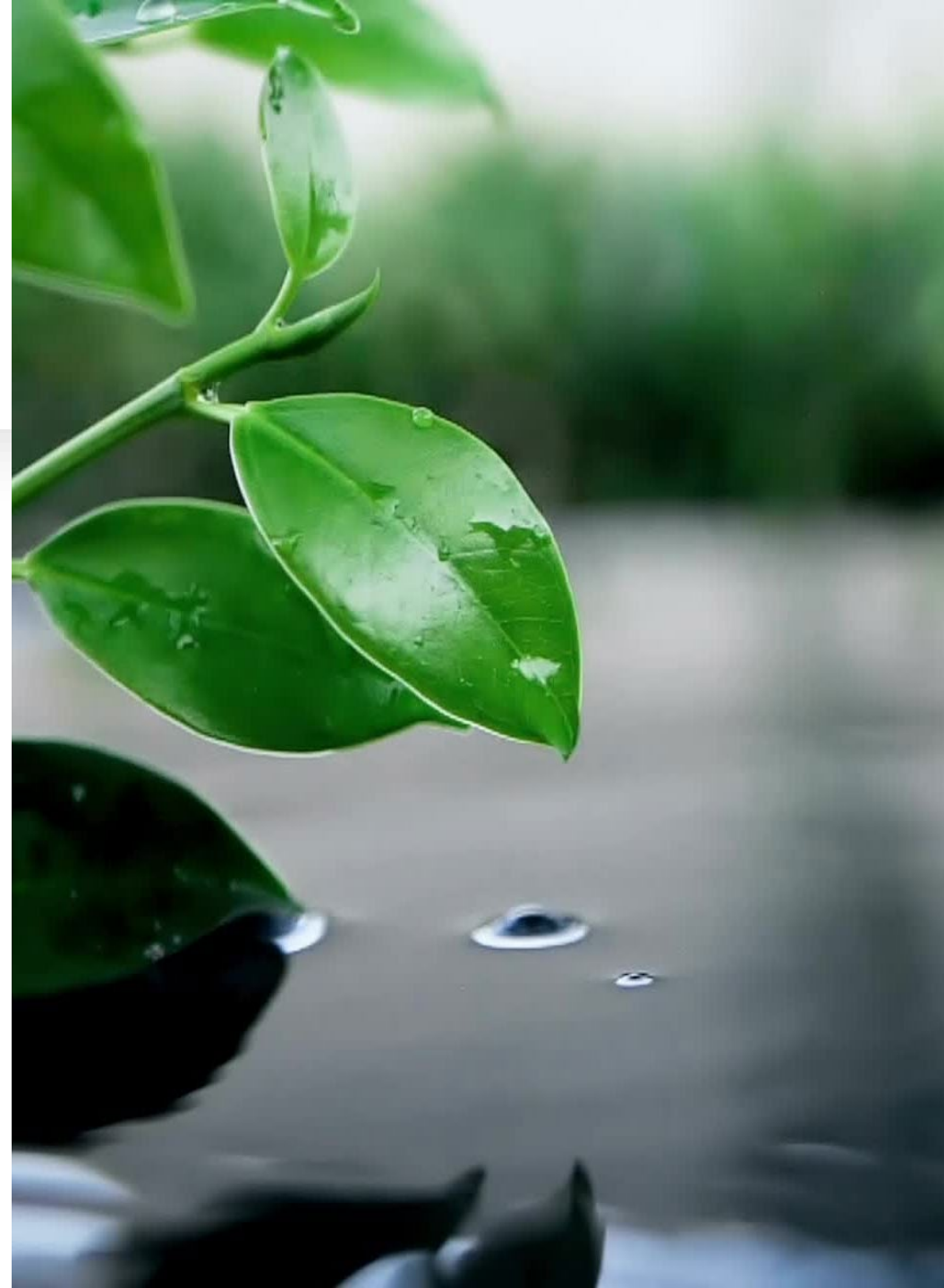


INVASIVE SPECIES

H.B. 5525

- Outlines certain rapid response actions and associated timeframes to eradicate, contain, or control hydrilla or other aquatic invasive plant species introduced into an ecosystem or waterbody, while the infestation remains localized.
- Requires the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station's Office of Aquatic Invasive Species, in consultation with DEEP, to develop a state rapid response plan for hydrilla.

Status: Awaiting the Governor's signature

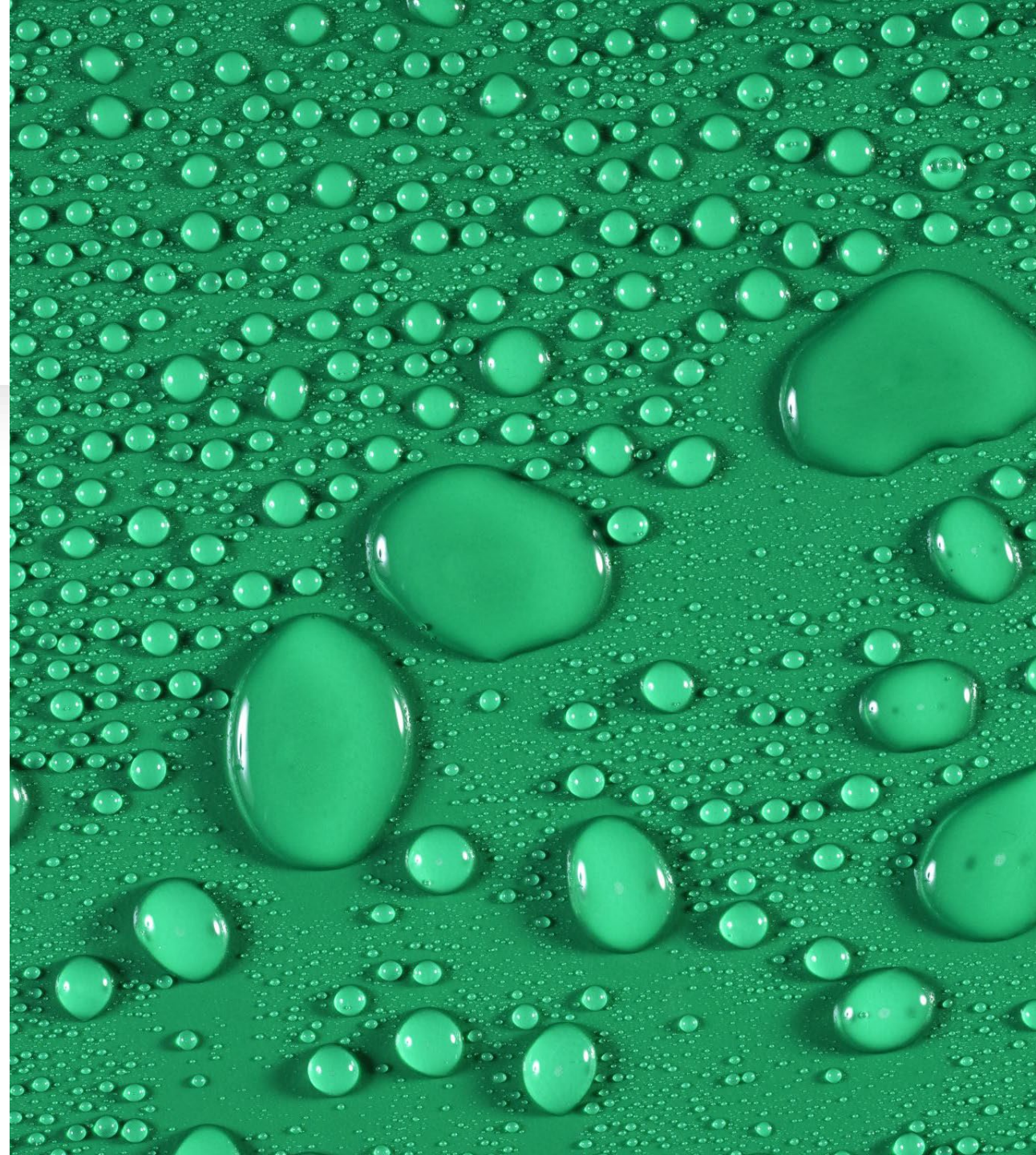


OPERATIONS

H.B. 5249: RWA Charter Amendment

The proposal sought to repeal portions of the RWA charter and overhaul the structure of the 11-member Authority Board by allocating six seats to the Aquarion Water Authority and five to the RWA. Substitute language proposed would also have placed the new AWA under PURA.

Status: Died in House 🏴‍☠️



CIVIL PENALTIES

S.B. 1, Section 185

- Authorizes DPH and its licensing boards and commissions after an administrative hearing to impose up to **\$25,000 per day in civil penalties** on any person who provides professional services without the required DPH license or certificate.
- Certified water operators and subsurface sewage system installers or cleaners are considered professional services for purposes of this law.

Status: Awaiting Governor's Signature ★





H.B. 5333: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF STRIPED BASS FISHING IN THE STATE

- **Creates working group** for the non-harvested species conservation program, including a water utility representative
- **Clarifies donation handling** for how program funds must be deposited and allocated
- **Revises DEEP petition process** for requiring safe and effective fish passages at non-FERC-regulated hydroelectric dams

Status: Awaiting Governor's Signature





RIPARIAN AREAS

H.B. 5334

- Requires DEEP to hire an employee to train inland wetland commissions regarding the importance of preserving riparian areas, the vegetated land near rivers and streams that helps reduce flooding, prevent erosion, protect drinking water, and filter toxins.

Status: Awaiting Governor's Signature ★

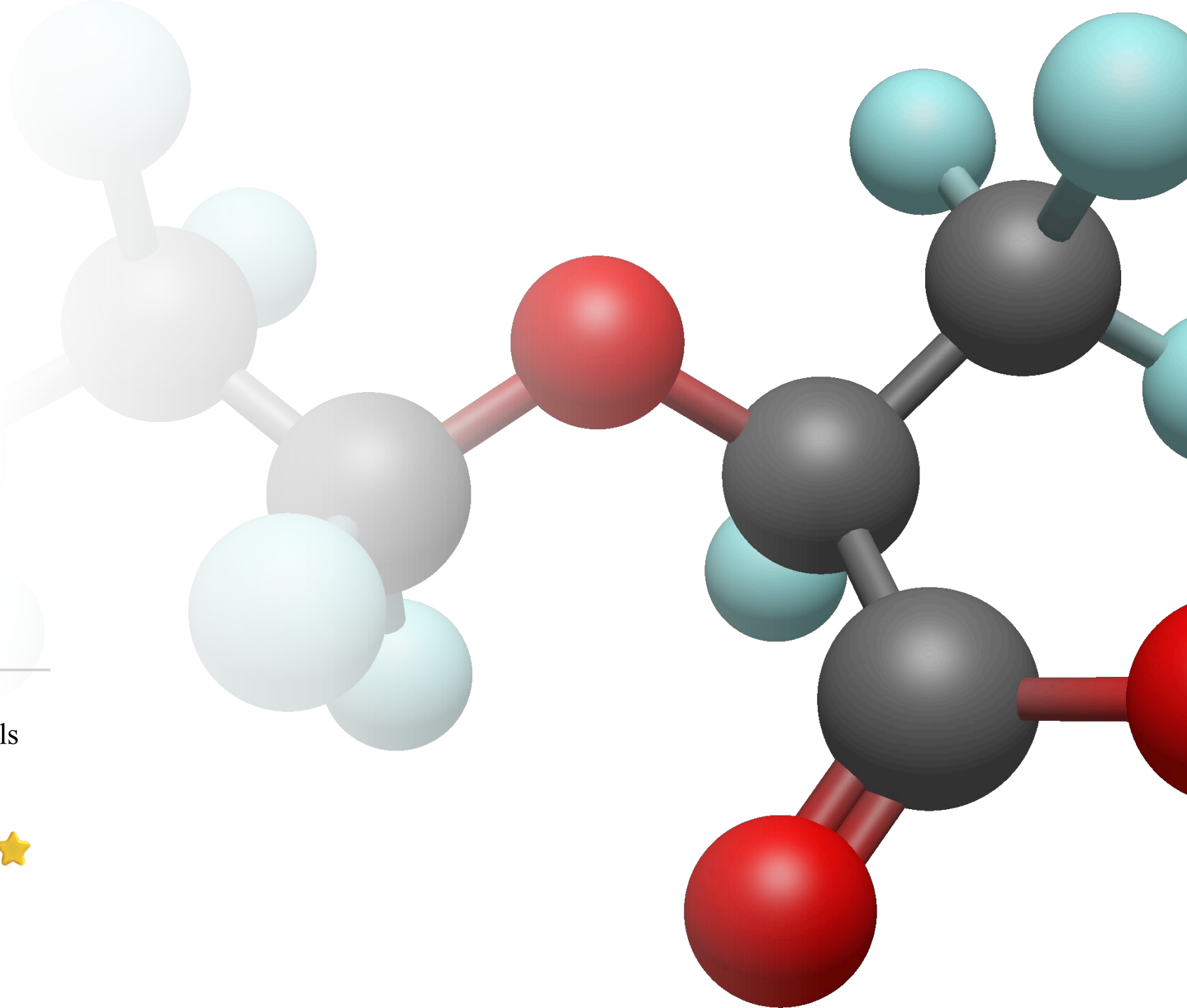




PFAS – Water Bottlers

- By law, water bottlers must annually collect water samples from each DPH-approved source and get them tested (before any water treatment) through an environmental laboratory for PFAS and other unregulated contaminants.
- HB-5518 specifically requires DPH to issue a schedule that lists PFAS and unregulated contaminants and the acceptable levels for each, based on levels in specified EPA regulations.

Status: Awaiting Governor's Signature ★



H.B. No. 5518: WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS

- Allows the Department of Public Health to certify apprentice operators for water treatment plants, water distribution systems, or small water systems.
- To qualify for certification under the bill, an applicant must (1) be a state Department of Labor (DOL)-registered apprentice who completed a DOL-approved apprenticeship for the applicable system type and (2) have passed a written exam (set in state regulations) after completing the apprenticeship.
- This does not change any existing water system operator training programs.

Status: Awaiting Governor's Signature 



ENCROACHMENT PERMITS

H.B. 5464: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **Would have required utilities to obtain CTDOT encroachment permits** for any work in the State Right of Way (SROW), even when utilities did **not** own the infrastructure or have a contract with the property owner
- **Expanded permit scope** due to SROW boundaries extending onto private property, capturing many **customer-owned curb stops, laterals, and service lines**
- **Shifted liability to utilities** for ensuring installation, paving, backfill, and other construction on privately owned infrastructure met CTDOT standards
- **Provisions removed by Transportation Committee** after significant concerns from utilities and stakeholders
- **CTDOT reportedly still requesting utility signatures** on encroachment permits, requiring continued monitoring and coordination
- **CWWA meeting with CTDOT to address ongoing concerns.**

H.B. No. 5153: AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RELATED STATUTES

- Revises DEEP statutes across multiple program areas
- Clarifies water discharge permits to include potable water system maintenance and sampling wastewater (e.g., tank draining, sampling points, leakage/bleed-off, hydrant flushing)
- Expands DEEP's general permit authority for activities with minimal environmental impact, with exclusions for major solid waste facilities
- Improves Open Space & Watershed Acquisition Program by resolving administrative issues and enabling faster conservation project closings

Status: Awaiting Governor's Signature 

DEEP's Proposed Comprehensive General Permit for Discharges to Surface Water & Ground Water

- Language in HB-5153 is intended to help address concerns regarding restrictions on hydrant flushing in proposed GP.
- Recognizing the cost and operational burdens that the proposed GP would place on water utilities and their customers, CWWA retained the law firm of Robinson + Cole and successfully petitioned for intervenor status.
- A public hearing on DEEP's proposed GP is scheduled for June 1, 2026, and an evidentiary hearing on June 8, 5:00 p.m.
- **Your Statements Needed!** This is a critical opportunity to weigh in regarding how the proposed GP would impact your water utility!
- CWWA will be sending out a template to assist you in submitting a statement outlining concerns with the proposed GP.

