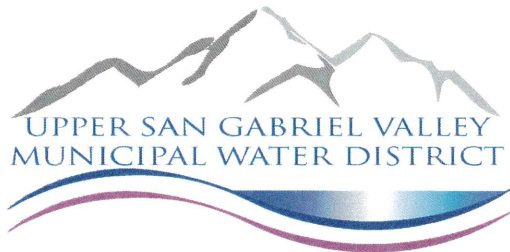


**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND
COMMUNITY OUTREACH
COMMITTEE MEETING
AND
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Monday, July 10, 2023
4:00 p.m.**

Committee Members:

Tony R. Fellow, Chair
Ed Chavez, Vice-Chair



248 E. Foothill Blvd, Room 103
Monrovia, CA 91016

(626) 443-2297
www.upperdistrict.org

*The Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee meeting is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to the Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee may attend and participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the Committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to the Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee will not vote on matters before the Committee.

Communications

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment

Discussion/Action

3. Legislative Update
 - a. Washington D.C.
 - b. Sacramento
4. Federal Bill Summaries and Positions
5. Consideration of a Contract with 789 Inc., for Public Relations Support

Oral Reports

6.

Other Matters

7.

Adjournment

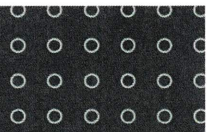
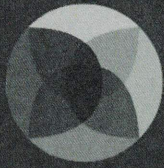
Next Meeting: Monday, September 11, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.



American Disabilities Act Compliance (*Government Code Section 54954.2(a)*)

To request special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Upper District office at (626) 443-2297 or venessa@usgvmwd.org at least 24 hours prior to meeting.





Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

June 29, 2023

John Freshman, Ana Schwab, Lowry Crook, and Samantha Sabol

Congress



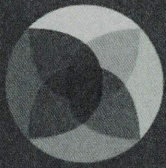
Congress Prioritizes Federal Spending Legislation

After a busy month of responding to financial spending priorities, including raising the debt ceiling before the June 5th deadline, continuing Congressional appropriations, and reviewing the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), both the House and Senate are out of session through the 4th of July holiday. Members of Congress have been working on legislation in D.C. for weeks straight, and will now take time to prioritize work within their respective Districts.

In the month of June, subcommittees within the House Appropriations Committee held hearings and markups on their budget bills for Fiscal Year 2024. Details on the Subcommittee on Energy and Water budget review are summarized below. Additionally, the House Armed Services Committee held all Subcommittee hearings and a full Committee markup on the NDAA. When the House and Senate return to Washington D.C. on July 10th, they will continue to review Congressional appropriations.

Members of Congress Send Letter to White House and Introduce Legislation to Expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

On May 25th, 2023, Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-CA-28) and Congressman Tony Cárdenas (D-CA-29) introduced H.R.3681, the San Gabriel Mountains Protection Act. The Senate companion bill was introduced by Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) as S. 1776, the Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act. These bills would expand the boundary of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument to include adjacent National Forest System Land. The new boundary encompasses 109,167 acres of federal land outlined in this map.



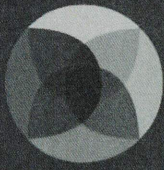
H.R. 3681 has been referred to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands. In the Senate, S. 1776 has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Additionally, on June 8th, 2023, Congresswoman Chu and Senator Padilla sent a letter on this issue to President Biden, Vice President Harris, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, and Council on Environmental Quality Chair Brenda Mallory. The letter requested that President Biden issue a presidential proclamation under the 1906 Antiquities Act to expand the boundary of the National Monument. The 1906 Antiquities Act gives the President authority to establish or expand national monuments within the jurisdiction of Federal lands, without Congressional approval. Senator Padilla and Congresswoman Chu requested that the President utilize this authority to expand the boundary of the Monument. The letter can be found [here](#).

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) Reintroduces Important Legislation to Improve Water Systems in California

Two bills have been introduced by Senator Feinstein that would upgrade water systems and restore San Joaquin Valley Canals. The first bill, S. 2202, the Restore Aging Infrastructure Now (RAIN) Act, will modernize the Bureau of Reclamation's aging canals and facilities to serve multiple purposes, including environmental benefits and providing drinking water to disadvantaged communities. It authorizes grant funding instead of loans for upgrading facilities that supply drinking water to these communities, and offers a 15 percent discount to agricultural and municipal irrigation districts participating in these projects. The bill could utilize \$3.2 billion from the bipartisan infrastructure law, going towards projects such as repairing the damaged Friant-Kern Canal, Delta-Mendota Canal, and federally owned section of the California Aqueduct in California. By improving these canals, California will become more resilient to drought, while enabling farmers to capture runoff from winter storms and recharge local aquifers.

The second piece of legislation introduced by the Senator is S.2162, the Support to Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture and Municipalities Act (STREAM) Act. This bill would improve water supply in the western United States through the authorization of \$750 million for storage, \$300 million for water recycling, \$150 million for desalination, and \$100 million for drinking water in disadvantaged communities. The funding would provide over one million additional acre-feet of water per year, benefiting millions of Californians. The bill would also provide financial incentives for storage and conveyance projects that promote environmental benefits and expand access to drinking water for disadvantaged



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communities. Furthermore, it would allocate funds for separate environmental restoration projects, including helping endangered species adapt to climate change, restoring stream and river channels, and creating seasonal habitat for migratory birds.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Introduces Draft Legislation on PFAS With Request for Public Comment

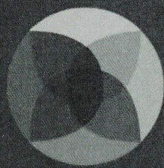
On June 22nd, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee introduced draft legislation on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and is accepting stakeholder comments through Monday, July 3rd, 2023. As it currently stands, the bill does not include protections for “passive receivers” of PFAS substances, including municipalities and water treatment facilities. A link to the bill can be found [here](#).

Important provisions of the bill:

- Sets a deadline of September 30th, 2024 for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to complete their rulemaking process to set water quality standards for PFAS substances.
- Within one year of enactment, requires the EPA to contract with the National Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to carry out a study regarding the use of PFAS in commerce.
- Allows states to use grant and funding opportunities from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 and the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 to remediate individual well contaminated with PFAS in small and disadvantaged communities.
- Mandates the EPA create a database of strategies to mediate PFAS contamination.
- Allocates additional funding for research and development regarding PFAS mitigation and prevention.
- Establishes emergency assistance through the EPA for tribes, and small or disadvantaged communities, to respond to PFAS contamination.

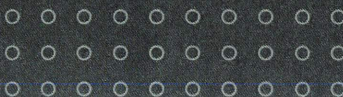
Senate Environment and Public Works, Fisheries, Water and Wildlife Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Water Affordability and Small System Assistance

On May 31st, 2023, the Senate EPW Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife, held a hearing to discuss water affordability in the United States, particularly for small water systems and disadvantaged communities. Witnesses included Kyle Jones, Legal and Policy Director for the Community Water Center, Rosemary Menard, Water Director for the



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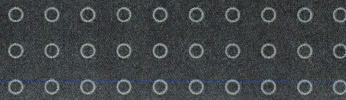
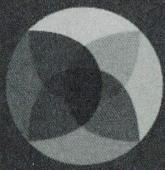
City of Santa Cruz, and Mark Pepper, Executive Director for the Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems.

Small, rural, and economically disadvantaged water systems around the United States are struggling to provide safe and affordable drinking water. Low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately affected, facing more costly rates and health risks. Small water systems across the country are also facing challenges in maintaining adequate employment numbers and accessing expert knowledge in the field. The lack of technical, managerial, and financial capabilities makes it difficult for these systems to navigate State Revolving Funds (SRF's). Personnel and energy costs represent the largest expenses for these facilities, and supply chain disruptions for chemicals and maintenance materials further compound the issue. Despite the allocation of vital funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, water systems nationwide are experiencing delays in receiving the necessary funding, aggravated by a shortage of supplies and engineers.

Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Director Menard both recognize the need for alternative approaches to cover the costs of small water systems. Currently, these systems rely solely on revenue from water bills and not taxation. However, finding viable solutions to support these systems and their ratepayers is essential. Consolidating small water systems is a potential solution discussed by Director Jones, but it presents challenges. Communities that have not worked together in the past may struggle to merge, and each community has competing needs and interests. Furthermore, the potential debt limit deal could result in funding cuts to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), leading to federal staffing issues that will trickle down to small water systems. These staffing issues will cause further delays and coordination problems when support is needed.

House Appropriations Committee Holds Hearing on FY24 Military Readiness, Including PFAS

On June 13th, the House Appropriations Committee held a full Committee markup on the FY24 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Bill. This appropriations bill addresses the critical needs of both the military and veteran communities, aiming to enhance infrastructure, provide quality healthcare services, and improve overall well-being. Notably, the bill acknowledges the significance of military construction and housing, emphasizing the importance of well-maintained facilities and housing for our service members.



In recent years, PFAS have become a more notable topic for the Department of Defense (DoD). As caretakers of these facilities, the DoD bears the responsibility of ensuring the well-being and safety of service members, their families, and other staff who frequent DoD bases and facilities. Failure to address this issue poses a dual threat, not only jeopardizing the current and future health of service members but also presenting a significant budgetary burden as they transition into veterans and require healthcare for the potential consequences of PFAS exposure during their service.

PFAS Issues

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN-4) raised concerns about the exclusion of dedicated funding for PFAS remediation. To be clear, PFAS will still be eligible for funding, but it will have to compete for general remediation funding. Furthermore, 239 Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) locations are conducting cleanup, with 49 percent of them requiring testing for PFAS contamination. This dedicated funding would not only improve the safety of our bases for service members, but would assist in the facilitation of technology to eliminate the threat of PFAS for other industries facing this issue as well.

House Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee Holds Markup on FY24 Appropriations Bill

On June 15th, 2023, House Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee held a markup of the FY24 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill. In the markup, there was minimal debate among members, and no amendments were proposed. The bill was subsequently reported to the full committee.

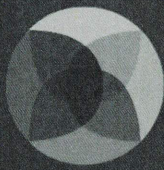
Title I, Corps of Engineers – Civil

The Corps of Engineers emerged as one of the major beneficiaries in this appropriations bill, securing a funding boost of \$910 million compared to FY23. Other changes within the bill included Section 109, which prohibited the Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States' of 2023 to have any effect. Section 112 also clarified that unspent Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds can be used for Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2018 projects, also stating that BIL projects becoming subject to BBA terms and conditions. The details of the funding changes are outlined below:

Investigations Funding

FY23 – \$172.5 million

FY24 – \$136.1 million



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Construction Funding

FY23 – \$1.8 billion (\$75.5 million from Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund)

FY24 – \$2.89 billion (\$74.1 million from Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund)

Operation and Maintenance Funding

FY23 – \$5.07 billion (\$2.22 billion from Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund)

FY24 – \$5.49 billion (\$2.69 billion from Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund)

Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies

FY23 – \$35 million

FY24 – \$40 million

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Account

FY23 – \$7.2 million

FY24 – \$5 million

Title II, Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation will receive \$1.693 billion in funding, which is \$392.4 million above the President’s Budget Request.. The key changes in this bill center around prioritizing projects that improve water supply and address drought concerns. A portion of the total funds will be designated for program activities that can be funded through the Reclamation Fund, supported by the Water Storage Enhancement Receipts account under Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN). Other portions of the funding under 43 U.S.C. 395 will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance for rural water projects, including planning, design, and construction. It establishes the framework for funding these projects, including the eligibility requirements, limitations, and procedures for the appropriation of funds. Specific funding changes are below:

Water and Related Resources

Upper Colorado River Basin Fund

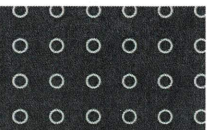
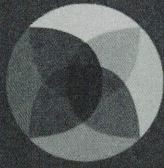
FY23 – \$22.16 million

FY24 – \$1.05 million

San Gabriel Restoration Fund

FY23 – \$10 million

FY24 – \$5 million



Federal Budget/Appropriations

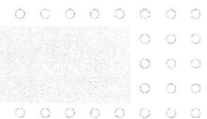


The House Continues to Prioritize FY24 Appropriations

House Appropriations Chairwoman Kay Granger (R-TX) on June 12th outlined the Committee's plans for Fiscal Year 2024 markups, starting this week with the consideration of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill, as well as the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill. Further full committee and subcommittee markups will be planned and announced in the coming weeks. Chairwoman Granger has openly shared her views and concerns on the need to address government spending to manage the national debt increase and impacts of inflation, which have caused difficulties for the nation.

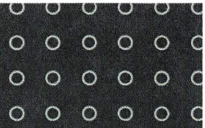
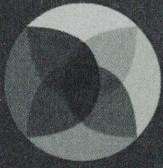
Chairwoman Granger has stated she intends to direct the Committee to limit new spending in appropriations bills to the Fiscal Year 2022 topline level, and take significant steps to bring actual spending levels in alignment with the \$1.59 trillion ceiling written into the debt ceiling law. This will all come under scrutiny once Senate Appropriators begin reviewing legislation, with Ranking Member Susan Collins (R-ME) stating last week she was surprised House Republicans are aiming to set certain spending limits below numbers established in the debt limit deal.

Funding Opportunities



Department of Energy

The Office of State and Local Energy Programs has opened the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. This opportunity aims to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency to state and local governments. The grant provides technical assistance to entities, which includes thorough planning and strategizing energy efficiency goals, and implementation of programs to incentivize and monitor efficiency goals. Applicants must submit a pre-award information sheet, which is due **July 31, 2023**. More information can be found [here](#).



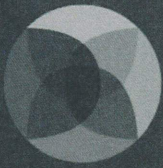
Bureau of Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation opened their WaterSMART: Water Conservation Field Services Program to support projects and technology that conserve water and work to mitigate the consequences of water shortages. This opportunity is open to states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority, that are located in the Lower Basin States, or the State of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The award ceiling is \$100,000 for any one entity. The application deadline is **October 13, 2023**. More information can be found [here](#).

The Bureau of Reclamation opened the WaterSMART: Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects opportunity. This grant will support the study, design, and implementation of restoration projects that improve the health and ecosystem for fish, wildlife, and aquatic habitats. Applications are due **January 24, 2023**. More information can be found [here](#).

Department of Interior

The Department of Interior published their Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance program through the Department of Fish and Wildlife Service. This opportunity will support implementation of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and support wildfire prevention strategies. The funding opportunity can be used for planning and implementation, strengthening already existing opportunities, and providing education and awareness of issues in rural areas. Applications are due **September 1, 2023**. More information can be found [here](#).



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July 7, 2023

TO: Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee, Upper San Gabriel
Valley Municipal Water District
FROM: Steve Baker
SUBJECT: July 10, 2023 Legislative Update

Leadership Change

After a tumultuous transition, Assemblymember Robert Rivas (D-Salinas) was sworn in as the 71st Speaker of the California State Assembly on June 30th. He replaces Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood), who has served as Assembly Speaker for a record seven years. Speaker Rivas has already made a variety of leadership and committee changes, with more to follow. We look forward to working with Speaker Rivas in his new role.

Budget Update

In June, the Legislature passed numerous budget bills, budget bill juniors, and budget trailer bills to enact the 2023-24 Fiscal Year Budget. The budget agreement includes a \$310 billion spending plan that legislative leaders say protects core programs and covers a \$30 billion-plus deficit without dipping into reserves. While most of the key budget issues have been agreed to for weeks, budget negotiations were delayed by the Governor's demands to include a sweeping infrastructure proposal that was particularly controversial. The final compromise narrows the types of projects that can take advantage of an expedited approval of permits, leaving out the water conveyance project as well as desalinization projects.

The budget includes hundreds of millions of dollars for a variety of water projects including money for PFAS cleanup, recycled water projects, dam safety, arrearage payments, and numerous other water projects.

Timing

Now that the Legislature has passed the budget, policy committees are working to pass bills before the July 14th deadline, whereby all bills need to pass out of policy committee before the Legislature takes a one-month summer break. The Legislature will reconvene on August 14th, when they will have one month to wrap up the session and consider all remaining bills.

Bills of Interest

- **Bond**

Bond discussions are heating up and we anticipate additional negotiations over the summer break on a climate/resources bond. We have been working with Metropolitan and Water Reuse on including \$1.8 billion for recycled water projects in whichever bond measure makes it on the 2024 ballot. There are numerous bills that have been introduced to provide the Legislature's priorities for bond funding. Those include:

AB 1567 (Garcia, D-Coachella Valley). This bill would provide a general obligation bond to go before the voters in March 2024 that would authorize \$4.1 billion for clean drinking water, flood protection, drought preparation, and wildfire prevention. The bill is in the Senate. Upper District is supporting the measure.

SB 867 (Allen, D-Santa Monica). The bill would provide \$15.5 billion general obligation bond to go before the voters in the November 2024 ballot to fund drought, flood and water resilience, and a variety of other natural resource related projects. The bill in the Assembly. Upper District is supporting the measure.

- **Water Rights**

There are numerous bills introduced that seek to enhance the Water Board's authority for dealing with curtailments and addressing water rights. Upper District is part of a broad coalition that opposes the bills because they deny senior water right holders due process and provide the Water Board overly broad authority. The water rights bills are among the most controversial bills in the Legislature.

AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan, D-Orinda). This bill grants the State Water Resources Control Board authority to issue interim relief orders to enforce the Reasonable Use Doctrine, Public Trust Doctrine, water rights and other provisions of water law. The bill increases penalties for violations from \$500 per day to \$10,000 per day, and \$2,500 per acre foot of water illegally diverted. Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan has agreed to make this a 2 Year Bill and continue working on issues. Upper District is opposed.

AB 1337 (Wicks, D-Oakland). This bill would expand the instances when the diversion or use of water is considered a trespass punishable as a crime. The bill is in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. Upper District is opposed.

SB 389 (Allen, D-Santa Monica). The bill would authorize the Water Board to investigate the diversion and use of water from water right holders to determine whether the diversion is based on appropriate water rights. This bill is in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. Upper District is opposed.

- **Turf Related Issues**

AB 1572 (Friedman, D-Glendale). This bill would direct state agencies to encourage and support the elimination of irrigation of non-functional turf with potable water. Upper District is concerned with the variance in definition of the facilities where non-functional turf would be prohibited. We are happy to report Assemblymember Friedman has agreed to accept our proposed amendment to exclude multifamily homes from the bill's provision. The bill is in the Senate. Upper District's position is Watch now that the amendments are included.

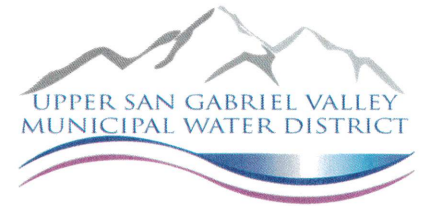
AB 1423 (Schiavo, D-San Fernando Valley). The bill would ban the use of PFAS in the manufacture of artificial turf. This bill is in the Senate Governance and Finance Committee. Upper District is watching this measure.

- **Water Planning**

SB 366 (Caballero, D-Merced) The bill requires the Department of Water Resources to establish a stakeholder advisory committee to expand to include tribes and environmental justice interests to develop a comprehensive plan for addressing the state's water needs and meeting specified water supply targets established by the bill for the purposes of the California Water Plan. The bill is in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. Upper District is in support.

SB:bb
2.068.23

MEMORANDUM



ITEM 4.

DATE: July 10, 2023
TO: Government and Community Affairs Committee and Board of Directors
FROM: General Manager
SUBJECT: Federal Legislative Summaries and Positions

RECOMMENDATION

Approve staff recommendation for federal legislative bill positions: H.R. 872 and H.R. 215, which are consistent with Upper District's 2023-24 Legislative Policy Principles adopted by the Board in January 2023.

Federal Bill Analysis

H.R. 872 (Calvert): Federally Integrated Species Health (FISH) Act

Introduced: 02/08/2023 **Location:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries

Summary: H.R. 872, authored by Congressman Ken Calvert of California, gives the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) the sole authority to protect endangered or threatened species that are anadromous species (species of fish that spawn in fresh or estuarine waters and that migrate to ocean waters) or catadromous species (species of fish that spawn in ocean waters and migrate to fresh or estuarine waters). Currently, the FWS shares this authority with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Analysis: This bill would consolidate the management and regulation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), with respect to anadromous species, within the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This would provide the government and stakeholders with a more uniform approach to managing threatened and endangered species. This bill is supported by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Association of California Water Agencies.

Staff Recommendation: Support

H.R. 215 (Valadao): Working to Advance Tangible and Effective Reforms (WATER) for California Act

Introduced: 01/09/2023 **Location:** 4/28/2023 - Committee on Natural Resources

Summary: H.R. 215, authored by Congressman David G. Valadao of California, focuses on streamlining operations for both the Central Valley Project (CVP) and the California State Water Project (SWP) by expanding water storage infrastructure, and increasing accountability.

Analysis: This bill promotes water conveyance through the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, consistent with the Endangered Species Act, and advances key surface water infrastructure projects. This bill would:

- Requires the Bureau of Reclamation to operate the CVP and SWP operate under 2019 Biological Opinions, which allowed the projects to be independently peer-reviewed.
- Ensures the CVP and SWP users receive the water they are allotted.
- Fund the Shasta Enlargement Project.

- Reauthorizes elements of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, including a surface water storage project program, and CVP and SWP coordination.

Staff Recommendation: Support

INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY

Staff is providing background on H.R. 3681. Staff will monitor its development and potential legislative or executive action.

H.R. 3681 (Chu): The San Gabriel Mountains Protection Act.

Introduced: 05/25/2023 **Location:** Referred to House Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Summary: This bill was introduced on May 25, 2023 by Congressman Judy Chu and 25 co-sponsors, including Congresswoman Grace Napolitano. A Senate companion bill was introduced by Senator Alex Padilla as *S. 1776, the Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act*, a package land preservation that includes identical companion language.

H.R. 3681 would expand the borders of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument to include the western Angeles National Forest and designate over 30,000 acres of protected wilderness and 45.5 miles of protected rivers in Southern California. *(see attached map)*

On June 8, 2023, Congressman Chu and Senator Padilla sent a letter to President Biden requesting the Administration expand the boundary of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by issuing a presidential proclamation under the *Antiquities Act of 1906*. The proposed designation would protect 109,167 acres of the San Gabriel Mountains' significant natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

Staff and BB&K will continue to monitor the developments of this bill and review language for water right protections in language pertaining to river designations. A full analysis will be presented at a future committee meeting.

//Attachments

Rep. Chu and Sen. Padilla Introduce Legislation to Expand San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, Protect More Wilderness in Southern California

May 25, 2023 [Press Release](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, Rep. Judy Chu (CA-28) introduced the [San Gabriel Mountains Protection Act](#). This bill would expand the borders of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument to include the western Angeles National Forest and designate over 30,000 acres of protected wilderness and 45.5 miles of protected rivers in Southern California. In the Senate, Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA) introduced Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act, a package that includes identical companion legislation to Rep. Chu's.

Los Angeles County is one of the most park-poor and pollution burdened regions in the United States. However, more than 15 million people live within a 90-minute drive of the San Gabriel Mountains, which provide Los Angeles residents 70 percent of their available open space and 30 percent of their drinking water. The San Gabriel Mountains also contain rich cultural, historical, and geological resources, and provide critical habitat for threatened and endangered species including the California condor, Nelson's bighorn sheep, and the Santa Ana sucker.

"The Los Angeles area is among the most park-poor regions of the country despite being blessed by gorgeous rivers, forests, and mountains of the San Gabriels right in our backyard. The San Gabriel Mountains provide a unique opportunity—particularly for minority and low-income families—to access the physical, mental, and educational benefits of nearby public lands," **said Rep. Chu**. "President Obama's National Monument designation increased access to and opportunities for learning and exploring in the mountains. This legislation would further protect the San Gabriel Mountains by preserving thousands of acres of land and water so more people now and in future generations can experience our area's unique gifts of nature."

In 2014, President Obama acted on Rep. Chu's call for permanent protection of the San Gabriel Mountains and declared 346,000 acres as a national monument. The monument designation has helped raise awareness of local recreational opportunities, promoted improved access, and encouraged greater availability of management resources, including enabling the U.S. Forest Service to leverage private-public partnerships to support the stewardship of the monument. The San Gabriel Mountains Protection Act is the next step in protecting and connecting critical public lands for over 15 million Americans. This legislation expands the monument by 109,167 acres, designates approximately 31,000 acres as new or expanded wilderness areas, and adds 45.5 miles to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

"Our public lands and natural spaces are one of our state's greatest gifts—from the San Gabriel Mountains, to the Carrizo Plain, to the Northern California Redwoods. It is incumbent upon us to be thoughtful stewards of these special places so that our communities can enjoy them and benefit from America's natural resources for generations to come," **said Senator Padilla**. "As we protect the environment, we must do so in a way that reverses racial and economic disparities in access to the outdoors, because our public lands belong to all Americans. Some of the protected land in this bill serves densely populated areas of the state that don't have access to nature, which will help rebalance this historic disparity."

"Thank you, Representative Chu, for advancing a decades-long vision to protect our San Gabriel Mountains," **said Belén Bernal, Executive Director of Nature for All Coalition**. "Adding lands to the national monument, designating more Wilderness areas, and protecting special rivers as Wild and Scenic are important next steps towards achieving this goal. Over 18 million people live within a 90 mile radius of the San Gabriels and depend on these places for access to nature, time outdoors with family and friends, and tribal rituals and ceremonies, as well as for activities like hiking, swimming, picnicking, and more. We are grateful for your ongoing leadership to ensure that more Angelenos, especially historically underrepresented communities, can enjoy access to these beloved places now and into the future."

Click [here](#) for the full text of the bill.

Click [here](#) to view a map of the land that will be impacted.

This bill is cosponsored by Reps. Grace Napolitano (CA-31), Adam Schiff (CA-30), Tony Cárdenas (CA-29), Linda T. Sánchez (CA-38), Salud Carbajal (CA-24), Nanette Diaz Barragán (CA-44), Jimmy Gomez (CA-34), Jared Huffman (CA-02), Ami Bera (CA-06), Julia Brownley (CA-26), Mark DeSaulnier (CA-10), Anna Eshoo (CA-16), John Garamendi (CA-08), Robert Garcia (CA-42), Sydney Kamlager-Dove (CA-37), Ro Khanna (CA-17), Barbara Lee (CA-12), Zoe Lofgren (CA-18), Kevin Mullin (CA-15), Katie Porter (CA-47), Brad Sherman (CA-32), Eric Swalwell (CA-14), Mark Takano (CA-39), Maxine Waters (CA-43), and Jerrold Nadler (NY-12).

Issues: [San Gabriel Mountains](#)

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Brenda Mallory
Chair
Council on Environmental Quality
730 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear President Biden, Vice President Harris, Secretary Vilsack, and Chair Mallory:

We write to request that you expand the boundary of California's San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by issuing a presidential proclamation under the *Antiquities Act of 1906*.

We have introduced the "San Gabriel Mountains Protection Act" (H.R. 3681) and the "Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act" (S. 1776) to include adjacent federally owned land within the boundary. We request that you make this designation to protect the 109,167 acres included in the map entitled "Proposed San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Expansion" and dated June 26, 2019¹. We also request that you visit the proposed designation and would be happy to host you for the visit.

Our legislation enjoys broad support from federal, state, and local officials, and was crafted in close coordination with affected communities and key stakeholders. The bill is the result of years of grassroots advocacy to bring greater protections and recreation opportunities to public lands adjacent to one of the largest population centers in the country, and it incorporates extensive feedback from local stakeholders, including the San Gabriel Valley Water Association, to ensure the designations do not impact water rights, utility infrastructure, or maintenance of facilities. The bill has also received support from over 30 local governments and elected officials, including the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, dozens of local businesses and organizations, and over 25 conservation and outdoor recreation organizations.

In February 2020 and February 2021, our bill passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support as part of the Protecting America's Wilderness Act. The bill again passed the House three separate times, in July 2020, September 2021, and July 2022, as amendments to the National Defense Authorization Acts. And in October 2021, the bill received a hearing in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. To date, we are not aware of any organized opposition to our

¹ USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region Geospatial Services. "Proposed San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Expansion" (June 26, 2019).

proposed national monument expansion. We would expect any *Antiquities Act* designation to enjoy equally broad support.

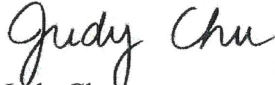
Los Angeles County is one of the most park-poor and pollution burdened regions in the United States. However, more than 15 million people live within a 90-minute drive of the San Gabriel Mountains, which provide Los Angeles residents 70 percent of their available open space and 30 percent of their drinking water.² The San Gabriel Mountains also contain rich cultural, historical, and geological resources, and provide critical habitat for threatened and endangered species including the California condor, Nelson's bighorn sheep, and the Santa Ana sucker. For many residents of this dense urban area, the San Gabriel Mountains provide a unique opportunity—particularly for minority and low-income families—to access the physical, mental, and educational benefits of nearby public lands.

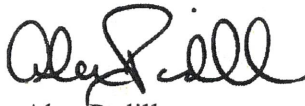
In recognition of the San Gabriel Mountains' significant natural, cultural, and recreational resources, President Barack Obama exercised his authority under the *Antiquities Act* in 2014 to protect approximately 346,177 acres of National Forest System land as the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.³ In addition to providing permanent protections for the area's unique natural and cultural resources, the monument designation has helped raise awareness of local recreational opportunities, promoted improved access, and encouraged greater availability of management resources, including enabling the U.S. Forest Service to leverage private-public partnerships to support the stewardship of the monument. However, this 2014 national monument designation omitted most of the western area of the Angeles National Forest.

Our legislation would build off more than two decades of grassroots work, recommendations from the National Park Service, and President Obama's national monument proclamation by expanding the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by 109,167 acres, in addition to also designating approximately 31,000 acres as new or expanded wilderness areas and adding 45.5 miles to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. These protections would increase public lands access and protect clean drinking water supplies for Los Angeles County, as well as enhance conservation of the area's rich cultural resources, unique geological features, critical wildlife habitat, and threatened and endangered wildlife. Expanding the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument would contribute to the Administration's goal under Executive Order 14008 of permanently conserving 30 percent of the United States by 2030, as well as the Administration's *America the Beautiful* initiative, which is intended to address the three interlocking crises of nature loss, climate change, and inequitable access to the outdoors.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you to permanently protect the San Gabriel Mountains and to hosting you for an in-person visit to the San Gabriels.

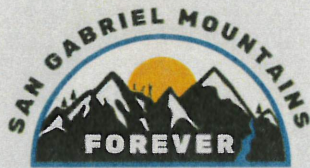
Sincerely,


Judy Chu
Member of Congress

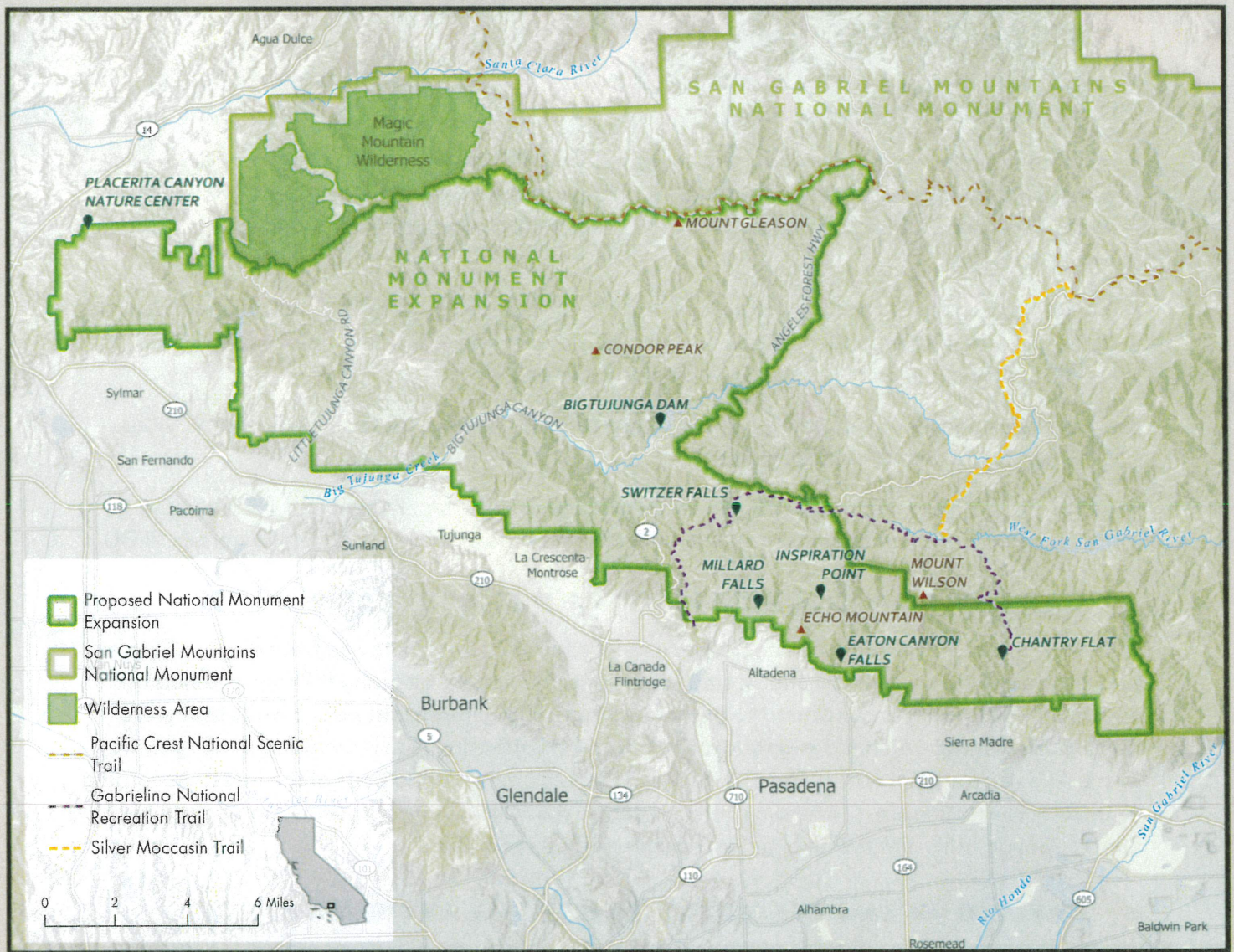

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

² U.S. Forest Service, San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (n.d.), <https://www.fs.usda.gov/visit/san-gabriel-mountains-national-monument>.

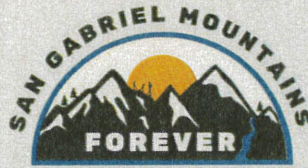
³ Proclamation No. 9194, 3 C.F.R. 9194 (2014)



MAP OF THE PROPOSED SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT EXPANSION



TAKE ACTION TO HELP EXPAND THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT
WWW.SANGABRIELMOUNTAINSFOREVER.ORG/TAKEACTION



OUR VISION TO EXPAND THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Elected officials, community leaders, and local residents in the Los Angeles region are joining Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Representative Judy Chu (CA-28) in calling on President Biden to **add 109,000 acres of public lands to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.**

BENEFITING COMMUNITIES, CLIMATE, AND PROTECTING CRITICAL WATER RESOURCES

Expanding the monument is the next step in a 20-year, locally-driven effort to protect the San Gabriel Mountains. This effort will help:

- Increase equitable access to nature and improve public health for over 18 million people who live within a 90-mile radius of the San Gabriel Mountains. These public lands are the backyard for many urban and culturally diverse communities that have limited access to green spaces in their neighborhoods.
- Honor the cultural and historical significance of the landscape. The stories of the original stewards of these lands, the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and Gabrieleño (also known as Kizh, Gabrielino, Tongva) Peoples, are part of this sacred place.
- Conserve a critical water source for Los Angeles County. The Angeles National Forest provides one-third of the county's drinking water.
- Address the climate and biodiversity crises by protecting important habitat and wildlife corridors and contributing to state and federal goals to conserve 30% of lands and coastal waters by 2030.

GROWING MOMENTUM TO PROTECT THE MOUNTAINS

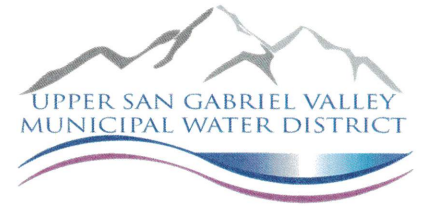
In 2014, President Obama designated approximately 346,177 acres of the San Gabriel Mountains as a national monument. This was a critical step towards permanently protecting the region. **Since then, community support has continued to grow for safeguarding important public lands that were not included in the original designation.** The proposed expansion area is considered the “gateway” to the Angeles National Forest and as a result is one of the most visited parts of the forest. According to the U.S. Forest Service, the national forest received 4.6 million visitors in 2021—more than the Grand Canyon or Yosemite National Park received in the same year.

CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT TO USE THE ANTIQUITIES ACT

Sen. Padilla and Rep. Chu are urging President Biden to use the Antiquities Act to expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and have introduced legislation to achieve this goal. The Antiquities Act is a 1906 law that grants U.S. presidents the ability to designate federal public lands, waters, and cultural and historical sites as national monuments with a Presidential Proclamation.

TAKE ACTION TO HELP EXPAND THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT
WWW.SANGABRIELMOUNTAINSFOREVER.ORG/TAKEACTION

MEMORANDUM



ITEM 5.

DATE: July 6, 2023
TO: Government Affairs & Community Outreach Committee
FROM: General Manager
SUBJECT: Contract with 789 Inc., for Public Relations Support Services

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to execute a new professional services agreement with 789 Inc., for public relations services for a one-year term ending on June 30, 2024, and with a not-to-exceed contract amount of \$66,900.00.

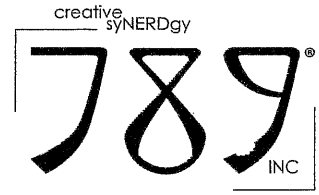
Background

In March of 2022, Upper District entered into a professional services agreement with 789 inc., under the General Manager's authority to assist in the development and production of Upper District's regional drought messaging campaign. The successful implementation of the "Thank U" messaging campaign not only raised awareness of the drought but challenged the consumer to value the water we drink by conserving and saving for future use. Additionally, the rollout of this campaign led to Upper District's largest advertising buy in its history, totaling \$100,000 of paid advertisements across the service area. The contract with 789inc., has since expired, however, the results of this innovative and unique campaign continue to be utilized today in paid advertisements, billboards, and social media.

In recent months, staff has strategized on conservation messaging following the above average rain and snow that fell across the state. Locally, the San Gabriel River Watershed and Groundwater Basin have benefitted from the recent winter storms as groundwater levels continue to increase. Additionally, discussions on creating a unified conservation message with our cities and retailers have resulted in a need to enhance the messaging campaign with an emphasis on conservation as a California way of life. Staff have also identified opportunities to give the agency a brand refresh by reviewing and updating the Upper District's website, social media, marketing materials and program fact sheets. Staff will provide the Board with updates on the new branding and messaging materials developed with 789 inc., at future Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee meetings.

Staff recommends the Board consider approval of a new contract with 789 Inc., for a one-year term with a not-to-exceed contract amount of \$66,900.

//ATTACHMENT



CONFIDENTIAL PROPOSAL/WORK ORDER

DATE 06 / 01 / 23
TO Patty Cortez, *Director of Government & Community Affairs*
 Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District | 602 Huntington Dr B, Monrovia, CA 91016
 626.443.2297 MAIN | 626.453.6630 CELL | patty@usgvmwd.org | usgvmwd.org

101 N. Citrus Ave. Suite 3C,
 Covina, CA 91723
 t. 626.339.4789
 e. dontbeshy@789inc.com
789inc.com

PROJECT BRANDING, MARKETING + CREATIVE SERVICES

Provide on-call creative services for **Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper SGV)** and position them as a leading authority and thought leader within the water industry. The brand strategy will be based on established goals, opportunities, determined deliverables, and general business structure. Focus will be on brand acquisition, retention and adoption. The strategy will leverage strengths, weakness, competition, opportunities, threats, and key activities to accomplish milestones. Some possible deliverables are listed below, but may be enhanced based on initial research, planning, and **Upper SGV** needs/goals.

GENERAL APPROACH

789's general approach begins with referencing, analyzing and digesting any provided research, data and content. We will work with **Upper SGV** to analyze and condense what we have discovered and turn that information into strategically engaging solutions that embody the **Upper SGV** brand. We will look for the appropriate and unique voice, brand pillars, and project goals to guide the project's success, and look for opportunities to position the district for optimal engagement and awareness.

GENERAL GOALS

- Develop and strengthen awareness to the local and surrounding communities in the SGV
- Create communication and promotional tools that reinforce brand qualities and USPs
- Create solutions to develop WOM, sharing, an engagement through social media and outreach campaign
- Develop and strengthen **Upper SGV** brand to position as a trusted and reliable water partner and resource
- Develop an overall brand through all points of points-of-contact
- Identify Opportunities to develop adoption activities and strengthen overall retention

Item	Description	Services
1	Brand Refinement, Positioning, Story Development	Concept Presentation, Finalize Brand, Logo, + Story
2	Experiential Materials (i.e. business cards, boards, brochures, etc.)	Design, Digital Files, Send to Print
3	Website Maintenance, Refresh, Management, Updates, etc.	Wireframe, Design, Development + Launch
4	Online Presence, Content Development, Social Media	Wireframe, Develop Initial Content, + Schedule
5	Introductory/Promotional Videos	Interview, Storyboard, 2-Day/Location Shoot, Editing, + Render
*	On-Call Creative Support (Interior, Signage, Posters, Flyers, Windows, etc.)	Copy, Design, Layout, Print Ready Files

PROJECT FEE SUMMARY:

Estimated Sub-Total: \$ 66,900.00

Monthly Hr Allocation: 50 (±5)

15% Concession *Applied*

Monthly Retainer: \$ 5,575.00

APPROVAL TO PROCEED

PRINT NAME	TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE



Signature of this work order is an 'okay to proceed' with work for the price above. All approved, completed, print/production ready designs will remain property of the client, this does not include working or layered files unless stated above. 789 has permission to showcase designs in their portfolio online and in print to promote its services. Tax and shipping is not included in above estimated price unless specified. All design work includes two revisions unless stated otherwise. Any additional revisions will be billed at 50% of the regular hourly rates. Prices are good for 1 month; costs may fluctuate after this period due to market rates. If project extends past contract period due to client conflicts/delays to the schedule, the agreement will be subject to an increased and renegotiated fee.