



Water/Energy Nexus: How Water Agencies Account for Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) Emissions

Background

In February 2019, the Commission received a [presentation](#) from The Climate Registry (TCR) on the draft protocols for measuring and tracking GHGs associated with the extraction, consumption, delivery, storage, and/or treatment of water, also known as the Water-Energy Nexus Registry Protocol. Required by [SB 1425](#) (Pavley, 2016), the protocols are a voluntary reporting program to build capacity for calculating carbon footprints in the water sector. The Water-Energy Nexus Registry will help document baselines and reductions in GHGs over time, support consistent communication about the GHG-intensity of delivered water, and promote achieving GHG emissions reductions.

The Water-Energy Nexus Registry Protocol was designed to be used in conjunction with the TCR's General Reporting Protocol for GHGs, and contains supplemental guidance to:

- quantify emission sources specific to the water sector;
- disclose supplemental water data alongside the emissions inventory; and
- develop and report relevant performance metrics.

Many water agencies are members of The Climate Registry and helped to develop the Water-Energy Nexus Registry Protocol. The Commission will hear from a panel of representatives from four water agencies—all of which participated in developing the Water-Energy Nexus Protocol—describing how their organizations measure, track, and account for GHG emissions.

Ghassan ALQaser, Department of Water Resources (DWR), Chief of the SWP Power and Risk Office (PARO), which is responsible for obtaining reliable, environmentally friendly, and competitively priced power resources and transmission services to operate the State Water Project (SWP). PARO develops and manages new and existing power resources such as renewable energy projects, highly efficient low-emitting natural gas plants, and long-term contracts needed for reliable SWP operations. Staff also quantify and report greenhouse gas emissions associated with the SWP and take actions to reduce these emissions.

Brad Coffey, Group Manager for Water Resource Management, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. In this role, he is responsible for planning and managing Metropolitan's

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imported and local water resource programs, advancing water-use efficiency and providing supply and demand forecasts for the region.

Dale Roberts, Principal Engineer, Sonoma County Water Agency, manages Sonoma Water's Energy Resources Group. He develops and implements projects to sustain the Sonoma Water's Carbon Free Water status by reducing energy demands and cost effectively procuring renewable power to meet the Water Agency's power needs.

Chris Dembiczak, Senior Environmental Health and Safety Specialist, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). Chris works to ensure that EBMUD meets permit requirements for air quality, water quality and wastewater discharges. He also compiles all the data provided to the Regional Water Quality Control Board, describing what is being discharged to the San Francisco Bay by EBMUD's wastewater treatment plant at the base of the Bay Bridge.

This is an informational item.

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