



## Water Resilience Portfolio

### Background

Governor's Executive Order N-10-19 (EO) directed the California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, and California Department of Food and Agriculture, to prepare a climate-resilient water portfolio. The order included direction to seek input on the portfolio. The Commission hosted two listening sessions in 2019 to gather input for the Portfolio and submitted recommendations to the Agency working group that prepared the Portfolio. The first listening session, held on June 19, 2019, explored the projected impacts of climate change to the state's water systems and what a State portfolio might contain or address. The second session, held on August 27, focused on California's institutional capacity to achieve a climate resilient water portfolio. The Commission's recommendations may be found [on the Commission's website](#).

The EO listed seven principles to be embodied in the portfolio, which include prioritizing a multi-benefit approach that:

- Utilizes natural infrastructure
- Embraces new technologies
- Encourages regional approaches among water users sharing a watershed
- Incorporates successful approaches from other regions
- Integrates investments, policies, and programs across state government
- Strengthens partnerships with local, federal and tribal governments, water agencies, irrigation districts, and other stakeholders

In January 2020, the three state agencies released the draft [Water Resilience Portfolio](#). It included more than 100 actions to be undertaken by state, local, and regional entities. Comments were accepted until February 7. The agencies will release the final Portfolio in the near future.

The Portfolio's goals and actions were organized into four categories:

1. Maintain and diversify water supplies—This set of actions will help secure water supplies in an uncertain future; it emphasizes fulfilling the human right to water, and encourages local and regional entities to diversify supplies;

2. Protect and enhance natural ecosystems—This set of actions includes restoring ecosystem functions with multi-benefit water projects and large-scale habitat restoration;
3. Build connections—This set of actions is intended to help increase physical connections and coordination between and among the decentralized elements of California’s water system; and
4. Be prepared—This set of actions focuses on shifting approaches to managing risks as our infrastructure ages and the climate warms.

The Commission was tasked with two actions:

- Under “Build Connections,” Action 19.4 directs the Water Commission to assess a state role in financing regional conveyance projects that could help meet needs in a changing climate and
- Under “Be Prepared,” Action 25.2 calls for the Commission to research and explore ways to provide flood insurance beyond the national program.

These actions have been incorporated into the Commission’s Strategic Plan, under Goal 1: “The Commission will serve as a primary public forum for the discussion of improving water management policy to assist regions in achieving climate resiliency, advise the Department, and inform the Governor and Legislature on selected statewide issues....” Commission staff is incorporating these tasks into the 2020 work plan.

The Secretary of Natural Resources, Wade Crowfoot, and/or Commission staff will describe the Portfolio and discuss the Commission’s role in implementation.

This is an informational item.

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