



## State Water Project Briefings: Storage and Conveyance Infrastructure

### **Introduction**

The third State Water Project (SWP) briefing of 2021 will continue to explore this year's theme of creating a resilient State Water Project by addressing climate change and aging infrastructure to provide multiple benefits for Californians. The Commission will receive three presentations: a briefing on asset management, an update on major SWP activities and budget for the coming year, and a briefing on dam safety.

### Asset Management

The SWP Division of Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Asset Management Program is responsible for developing and implementing asset management policies, strategies, and objectives for operations, maintenance, repair, and replacement of SWP equipment and infrastructure. Prioritization of capital and extraordinary O&M projects for the repair, refurbishment, and replacement of SWP infrastructure is a key component of the Asset Management Program. This presentation will provide an overview of how O&M uses risk to inform its annual project prioritization process.

### SWP Annual Budget, Multi-year Cost Planning, and Major SWP Activities

The State Water Project annually plans its budget for operation, maintenance, and environmental compliance costs. The process is a multi-year planning process which involves reviewing annual programs, extraordinary activities, and projection of the capital projects. Costs are allocated among the 29 SWP Contractors. This briefing will provide an overview of the annual SWP budget review and multi-year cost planning, and will highlight programs and O&M capital projects planned to secure reliable operation of the system.

### Dam Safety

Through the SWP Dam Safety Program, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) commits resources to ensure public safety and minimize risk associated with SWP dams and their appurtenant structures. The Dam Safety Program relies upon the commitment and engagement from all levels of DWR. In recent years, DWR has enhanced the program through a series of initiatives, including the incorporation of risk informed decision making, increased stakeholder and industry engagement, and formalization of program reviews. The Dam Safety Program has also advanced numerous studies and capital improvement projects to address aging dam infrastructure and new understandings in seismic and flood hazards. This presentation will provide an overview of the program's initiatives and key projects underway to further the resilience and safety of SWP dams.

### **Background**

The California State Water Project, consisting of 36 water storage facilities and 700 miles of rivers, pipelines, and canals, supplies water to 27 million people and irrigates 750,000 acres of farmland. The system includes 21 pumping plants, powered by a system of power-generation and power-recovery plants. DWR also operates the world's tallest water lift – the Edmonston Pumping Plant – which pumps water more than 1,900 feet up and over the Tehachapi Mountains into Southern California.

Goal Two of the Commission's Strategic Plan directs the Commission to remain apprised of the operations and construction activities of the State Water Project, focusing on how the SWP adapts and responds to hydrological extremes expected with climate change, restores critical ecosystems, and addresses aging infrastructure. As required by Water Code section 165, the Commission conducts an annual review on the progress of the construction and operation of the SWP and reports its findings and recommendations to the Department and the Legislature. This series of briefings will inform the Commission of SWP activities in preparation for the Commission's 2021 annual review.

### **Meeting Overview**

At the July meeting, SWP Deputy Director Ted Craddock will offer opening remarks. Division of Operations and Maintenance Manager David Duval will brief the Commission on the Asset Management Program. SWP Financial Manager Hong Lin will provide an overview of the annual SWP budget review and multi-year cost planning, and Mr. Duvall will highlight major capital projects and SWP activities. Dam Safety Services Manager David Sarkisian will brief the Commission on the Dam Safety Program.

The following stakeholders have been invited to comment and reflect on specific presentations:

- Eric Chapman, Deputy General Manager, State Water Contractors
- John Rowe, Superintendent III, Inland Empire/Perris Sector, California State Parks

This is an informational item.

### **Contact**

Paul Cambra  
Public Information Officer  
California Water Commission  
(916) 834-3177