



California Water Plan Update 2023

Introduction

At this meeting, representatives from the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Division of Planning will update the California Water Commission on DWR's progress developing the California Water Plan Update 2023. DWR last briefed the Commission on Update 2023 at its January 2022 meeting.

The California Water Plan, updated every five years, is the State's strategic plan to manage and develop water resources equitably for sustainability and resilience. Update 2023 focuses on climate resilience in California's watersheds across all water sectors, and expanding equitable access and distribution of benefits, impacts, risk, and investments of water projects. Update 2023 advances a statewide vision, and it includes a watershed resilience program with strategies and a toolkit, as well as indicators and metrics to track progress, sustainability, and resilience. A public review draft is scheduled for release in October with the final Update 2023 in early 2024.

The Water Resilience Portfolio (WRP) was released in July 2020, followed by the Water Supply Strategy (WSS) in August 2022, to guide Administration water initiatives considering climate change, extreme drought and flood events, rising temperatures, declining fish populations, groundwater overdraft, and other challenges. With the WRP and WSS as its cornerstone, Update 2023 provides an opportunity for aligning the implementation of WRP and WSS actions by State agencies and partners.

Implementing WRP and WSS actions for watershed resilience necessitates multi-agency collaboration and alignment among water sectors (flood, surface and groundwater supplies, water quality, ecosystems, etc.) and agencies. Collaborating on plans and initiatives that span multiple State agency missions and jurisdictions will:

- Enhance the alignment of water resource planning, policies, and priorities
- Identify opportunities for multi-benefit actions and investments
- Improve the effectiveness and outcomes of plans and actions

The Water Plan Team has facilitated several meetings with State agencies responsible for implementing WRP and WSS actions, including the California Water Commission (Core State Agency Team). The Water Plan Team has also held numerous meetings and workshops with a diverse Policy Advisory Committee, Tribal Advisory Committee, and others interested in the California Water Plan and its resource management strategies, statewide water balances, and future scenarios.

Background

Required by Water Code 10004, the Water Plan includes the status and trends of California's water-dependent natural resources; water supplies; and urban, agricultural, and environmental water demands for a range of past and future scenarios. The Water Plan also provides recommended actions to help move California into a more resilient water future. The plan cannot require or authorize specific actions but may guide legislative action to authorize funding or actions recommended in the plan.

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This agenda item is consistent with Goal One of the Commission’s Strategic Plan, which calls on the Commission to “serve as a primary public forum for the discussion of improving water management policy to assist regions in achieving climate resiliency ... including those actions of the Water Resilience Portfolio assigned to the Commission” by “gather[ing] information from individuals and organizations actively engaged in water policy and management issues, such as multi-benefit projects, healthy watersheds, green infrastructure, and improving water quality and availability in disadvantaged communities and by “conven[ing] panel discussions or presentations and invite public comment and discussion at Commission meetings.”

Meeting Overview

At this meeting, Kamyar Guivetchi, Manager, DWR Division of Planning, will update the Commission on progress made on the California Water Plan Update 2023.

This is an informational item.

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