



Update on Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI)

Introduction

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) is a conceptual framework that promotes the fair treatment and full participation of all people, especially in the workplace, including populations who have historically been underrepresented or subject to discrimination because of their background, identity, disability, etc. Governor Gavin Newsom has mandated that State agencies take steps to embed equity into their operations. Equity creates paths to equal outcomes for all Californians by recognizing that some people and communities have unequal starting points driven by different histories, historical treatment, circumstances, strengths, and needs. Through an equity approach, actions, policies, programs, and procedures are shaped to address unequal starting points and drive equal outcomes so all Californians may reach their full potential.

The California Water Commission (Commission) is committed to exploring and advancing equity as a core component of its JEDI work. Because the Commission's operations are nested within the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Commission's JEDI work is being rolled out in collaboration with DWR.

At this meeting, Bianca Seivers, Deputy Director of Special Initiatives at the Department of Water Resources, will provide an overview of equity and its application to work in natural resources in California and discuss DWR's JEDI-related actions. Laura Jensen, Assistant Executive Officer for the Commission, will then discuss JEDI activities within the Commission office, how those efforts align with DWR's actions, and opportunities for the Commission to further advance JEDI.

Background

Enhancing the JEDI work of the Commission will improve the Commission's ability to "explore water management issues from multiple perspectives," thus advancing the Commission's mission. JEDI work underpins all of the goals in the Commission's strategic plan, most notably Goal 1, which states that "the Commission will serve as a primary public forum for the discussion of improving water management policy" and includes the following objectives:

Produce publicly available reports, summaries, articles, and other meeting materials to educate and encourage the public to participate in Commission meetings.

Convene panel discussions or presentations and invite public comment and discussion at Commission meetings.

Agenda Item: 11

Meeting Date: August 16, 2023

Page 2

Conduct meetings or workshops in different locations throughout the state, as appropriate to the subject, to highlight projects or water management issues and engage the public.

Meeting Overview

Commissioners will hear presentations from DWR and Commission staff, take comments from the public, and then have an opportunity to ask discuss JEDI work at the Commission. This is an informational item.

Contact

Laura Jensen

Assistant Executive Officer

California Water Commission

916-820-5897