



## Update on Department of Water Resources Strategic Plan

### Introduction

Director of the Department of Water Resources (DWR), Karla Nemeth, will provide an overview of DWR's new strategic plan. The plan serves as a roadmap for optimizing the wise and equitable use of water in a changing climate, deepening the commitment to restore and enhance the environment, and expanding public safety and emergency response. Focused on the next five years, the plan identifies goals, objectives, and actions that are essential for DWR's success.

This strategic plan commits DWR to many bold goals and objectives that will demand integrated solutions across the water management sector. Integrating water management will require thinking bigger—on regional and watershed-level scales – as well as more deeply, to leverage finite public resources and build adaptive capacity for local communities. Implementing the strategic plan will require that State officials, partners, and members of the public work together to integrate and transform California water management.

### Background

The California Water Commission (Commission) traces its roots back to the mid-1950s, when the California State Legislature created the Department of Water Resources (Department). Today's Commission is guided by a mission statement that acknowledges the pressing issues of our time:

*Using its public forum, the California Water Commission explores water management issues from multiple perspectives and formulates recommendations to advise the Department of Water Resources, and as appropriate, the California Natural Resources Agency, the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve water planning and management in response to California's changing hydrology.*

Underpinning the Commission's mission statement are statutory authorities that give the Commission the responsibility to "confer with, advise, and make recommendations to the director [of the Department] with respect to any matters and subjects under his [her] jurisdiction."

With the release of DWR's 2023 strategic plan, the Commission has an opportunity to enhance its role as an advisor to the Director by aligning with and helping to advance the important work of the Department in ways that support the collaboration, innovation, and expediency necessary to meet today's challenges. The Commission's ability to serve as a neutral convener of experts and interested parties allows it to inform and guide the Department's activities, and

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its public forum offers a venue for increased transparency and accountability.

This briefing implements 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,” and Goal Three, which calls on the Commission to “carry[ing] out its statutory authorities associated with the Department of Water Resources to ensure that the Department’s decisions on key programs and activities are based on sound information and advance climate resiliency.”

**Meeting Overview**

At this meeting, Director Nemeth will introduce the new strategic plan. Deputy Director for Special Initiatives, Bianca Sievers, will provide more detail on the objectives within the strategic plan and Ted Craddock, Deputy Director of the State Water Project (SWP), will discuss the nexus between the plan and the SWP.

This is an informational item.

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