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California Water Plan Update 2023: Presentation of Final Product

Introduction

At this meeting, representatives from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Division of Planning will update the California Water Commission on the final <u>California Water Plan Update</u> <u>2023.</u> (Update 2023). DWR briefed the Commission on Update 2023 at its January 2022 and April 2023 meetings.

The California Water Plan, updated every five years, is the State's strategic plan for sustainably and equitably managing and developing water resources. To achieve its vision for California water, Update 2023 focuses on three intersecting themes -- addressing climate urgency, strengthening watershed resilience, and achieving equity in water management. Update 2023 can be used by water and resource managers in water districts, cities, counties, Tribal communities, and nongovernmental organizations to inform and guide the use and development of water resources for sustainability and resilience. More information is available in this newsrelease and fact sheet. A standalone version of Update 2023's executive summary is available for online review or downloading. The supporting documents describe the methodology, assumptions, data, estimates, and other information used to develop Update 2023, and include updates to 11 of the Water Plan's 30+ resource management strategies.

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.

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.

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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, Lew Moeller, California Water Plan Project Manager with DWR's Strategic Water Planning Branch, will brief the Commission on the final Update 2023 document and how it is being put into action.

This is an informational item.

Contact

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