



State Water Project Briefing: Construction and Operations Update

Agenda Item at a Glance

- The [State Water Project](#), called “SWP,” is a system of canals, pipelines, reservoirs, and hydroelectric power facilities that stores and delivers water throughout the State. It is managed and operated by the [Department of Water Resources](#), called “DWR.”
- This briefing will provide information on some SWP construction projects over the past year and a review of water year 2024 with a look ahead at water year 2025. “Water year” describes rain- and snowfall totals for the 12-month period from October 1 through September 30. California is currently in the beginning of water year 2025.
- This is an informational item, important to anyone interested in how DWR is managing the SWP. Every year, the Commission receives presentations from DWR about the SWP, then reports its findings and recommendations to DWR and the California Legislature.
- This is the last SWP briefing the Commission will receive in 2024.
- At this meeting, the Commission will receive information from staff at DWR. Tribes and the public will have an opportunity to make a comment to the Commission before the Commission discusses this agenda item.

Introduction

The final State Water Project (SWP) briefing of 2024 will consist of two topics: a review of the key construction activities undertaken in the past year to manage and maintain the SWP, and a review of water year 2024, which will include an outlook for water year 2025.

This briefing will inform the Commission about key construction activities undertaken in the past year to manage and maintain the SWP. The projects are occurring across a large portion of the state and include all major facility types – dams, canals, pipelines, pumping and generating plants. Dale Brown, SWP Division of Engineering Manager, will provide an overview of some projects that are in construction, and those that were completed in 2024. While the presentation is intended to provide a high-level overview of the current construction contracts, Mr. Brown will provide a more detailed look at the overall workflow through the view of a few specific projects. The presentation will also detail the internal improvement of construction documentation at DWR, highlighting the enhancements and improvements made that showcase DWR’s commitment to performing construction in a safe, reliable, and quality focused way.

Agenda Item: 13

Meeting Date: November 20, 2024

Page 2

DWR's State Climatologist, Dr. Mike Anderson., will provide a review of water year 2024, an outlook for water year 2025, and a progress update on DWR's efforts at forecast improvement and managing climate extremes.

Background

The California State Water Project consists of 36 water storage facilities and 700 miles of rivers, pipelines, and canals used to move water around the State. It supplies water to 27 million people with water 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 over the Tehachapi Mountains into Southern California. DWR manages the SWP to ensure adequate water supplies are available under various hydrologic and legal conditions while maintaining the project's operational flexibility.

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 DWR and the Legislature. This series of briefings will inform the Commission of SWP activities in preparation for the Commission's 2024 annual review.

Meeting Overview

At the November meeting, Deputy Director John Yarbrough will offer introductory remarks, and DWR staff will make presentations as described above. Interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the presentations before Commissioners discuss them. Commissioners will have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments in anticipation of producing findings and recommendations in the Commission's 2024 annual report on the SWP.

This is an informational item.

Contact

Paul Cambra

Public Information Officer

California Water Commission

(916) 873-5774