



<b>Water Supply Strategy: Overview and Update</b>
---

### **Agenda Item at a Glance**

- Climate change is making California hotter and drier, and it will continue to make California hotter and drier in the future. The Water Supply Strategy, called “the Strategy,” is the way that the State of California is making sure that Californians have enough water in the future.
- Making sure that California has enough water in the future is important for the people, businesses, cities, towns, farms, and plants and animals that need water to survive.
- This is an informational item, important to those who want to know what the State is doing to make sure that Californians have enough water to use in the future.
- At this meeting, staff from the Department of Water Resources, called “DWR,” and the State Water Resources Control Board, called “Water Board,” will present information to the Commission. Tribes and the public will have an opportunity to make comments to the Commission before the Commission discusses this agenda item.

### **Introduction**

Hotter and drier weather conditions spurred by climate change could reduce California’s water supply by up to 10% by the year 2040. In August 2022, the Newsom Administration released [California’s Water Supply Strategy – Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future](#) (the Strategy), which focuses on ways to increase water supply and adapt to more extreme weather patterns caused by climate change. The Strategy outlines priority actions and overarching goals that will protect state water supplies in a hotter and drier climate. The four overarching goals are to:

- Develop new water supplies;
- Expand water storage above and below ground;
- Reduce water demand; and
- Improve water forecasting, data, and management, including water rights modernization.

To achieve these overarching goals, the Strategy outlines targeted priority actions to implement and offset future water supply reductions due to climate change. These actions include:

- Creating storage space for up to 4 million acre-feet of water – including the projects in the Commission’s Water Storage Investment Program – which will allow California to capitalize on big storms when they do occur and store water for dry periods.
- Recycling and reusing at least 800,000 acre-feet of water per year by 2030, enabling better and safer use of wastewater currently discharged to the ocean.
- Freeing up 500,000 acre-feet of water through more efficient water use and conservation, helping make up for water loss due to climate change.
- Making new water available for use by capturing stormwater and desalinating ocean water and salty water in groundwater basins, diversifying supplies and making the most of high flows during storm events.

Achieving the Strategy's overarching goals will necessitate coordinated efforts and partnerships among State, regional, and local entities. A one-year progress report on the implementation of the Strategy has highlighted significant progress in implementing short-term actions to meet key priorities, while longer-term actions are in development or are well underway. Guided by the Strategy, work continues throughout the State to ensure California has the water it needs now and into the future.

This agenda item is an informational item for the Commission and the public on the Strategy, those short-term completed actions, and progress towards completing the long-term actions to achieve the goals and meet targets set forth in the Strategy.

### **Background**

One of Governor Newsom’s first executive orders from his first term was a directive to State agencies to formulate a water resilience portfolio to enhance the state’s water system in response to climate change and increasing water demands to meet the needs of California’s communities, economy, and environment through the 21st century. The [Water Resilience Portfolio](#) (Portfolio) described the condition of the state’s water resources, its uses and challenges, and it identified recommendations and implementation actions to secure California’s water future. Released in the wake of the 2020-2022 drought, the 2022 Strategy builds upon the 2020 Portfolio and calls for expedited action given the urgency of climate-driven changes. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) estimated in 2022 that hotter and drier weather could diminish California’s existing water supply by up to 10% by 2040. As temperatures rise, a larger portion of precipitation (and snowmelt) will be absorbed by dry soils, utilized by thirsty vegetation, and evaporated into the atmosphere, resulting in less water to meet the State’s needs.

This agenda item advances Goal Three of the Commission’s [Strategic Plan](#), which calls on the Commission to utilize its public forum to explore pressing water management issues. Objective 3.2 tasks the Commission with evaluating and discussing the progress toward implementing the Water Supply Strategy.

Agenda Item: 8

Meeting Date: June 18, 2025

Page 3

**Meeting Overview**

At the June meeting, Anthony Navasero, PE, Drought Coordinator with the Executive Division of DWR and Annalisa Kihara, PE, Assistant Deputy Director with the Division of Water Quality at the State Water Resources Control Board will provide an overview of the Water Supply Strategy and an update on its implementation. The Commission will hear public comment and have an opportunity to ask questions of the presenters to help the Commission and the public understand and evaluate the progress being made.

This is an informational item.

**Contact**

Laura Jensen

Executive Officer

California Water Commission

916-820-5897