



State Water Project Briefing: 2025 Budget Process and Operations Update
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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 California. It is managed and operated by the [Department of Water Resources](#), called “DWR.”
- This item will provide information about the SWP’s 2025 budget process and the current way that the SWP is being operated to manage water supplies.
- 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.
- At this meeting, the Commission will receive information from staff at DWR and others. Commissioners can ask questions of presenters and Commission staff. Tribes and the public will have an opportunity to make a comment to the Commission before the Commission discusses this agenda item.

Introduction

This State Water Project (SWP) briefing will focus on two goals in the SWP’s [5-year Strategic Plan](#): to accelerate adaptation and strengthen resiliency for a changing climate, and to optimize infrastructure, financial integrity, and operations.

DWR Deputy Director John Yarbrough will provide a brief update on subsidence and the Delivery Capability Report (DCR) Addendum, which analyzes how ongoing subsidence effects on the California Aqueduct will impact operation of the SWP. SWP Financial Manager Hong Lin will describe the SWP’s budget process and the calendar year 2025 budget. SWP Water Operations Manager Tracy Hinojosa will provide an update on current-year operations, including the current water year allocation, planning decisions made to date, current hydrology, and considerations for the rest of the year. Ray Stokes, Executive Director of the Central Coast Water Authority, one of 29 public water agencies who contract with DWR and pay all capital, operations, and maintenances costs of the SWP, will provide the State Water Contractor’s perspective on the annual SWP budget, cost pressures, and other budgetary considerations.

Background

The SWP, consisting of 36 water storage facilities and 700 miles of rivers, pipelines, and canals, supplies water to 27 million people and irrigates 750,000 acres of farmland. The system includes 21 pumping plants, powered by a system of power-generation and power-recovery plants. The SWP also operates the world's tallest water lift – the Edmonston Pumping Plant – which pumps water more than 1,900 feet up and over the Tehachapi Mountains into Southern California.

In 2024, the SWP released its risk-informed Strategic Plan that considers external risks to the continued operation of the SWP. Its goals include advancing an industry leading safety culture; being an employer of choice; accelerating adaptation and strengthening resiliency for a changing climate; promoting awareness of the SWP's significance; and optimizing infrastructure, financial integrity, and operations. Goal 5 of the Commission's [Strategic Plan](#) calls for the Commission to receive briefings on the SWP on an annual basis to improve the public's understanding of decision making within the SWP.

Meeting Overview

At the July meeting, the Commission will receive presentations from DWR staff and others on the budget and operations of the SWP. This information will inform the Commission's annual report to the legislature on the SWP.

This is an informational item.

Contact

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