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Commission Briefings Address How to Create a More Resilient State Water Project

The California Water Commission will host its third 2021 State Water Project (SWP) briefing at the July 21 meeting. The Commission will hear presentations on infrastructure management and how the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is creating a resilient State Water Project by addressing climate change and aging infrastructure to provide multiple benefits for Californians. The Commission will receive briefings on asset management, major SWP activities and the coming year's budget, and dam safety. The Commission has invited stakeholder commenters to reflect on these presentations, and invites public comment as well.

In addition to providing a water supply for more than 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland, the SWP's other benefits include flood control, power generation, fish and wildlife protection, and recreational opportunities. The SWP, the largest state-built water and power generator and delivery infrastructure in the nation, remains one of California's vital assets.

"The State Water Project is a vital component of California's infrastructure and has been key to the success of the state's economy," said State Water Project's Division of Operations and Maintenance Manager David Duval. "To ensure the SWP's reliability during climate change and into the next 50 years, DWR is moving forward with the development of an Asset Management Program that is based on International Standards best practices."

The California Water Code requires the Commission to conduct an annual review of the progress of the construction and operation of the SWP and to report its findings and recommendations to DWR and the Legislature. The Commission's focus is on how the SWP adapts and responds to hydrological extremes expected with climate change, restores critical ecosystems, and addresses aging infrastructure. The July briefing will inform the Commission in preparation for the 2021 annual review.

The Commission will host a final 2021 SWP briefing event as part of its September meeting, focusing on issues related to agriculture and the San Joaquin Valley.

The California Water Commission will conduct its July 21 meeting remotely. At the same time, the Commission remains committed to conducting its business in an open and transparent manner. To learn how you can comment, and to view the full agenda, visit cwcc.ca.gov/meetings.

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The nine-member California Water Commission uses its public forum to explore water management issues from multiple perspectives and to formulate recommendations to advise the director of the California 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. For more information regarding the California Water Commission visit cwc.ca.gov.