

Contact: Paul Cambra
(916) 873-5774
paul.cambra@cwcc.ca.gov

Exploring past, present, and future droughts in California

The California Water Commission will host a panel of experts to explore California droughts of the past, present, and future. This panel is an introduction to the Commission's work in support of [Water Resilience Portfolio](#) Action 26.3, through which the Commission will consider potential strategies to protect communities and fish and wildlife in the event of long-term drought. The panel will present climate science, water management, and water policy perspectives on the topic of droughts in California.

The panel will include John Abatzoglou, Associate Professor at the University of California, Merced School of Engineering; Jeanine Jones, Interstate Resources Manager and Drought Manager at the California Department of Water Resources (DWR); and Ellen Hanak, Vice President and Director of the Water Policy Center and Senior Fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California.

California Water Commission meeting

When: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 20

Where: California Natural Resources Building, 715 P Street, Sacramento, 95814

Info: (916) 873-5774, www.cwcc.ca.gov

The meeting will be live streamed at <https://www.water-ca.com/>.

To comment remotely, [Zoom](#) login information can be found on the [public participation guide](#).

Climate change is spurring drier and warmer conditions in California, leading to more frequent, more prolonged, and more intense droughts. A growing body of evidence shows that our current drought situation is an extension of the 2012–2016 drought, interrupted by just a few wet years. While other state agencies manage immediate drought response, the Secretaries for Natural Resources, Environmental Protection, and Food and Agriculture asked the Commission to develop a wide perspective on potential strategies for protecting communities and wildlife during sustained drought. The Commission proposes to accomplish this work by leading a thorough and inclusive public dialogue. The Commission will use the information gathered to help inform a white paper that will better position the State to manage severely constrained water supplies for the protection of communities and the environment. Throughout its process, the Commission will consider what is happening right now – in the midst of California's current drought – to help guide its investigation of how to manage prolonged drought conditions.

For more on the current drought situation, visit the [California Drought Action](#) water conditions, visit [California Water Watch](#) For more information on the Commission's work to develop strategies to protect communities and fish and wildlife in the event of drought lasting at least six years, visit cwcc.ca.gov/Water-Resilience-Portfolio.

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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.