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Exploring the impacts of droughts on communities and fish and wildlife species

The California Water Commission will host a panel of experts to explore the impacts of droughts on communities and species. This panel is a continuation of 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 academic, community-based, and environmental perspectives on the topic of droughts in California, focusing on drought impacts and possible tools for addressing impacts.

The panel will include Dr. Jay Lund, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UC Davis; Justine Massey, Policy Manager and Attorney at Community Water Center; and Melissa M. Rohde, Principal of Rohde Environmental Consulting, LLC.

California Water Commission meeting

When: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 16

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](#).

This panel builds on the information in the Commission's recently released document entitled [Long-term Drought in California: Overview and Global Context](#), which describes drought impacts and management in California and other drought-prone parts of the world. The document underscores the need to take bold steps to improve water management during drought, and to continue planning and preparing for drought in non-drought years. The information shared by panelists will advance the implementation of the Commission's [Long-term Drought Framework](#), which culminates in the production of a white paper with potential strategies for protecting communities and wildlife from drought impacts.

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. At the request of the Secretaries for Natural Resources, Environmental Protection, and Food and Agriculture, the Commission is leading a thorough and inclusive public dialogue to develop a wide perspective on potential strategies to manage severely constrained water supplies for the protection of communities and the wildlife.

The Commission's work on long-term drought complements Governor Newsom's [*California's Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future*](#), which is focused on preparing for the sustained impacts of a hotter and drier California. The Commission will focus on the periodic and disruptive challenges caused by long-term drought. Additionally, the Commission will look at strategies for protecting fish and wildlife species, a topic that is not addressed in the Water Supply Strategy. 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](#) website. To track the latest 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 cwc.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.