



AB 1755 Open Data Initiative

Background

The Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB 1755, signed by Governor Brown on September 23, 2016) directs the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (CWQMC) to improve the accessibility and usability of water and ecological data. The Act requires the agencies to create an integrated water data platform by September 1, 2019. The agencies must develop protocols for data sharing, documentation, quality control, public access, and promotion of open-source platforms and decision support tools related to water data.

To date, DWR and the agencies have released a [Fact Sheet](#), [Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan](#), and an [April 2018 Progress Report](#). The Progress Report includes an updated strategic plan, updates on protocols, supplemental information about use cases and their development, discussion of long-term governance and funding options, news about upcoming data challenges and testbed activities, a high-level look at interagency implementation planning, and opportunities for engagement.

The implementation approach is intended to build the relationships and investments necessary across State, federal, and Tribal agencies, and among stakeholders to assure that AB 1755 and the larger data vision will be sustainable over time. State agency staff and other stakeholders involved in AB 1755 implementation recognize the opportunity it affords to support greater data sharing and to enable California to address its numerous water management challenges through data-driven decision making. AB 1755 has catalyzed an initiative to strengthen State agency alignment, engage data providers and data users, promote partnerships, pool expertise and resources, and build a culture of open and transparent data exchange – all prerequisites for putting data to work to transform the way water is managed in California.

Christine McCready, Chief of DWR's Integrated Data and Analysis Branch, will brief the Commission on the status of AB 1755 implementation.

This is an informational item.

Contact

Jennifer Ruffolo
Assistant Executive Officer
California Water Commission
(916) 653-7937