

## **Six-Year Drought Draft Work Plan**

**Water Resilience Portfolio Action 26.3:** Develop strategies to protect communities and fish and wildlife in the event of drought lasting at least six years. (CNRA, CalEPA)

**Goal of Commission Process:** Gain a wide perspective on potential strategies for managing sustained drought and produce a guidance document for State agency consideration when developing a set of investments and policies that implementing Action 26.3.

**Timeline:** The timeline for this workplan is flexible in order to accommodate activities surrounding the current drought conditions. Commission staff will proceed with this work in coordination with CNRA and DWR, timing public interactions so as not to distract from ongoing drought messaging and actions. Upon initiating this workplan, staff will provide short term timelines to the Commission in advance of each step noted below.

### **Step 1. Research: Explore How Long-term Drought Has Been Managed Elsewhere & Align Effort with Current State Drought Work (Spring/Summer 2022)**

Goal: Engage representatives from other countries that have dealt with long-term drought (Australia, South Africa, Israel) to better understand how they approached and dealt with the issue, the challenges they faced and lessons they learned, and apply that information to California's context. Engage staff at State agencies to understand the existing drought strategies, plans, and actions and current contingencies for a longer drought. Review relevant resources on long-term drought. Use this information to develop a framework for conducting on-going conversations on this topic without disrupting immediate drought response efforts.

### **Step 2. Outreach: Engage Stakeholders, Experts, and the Public to Explore Potential Strategies for Managing Drought in California (Summer 2022-Spring 2023)**

Goal: Drawing on the framework developed in Step 1, engage experts, key stakeholders, and the public to develop a comprehensive understanding of the ways in which communities and fish and wildlife are likely to be impacted by long-term drought; the tools available to federal, state, and local land and water managers during times of drought; and ideas for managing long-term drought in California. Capture projected challenges to fish and wildlife and to communities and possible strategies to address each challenge.

### **Step 3. Record: Develop White Paper (2023)**

Goal: Using the information gathered in Steps 1 and 2, develop a white paper that describes a set of suggested strategies for State agencies to use to protect communities and fish and wildlife in the event of drought lasting at least six years.