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Commission briefings address planning, operations, and construction activities underway in the State Water Project

The California Water Commission will host the third State Water Project (SWP) briefing of 2023. The Commission will receive two presentations: an update on SWP planning and operations, followed by an overview of key construction activities undertaken in the past year to manage and maintain the SWP.

California Water Commission meeting

When: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 18

Where: Warren-Alquist State Energy Building, 1516 9th Street, Sacramento

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](#).

Water Year 2023 began with well below average surface storage due to the preceding three years of drought conditions. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) implemented a planning approach in anticipation of continued dry conditions. This briefing will describe how conditions took a significant turn in January: A series of atmospheric rivers and cold storms resulted in surface storage improvement, above-average precipitation, record-setting snowpack, and very high flows in the Bay-Delta. These conditions all contributed to a 100-percent SWP water supply allocation for last water year, the first since 2006.

Construction and refurbishment projects occurred across the entire length of the SWP in 2023, including all major facility types – dams, canals, pipelines, pumping and generating plants. These projects help ensure that the SWP will meet the challenges of the 21st century, especially the increased potential for extreme heat and precipitation.

“To be ready for uncertain impacts of the changing climate, DWR is managing the State Water Project assets to ensure they are reliable, sustainable, and resilient for all Californians and the environment during extreme weather events like droughts or floods,” said John Yarbrough, Assistant State Water Project Deputy Director.

Planned, constructed, and operated by DWR, the SWP is the largest state-built water and power generator and delivery infrastructure in the nation, providing a water supply for more than 27

million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland, as well as flood control, power generation, fish and wildlife protection, and recreational opportunities. Since its inception in 1960, the role of the SWP has become more critical than ever and will continue to be important for supplying water for urban areas, agriculture, and ecosystems.

Pursuant to Water Code section 165, the Commission conducts an annual review of the progress of the construction and operation of the SWP, focusing on how the SWP adapts and responds to hydrological extremes expected with climate change, restores critical ecosystems, and addresses aging infrastructure. The Commission reports its findings and recommendations to DWR and the Legislature. This briefing will serve to inform the Commission in preparation for the 2023 annual review.

The California Water Commission meeting will take place in the Warren-Alquist State Energy Building, Rosenfeld Hearing Room, 1516 9th Street, in Sacramento. For those unable to attend in person, learn how you can comment remotely at cwc.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. As required by Water Code section 165, the Commission conducts an annual review of the construction and operation of the State Water Project. For more information regarding the California Water Commission visit cwc.ca.gov.