

California Water Commission

STRATEGIC PLAN

January 2020

Mission Statement

Using its public forum, the California Water Commission explores water management issues from multiple perspectives and formulates recommendations to advise the Department of Water Resources (Department), 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.



Strategic Plan Goal 1

The Commission will serve as a primary public forum for the discussion of improving water management policy to assist regions in achieving climate resiliency, advise the Department, and inform the Governor and Legislature on selected statewide issues.



Goal 1 Objectives

1. Carry out actions of the Water Resilience Portfolio assigned to the Commission - assess the state's role in financing regional conveyance projects and research ways to provide flood insurance beyond the national flood insurance program;
2. Promote multi-benefit projects, healthy watersheds, and efforts to improve the quality and availability of water for disadvantaged communities;
3. Promote development of state policies to address the economic and land use issues associated with implementing sustainable groundwater management plans;
4. Explore the use of green infrastructure and potential for expanding use of green infrastructure projects to meet resiliency and sustainability objectives; and
5. Consider alternative approaches to water planning at the state, regional, and local levels to achieve climate resiliency.

Strategic Plan Goal 2

The Commission will carry out its statutory responsibilities associated with the State Water Project.



Goal 2 Objectives

1. Coordinate with the Department to remain apprised of the operations and construction activities of the State Water Project, focusing on how the SWP adapts and responds to hydrological extremes expected with climate change, restores critical ecosystems, and addresses aging infrastructure;
2. Coordinate with the Department to enhance public engagement for the new Delta Conveyance Project; and
3. Monitor the Department's efforts to address aging infrastructure through implementation of the asset management program, utilizing gray and green infrastructure.

Strategic Plan Goal 3

The Commission will carry out its statutory authorities associated with the Department of Water Resources to ensure that the Department's decisions on key programs and activities are based on sound information and advance climate resiliency.



Goal 3 Objectives

1. Review, consider, and approve, as appropriate, all regulations by the Department, and provide public participation in the rulemaking process;
2. Coordinate with the Department and the Delta Stewardship Council to ensure the priority areas for the Department's Delta Special Projects Program for flood control funding reflect the most pressing flood risks in the Delta; and
3. Ensure that any of the Department's eminent domain proceedings are necessary and meet the standards specified in Civil Code 1245.230 by following the Commission's procedures for Resolutions of Necessity and Eminent Domain (revised February 20, 2013).

Strategic Plan Goal 4

The Commission will carry out its statutory responsibilities for the Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program.



Goal 4 Objectives

1. Keep the public apprised of applicants' progress toward final funding hearings;
2. Determine whether a project continues to be eligible and complies with the statutory deadline of January 1, 2022;
3. Review draft contracts for the administration of public benefits developed by administering agencies (Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Water Resources Control Board);
4. Visit project locations, as appropriate;
5. Make final funding decisions; and
6. Monitor the public benefits received after projects begin operating, as well as adaptive management actions taken to ensure public benefits materialize.

Strategic Plan Goal 5

The Commission, in coordination with the Administration, will determine whether there is a need to reactivate its role of advocating for federal funding for flood risk reduction.

Goal 5 Objectives

1. Determine Commission role;
2. Develop annual work plan for advocacy; identify needed changes to staff and budget to implement plan; and pursue Budget Change Proposal if necessary; and
3. Implement work plan, engaging to the extent feasible with existing staff and resources.