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California Water Commission public workshops to focus on conveyance needs, funding options

In coming months, the California Water Commission will conduct a series of public workshops to explore the state's role in funding water conveyance projects. Governor Newsom's [Water Resilience Portfolio](#), released in July, directs the Commission to assess a state role in financing conveyance projects that could help meet needs in a changing climate.

Many California water conveyance structures are aging, damaged by subsidence, and in need of repair. Adapting to climate change will require improved and new connections designed for different purposes than our historic infrastructure. As directed by the Water Resilience Portfolio, the Commission proposes to produce a white paper for state policymakers that will describe characteristics of resilient water conveyance projects that meet the needs of a changing climate, the potential public benefits of such projects, and the implications of various financing options. The paper will focus on conveyance other than the pending proposal to improve State Water Project conveyance through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Commission staff has interviewed stakeholders representing the water industry, agriculture, environmental groups, under-represented communities, academia, and other interests to help frame the discussion of the role conveyance may play in strengthening the ability of regions to withstand drought, flood, warmer average temperatures, and changing precipitation patterns.

To continue the conversation, the Commission seeks public input through a series of virtual workshops that focus on specific regions of California. Participants from each region are encouraged to discuss conveyance infrastructure needs, a potential state role in funding such infrastructure, and potential sources of financing.

The Commission will use the information gathered at the regional workshops to help formulate a policy paper with recommendations on a state role in financing climate-resilient conveyance. The draft paper will be available for public comment before it is finalized and presented to the Administration in mid-2021. A complete schedule and details on how to take part in the workshops will be posted at a later date.

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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.