



Water Resilience Portfolio

Background

On July 28, 2020, the California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture issued the final [Water Resilience Portfolio](#) (portfolio) in response to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-10-19, which calls for a “set of actions to meet California water needs through the 21st century.” The portfolio outlines a broad suite of actions designed to move the state toward water resilience by:

- Utilizing natural infrastructure
- Embracing new technologies
- Encouraging regional approaches among water users sharing a watershed
- Incorporating successful approaches from other regions
- Integrating investments, policies, and programs across state government
- Strengthening partnerships with local, federal and tribal governments, water agencies, irrigation districts, and other stakeholders

The Portfolio’s goals and actions are organized into five categories:

1. Maintain and diversify water supplies—This set of actions will help secure water supplies in an uncertain future; it emphasizes fulfilling the human right to water and encourages local and regional entities to diversify supplies.
2. Protect and enhance natural systems—This set of actions includes restoring ecosystem functions with multi-benefit water projects and large-scale habitat restoration.
3. Build connections—This set of actions is intended to help increase physical connections and coordination between and among the decentralized elements of California’s water system.
4. Be prepared—This set of actions focuses on shifting approaches to managing risks as our infrastructure ages and the climate warms.
5. Executing this portfolio – This set of actions focuses on position the state as a collaboration hub across all levels of government.

The portfolio calls on the Commission to fulfill two actions.

1. Under “Build Connections,” Action 19.4 directs the Water Commission to assess a state role in financing conveyance projects that could help meet needs in a changing climate.

2. Under “Be Prepared,” Action 25.2 calls for the Commission to review state, federal, and local permitting processes for flood risk reduction projects and operations and maintenance and recommend ways to improve permitting processes.

These actions have been incorporated into the Commission’s Strategic Plan, under Goal 1: “To serve as a primary public forum for the discussion of improving water management policy to assist regions in achieving climate resiliency...including those actions of the Water Resilience Portfolio assigned to the Commission.”

Meeting Overview

This informational agenda item will include a presentation of the Governor’s final Water Resilience Portfolio and the action items related to the Commission. Nancy Vogel, Director of the Governor’s Water Portfolio Program, will update the Commission on the final portfolio. Commission staff will present a workplan for implementing Action 19.4 and next steps for Action 25.2. Kristopher Tjernell, Deputy Director of the Integrated Watershed Management Program at the Department of Water Resources (DWR), will discuss the implementation of Action 19.3, which calls on DWR to conduct a feasibility analysis for improved and expanded capacity of federal, state, and local conveyance facilities to enhance water transfers and water markets given climate change projections of hydrologic conditions.

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