

**From:** [Mark Smith](#)  
**To:** [Jensen, Laura@DWR](#); [Yun, Joseph@DWR](#)  
**Cc:** [Vincent Lucchesi](#); [Ellen Wehr](#); [Ric Ortega](#); [Mark Smith](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on California Water Commission - Draft white paper includes preliminary findings, conclusions on State's role in financing conveyance needs  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 5:24:13 PM

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Joe, Laura,

I wanted you to also receive this feedback on the CWC draft white paper related to refuge benefits directly. Please see Ellen Wehr's comments below.

Of additional note: 2/3rds of the critical and necessary habitat in the State of California to support migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and 400 other wetland dependent species (including some T&E species) is found on private lands. Most of these lands are under permanent conservation easements and protected in perpetuity. Many are managed in the exact same manner as public lands, and receive water from the same sources.

You may recall our conversation earlier this year with Patterson Irrigation District, and the benefits a multi-benefit conveyance project like that would have to refuges and wildlife areas. That includes the comprehensive footprint of wetlands in the SJ Valley, which work cooperatively to meet our state's ecosystem needs.

Thank you!

Mark

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Mark Smith  
Smith Policy Group  
916-335-5072

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**From:** Ellen Wehr <[ewehr@gwdwater.org](mailto:ewehr@gwdwater.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 2:06 PM  
**To:** [paul.cambra@cwc.ca.gov](mailto:paul.cambra@cwc.ca.gov)  
**Cc:** Ric Ortega <[rortega@gwdwater.org](mailto:rortega@gwdwater.org)>; Mark Smith ([mark@smithpolicygroup.com](mailto:mark@smithpolicygroup.com))  
<[mark@smithpolicygroup.com](mailto:mark@smithpolicygroup.com)>  
**Subject:** Comments on California Water Commission - Draft white paper includes preliminary findings, conclusions on State's role in financing conveyance needs

Mr. Cambra,

Please accept this minor comment on the Draft white paper. Would you mind responding and letting me know you received this?

Section 5.3 on page 15 states: "Specifically, the Commission finds that there is a need to deliver water to federal wildlife refuges and state wildlife areas."

Grassland Resource Conservation District is a CVPIA refuge that provides refuge water supplies to wetland habitats in the same fashion as federal wildlife refuges and state wildlife areas. The wetlands are held under long-term conservation easements for habitat with USFWS and the State. The CWC has conditionally awarded funding to new water storage projects under its WSIP program for refuge water deliveries to the GRCD and other refuges.

To be inclusive, we recommend changing the text of Section 5.3: "Specifically, the Commission finds that there is a need to deliver water to designated federal wildlife refuges and state wildlife areas."

We greatly appreciate that refuges are included in the white paper. Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Thank you,

Ellen Wehr  
Grassland Water District  
(916) 873-2020  
[ewehr@gwdwater.org](mailto:ewehr@gwdwater.org)

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**From:** Jensen, Laura@DWR <[Laura.Jensen@water.ca.gov](mailto:Laura.Jensen@water.ca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 1:21 PM  
**To:** Jensen, Laura@DWR <[Laura.Jensen@water.ca.gov](mailto:Laura.Jensen@water.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** California Water Commission - Draft white paper includes preliminary findings, conclusions on State's role in financing conveyance needs

Thank you for participating in the California Water Commission's public workshops on assessing a state role in financing conveyance projects to help meet needs in a changing climate. Below you will find a link to a draft of the white paper with the Commission's findings and conclusions on this topic. We encourage you to provide comment on the draft document before or at next week's Commission meeting, which will take place on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

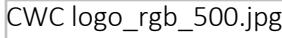
\*\*Apologies if you are receiving this email in duplicate.\*\*

Sincerely,

**Laura Jensen**  
Assistant Executive Officer  
California Water Commission  
(916) 712-7051

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**From:** California Water Commission <[CWC@WATER.CA.GOV](mailto:CWC@WATER.CA.GOV)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 9:18 AM  
**To:** [DWR\\_CWC\\_ANNOUNCEMENTS@LISTSERVICE.CNRA.CA.GOV](mailto:DWR_CWC_ANNOUNCEMENTS@LISTSERVICE.CNRA.CA.GOV)  
**Subject:** California Water Commission - Draft white paper includes preliminary findings, conclusions on State's role in financing conveyance needs



## **Draft white paper includes preliminary findings, conclusions on State's role in financing conveyance needs**

As part of the California Water Commission's work assessing a state role in financing conveyance projects, Commission staff will present a [draft white paper](#) containing preliminary findings and conclusions for Commission discussion at the May 19, 2021, [meeting](#).

As directed by the [Water Resilience Portfolio](#), the Commission assessed a state role in financing conveyance projects to meet the needs of a changing climate. The Commission hosted expert presentations at Commission meetings and regional public workshops, and used the information gathered from experts and public stakeholders to inform a white paper describing key issues and findings and conclusions for state policymakers to consider as they weigh the financing options for water conveyance infrastructure. In developing its findings and conclusions, the Commission considered:

- The characteristics of resilient conveyance and how a conveyance project demonstrably contributes to climate resilience.
- The public benefits associated with conveyance projects, which ones the state may want to fund, and how the state might value those benefits.
- Financing mechanisms that project proponents may use to help advance conveyance projects that help meet needs in a changing climate.

Commission staff will incorporate feedback received from the Commission and the public to produce a final draft of the white paper that will be presented to the Commission at the June meeting for approval. The paper focuses on conveyance other than the pending proposal to improve State Water Project conveyance through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

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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](http://cwc.ca.gov).

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