



California Water Plan Update 2023

Introduction

At this meeting, representatives from the Department of Water Resources' Division of Planning will brief the California Water Commission on the planned timeline and process for developing California Water Plan Update 2023 (Update 2023). The California Water Plan is updated every five years and is the State's strategic plan to manage and develop water resources equitably for sustainability and resilience. Update 2023 will focus on promoting climate resilience in California's watersheds across all water sectors and expanding equitable access and distribution of benefits, impacts, risks, and costs of water projects. Update 2023 will also advance a statewide vision for managing water resources, a watershed resilience planning framework with strategies and toolkit, and indicators and metrics to track progress, sustainability, and resilience.

The Water Resilience Portfolio (WRP) – released in July 2020 as the Administration's roadmap for California water management considering climate change, more extreme droughts and floods, rising temperatures, declining fish populations, groundwater overdraft, and other challenges – will serve as a cornerstone of Update 2023. Implementing Water Resilience Portfolio actions necessitates multi-agency collaboration and alignment. This integrated approach is essential for watershed resilience planning encompassing all water sectors (flood, surface and groundwater supplies, water quality, ecosystems, etc.) and numerous State agencies/departments. The preparation of Update 2023 will provide a venue for aligning State agencies tasked with implementing WRP actions. Collaborating on plans and initiatives that span agency missions and jurisdictions will:

- Enhance the alignment of water resource planning, policies, and priorities
- Identify opportunities for multi-benefit actions and investments
- Improve the implementation and outcomes of plans and actions

The Water Plan Team will help facilitate and support meetings with the Water Resilience Portfolio leadership (Portfolio Principals), State agencies responsible for implementing Portfolio actions, including the Water Commission (Core State Agency Team), and other State agencies contributing to Update 2023 (State Agency Network). In addition, the update will engage and be informed by a diverse Policy Advisory Committee, Tribal Advisory Committee, Federal Agency Network, and public workshops.

Background

Required by Water Code 10004, the Water Plan includes the status and trends of California's water-dependent natural resources; water supplies; and urban, agricultural, and environmental water demands for a range of past and future scenarios. The plan cannot require or authorize

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specific actions but may guide legislative action to authorize funding or actions recommended in the plan.

This agenda item is consistent with Goal One of the Commission's Strategic Plan, which calls on the Commission 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" by "gather[ing] information from individuals and organizations actively engaged in water policy and management issues, such as multi-benefit projects, healthy watersheds, green infrastructure, and improving water quality and availability in disadvantaged communities and by "conven[ing] panel discussions or presentations and invite public comment and discussion at Commission meetings."

Meeting Overview

At the January 2022 meeting, Kamyar Guivetchi, Manager, DWR Division of Planning, will brief the Commission on the planned timeline and process for developing California Water Plan Update 2023.

This is an informational item.

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