



2021 Annual Review of the State Water Project (Action Item)
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Introduction

Water Code section 165 requires the California Water Commission to conduct an annual review of the construction and operation of the State Water Project (SWP) and to report its findings and recommendations to the Director of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Legislature (Legislature). In 2021, DWR made 15 presentations to the Commission centered around the theme of *Creating a Resilient State Water Project: addressing climate change and aging infrastructure to provide multiple benefits for Californians*. These presentations utilize the Commission's public forum to help the public stay informed of DWR's efforts. They also provide the basis of the recommendations that the Commission makes to DWR and the Legislature regarding SWP operation. The 2021 Annual Review of the State Water Project highlights drought contingency planning, DWR's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan, and aging infrastructure and it makes recommendations related to DWR's ongoing work to prepare the SWP for climate extremes.

At this meeting, Commission staff will present the 2021 Annual Review of the State Water Project for Commission consideration and approval. If approved, staff will distribute the review to DWR and the Legislature.

Background

The California State Water Project consists of 36 water storage facilities and 700 miles of rivers, pipelines, and canals. It supplies water to 27 million people and irrigates 750,000 acres of farmland. The system includes 21 pumping plants, powered by a system of power-generation and power-recovery plants. DWR also operates the world's tallest water lift – the Edmonston Pumping Plant – which pumps water more than 1,900 feet over the Tehachapi Mountains into Southern California.

Goal Two of the Commission's Strategic Plan directs the Commission 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. The Commission's 2021 Annual Review of the State Water Project implements this goal.

Meeting Overview

Laura Jensen, the Commission's Assistant Executive Officer, will present the 2021 Annual Review of the State Water Project, focusing on the Commission's findings and recommendations. The Commission may approve the report as written, approve with direction for minor edits, or delay approval until staff makes additional edits. Once approved, staff will distribute the document to DWR and the Legislature.

Agenda Item: 9

Meeting Date: February 16, 2022

Page 2

This is an action item.

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