

California Water Commission

# Six-Year Drought Workplan

March 16, 2022

# Goal of Commission Process

- Wide perspective about potential long-term strategies for managing sustained drought.
- Produce a guidance document that helps position State to manage severely constrained water supplies for at least six consecutive years.

## Action 26.3

Develop strategies to protect communities and fish and wildlife in the event of drought lasting at least six years.

# Timeline

- Purposefully flexible in order to accommodate activities surrounding the current drought conditions.
- Staff will coordinate with CNRA and DWR.
- Staff will provide short term timelines to the Commission in advance of each step.

# Step 1: Research

## Spring/Summer 2022

- Engage representatives from other countries that have dealt with long-term drought.
- Engage staff at State agencies to understand the existing drought strategies, plans, and actions.
- Review relevant resources on long-term drought.
- Develop a framework for conducting on-going conversations on this topic.

# Step 2: Outreach

## Summer 2022-Spring 2023

- Engage experts, key stakeholders, and the public to explore impacts, tools available, ideas for managing long-term drought.
- Capture projected challenges to fish and wildlife and to communities and possible strategies to address each challenge.

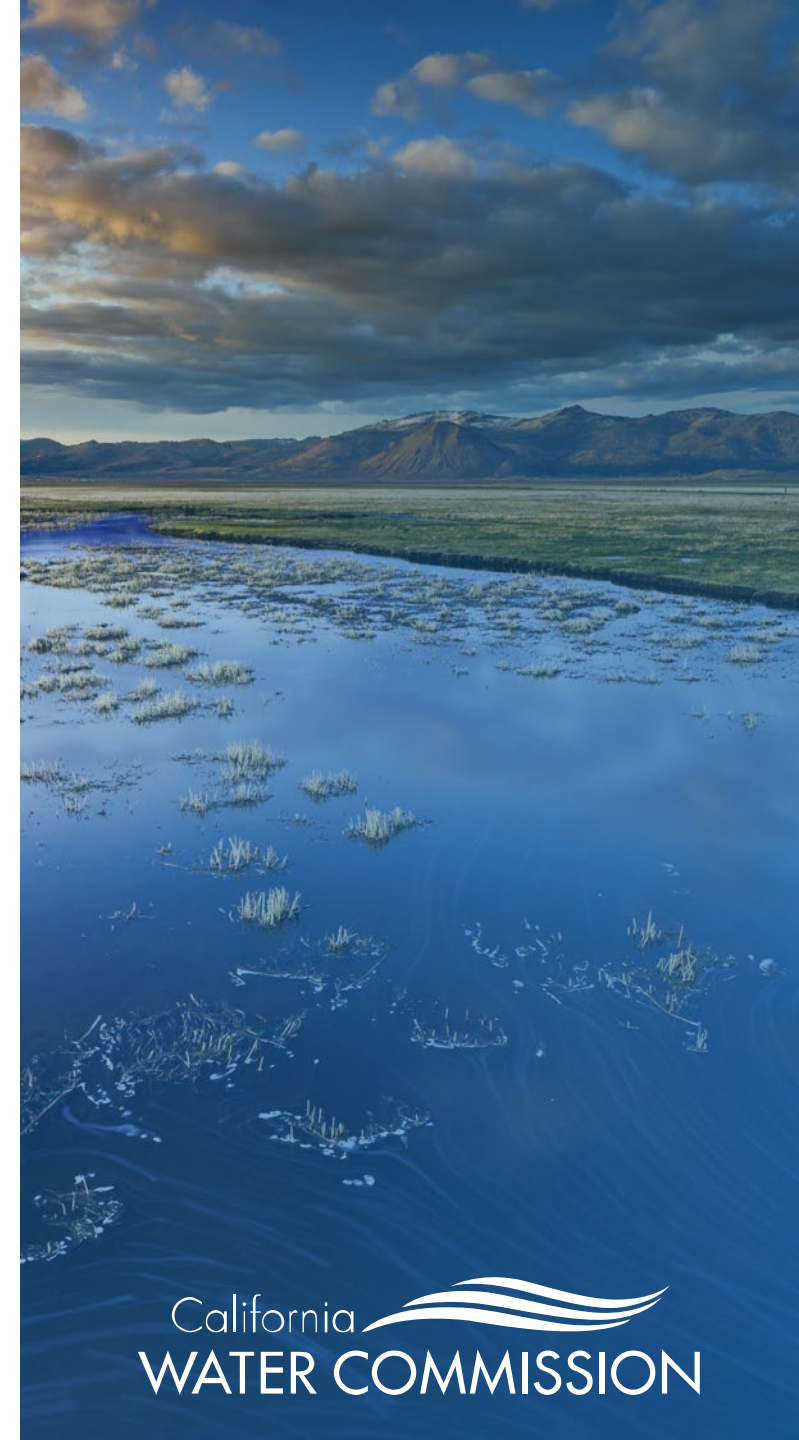
# Step 3: Record

## 2023

- Using information gathered in Steps 1 and 2, develop a white paper that describes a set of suggested strategies for State agencies to use to protect communities and fish and wildlife in the event of drought lasting at least six years.

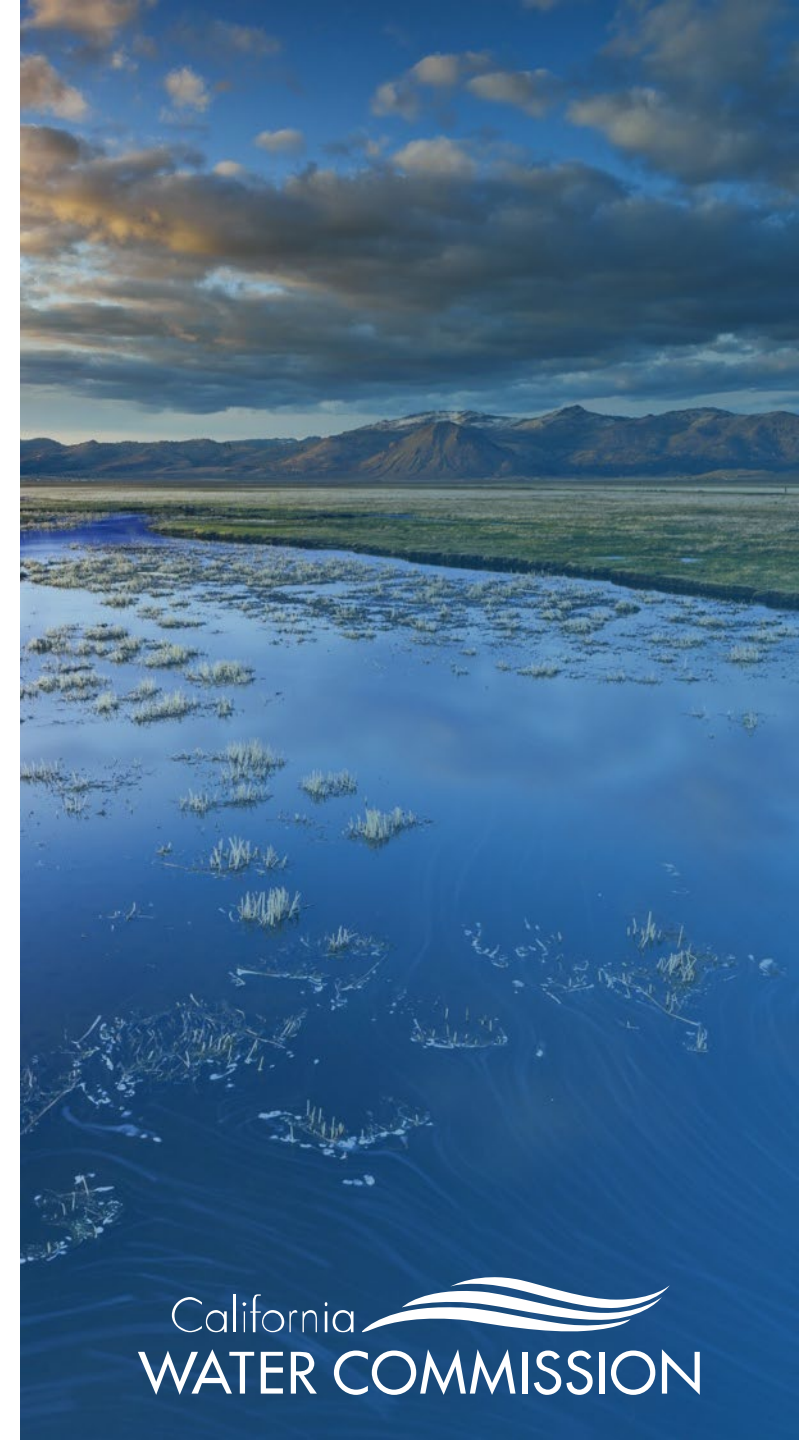
# Objectives for Step 1: Research

- Identify key components of international drought efforts:
  - When did other countries realize the need for change was imminent? What was the “change moment” that spurred action?
  - What strategies did other countries employ to protect the public and the environment during long-term drought?
  - How did other countries engage the public in the decision-making process?
  - What are the primary lessons learned? What would they do differently if faced with the same situation?



# Objectives for Step 1: Research

- Establish regular communication with State decision-makers working on current drought issues.
  - Identify current actions and strategies being used to manage the current drought.
  - Identify key milestones or decision points for upcoming drought actions.
- Create an annotated bibliography of drought-related resources.
- Create a framework for proceeding with outreach regarding strategies to protect communities and wildlife in the case of a drought lasting 6 or more years.





# Timeline for Step 1: Research

MONTH	ACTIVITIES
March	Secure consultant and additional administrative resources to help implement workplan.
April	Identify international contacts and State agency contacts to reach out to and drought resources to review.
May	Conduct conversations and review resources.
June	Conduct conversations and review resources.
July	Draft and finalize written deliverables: summary of out-of-state and in-state conversations; annotated bibliography; proposed framework for moving forward.
August	Present materials to the Commission.