

An aerial photograph of a winding river in a desert landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The river flows through a valley, with hills and mountains in the background. The water reflects the light from the sky.

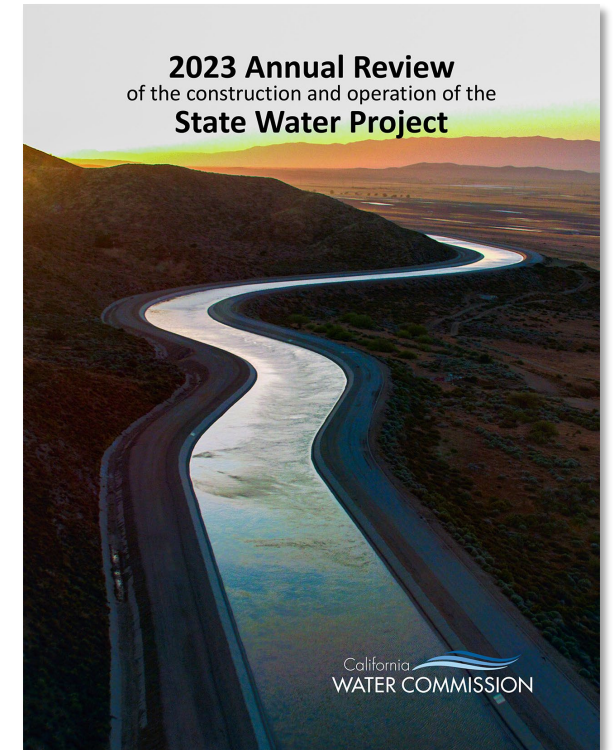
2023

Annual Review of the Construction and Operation of the State Water Project

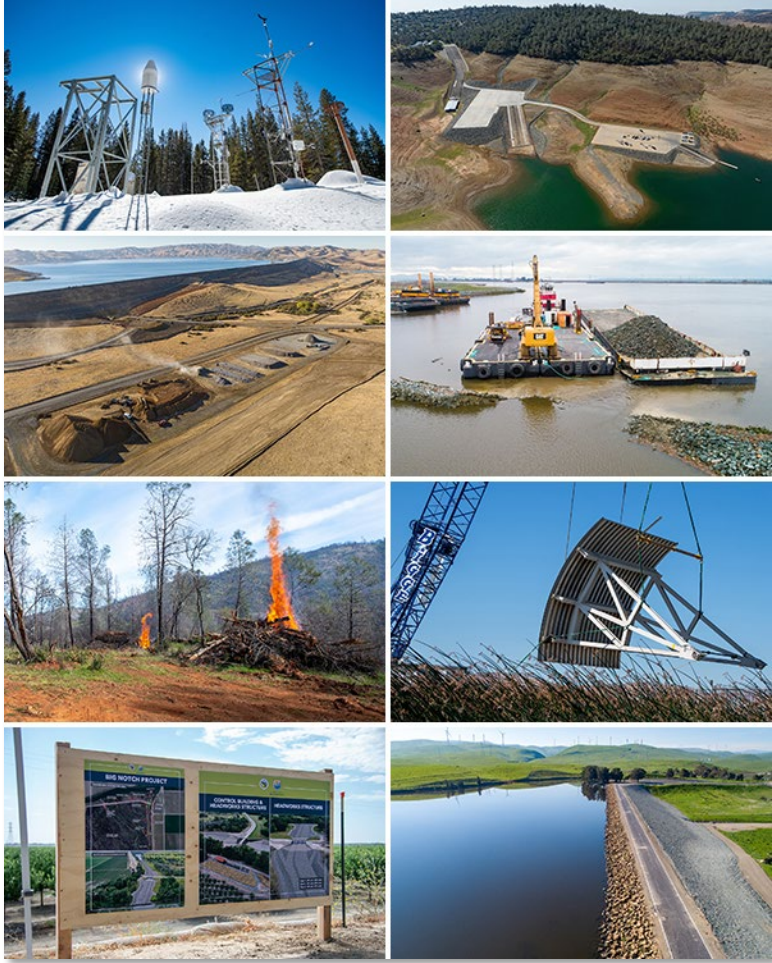
January 17, 2024

The Commission's Obligation

- Water Code section 165 – conduct an annual review of the progress of the construction and operation of the State Water Project.
- The Commission reports its findings and recommendations to DWR and the Legislature.
- Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan – “focus on how the SWP adapts and responds to hydrological extremes expected with climate change, restores critical ecosystems, and addresses aging infrastructure.”



2023 Briefings



- Maintaining Operational Flexibility
- Planning and Operations
- Annual Budget and Cost Planning
- Contract Extension Implementation
- O&M Management Program
- SB 1020: Pathway to Clean Energy
- Energy Roadmap
- Construction Update

Findings

The Commission finds that, in 2023, DWR ...

- Operated the SWP to respond to the hydrologic extremes experienced in 2023, planning for and responding to drought and flood at the same time.
- Continues to plan and prepare the SWP for extreme dry or wet conditions.
- Apprised the Commission of its financial goals, SWP budget, and cost projections, indicating that its 2023 approved SWP budget was \$958 million, including operations and capital costs.

Findings

The Commission finds that, in 2023, DWR ...

- Executed contract extension amendments with 27 SWP Contractors to ensure affordable, long-term financing of SWP capital needs.
- Provided oversight on SWP assets, ensuring they perform consistently, meet engineered standards, and result in the best possible reliability.
- Improved its ability to maximize asset performance and reliability by using new technology to capture and use data.

Findings

The Commission finds that, in 2023, DWR ...

- Planned to incrementally reduce the SWP's greenhouse gas emissions in order to put the SWP on target to meet the goal of using 100 percent clean energy by 2035.
- Positioned the SWP to support the state's grid reliability and clean energy goals through an efficient and effective power portfolio.
- Informed the Commission about key construction activities undertaken in the past year to manage and maintain the SWP, including maintenance needs on the Oroville, Cedar Springs, and Pyramid Dam spillways.

Recommendations

The Commission recommends that DWR:

- Maintain open and transparent communication with the Commission; state, local, and federal agencies; interested parties; and the public as they prepare the SWP for another wet water year.
- Move boldly and swiftly to incorporate natural and innovative infrastructure solutions to address challenges associated with climate change.
- Accelerate operational changes that allow the SWP to better address extreme hydrology, such as forecast-informed reservoir operation.

Recommendations

The Commission recommends that DWR:

- Engage SWP Contractors and other partners to identify opportunities for and to implement groundwater recharge.
- Quickly and strategically advance projects that will dedicate flows in perpetuity and create durable habitat to sustain ecosystem functions.
- Forecast operational, maintenance, and capital costs needed to address aging infrastructure and climate change and develop a plan for financing the SWP into the future.

Recommendations

The Commission recommends that DWR:

- Continue to reduce its carbon footprint and make the state's power portfolio 100 percent renewable and carbon neutral by December 2035.
- Keep the Commission apprised of its current construction activities and long-term plans for aging infrastructure repair.
- Work with Commission staff to arrange in-person visits by the Commissioners to SWP facilities and project sites.

<https://cwc.ca.gov/Programs-and-Topics>

