



2023 Annual Review of the State Water Project (Action Item)

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 and to report its findings and recommendations to the Director of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Legislature (Legislature). In 2023, DWR made eight presentations to the Commission, focused on planning and operations, and maintaining operational flexibility within the system. These presentations utilized the Commission’s public forum to help the public stay informed of DWR’s efforts. They also provide the basis of the recommendations contained in the Commission’s 2023 Annual Review of the State Water Project. The 2023 Annual Review of the State Water Project highlights the annual budget and multi-year cost planning, long-term water supply contract extension amendment implementation, the Maintenance Management Program, the Energy Roadmap and pathway to 100 percent clean energy by 2035, and DWR’s progress with key construction projects.

At this meeting, Commission staff will present the 2023 Annual Review of the State Water Project for Commission consideration and approval. If approved, staff will distribute the review to DWR and the Legislature to fulfill its statutory obligation under Water Code section 165.

Background

The California State Water Project consists of 36 water storage facilities and 700 miles of rivers, pipelines and canals. It also 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 up and 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 it adapts and responds to hydrological extremes expected with climate change, restores critical ecosystems, and addresses aging infrastructure. The 2023 Annual Review of the State Water Project implements this goal.

Meeting Overview

Paul Cambra, the Commission’s Public Information Officer, will present the 2023 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

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approval until staff makes additional edits. Once approved, staff will distribute the document to DWR and the Legislature.

This is an action item.

Contact

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