

2025 Strategic Plan Development

Overview

The California Water Commission last updated its [strategic plan](#) in 2020, committing in that document to review and update the plan “every five years to evaluate the effectiveness of Commission activities and to ensure that the Commission focuses on current and important California water issues.” To honor this commitment, the Commission will revise its existing strategic plan to cover activities for 2025-2029.

Summary of 2020 Strategic Plan

The 2020 Strategic Plan included a new mission statement and five goals, summarized below.

Mission Statement: Using its public forum, the California Water Commission explores water management issues from multiple perspectives and formulates recommendations to advise the Department of Water Resources, and as appropriate, the California Natural Resources Agency, the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve water planning and management in response to California’s changing hydrology.

Goals:

1. Serve as a primary public forum for the discussion of improving water management policy.
2. Carry out its statutory responsibilities associated with the State Water Project.
3. Carry out its statutory authorities associated with the Department of Water Resources.
4. Carry out its statutory responsibilities for the Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program.
5. Determine whether there is a need to reactivate its role of advocating for federal funding for flood risk reduction.

The Commission continues to successfully carry out the first four of its goals and has begun exploring the fifth goal. Three of the goals above are related to the Commission’s statutory authorities and responsibilities, which the Commission must continue to fulfill.

Considerations

As the Commission prepares its next Strategic Plan, it will develop:

- A compelling vision for what it hopes to achieve.
- Goals and objectives that fulfill its mission, build towards its vision, and reflect its statutory responsibilities while building on new opportunities.
- Ways to embed justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion into its work.
- Metrics that monitor and track its effectiveness.

Proposed Workplan

- 1. Define and discuss key topics (February-March 2024)** Review the Commission’s statutory language, existing strategic plan, and recent successes; consider together with options for supporting the Department of Water Resources’ strategic plan (as presented at the January 2024 meeting) and Commissioners’ areas of interest to formulate a list of key topics for discussion as part of the development of the Commission’s 2025 Strategic Plan. Solicit feedback from individual Commissioners. Work with the Chair and Vice Chair to determine key topics.

- 2. Develop draft goals and objectives (March-April 2024)** Working with the Chair and Vice Chair, develop draft goals and objectives for the 2025 Strategic Plan. Discuss goals and objectives at the April Commission meeting.
- 3. Seek outside input (April-August 2024)** Share early version of goals and objectives with key external partners and seek their input and support.
- 4. Develop draft metrics (April-August 2024)** Develop metrics for use in monitoring and tracking the Commission's effectiveness at implementing its goals.
- 5. Draft 2025 Strategic Plan (August-November 2024)** Assemble and draft strategic plan for Commission feedback at the September meeting. Revise and present final strategic plan at November meeting.