



State Water Project Briefing: 2024 Five-year Strategic Plan

Introduction

The first State Water Project (SWP) briefing of the year will introduce the new 2024 Five-year SWP Strategic Plan and provide an update on current year operations.

Background

The California State Water Project, operated by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) consisting of 36 water storage facilities and 700 miles of rivers, pipelines, and canals, 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 SWP, focusing on how it adapts and responds to hydrological extremes expected with climate change, restores critical ecosystems, and addresses aging infrastructure. As required by Water Code section 165, the Commission conducts an annual review on the progress of the construction and operation of the SWP and reports its findings and recommendations to DWR and the Legislature. This briefing will inform the Commission of SWP activities in preparation for the Commission’s 2024 annual review.

Meeting Overview

At the February meeting, SWP Assistant Deputy Director John Yarbrough will provide an overview of the new 2024 Five-year Strategic Plan – “Elevate to ’28” – which includes goals to improve safety, become an employer of choice, adapt to climate change, promote awareness of the SWP, and optimize infrastructure, investments, and operations. Mr. Yarbrough will also explain how the new SWP strategic plan will help implement DWR’s overarching strategic plan. SWP Water Operations Manager Molly White will provide an update on current year operations, including the current water year allocation, planning decisions made to date, hydrology to date, and considerations for the rest of the year.

This is an informational item.

Contact

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