

Strategic Plan Development



Discussion of Key Topics

April 17, 2024

California 
WATER COMMISSION

SWOT Analysis

- ***Strengths*** are internal factors or attributes of the organization that are helpful to achieving the organization's goals and objectives.
- ***Weaknesses*** are internal factors or attributes of the organization that may be harmful or prevent the organization from achieving its goals and objectives.
- ***Opportunities*** are external factors or conditions that would help our organization achieve its goals and objectives.
- ***Threats*** are external factors or conditions that are harmful or may prevent our organization from achieving its goals and objectives.

SWOT Analysis: STRENGTHS

- Concurrence on some strengths:
 - Staff work
 - Engagement/experience/diversity of Commissioners
 - Ability to engage the public
 - Ability to bring in diverse experts/parties (seen as a “convener”)
- Commission’s ability to fill in gaps, and do things other cannot
- Commission’s relationship with Department of Water Resources

SWOT Analysis: WEAKNESSES

- Less alignment among Commissioners on weaknesses
- Public unclear on Commission's role
- Limited by staff capacity
- Other weaknesses can be binned into:
 - Limited scope and power
 - Complexity of public forum
 - Nature of Commission

SWOT Analysis: OPPORTUNITIES

- Work with public and interested parties
 - Who – under-represented water users, agriculture
 - How – use technology to expand forum, rotate meeting locations
- Work with agencies
 - Partner to share resources and increase value of Commission (DWR)
- Explore different facets of current roles
 - Assess need for new SWP facilities, uptake of white papers, and WSIP lessons learned
- Lean into new topics
 - Innovation for climate change, flood-to-drought

SWOT Analysis: THREATS

- Limited resources
 - Budget, staff capacity
- Time
 - Slowness of WSIP and to develop solutions to water emergencies
- Relevance
 - Outside of WSIP, not showing a return on investment for white papers
- Politics
 - Lack of alignment between and territoriality of State agencies, “capture” of CWC by powerful interests
- Focus
 - Commissioners need to choose/stay on topic

SWOT: Summary & Considerations

- *People* are the Commission's greatest strength
- Commission's weaknesses are its limited scope, power, visibility
- Commission can:
 - Lean into working with the public, interested parties, other agencies
 - Think about how to grow and improve current work
 - Take up new, important topics
- It is critical to stay focused and stay relevant

Mission & Vision Statements

- General agreement to revise **Mission Statement**:
*“Using its public forum, the California Water Commission explores water management issues from diverse perspectives ~~and formulates recommendations~~ to **advise** State decision-makers on ways to improve water policy, planning, and management in response to California’s changing hydrology.”*
- Support for **Vision Statement**, with suggested change:
*“To promote smart water ~~policy~~ **management** today for a sustainable California tomorrow.”*

Supporting DWR's Strategic Plan

- Commissioner input on DWR actions and Commission opportunities
- Some support for all actions
- Will bring actions into work on SWP, public engagement, and utilize public forum/advise decision-makers
- Focus on policy-level discussions that will help fulfill mission

Issues of Most Interest

Managing “weather whiplash”	6
Water infrastructure	6
Integrated water management/watershed networks	6
Groundwater recharge	4
Flood management	4
Adapting California’s water system to a changing hydrology	4

Flood Advocacy

- Five Commissioners are interested in pursuing
- Four Commissioners feel they need more information

Statutory Responsibilities

- State Water Project
 - Bring in water users, interested parties
 - Visit and assess need for new SWP facilities
- Water Storage Investment Program
 - Produce lessons learned/recommendations for improvement for decision-makers
 - Play a more active role with projects
- Continue to be as efficient as possible
- Scope of Commission

Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

- Continually evaluate engagement
- Serve as forum for under-represented parties
- Bring in experts that truly represent diversity to advise on decision-making
- Conduct outreach to communities
- Use Commission forum to explore Human Right to Water
- Some caution:
 - What does this term mean?
 - How will it operate within current State law?
 - Open to legal challenges?

How This Information Will Be Used

- Bring ideas/themes into draft goals/objectives:
 - Increase public engagement, bring in diverse perspectives
 - Better explain Commission's role, highlight relevance
 - Remain active with WSIP projects
 - Be “hands-on” with SWP role: make visits, shepherd ideas
 - Follow-up on white paper uptake
 - Lean into DWR partnership
 - Bring issues of interest into Commission meetings, work products
 - Continue to explore flood advocacy
 - Support JEDI

Next Steps

- Develop draft goals and objectives
- Get initial input from Chair, Vice Chair, DWR, CNRA
- Bring to May Commission meeting for discussion