



**Strategic Plan Development: Presentation of Final Draft Plan (Action Item)**

**Agenda Item at a Glance**

- The Commission’s five-year strategic plan, or “plan,” describes what the Commission hopes to accomplish in the five-year period beginning in 2025.
- This agenda item is an action item, meaning that the Commission can make a formal decision to approve the strategic plan.
- This agenda item explains, at a high level, the work that the Commission will take up over the coming five years. Interested and impacted parties may comment to the Commission regarding the draft strategic plan before the Commission considers approving it.
- This agenda item is relevant to those interested in and impacted by the Commission’s work. The Commission’s website explains the work that the Commission does: [About Us](#).
- At this meeting, staff will present the plan to the Commission. Commissioners can ask questions of Commission staff, and they can direct staff to bring more information to the Commission at a future meeting. Tribes and the public will have an opportunity to make a comment to the Commission before the Commission considers whether to approve the plan.

**Introduction**

Commission staff is working with Commissioners to develop a five-year strategic plan that will take effect in 2025. In May of 2024, Commission staff presented draft strategic goals and objectives to the Commission. Since that time, Commission staff sought outside input on the Commission’s draft goals and objectives from more than two dozen key external partners, including State agency, Tribal, and interested party representatives.

Commission staff will present for Commission consideration a final draft strategic plan that incorporates external feedback and includes metrics for tracking the Commission’s work for the 2025-2029 time period.

**Commission Decision**

The Commission is being asked to approve the final draft strategic plan presented by staff. The Commission may: approve the plan as written; approve the plan with modifications; or send the plan back to staff for revisions. If the Commission approves the plan as written or with modifications, staff will prepare to implement the plan in 2025. If the Commission sends the plan back to staff for revisions, staff will make the requested revisions and bring the plan back before the Commission at a future meeting.

Staff recommends the Commission approve the final draft strategic plan. The plan's goals and objectives have been vetted by the Commission, other State agencies, Tribes, and interested parties, and the plan is now ready to be used as to guide the Commission's work for the five-year period beginning in 2025.

### **Background**

In its 2020 Strategic Plan, the Commission committed to reviewing and updating 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." The California Water Commission last updated its [strategic plan](#) in 2020. The 2020 Strategic Plan included a new mission statement and five goals. The Commission continues to carry out these goals.

During 2024, the Commission took the following steps to update its strategic plan:

- Define and discuss key topics related to its strategic planning.
- Develop draft strategic goals and objectives.
- Seek outside input on its strategic goals and objectives.
- Develop metrics to assess progress toward achieving its strategic goals and objectives.

Engaging diverse audiences is core to the Commission's mission. The Commission has developed its strategic plan transparently, using inclusive practices, data analysis, and public engagement. Over the course of 2024, the Commission has leveraged its public forum to scope and solicit feedback on its strategic plan. Through its public meetings, the Commission has invited Tribal and public comment on its strategic direction and on earlier iterations of draft strategic goals and objectives. Commission staff held direct conversations with Tribal representatives, community-based organizations, environmental organizations, and other interest groups, and invited additional feedback via two surveys: one directed at the general public and interested parties, and the other at Tribes. The information received via the surveys will help the Commission as it implements key objectives related to conducting outreach to Tribes, communities, and historically under-represented parties and adopting an equity resolution that commits to considering equity in all aspects of the Commission's work.

### **Meeting Overview**

At this meeting, Assistant Executive Officer Laura Jensen will present to the Commission a final draft strategic plan for Commission consideration and approval. The public will have an opportunity to comment to the Commission regarding the draft strategic plan before the Commission considers making their decision.

This is an action item.

### **Contact**

Laura Jensen  
Assistant Executive Officer  
California Water Commission

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