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Commission Briefings Address How to Create a More Resilient State Water Project

The California Water Commission will host the second 2021 State Water Project (SWP) briefing at the May 19 meeting, continuing this year's theme of creating a resilient State Water Project by addressing climate change and aging infrastructure to provide multiple benefits for Californians.

The Commission will receive four presentations: Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Green Infrastructure and Watershed Management, Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operation, and Delta Conveyance. The Commission has invited stakeholder commenters to reflect on these presentations, and invites public comment on these presentations.

In addition to providing a water supply for more than 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland, the SWP's other benefits include flood control, power generation, fish and wildlife protection, and recreational opportunities. The SWP, the largest state-built water and power generator and delivery infrastructure in the nation, remains one of California's vital assets.

"Addressing the impacts of climate change on our water system will be critical to the future success of the State Water Project in California," said Tony Meyers, Executive Director for the Delta Conveyance Office at DWR. "In order to make the system more resilient, DWR is committed to ongoing improvements to our watershed management and reservoir operations as well as moving forward with efforts to modernize how we move water through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta with the Delta Conveyance Project."

The California Water Code requires the Commission to conduct an annual review of the progress of the construction and operation of the SWP, focusing on how the SWP adapts and responds to hydrological extremes expected with climate change, restores critical ecosystems, and addresses aging infrastructure. The Commission reports its findings and recommendations to DWR and the Legislature. This briefing will inform the Commission in preparation for the 2021 annual review.

Future 2021 briefings include "Storage and Conveyance Infrastructure" in July, featuring asset management and dam safety; and "Partnering Efforts" in September, which will look at the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and subsidence.

The California Water Commission will conduct its May 19 meeting remotely. At the same time, the Commission remains committed to conducting its business in an open and transparent manner. To learn how you can comment, and to view the full agenda, visit cwc.ca.gov/meetings.

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The nine-member California Water Commission uses its public forum to explore water management issues from multiple perspectives and to formulate recommendations to advise the director of the California 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. For more information regarding the California Water Commission visit CWC.ca.gov.