



Human Right to Water Policy (New Apr/21) 1100.01

In accordance with California Water Code §106.3, the Department of Water Resources (Department) incorporates the human right to water (HR2W) into Departmental policy to further the Department's mission to manage the water resources of California for sustainability and resilience to benefit the State's people and environment. This addition to general State policy, enacted on September 25, 2012, declares that it "be the established policy of the State that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes." Here forward, the Department shall consistently incorporate the HR2W Policy throughout its operations, projects, and programs when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant program criteria, as prescribed by California Water Code §106.3. The Department will integrate the HR2W Policy to guard against discriminatory practices and policies, foster meaningful public participation, and ensure effective accountability mechanisms.

Implementation of the Human Right to Water Policy (New Apr/21) 1100.02

The Department of Water Resources (Department) shall implement the Human Right to Water (HR2W) Policy by developing consistent approaches and strategies across all Department operations, projects, programs, and Region Offices, that serve in a unique capacity to engage locally across the State. The HR2W Policy should be included when planning programmatic activities, conducting decision-making processes, and weighing competing demands on limited resources.

The Department will:

1. Establish a permanent HR2W Program that develops and applies consistent HR2W approaches and strategies across all projects and programs.
2. Provide Department-wide training on the HR2W Policy, including considerations of cultural sensitivity and racial equity, historical context, and environmental justice.
3. Create new and strengthen existing pathways for public engagement, use inclusive language in all communications, and expand upon current technical and financial assistance where feasible.
4. Implement actions and policies that empower communities to build long-term capacity in the development and delivery of HR2W projects.
5. Collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Tribes, businesses, and other community leaders to identify and evaluate ways the Department can address local needs.
6. Reduce barriers and incentivize regional collaboration in State funding opportunities to achieve equitable outcomes.
7. Coordinate with local, State, federal and Tribal governments, and NGOs to create consistent forums for collaboration and increase alignment across State agencies in implementing HR2W.
8. Increase public awareness of HR2W issues through public outreach, improve knowledge of State resources and funding opportunities, and develop accountability methods to track successes, benefits, and challenges when implementing HR2W-related activities.
9. Identify and address data access and transparency in water quality and supply datasets needed for evaluation, planning, and regulatory compliance. The Department will align with existing data portals and other State agencies to provide general technical assistance to communities.
10. Assess and understand the impact and vulnerabilities of water access and affordability, inclusive of, but not limited to social, economic, environmental, and public health factors. Evaluate and report on these metrics in Department reports and bulletins where applicable

