



Water Plan Update 2013

More About Venues for Coordinating

The California Water Plan utilizes a robust public engagement process to seek input from experts, key stakeholders, other government bodies and the larger public. Following are brief descriptions of key venues where these dialogues occur.

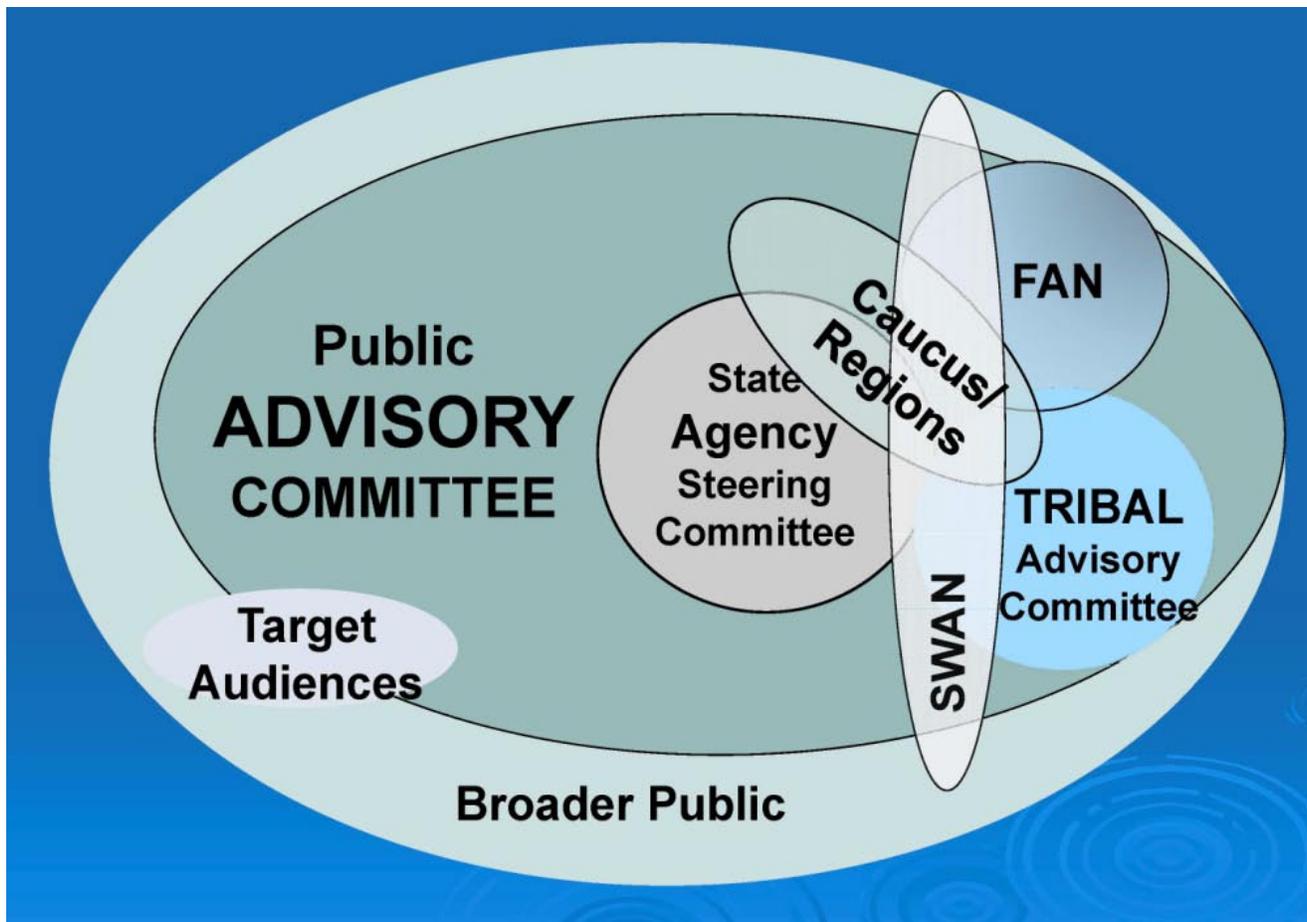
Public Advisory Committee – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is required by statute (Water Code /10004) to prepare updates of the **California Water Plan** every five years and to form an advisory committee to assist in this effort. The 50 member Public Advisory Committee (AC) is a consensus-seeking group comprised of organizations representing diverse interest and place-based perspectives. The broad-based group informs the effort to create a comprehensive approach for water planning and management.

Tribal Advisory Committee - The Tribal AC provides a forum where delegates of California Native American Tribes and organizations can help develop material for Water Plan Update 2013 and ensure Tribal perspectives on land, water, and culture are included in those materials. The Tribal AC coordinates with the State Agency Steering Committee and Federal Agency Network to develop policy recommendations and strategies that are responsive to the water concerns of California Tribal communities and governments. The Tribal AC also collaborates with the Public AC on issues of mutual concern.

State Agency Steering Committee - The Water Plan State Agency Steering Committee (SASC), comprised of representatives from State government agencies, provides for comprehensive consideration of information included in California's Water Plan Updates, a role DWR had performed with little formal input from other State agencies in the past. The SASC, ensures the Update strategically integrates California's water supply, water use efficiency, water quality, flood management planning and environmental stewardship, as well as respective agency missions and goals. The 26 members include:

*Air Resources Board
Boating & Waterways
Business, Transportation & Housing
Cal/Environmental Protection Agency
California Emergency Management Agency
California Energy Commission
California Public Utilities Commission
Coastal Commission
Conservation
Delta Stewardship Council
Department of Transportation (CALTrans)
Fish & Game
Food & Agriculture
Forestry & Fire Protection(CALFIRE)*

*Governor's Office of Planning and Research
Housing & Community Development
Native American Heritage Commission
Ocean Protection Council
Parks & Recreation
Public Health
Resources Agency
State Lands Commission
State Water Resources Control Board
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Toxic Substances Control
Water Resources*



Federal Agency Network (FAN) - With the assistance of the California Biodiversity Council, Update 2013 recently launched an effort to expand and strengthen the framework of federal agency engagement in the California Water Plan (CWP) by creating the Federal Agency Network (FAN). The Federal Agency Network (FAN) is a virtual network, based on linked contacts. Members participate by indicating areas of interest and receiving targeted relevant meeting invitations and updates. Outreach focuses on federal agencies whose responsibilities and authorities are associated with the scope of Update 2013. This includes but is not limited to Coastal, Fisheries, Flood Management, Sustainable Development, Tribal Trust, Water Quality and Data, Watershed Management, and other Natural Resource topics. The FAN process is in a pilot stage and will be evaluated at the end of 2011 to determine if a virtual format is effective.

The Advisory Committees, State and Federal Agencies are all encouraged to participate as appropriate in the following specialized Water Plan groups.

State Water Analysis Network (SWAN) – SWAN is a DWR organized statewide network of volunteers dedicated to improving California’s analytical capabilities in support of water management decisions and investments. Members participate based on expertise and/or interest in the topics of discussion and collaborate with other interested stakeholders to improve analytical tools and share data. The SWAN has contributed in improving Water Plan analytical capabilities

and greatly benefited from significant participation by local, state and federal agencies, organizations and governments as well as noted academic institutions.

Regional Forums - Up to 4 meetings per year, based on local interest and needs, the Water Plan team will partner with the DWR Regional Coordinators and other agencies to convene place-based discussions within each hydrologic region, using webinar and conference call formats as well as face to face options. Design teams, consisting of local and regional interests and stakeholders, one team per region, will (1) help plan the direction and content of the regional meetings and (2) assist with outreach. By collaborating with local, state, regional, Tribal, and Federal entities and related organizations, the team seeks to leverage existing local water planning efforts and ensure a dedicated and coordinated approach for outreach and engagement.

Caucuses (Topic) – Topic Caucuses will be convened on topics that would benefit from more in-depth dialogues than might be possible in a regular Advisory Committee meeting. Caucus membership is open to all individuals with expertise and/or interest in the topic of discussion. The sessions differ from workshops that are more traditional in that participants make a commitment to consistent participation leading to an evolution of deliberations over the course of the planning cycle.

Target Audiences – Throughout the planning cycle members of all the Water Plan Venues are encouraged to participate in conferences, prepare newsletter articles and provide information to Water Plan target audiences. During update 2013 the team also hopes to utilize social media and other efforts to increase the interest of the broader public in critical water plan issues such as water use efficiency, flood management and integrated resources management, water supply and sustainability.

Annual Plenary - The Annual Plenary allows creates an opportunity for both the Advisory Committees, Agencies, contributing Water Plan Groups and Regions, and interested members of the public, to convene and consider cross cutting issues and share perspectives. Similar to a small conference, concepts developed in the different venues are presented for comment and consideration by the others.