

DWR Climate Change Program

September 19, 2012

California Water Commission

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Utilizing matrix management, nine full time staff with the Climate Change Program support all climate change activities across the Department. Specialists in both climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation are located in the four regional offices and headquarters. Program goals include providing regionally-specific climate change information to programs, projects, and documents, by accessing and synthesizing research, data, tools, and topical content for California's unique water management issues with regards to a warming climate.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sustainable Business of the Year Award, Sacramento County's Business Environmental Resource Center awarded DWR for its energy conservation practices; September, 2012.

Data Analysis Memorandum Report, Climate Data Assessment for the Department, Volunteer Cooperator network outreach, and historical data inventory effort; to be released September, 2012.



Climate Action Plan Phase I: GHG, by DWR's CEQA Climate Change Committee, which aims to cut the Department's GHG emissions by 50 percent below 1990 levels within the next seven years, and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; released March, 2012.

Climate Change Handbook for Regional Water Management, Designed for IRWM groups, key decision considerations, resources, tools, and decision options are presented for adapting their programs to a changing climate. Partners: US Environmental Protection Agency, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Resources Legacy Fund; released November, 2011.

Climate Literacy Training, Literacy 101 and 201 classes developed for DWR Staff, website for local and regional resources, Climate News Digest, public exhibits.

Third Assessment of the Governor's Climate Action Team, DWR served on the steering committee for the assessment.

IRWM and Climate Change, Report on methodologies selected by Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) groups for adapting to climate change.

Climate Change Analysis Methods for DWR Planning Studies Phase I, A widely cited comprehensive and comparative look at planning studies conducted by DWR and its partner agencies, summarized by approach, providing the background needed to develop guidance for DWR project managers on selecting and implementing climate change analyses.

DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION

Governor's Climate Action Team, founding member of the Water-Energy Subgroup ("WETCAT"); water management sector lead for the California Climate Adaptation Strategy, 2009 and 2012 Update.

Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program, Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Process include an IRWM plan standard for climate change for both adaptation and consideration of GHG emissions when selecting project alternatives. Currently, staff is participating in Process Improvement workshops for IRWM and SWFM grant process and refining guidelines and requirements.

Federal Activities, including steering committee of the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

ONGOING

Climate Change Technical Advisory Group, External, international expert panel provides Department-wide technical guidance for climate change scenario selection and methodology for California Water Plan Update, future flood needs, DWR projects, and IRWM support (quarterly meetings).



California Water Plan Update 2013, expanded climate change guidance and companion reports for both adaptation to changing hydrology and mitigation of GHG emissions for water use into the Update's Regional Reports, Resource Management Strategies, and Highlights documents.

Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program, IRWM Climate Change Clearinghouse, provide assistance for IRWM guidelines, and technical assistance to IRWM groups.

National Research Council (NRC) Sea Level Rise Study, DWR served as the project manager for this partnership between the states of Washington, Oregon, and California, as well as the federal government. The report includes estimation of a range of likely amounts of sea level rise along the West Coast in 2030, 2050, and 2100, providing planning guidelines.

"C4" (CEQA Climate Change Committee), Centralized and streamlined review of DWR environmental documents, including those prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Research

- Tree ring study
- Delta island subsidence reversal/carbon sequestration
- Upper watershed meadow restoration

FUTURE WORK

UWMPs and Climate Change, Report on climate change methodologies selected by water utilities in their 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), 2013.

Coordination of Climate Change Analysis Methods for DWR Planning Studies, Framework group Phase II began in 2011, and will result in a guidance document and climate change data toolbox/web portal to guide decision making for selection of analytical tools, assumptions about future conditions, and analysis procedures.