

California Water Commission 2012-2013 Workplan FIRST DRAFT

(Suggest workplan cover end of 2012-2013, subsequent workplans updated by calendar year)

Introduction/About the Commission

Context: CWC Strategic Plan/ About this Document

Over the course of several months the California Water Commission developed its Strategic Plan, a high-level document intended to guide the activities of the Commission for the next five years. The Strategic Plan was officially adopted in September 2012.

The plan defines the mission of the California Water Commission, its major goals, and the broad strategies the Commission will use to achieve its goals.

The purpose of this document is to further define those strategies and ensure accountability by outlining the specific actions that the Commission will take under each strategy in order to achieve its goals.

Actions Organized by Goal/Strategy

Goal 1: Serve as a primary public forum for the dissemination of information and discussion of statewide water issues and solutions.

A. Inform and engage the public on water issues

- Identify opportunities for members to participate in and present at conferences and workshops related to water policy and activities, publish or respond to media articles, and initiate communication with the stakeholders and the public.
- Hold public hearings on all facilities proposed to be added to the State Water Project on an as needed basis. This may take place as part of a regular public meeting.
- Hear specific and general comments from members of the public at all Commission meetings and in correspondence submitted directly to the Commission.

B. Promote public discourse on the future of water storage in California

- In-depth review of topics related to specific water storage issues at regular meetings.
- Develop recommendations based on discussions of public benefits and/or identify issues for additional research and analysis; provide recommendations to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Delta Stewardship Council.
- Host public forums and workshops on issues related to water storage policy.

C. Provide transparent access to information

- In December of each year, publish an annual report summarizing the key activities and accomplishments of the Commission that year.
- Post a written summary of meeting results to the Commission website following each Commission meeting.
- Continually update and improve Commission website to provide easy and transparent access to information.
- Respond to all telephone calls, emails, and written correspondence in timely and efficient manner.
- Webcast meetings when possible. If not possible, post recording of meeting to the Commission's website as soon as possible after each meeting.
- Develop a database of public interactions on water issues, allowing public to see what issues have been raised and Commission's response.

Goal 2: Ensure DWR decisions on key programs and activities are sound and sustainable by providing strategic advice, recommendations and oversight.

A. Ensure DWR rules and regulations are clear, fair, useful, and necessary

- Review and approve all regulations of DWR for submittal to the Office of Administrative Law, except for those expressly exempted.
- Provide a forum for the public to participate in the rulemaking process; give due consideration to all public comments.

B. Approve priority areas for the Delta Special Projects Program

- Review and approve the Delta Special Projects' Program investment priority areas on an as needed basis.

C. Review and inspect the State Water Project

- Conduct site visits and inspections of State Water Project facilities annually.
- Receive semi-annual briefings from State Water Project staff on critical issues.
- Advocate for policies, procedures, and legislative and administration actions to resolve critical issues and improve the operation of the State Water Project.

D. Ensure eminent domain proceedings initiated by DWR meet legal requirements

- Provide notice to affected landowners at least 21-days in advance of the Commission meeting and consider each property at a minimum of two Commission meetings in accordance with the Commission's Procedure for Eminent Domain adopted August 17, 2011.
- Ensure that DWR has met all of its statutory obligations and made its best efforts to negotiate with the property owner prior the use of eminent domain.

Goal 3: Develop and support integrated water management policies that result in sustainable water resources and a healthy environment statewide.

A. Establish the Commission's role as a policy leader

- Participate in the exchange of ideas at water conferences and events, publish informative articles and reports.
- Receive regular briefings from DWR's programmatic, legislative, and budget offices, as well as other key program areas quarterly, or as necessitated by the legislative or budget process, or other events.
- Make recommendations to the Director on key policy issues as appropriate.
- Contribute to policy discussions as appropriate by writing letters, speaking at events, and conveying information to the public and to other organizations.

B. Develop strategies for effectively investing in the public benefits of water projects in California

- Hold public workshops to gather background information, input and advice on the public benefits of water storage projects. This may occur as part of the Commission's regular meetings.
- Work with stakeholders and other agencies to prepare information which could be used to evaluate the value of public benefits of water storage projects.
- Receive regular updates from DWR's staff and others involved with the regulations development team, provide feedback and direction, and consider public comments.

C. Improve coordination between federal, state, tribal and local public agencies and stakeholders

- Engage other agencies and non-governmental organizations on key water issues by attending meetings and inviting representatives to speak at Commission meetings. Provide support for sound water policies through collaboration with other agencies and organizations.
- Engage with organizations that have proposed statutory or administrative changes to the management of DWR and the State Water Project, water financing, and related issues. (E.g. Little Hoover Commission, State Legislature, Policy Think Tanks, etc.) Provide input and feedback on the development of these proposals.

D. Develop and support policies that advance Integrated Resource Management

- Participate in the development of the California Water Plan 2013. The Commission will become an active participant in the California Water Plan State Agency Steering Committee.

E. Support actions and research to mitigate and adapt to climate change to facilitate more sustainable water management policies

- Receive regular briefings on Climate Change activities and policies from DWR and other appropriate organizations.
- Support Climate Change adaptation and mitigation through the Commission's federal advocacy, policy leadership, and public outreach activities.

F. Contribute to the public discourse and body of knowledge on key water policy issues

- Identify a list of water policy subject areas for further research and discussion to inform the Commission's activities.
- From that list, research, analyze, and develop white papers on key policy issues.

G. Advocate to the Congressional appropriations committees for federal funding

- Work with DWR to develop a new federal advocacy program.
- Work with DWR staff, and other agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to identify project funding needs.
- Receive regular briefings from DWR staff to stay apprised of the federal appropriations process; timing to be determined by the federal budget process and congressional hearings.
- Write to the Congressional appropriations committees informing them of California's funding priorities once each year. Members of the Commission may conduct an annual trip to Washington DC as necessary and if resources allow.

Actions Organized by Month (All timing is tentative subject to change at the discretion of the Commission)

October 2012

- Initial Consideration of State Water Project Encroachment Regulations
- Briefing on California Water Plan (CWP) Update 2013 Plenary Session
- Briefing on DWR Groundwater Program and CWP Groundwater Enhancements
- Tour State Water Project Facilities

November 2012

- Discuss special topics related to investments in the Public Benefits of Water Storage Projects
- Presentation on Ecosystem Services
- DWR Program Briefings

December 2012 (No Regular Meeting)

- State Water Project Workshop at AWCA Conference
- Post 2012 Summary of Activities to CWC Website

January 2013

- Approve 2012 Annual Report on the Construction and Operation of the State Water Project
- Consideration of Changes to/Adoption of State Water Project Encroachment Regulations
- Consideration of Resolutions of Necessity in support of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan
- Review DWR Regulation Calendar for 2013, approve for submittal to OAL
- DWR Program Briefing
- Commission identifies key subject areas for further research

February 2013

- Review DWR Delta Levees Investment Priorities
- Consideration of Changes to/Adoption of State Water Project Encroachment Regulations
- Discuss special topics related to investments in the Public Benefits of Water Storage Projects
- DWR Program Briefing

March 2013

- Discuss special topics related to investments in the Public Benefits of Water Storage Projects
- Legislative and Budget Update
- Briefing on Federal Appropriations
- DWR Program Briefing
- Participate in California Water Policy Conference
- Participate in Integrated Water Management Summit and Workshop

April 2013

- Update on SWP key issues and activities
- Reservoir Tour (as suggested by Friends of the River)
- Presentation on Public Review Draft of California Water Plan Update 2013
- Review Federal Appropriations for Flood Control Projects in California, Review Draft Letter to Federal Appropriations Committees of Congress
- Discuss special topics related to investments in the Public Benefits of Water Storage Projects
- DWR Program Briefing

May 2013

- Host workshop adjacent to ACWA Spring Conference
- Comment period on Commission White Paper on Policy Subject (to be determined)
- Prepare and submit comments on California Water Plan Update 2013
- Meet with Delta Vision Foundation
- DWR Program Briefing

June 2013

- Release of Commission White Paper on Policy Subject (to be determined)
- Discuss special topics related to investments in the Public Benefits of Water Storage Projects
- DWR Program Briefing

July 2013

- Submit comments on Final Bay Delta Conservation Plan EIR/S
- Federal Legislative Update
- DWR Program Briefing

August 2013

- Discuss special topics related to investments in the Public Benefits of Water Storage Projects
- DWR Program Briefing

September 2013

- Update on SWP key issues and activities
- CWP Update 2013 Plenary Session
- DWR Program Briefing
- Tour of State Water Project Facilities
- Attend/Participate in the Floodplain Management Association 2013 Annual Conference

October 2013

- Host Forum or Workshop to improve coordination between state/federal/local/tribal governments on water issues or a specific water issue
- Deadline for Final Approval of SWP Encroachment Regulations
- Staff begins drafting 2013 SWP annual report for approval in January 2014
- Discuss special topics related to investments in the Public Benefits of Water Storage Projects
- DWR Program Briefing

November 2013

- Review and approval of CWC Workplan 2014
- DWR Program Briefing

December 2013 (No Meeting)

- Staff post 2013 Summary of Activities to CWC Website
- State of the State Water Project Workshop (Or other participation in ACWA Conference)

Other Possible Actions/Questions

- Publish series of Factsheets
 - Water Storage, Conservation, IWM, Groundwater, Delta, activities of the CWC and other agencies, etc.
- White papers - how many per year?
- Other outreach opportunities?
- Engagement with other agencies at Commission meetings?
- Consideration of opportunities to acknowledge leaders/achievements in water management, including possible naming of SWP facility?