

# Summary of Activities



## Introduction

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The California Water Commission consists of nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Commission advises the Director of the Department of Water Resources on matters within the Department's jurisdiction, approves rules and regulations, and monitors and reports on the construction and operation of the State Water Project. California's comprehensive water legislation, enacted in 2009, gave the Commission new responsibilities regarding the allocation of public funds set aside for the public benefits of water storage projects, and developing regulations for the quantification and management of those benefits upon passage of a statewide water bond, now scheduled for 2014.

This document is intended to provide an overview of the Commission's activities and achievements in 2012. For a comprehensive account of proceedings and actions at each Commission meeting, please refer to the meeting minutes or the webcast archives available on the Commission's website at <https://cwc.ca.gov/Pages/Meetings.aspx>.

## Highlights

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- Adopted final Agricultural Water Measurement Regulations
- Toured and inspected several State Water Project facilities; prepared recommendations to the Legislature and Administration
- Facilitated and participated in public Town Hall on the state of the State Water Project
- Made recommendations to Congress on Federal Appropriations for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration climate and weather programs important for water supply and flood management in California
- Approved Resolutions of Necessity, allowing the Department of Water Resources to proceed with geotechnical investigations in support of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan
- Adopted Mission Statement, Strategic Plan, and Workplan
- Held a public workshop on the public benefits of water storage projects, and facilitated continued discussion of public benefits issues throughout the year

## **Summary of Actions**

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January 18, 2012

### ***Workshop***

- The Commission held a working session on the Quantification of Public Benefits of Water Storage Projects. The Commission reviewed the report, “Description and Screening of Potential Tools and Methods to Quantify the Public Benefits for Water Storage Projects” and heard public comments.

### ***Action Items***

- **Delegation of Authority to Executive Officer (Pass)**  
The Commission made a permanent delegation of authority to Executive Officer Sue Sims.
- **Election of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair (Pass)**  
Mr. Anthony Saracino was elected to the position of Chair and Mr. Joe Byrne was elected to the position of Vice-Chair.
- **Consideration of Resolutions of Necessity (RON) for properties in Sacramento and Solano Counties**
  - River Maid Land Co., RON 2011-14 (Pass)

### ***Other Business***

#### **Informational Items: Initial Consideration of Evidence for Resolutions of Necessity for properties in Contra Costa, Sacramento, and San Joaquin Counties**

The Commission heard staff reports and public comments regarding potential Resolutions of Necessity Nos. 2012-01 through 2012-25. The Resolutions of Necessity allow DWR access to the properties to conduct geotechnical investigations in support of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. This was the first Water Commission hearing on these properties consistent with the Commission’s Procedure for Eminent Domain.

Additionally, the Commission heard briefings on its responsibilities related to the Delta Special Flood Control Projects, development of a Strategic Plan, and DWR activities related to Resolutions of Necessity.

February 15, 2012

**Action Items**

- **Consideration of Resolutions of Necessity for properties in Contra Costa, Sacramento, and San Joaquin Counties**
  - Coney Island Farms, Inc., RON 2012-10 (Pass)
  - Lucille Christensen Family Trust; Lorraine L. Croup 1992 Trust, RON 2012-25 (Pass)
  - Elliot Family Revocable Trust date April 13, 1993, RON 2012-07 (Postponed)
  - Delta Wetlands Properties, An Illinois General Partnership, RON 2012-15 (Pass)
  - Delta Wetlands Properties, An Illinois General Partnership, RON 2012-19 (Pass)
  - Norman J. and Katherine Marks Trust, RON 2012-03 (Pass)
  - Greene and Hemly, Inc., RON 2012-06 (Pass)
  - Robert A. Sr., David and Kelley Dal Porto, RON 2012-13 (Pass)
  - Carolyn A. Nichols Revocable Living Trust; Eileen V. Nichols Revocable Living Trust and Victoria Island, L.P., RON 2012-21 (Pass)
  - Arnaudo Bros. LP, Arnaudo Bros. Inc., PON 2012-22 (Pass)
  - Mark Scribner, Jr. Successor Trustee, Grace M. Scribner Living Trust, RON 2012-24 (Pass)
  - The Conrad and Berniece Silva Revocable Trust, and The Conrad Silva Exempt Marital Deduction Trust, RON 2012-20 (Pass)
  - Venice Island, Inc., RON 2012-16 (Pass)
  - Biagi Living Trust Agreement, RON 2012-14 (Pass)
  - Wurster Ranches, LP, RON 2012-04 (Pass)
  
- **Update on Office of Administrative Law Decision on Agricultural Water Measurement Regulation and Consideration of DWR Proposal for Revision to Regulation (Pass)**

The Commission approved changes to the regulations including deleting Section 597.1 (i), and changing Section 597.3 (b)(1)(B) to read: "... by installing a commercially available or on-site built measurement device or devices..."
  
- **Adoption of Committees (Fail)**

The Commission decided to make no committee appointments at this time, and will form ad hoc committees for specific issues as needed.
  
- **Update on Strategic Plan and Consideration of Mission Statement (No Action)**

Commission members Delfino and Curtin formed an ad hoc committee to continue work on the mission statement.

### **Other Business**

The Commission heard an informational briefing on the Delta Levees Special Projects Program.

March 21, 2012

### **Action Items**

- **Amendments to Resolutions of Necessity passed prior to February 2012 regarding quit -claim language and hazardous materials testing (Pass)**  
The Commission approved a proposal to add clarifying language regarding quit-claim deeds and hazardous materials testing to all of its previously approved Resolutions of Necessity.
- **Consideration of Resolutions of Necessity for properties in Contra Costa and Sacramento Counties**
  - Elliot Family Revocable Trust date April 13, 1993, RON 2012-07 (Pass)
  - Clifton Court, LP; Alba C. Moore Survivor’s Trust, and the Moore Exemption Trust, RON 2012-09 (Pass)
  - Tsakopoulos Family Trust, RON 2012-23 (Pass)
- **Consideration of Agricultural Water Measurement Regulations (Pass)**  
The Commission approved the staff recommendation to amend the regulation in response to public comments and begin an additional 15-day public comment period.
- **Adoption of Mission Statement and Discussion of Strategic Plan (Pass)**  
The Commission approved the following mission statement:

*To provide a public forum for discussing water issues, to advise the Department of Water Resources, and to take appropriate statutory actions to further the development of policies that support integrated and sustainable water resource management and a healthy environment.*

### **Other Business**

The Commission heard updates on DWR activities related to proposed Resolutions of Necessity for properties, as well as a legislative and budget update. Additionally, the Commission directed staff to send letters in support of funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Change research, and in support of DWR’s comments regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Levee Vegetation Policy.

April 18, 2012

**Action Items**

- **Consideration of Final Agricultural Water Measurement Regulations (Pass)**  
The Commission made additional changes to the Agricultural Water Measurement Regulation, and approved the revised regulations for an additional 15-day public comment period.

**Other Business**

Deputy Secretary for Resources Jerry Meral briefed the Commission on the status of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and the Commission heard a panel discussion on BDCP financing representing a variety of stakeholders. The Commission was also briefed on the status of the Quantification of Public Benefits Program and DWR's Integrated Water Management program.

May 2, 2012

Members of the California Water Commission participated in a dedication ceremony for the recently named *Ronald B. Robie Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant* in Oroville. The Members also participated in a tour of that facility as well as Hyatt Power Plant and Oroville Dam.

May 8, 2012

**Action Items**

- **Consideration of Final Agricultural Water Measurement Regulations (Pass)**  
The Commission passed the Final Agricultural Water Measurement regulations with no changes from the previous regulation. The regulations were submitted to the Office of Administrative Law for approval.

June 20, 2012

**Action Items**

- A quorum of members was not present at this meeting. As a result, all action items were heard as informational items.

***Other Business***

The Commission heard briefings on DWR's 2012-2013 budget, DWR's tribal relations and environmental justice activities, State Water Project key activities, Proposition 50 Grants for Agricultural Water Conservation, and the proposed method for quantifying the efficiency of agricultural water use.

The Commission heard a briefing on federal appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Change research, and staff agreed to begin drafting a letter of support for funding. The Commission also reviewed the priority list for Delta Levees Special Projects funding for approval at a future meeting. The Commission discussed the Strategic Plan and directed staff to put out a draft plan for public comment.

July 6, 2012

***Action Items***

- **Consideration of Final Agricultural Water Measurement Regulations (Pass)**  
The Commission voted to incorporate by reference of the Agricultural Aggregated Farm-Gate Delivery Reporting Form. The final regulation was submitted to OAL for approval.

***Other Business***

The Commission was scheduled to consider approval of the priority list for Delta Levees Special Projects funding. However, further deliberation revealed that Commission approval was not necessary at this point in the process.

August 15, 2012

***Action Items***

- **Consideration of 2012 Strategic Plan (Vote Postponed)**  
The 2012 Strategic Plan was presented to the Commission. A formal vote for approval was postponed to September to allow all members of the Commission a chance to review the final plan.

***Other Items***

The Commission heard a briefing on the development of State Water Project encroachment regulations, as well as an update on work by DWR, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game and State Water Resources Control Board, on Quantification of the Public Benefits associated with Water Storage Projects.

September 19, 2012

***Action Items***

- **Consideration of 2012 Strategic Plan and Update on Commission workplan**  
The Commission approved the 2012 Strategic Plan with no changes.

***Other Business***

The Commission heard updates on DWR's Federal Advocacy program, Division of Safety of Dams, Climate Change activities, and work on coastal inundation, and the National Research Council's study on sea level rise. The Commission also discussed its priorities and next steps related to quantification of public benefits.

October 17, 2012

***Action Items***

- There were no actions taken at this meeting.

***Other Business***

The Commission heard briefings on recent legislation affecting water management, the development of overarching priorities for Delta Levees Special Projects, the development on of the California Water Plan Update 2013, DWR Groundwater Programs, Statewide Flood Planning, DWR's Levee Vegetation Management Strategy, and the Commission workplan. The Commission also discussed outstanding policy and procedural questions related to the quantification of the public benefits of water storage projects.

October 18, 2012

**Tour of State Water Project Southern California Facilities**

Members of the Commission toured several State Water Project facilities in Southern California including the Vista Del Lago Visitors Center in Gorman, a Warne Power Plant, Quail Lake, the California Aqueduct bifurcation, Alamo Power Plant, the Civil Maintenance Facility at Oso Pumping Plant, and Edmonston Pumping Plant.

November 14, 2012

***Action Items***

- There were no actions taken at this meeting.

***Other Business***

Members of the Commission who attended the State Water Project Southern California tour reported back to the Commission on their findings. The Commission heard a briefing on Ecosystem Services by the Director of the Department of Conservation. They also heard briefings on State Water Project power and energy issues and accommodating climatic changes at the regulatory level.

Additionally, the Commission continued its discussion of the public benefits of water storage projects, focusing on working towards a common definition of water quality benefits.

December 5, 2012

The California Water Commission participated in a Town Hall panel at the Association of California Water Agencies Fall Conference titled “State Water Project: The Next 50 Years.” Commission Member Joe Byrne participated in the panel along with SWP Deputy Director Carl Torgersen and State Water Contractors President Joan Maher. Executive Officer Sue Sims served as moderator. The panel discussed the many challenges facing the SWP including, recruitment and retention, energy, climate change, and operational challenges, as well as potential solutions.

December 12, 2012

***Action Items***

- **Approval of Meeting Schedule for 2013**  
The Commission agreed to continue meeting on the third Wednesday of every month through 2013.
- **Approval of Commission Workplan**  
The Commission approved the revised Workplan for 2013 with no additional changes.
- **Election of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair**  
Joe Byrne was elected Chair and Joe Del Bosque was elected Vice-Chair.

***Other Business***

The Commission heard briefings on the California Water Plan Forest Management Strategy, and on State Water Project facilities including the recent fire at Ronald B. Robie Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant and the installation of a second turbine at Alamo Power Plant. The Commission also reviewed questions regarding the definition of ecosystem benefits for the purpose of quantifying public benefits of water storage projects.

## **Attachments**

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### **1. Selected Correspondence**

- A. Letters in support of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Funding - March 28, 2012
- B. Letter regarding Vegetation Standards for Levees and Floodwalls - April 17, 2012
- C. Letter in support of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Funding - June 25, 2012
- D. Letter regarding State Water Project Critical Issues - July 3, 2012

### **2. Administration and Procedures**

- A. Strategic Plan 2012
- B. 2012-2013 Workplan
- C. Delegation of Authority to Executive Officer

### **3. 2012 Resolutions**

### **4. Index Commission of Activities by Subject**

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES****CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION**

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836

SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001

(916) 651-7501



**Anthony Saracino**  
Chair

March 28, 2012

**Joseph Byrne**  
Vice Chair

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski

**Andrew Ball**  
Member

Chair

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

**Daniel Curtin**  
Member

Committee on Appropriations

Washington, DC 20510

**Joe Del Bosque**  
Member

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison

**Kimberley Delfino**  
Member

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

**Luther Hintz**  
Member

Committee on Appropriations

Washington, DC 20515

**Sue Sims**  
Executive Officer

Dear Chairman Mikulski and Ranking Member Hutchison:

The California Water Commission respectfully requests your support for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) climate and weather programs in the FY 2013 appropriations bill that are important for water supply and flood management in California.

Even during this era of constrained resources, we believe it is important to continue investments in research, observations, monitoring, and modeling that can help states like California manage water supply and flood control programs, assist in adaptation to weather and climate risks, and reduce future costs from natural disasters.

Specifically, we urge your support for the hydrometeorological testbed (HMT) program within the Office of Atmospheric Research's (OAR's) Weather and Air Chemistry Research Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes program. Working in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources and the California Energy Commission, the HMT-West program has improved the ability to monitor and forecast extreme storms that both provide much of California's annual water supply and cause major floods. California plans to work with NOAA on the further implementation and refinement of this program, which is providing important research benefits throughout the western states. The HMT program is one of California's highest priorities in the OAR budget and the Commission

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison  
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supports a \$7.7 million increase in the FY 2013 President's Budget Request to restore funding to the original level proposed for this program in FY 2012.

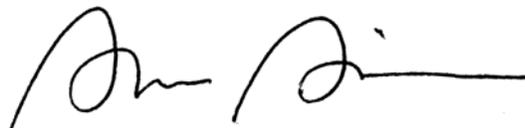
Secondly, we urge you to support the President's Budget Request in the FY 2013 appropriations bill for the NOAA Office of Atmospheric Research (OAR) Climate Competitive Research, Sustained Observations and Regional Information program. California water managers use information generated through three of the program's

Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments centers to better understand water supply variability for state and regional planning. Also funded within this line item is the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) program, which is just beginning a regional drought pilot program in California to improve quantification of drought impacts.

Lastly, we urge your support for continuation of NOAA's enacted FY 2012 funding for the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service's Regional Climate Centers (RCCs), and would prioritize funding for the RCCs themselves over that of the regional climate service directors within that same line item. The RCCs have had a long history of providing climate and weather data, and the Western RCC has historically partnered with California's State Climatologist on snowpack and water supply forecasting projects in the Sierra Nevada. Similarly, we urge your support to continue enacted FY 2012 funding for the National Weather Service Operations, Research, and Facilities' Cooperative Observer Network. With NOAA's recent suspension of installing new weather stations in its flagship U.S. Climate Reference Network, it becomes even more important to keep the co-op's aging weather stations operational. Maintaining a high density of operational stations is important in California, where our variable topography causes large changes in climate over short distances.

Thank you for your consideration of these important programs and their role in effective water management and planning for California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Sims". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Susan Sims  
Executive Officer  
California Water Commission

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison  
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cc: The Honorable Diane Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Mark W. Cowin, Director  
Kasey Schimke, Deputy Director

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES****CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION**

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836  
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**Anthony Saracino**  
 Chair

March 28, 2012

**Joseph Byrne**  
 Vice Chair

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
 Chairman

**Andrew Ball**  
 Member

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

**Daniel Curtin**  
 Member

Committee on Appropriations  
 Washington, DC 20515

**Joe Del Bosque**  
 Member

The Honorable Chaka Fattah

**Kimberley Delfino**  
 Member

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

**Luther Hintz**  
 Member

Committee on Appropriations  
 Washington, DC 20515

**Sue Sims**  
 Executive Officer

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

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supports a \$7.7 million increase in the FY 2013 President's Budget Request to restore funding to the original level proposed for this program in FY 2012.

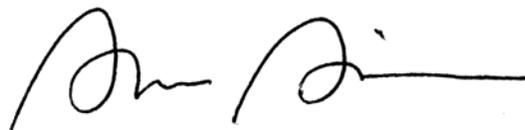
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Thank you for your consideration of these important programs and their role in effective water management and planning for California.

Sincerely,

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Susan Sims  
Executive Officer  
California Water Commission

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Page 3

cc: California House members  
Mark W. Cowin, Director  
Kasey Schimke, Deputy Director

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES****CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION**

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836  
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 (916) 653-5791



**Anthony Saracino**  
 Chair

April 17, 2012

**Joseph Byrne**  
 Vice Chair

CECW–CE, Tammy Conforti

**Andrew Ball**  
 Member

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 441 G Street, Northwest

**Daniel Curtin**  
 Member

Washington, DC 20314–1000

**Joe Del Bosque**  
 Member

Docket Number COE-2010-0007 - Comments on Process for Requesting a  
 Variance from Vegetation Standards for Levees and Floodwalls

**Kimberley Delfino**  
 Member

**Luther Hintz**  
 Member

Dear Ms. Conforti:

**Sue Sims**  
 Executive Officer

The California Water Commission is a nine-member board appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Legislature. The Commission has statutory authority to provide recommendations on policies that support sound and sustainable water management activities in California. Additionally, in matters concerning the operation of federal water development and flood control projects in California, the Water Commission “may confer with the appropriate executive agencies of the United States” (California Water Code §12604.3). The Commission appreciates the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) proposal for variance from vegetation standards for levees and floodwalls.

There is no doubt that the proposal, if implemented, would cause significant problems for the State of California including, but not limited to, destruction of key riparian habitat, diversion of funds from more pressing public safety concerns, loss of federal funding for levee maintenance in both urban and rural areas, and in many cases difficulty or inability to seek a variance due to a cumbersome application process.

It is our understanding that DWR and other stakeholders have attempted to productively engage USACE through exchange of correspondence and in discussions to address these and other problems with the levee vegetation and variance proposals. Unfortunately, those communications have not resulted in the resolution of key areas of concern.

We are particularly concerned that USACE has not responded to DWR’s conclusion, nor its underlying scientific and engineering principles, that, in most circumstances, levee vegetation is at most a minimal risk factor and, in

Tammy Conforti

April 17, 2012

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many cases, vegetation provides public safety and significant habitat benefits.

California state and local governments are faced with significant fiscal challenges, so it is particularly disconcerting that the USACE proposal could force local maintaining agencies to forgo federal funds on the basis of unsupported concerns regarding levee vegetation, or to use limited funding to remove levee vegetation that will have the practical effect of increasing flood risks in California. DWR and DFG estimate that complying with the USACE's policy could cost up to \$7.5 billion and divert funds away from more significant levee deficiencies like seepage and erosion.

Historically, the USACE has allowed and even encouraged the planting of trees and other vegetation on California levees. These efforts, intended to benefit federal- and state-listed threatened and endangered species, have been extremely beneficial to our efforts to balance flood management and ecosystem protection. The new policy directly conflicts with these past actions.

The Water Commission believes that alternatives providing sufficient access for inspections and flood fighting can be provided without the complete removal of woody vegetation. This is not a situation in which a choice needs to be made between safety and environmental benefits because a sound plan can achieve both of these objectives. The policy to remove trees and other vegetation from California's levees endangers many important fish species and wildlife, while allowing well-managed vegetation not only benefits habitat but also the safety of our communities.

The Water Commission urges the USACE to seriously consider the scientific information as well as California's efforts and experience in levee management and flood protection to work toward a collaborative solution to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Saracino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Anthony Saracino, Chair  
California Water Commission

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES****CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION**

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836  
 SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001  
 (916) 651-7501



**Anthony Saracino**  
 Chair

June 25, 2012

**Joseph Byrne**  
 Vice Chair

**Dr. Robert Detrick**

**Andrew Ball**  
 Member

Assistant Administrator

**Daniel Curtin**  
 Member

Office of Atmospheric Research

**Joe Del Bosque**  
 Member

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

1315 East-West Highway

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

**Kimberley Delfino**  
 Member

Dear Dr. Detrick:

**Luther Hintz**  
 Member

As the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) makes its budget plans for Fiscal Year 2013 in the face of a likely continuing resolution at the beginning of the year, the California Water Commission requests your support for a program that has proved extremely valuable to water management activities in California, the Hydrometeorology Testbed (HMT) program within the Earth System Research Laboratory. Specifically, we ask that you support \$2 million in base funding in the Physical Sciences Division for HMT.

**Sue Sims**  
 Executive Officer

The HMT-West program in California, working in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources and the California Energy Commission, has been highly successful in improving the ability to monitor and forecast extreme storms that both provide much of California's annual water supply and cause major floods. Governor Brown has identified adaptation to extreme events as a high priority for his administration, and California is looking forward to continuing to work with NOAA on the further implementation and refinement of this program, which is providing important research benefits throughout the western states. The HMT program is one of California's highest priorities in the Office of Atmospheric Research budget.

Recognizing the potential benefits of developing improved observing systems for extreme precipitation, the Western States Water Council, an organization consisting of representatives appointed by the governors of 18 western states, recently adopted a resolution supporting expansion of the work that was begun in California more broadly throughout the West. A council brochure, outlining a vision of what such an observing system could entail and developed by the research community is enclosed. The HMT program is uniquely suited to carry out the work needed to improve observations of extreme precipitation, building upon the experience it developed in California. We and our neighboring states share challenges

Dr. Robert Detrick  
June 25, 2012  
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such as topographic variability that complicates radar observations, and coastal states are similarly challenged by needs for offshore observations to improve precipitation forecast lead times. Maintaining an adequate base level of funding for HMT will allow the program to continue making important progress in these very practical research applications.

If you need additional information on our interest in HMT or would like to discuss this further, please contact me at (916) 653-5544 or [ssims@water.ca.gov](mailto:ssims@water.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Sims', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sue Sims  
Executive Officer  
California Water Commission

Enclosure

cc: Mark Cowin, Director  
Jeanine Jones, Interstate Resource Manager

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1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836  
 SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001  
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**Anthony Saracino**  
 Chair

July 3, 2012

**Joseph Byrne**  
 Vice Chair

**Andrew Ball**  
 Member

**Daniel Curtin**  
 Member

**Joe Del Bosque**  
 Member

**Kimberley Delfino**  
 Member

**Luther Hintz**  
 Member

The Honorable John Laird  
 Secretary for Natural Resources  
 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
 Sacramento, California 95814

Julie Chapman, Director  
 Department of Personnel Administration  
 1515 S Street, North Building, Suite 400  
 Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Secretary Laird and Director Chapman:

**Sue Sims**  
 Executive Officer

In a letter dated March 29, 2011, the California Water Commission urged the Brown administration to take action to resolve a serious workforce recruitment and retention crisis that is impacting the reliability of the State Water Project (SWP) operations and the safety of its employees. We understand that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has brought this issue to the Department of Personnel Administration's attention, and has met on numerous occasions with yourselves and other Administration officials to provide additional information. The California Water Commission wishes to express its ongoing support for a reasonable and expedited resolution to this important matter.

Over the past year, recruitment and retention for personnel in the specialized hydroelectric power trades and crafts classifications have continued to pose a major challenge to DWR. The salaries already define the bottom of the pay range for the hydroelectric industry in California, and the 5% salary reduction for all state employees in the FY 2012/13 budget will only exacerbate the problem. Due to the issues resulting from this pay disparity between the state and other public and private utilities, DWR has been unable to fill many of its authorized positions. For instance, 93 new positions were approved for FY 2011/12 but approximately one-third of those positions were not filled due to lack interest from qualified candidates. Impacts of a limited and less experienced workforce include a significant backlog of maintenance needs and an ongoing decline in operational availability (OA), as well as greater challenges in meeting regulatory requirements and maintaining a world-class safety program.

The Honorable John Laird  
Julie Chapman, Director  
July 3, 2012  
Page 2

For example, between 2005 and 2012, the OA of SWP pumping units dropped from 92% to 77% in part because of the lack of staff to maintain, repair, and operate the system at full capacity. In addition to threatening the reliability of the SWP to make deliveries for water supply, reduced OA also threatens the ability of the SWP to meet downstream temperature requirements for fish and other ecosystem needs more difficult. The reduced OA also restricts the SWP's ability to manage power use effectively, shifting additional pumping loads into the higher priced "on-peak" electricity market which results in higher water delivery costs. DWR estimates that these excess energy costs caused by lower OA have added approximately \$50 million in operational costs in 2011 alone. Furthermore, the SWP's ability to be flexible in managing its power resources can, at times, allow the SWP to provide wide public benefit by helping stabilize California's power grid, so when SWP OA is restricted, the opportunity to provide this key additional public benefit can be lost.

DWR believes its recruitment and retention issues, and the many resulting challenges, can be significantly resolved by aligning pay for skilled trades and crafts workers with industry standards. The increased cost to address these issues and achieve pay parity is estimated at approximately \$12 million annually. ***These additional costs would have no impact to the State's General Fund as the costs would be paid from SWP funds received through water delivery charges to State Water Contractors*** (who have also sent letters urging the administration to help resolve these same issues). This is a fraction of the annual energy and compliance costs currently being incurred by the SWP because of these issues, and even more importantly, it represents a prudent and necessary investment to maintain the safety of our personnel, equipment and the public.

The California Water Commission once again urges the Administration to address this critical issue facing our state's water system.

Sincerely,



Anthony Saracino, Chair  
California Water Commission

Attachment (March 29 Letter)

cc: Mark Cowin, Director

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
**CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION**  
901 P STREET, P.O. BOX 942836  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95836-0001  
(916) 653-5791



MAR 29 2011

Honorable John Laird  
Secretary for Natural Resources  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311  
Sacramento, California 95814

Ronald Yank, Director  
Department of Personnel Administration  
1515 S Street, North Building, Suite 400  
Sacramento, California 95811-7258

The California Water Commission is deeply concerned about a workforce recruitment and retention crisis that is impacting the State Water Project (SWP), and its ability to safely operate and maintain critical facilities and provide reliable water supplies to 25 million Californians and over 700,000 acres of farmland.

At our January 19 meeting, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) provided information to the Commission on its inability to recruit and retain necessary numbers of qualified personnel, particularly in the highly specialized hydroelectric power trades and crafts classifications which are responsible for performing the daily operations and maintenance of the SWP infrastructure. Despite a statewide unemployment rate of 12 percent, qualified workers are not applying for these DWR positions, underscoring both the limited talent pool and DWR's non-competitive salaries for these classifications.

The skills required to run the country's largest state-owned water and power utility - such as purchasing power, scheduling water and power deliveries, and operating and maintaining the SWP's complex infrastructure - are in great demand from private and other public utilities. This is especially true since deregulation of California's energy market in the mid-1990s. However, DWR's civil service pay scales simply have not kept pace with other utilities to attract and retain employees with these highly specialized skills. According to recent salary surveys, DWR's total compensation packages for employees in these classifications are by far the lowest among comparable water and power utilities in California. This problem has been compounded in recent years by numerous administrative actions including furloughs, salary cuts, overtime restrictions, and hiring freezes in response to the State's ongoing General Fund deficit, despite the fact that 100 percent of the SWP operations and maintenance costs are borne by the SWP contractors and their ratepayers, not the General Fund. The need for these highly-skilled employees continues to grow, and yet DWR continues to lose people to similar jobs in higher paying utilities.

Honorable John Laird  
Ronald Yank, Director

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DWR conducts an extensive apprentice training program for its hydroelectric trades and crafts classifications. Through the program, apprentices complete three to four years of on-the-job training to reach the journey level. This training represents a significant financial investment for the State, yet many of these employees leave DWR shortly after graduation for significantly higher paying jobs at other utilities.

DWR has been seeking resolution of the pay parity issue with previous administrations for more than 10 years, without success. In the absence of resolution, DWR has been forced to rely heavily on overtime to conduct necessary maintenance and on contracting out millions of dollars of work. The impacts of the recruitment and retention crisis are evident and, if not addressed, will certainly become more severe, perhaps even catastrophic. Staff shortages and inexperience have resulted in a serious backlog of deferred maintenance and increase the probability of operational errors and equipment malfunctions that jeopardize public safety and SWP reliability. For the first time in its 50-year history, the SWP missed water deliveries last fall. Critical equipment was out of service due to the lack of staff needed to perform necessary maintenance and repairs. DWR reported to the Commission that the SWP was unable to export tens of thousands of acre feet from November 2010 through January 2011 due to forced outages at its Delta pumping facilities, increasing the risk that these water supplies may not be available to farms, families and communities later this year. This could result in higher costs passed on to ratepayers for replacement water supplies.

In addition, the decline in operational reliability is increasing the cost of water for SWP customers through higher costs to meet the SWP's electrical power demands. The SWP is the largest single consumer of electricity in California. To reduce energy costs, pumping is generally scheduled "off peak" when energy demands and prices are lowest. However, limited pumping capacity due to the shortage of operations and maintenance staff is restricting the ability to manage power uses efficiently, forcing more pumping loads into the higher priced "on-peak" electricity market. DWR estimates that SWP energy costs will increase between \$25-30 million for 2011 without the ability to optimize the pumping schedules.

DWR has outlined the issues in a letter to the Department of Personnel Administration dated February 18, 2011 (attached). In the last several months, both the Little Hoover Commission and the Public Policy Institute of California have recommended reorganizing SWP governance as a long-term solution to a number of issues. While this may represent a long-term solution, the Commission sees the need for more immediate action on compensation and labor relations issues by the Administration and the Legislature and to address the current recruitment and retention issues and reverse the troubling decline in SWP operational reliability.

Honorable John Laird  
Ronald Yank, Director

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Consistent with its statutory authority to review the operation of the SWP and report to the Legislature, the Commission is asking Legislature and the Administration to quickly resolve this recruitment and retention crisis. The present situation is not sustainable. California owes its economic development to the forward-thinking leaders of the 1950's and 1960's, and to the employees who operate and maintain the SWP. Yet these workforce issues continue to impact the reliability of California's water system, the state's economy, its farms, and its people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Saracino', written over a horizontal line.

Anthony Saracino, Chair  
California Water Commission

California Water Commission Members:

Andrew Ball  
Joseph Byrne  
Dave Cogdill  
Daniel Curtin  
Joe Del Bosque  
Kimberley Delfino  
Luther Hintz  
Paul Kelley  
Sue Sims, Executive Officer

Attachment

# California's Water Challenge

STRATEGIC PLAN, 2012

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CALIFORNIA  
WATER  
COMMISSION'S

STRATEGIC  
PLAN  
2012

# California Water Commission

The need to effectively manage California's water is more important today than at any time in history. The state's population continues to grow and urbanize, placing new demands on existing water and flood protection infrastructure. Protection of threatened fish species and their ecosystems, together with climate change impacts to hydrology and sea level conditions will increasingly affect the future reliability of the state's water supplies. It is imperative that California consider and utilize a broad range of strategies and resources to address the needs of the state's people, environment, farms, and economy for clean and reliable water. The California Water Commission is committed to promoting policies that encourage the sustainable management of water and a healthy environment, and serving as a primary agency for public discussion of water issues.

This document outlines California's water challenges and the California Water Commission's goals to address and provide leadership on those challenges.

# Critical Issues in California Water Management



California faces growing water management challenges—including growth in demand, climate change, and instability in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Potential solutions will involve difficult and sometimes costly tradeoffs. The comprehensive package of water legislation enacted in late 2009 is a good beginning in policy reform but increased momentum—coupled with new investments—is essential to the state’s future.



—Public Policy Institute of California, February 2012

## Water Supply Reliability

Many factors threaten water supply reliability in California. Significant investments are needed to expand and upgrade aging infrastructure, including the State Water Project, Delta conveyance, and regional projects to better address local water needs—including urban, agricultural, and environmental uses—for all California regions. Water supply reliability for many communities served by the State Water Project and other water systems is threatened by declining environmental conditions in the Delta, seismic events, a deteriorating levee system, water quality impacts, and sea level rise.

## Changing Climate

Water supply in California is inherently variable because precipitation, the primary source of the state’s water supplies, varies from place to place, season to season, and year to year. As a result, many parts of California already face significant threats from floods and drought. Climate change will increase this variability, causing longer dry periods, more intense storms, and less snowpack which serves as a

natural form of water storage. State, federal and regional agencies are looking at ways to effectively respond to this variability such as Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM), a collaborative effort to manage all water resources in a region. IRWM strategies can include water supply, water quality, water use efficiency, operational flexibility, and stewardship of land and natural resources, often resulting in multi-benefit projects.

## Declining Natural Systems

Problems with watershed health, lack of suitable habitat, competition with invasive species, toxicity, and water operations have contributed to ecosystem declines in the Delta and many areas of the state. Additionally, both surface water and groundwater quality varies greatly across the state. In many places water quality is impaired by urban runoff, agricultural discharge, and stormwater runoff which can carry chemicals, salts, pathogens, or other harmful pollutants. Addressing these serious problems is vital to the long term sustainability and reliability of California’s water supplies and the environment for fish, wildlife and people.

# Establishment of the Commission

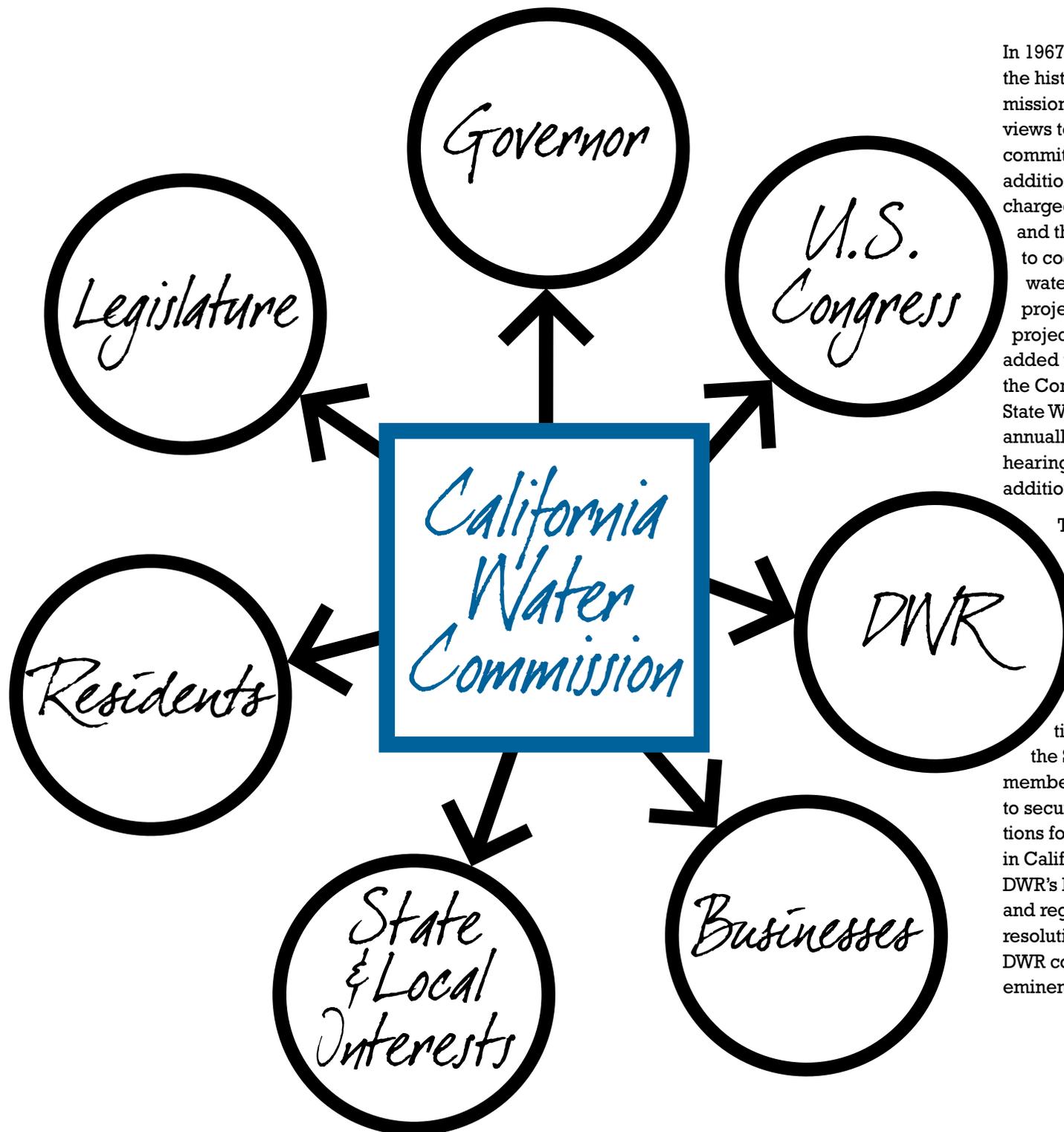


California  
Water  
Commission

The predecessor of the modern California Water Commission, the State Water Resources Board, was established by the California Legislature in 1945. The Board was charged with investigating and recommending projects for flood control and beneficial uses of water, representing state and local interests to the federal government, and making recommendations for needed water development projects to the Legislature. Governor Earl Warren appointed the first member of the board on November 1, 1945.

In 1956, the legislation that created the Department of Water Resources (DWR) also transferred many functions of the State Water Resources Board to the new DWR. However, the Board continued to exist within DWR. Soon after, the Legislature changed the name of the State Water Board to the California Water Commission and codified the Commission's powers in the Water Code much as they exist today.

# Historical Roles and Duties

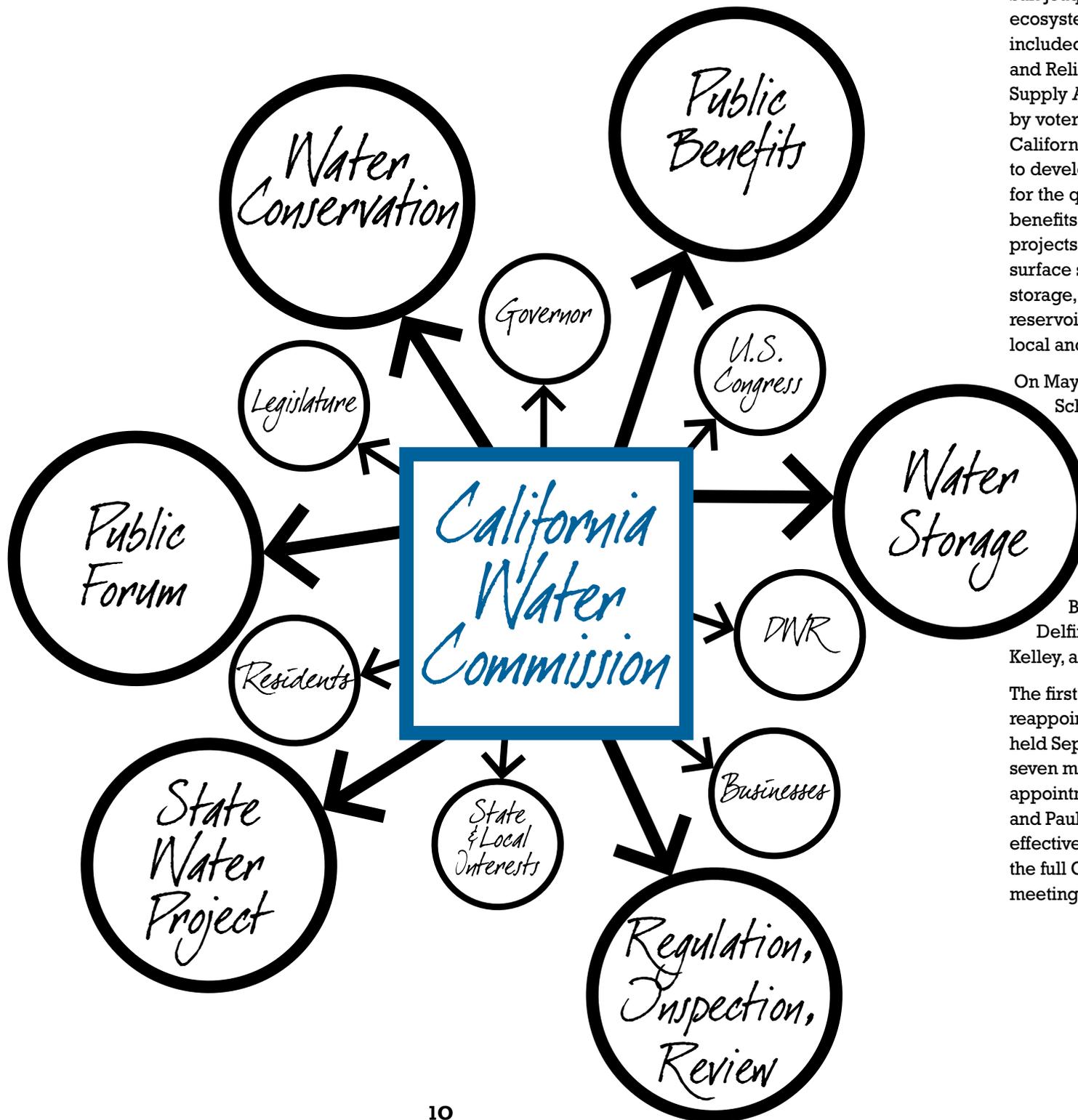


In 1967, the Legislature codified the historical role of the Commission to present California's views to the appropriations committees of Congress. In addition, the Commission was charged with advising DWR and the Governor with respect to coordination of federal water and flood control projects with state and local projects. The legislation also added the requirement that the Commission inspect the State Water Project (SWP) annually and conduct public hearings concerning proposed additions to the SWP.

The Commission met monthly at locations across the state. Major duties of the Commission included the annual inspection of, and report on the construction and operation of, the SWP and meeting with members of the U.S. Congress to secure federal appropriations for flood control projects in California. They also advised DWR's Director, approved rules and regulations, and considered resolutions of necessity before DWR could enter into any eminent domain proceedings.

During the late 1990s, terms expired and without new appointments there was no longer a quorum of Commission members. Unable to take any official actions, the Commission stopped meeting regularly and many of the official duties were performed by DWR staff. The Commission held several emergency meetings in the early 2000s but never resumed meeting regularly. Eventually, all Commission appointments expired and the Commission was left vacant until 2010.

# The Modern Commission



In November 2009, California enacted a comprehensive water package to improve the state's water supply reliability and restore the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta ecosystem. The package included the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act which, if approved by voters, will direct the California Water Commission to develop tools and methods for the quantification of public benefits of water storage projects including CALFED surface storage, groundwater storage, conjunctive use and reservoir reoperation, and local and regional storage.

On May 14, 2010, Governor Schwarzenegger announced nine appointments to the long-vacant Commission: Andrew Ball, Joseph Byrne, Dave Cogdill, Daniel Curtin, Joe Del Bosque, Kimberley Delfino, Luther Hintz, Paul Kelley, and Anthony Saracino.

The first meeting of the newly reappointed Commission was held September 28, 2010 with seven members. Two of the appointments, Dave Cogdill and Paul Kelley, became effective in January 2011, and the full Commission held its first meeting on January 16, 2011.

Since then, the Commission has resumed its statutory duties and tackled policy and operations issues including approving Industrial Process Water and Agricultural Water Measurement regulations for water use efficiency, reviewing the State Water Project and federal appropriations for water supply and flood projects in California, and providing a public forum to evaluate and better understand the needs, options, and outlook for water storage in California.

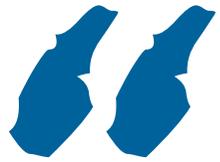
This strategic plan is intended to serve as the Commission's guiding document during this challenging and exciting time for California water. This plan will be formally reviewed and updated by the Commission with public input every five years to help evaluate the effectiveness of the Commission's activities and to ensure that the Commission maintains its focus on current and important California water issues.

# Mission Statement

The California Water Commission provides a public forum for discussing water issues, advises the Department of Water Resources, and takes appropriate statutory actions to further the development of policies that support integrated and sustainable water resource management and a healthy environment.

To accomplish its mission, the California Water Commission has defined three overarching goals and a number of key strategies designed to achieve those goals:

# 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**

The Commission will inform and engage the public on water issues by considering public testimony at all Commission meetings, participating in the exchange of ideas at water conferences and events, publishing informative articles and reports, and responding to all public inquiries in a timely and efficient manner. The Commission will engage the public through the use of public hearings on various water issues and specifically to seek public input on all additional facilities proposed to be added to the State Water Project and when naming facilities of the SWP.

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

The Commission will become the primary forum for public discourse on the future of *water storage* in California and support the development of the state's policies and priorities for water storage. This will be accomplished by hosting

public meetings and workshops to engage stakeholders and other interested parties in discussion and consideration of water storage and related issues. The Commission will also identify and create opportunities for members to participate in conferences and workshops, publish articles, and inform the legislature and other policy makers about the Commission's findings.

## **C. Provide transparent access to information**

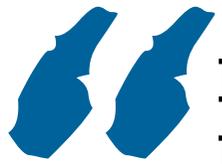
The Commission will maximize the use of technology to provide easy and transparent access to information to ensure that the public has the opportunity to observe and participate in the Commission's activities. These activities will include webcasting its meetings, publishing a written summary of meeting results following Commission meetings, publishing an annual report summarizing the key activities and accomplishments of the Commission, and continually updating the Commission website.

Water storage projects\* may include:

- a) Surface storage projects identified in the CALFED Record of Decision
- b) Groundwater storage projects and groundwater contamination prevention or remediation projects that provide water storage benefits
- c) Conjunctive use and reservoir reoperation projects
- d) Local and regional surface storage projects that improve the operation of water systems in the state and provide public benefits

\*As defined in SBX7-2, the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2012

# 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**

The Commission will review, consider, and approve, as appropriate, all regulations of the Department of Water Resources and provide for enhanced public participation in the rulemaking process to ensure rules and regulations created by DWR are clear, fair, useful, and necessary.

## **B. Approve priority areas for the Delta Special Projects Program**

The Commission will ensure the priority areas for DWR's Delta Special Projects Program for flood control funding reflect the most pressing flood control needs in the Delta by reviewing and approving the Program's priority areas for investment as needed.

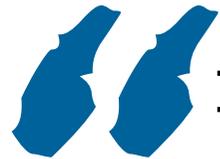
## **C. Review and inspect the State Water Project**

The Commission will review and inspect SWP construction and operation annually, and make recommendations to the Legislature on the status of the operation and construction of the SWP.

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

The Commission will ensure that any eminent domain proceedings initiated by DWR are necessary and meet the required findings in the Code of Civil Procedure 1245.230. These actions will include a public forum and review process that meets and exceeds that required by law in accordance with the Commission's written and approved procedures for eminent domain actions.

# 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**

The Commission will establish itself as a policy leader on statewide water issues by advising and conferring with the Director of the Department of Water Resources on policy issues, and promoting sound, sustainable decision making on issues including but not limited to flood management, integrated regional water management, the State Water Project, and the California Water Plan. (WC §161)

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

The Commission will help identify and develop strategies for investing in the public benefits of water projects. Work in this emerging, science-based policy area is necessary to ensure public investments in water projects provide the highest benefits to the people of California. If passed by voters in November 2014, the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act will authorize the Commission to approve regulations and establish a competitive process to fund public benefits associated with water storage projects that improve the state water system, are cost effective, and improve ecosystem and water quality conditions.

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

The Commission will engage other agencies and non-governmental organizations on key water issues to improve coordination between federal, state, tribal and local public agencies and other stakeholders regarding the construction and operation of water development and flood projects. (WC §1204.3)

## **D. Develop and support policies that advance Integrated Resource Management**

The California Water Commission recognizes that no single agency has sufficient responsibility, authority, expertise, or resources to ensure natural resources stewardship throughout California. Multi-agency collaboratives have structural and functional characteristics that make them more effective in furthering the mandates and missions of each participating agency and in employing Integrated Resource Management (IRM) to achieve more effective natural resource stewardship. The Commission will engage in multi-agency collaboratives, including but not limited to, the California Water Plan State Agency Steering Committee and the Delta Plan Interagency

*(continued)*

Implementation Committee, and support policies that encourage and advance IRM.

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

Climate change impacts, including changes to precipitation and runoff patterns, reduced snowpack, and sea level rise, will significantly affect public safety, water quality and public health, water supply reliability for farms, businesses, and residences, and ecosystem health. The Commission will actively support policies to help state and local water resources managers mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts. The Commission will specifically support the adaptation strategies for water management outlined in California's Climate Adaptation Strategy 2009, including Integrated Regional Water Management, water use efficiency, improved monitoring, integrated flood management, ecosystem stewardship, operational flexibility, and water storage.

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

The Commission will contribute to the public discourse and body of knowledge on key water policy issues by identifying a list of water policy subject areas for further research and discussion, and developing white papers in support of the Commission's activities.

**G. Advocate to the Congressional appropriations committees for federal funding**

The Commission will advocate to the Congressional appropriations committees for federal funding for flood control or reclamation projects being planned or constructed in California by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and other federal agencies. These activities will be coordinated to the extent necessary with other public agencies and stakeholders to identify projects in need of funding. The Commission will write letters of support to Congress, and if necessary, testify and meet with Administration and Congressional officials. (WC §12602)

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Nothing in this strategic plan is intended to limit the activities of the Commission on other matters within their jurisdiction.

California   
WATER COMMISSION

## California Water Commission 2012-2013 Workplan

### Introduction

#### Mission Statement:

The California Water Commission provides a public forum for discussing water issues, advises the Department of Water Resources, and takes appropriate statutory actions to further the development of policies that support integrated and sustainable water resource management and a healthy environment.

The California Water Commission consists of nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Seven members are chosen for their expertise related to the control, storage, and beneficial use of water and two are chosen for their knowledge of the environment. The Commission advises the Director of the Department of Water Resources on matters within the Department's jurisdiction, approves rules and regulations, and monitors and reports on the construction and operation of the State Water Project. The roles and responsibilities of the California Water Commission are defined in the Water Code, sections of the Government Code, and the Civil Procedures code.

### Background

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 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 timely and efficiently.
- 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.
- Actively participate in the development of the California Water Plan Update 2013.
- Contribute to policy discussions as appropriate by writing letters, speaking at events, and conveying information to the public and to other organizations.
- Engage on a variety of water management and policy issues including groundwater and conjunctive management, conservation, integrated water management, storage, etc.

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 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.
- Participate in the California Water Plan Update 2013 Finance Caucus.

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, participating in monthly meetings.

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.
- Review third party research from government and intergovernmental agencies, academia, non-profits and private parties on climate change and its impacts to California water.

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**

- Briefing on California Water Plan (CWP) Update 2013 Plenary Session
- Briefing on DWR Groundwater Program and CWP Groundwater Enhancements
- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment
- Tour State Water Project Facilities
- Update on Priority Areas for Delta Levees Special Projects program
- CWP State Agency Steering Committee
- Participate in Workshop to Align Agency Conservation Plans and Programs

**November 2012**

- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment  
Presentation on Ecosystem Services by Department of Conservation
- Briefing on SWP Power and Energy Issues
- Report on State Water Project tour
- Report on *A Framework for Regulatory Transition: Accommodating Projected Climatic Shifts at the Operational Level*

**December 2012**

- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment
- Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
- Briefing on CWP Forest Management Strategy
- Update on State Water Project Facilities
- Approval of Commission Workplan
- State Water Project Panel at AWCA Conference
- Post 2012 Summary of Activities to CWC Website
- Participate in CWP Public Advisory Committee Meeting

**January 2013**

- Approve 2012 Annual Report on the Construction and Operation of the State Water Project
- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment
- Review DWR Regulation Calendar for 2013, approve for submittal to OAL
- Initial Consideration of State Water Project Encroachment Regulations
- DWR Program Briefing
- Commission identifies key subject areas for further research
- Meeting with DWR's Deputy Director for Integrated Water Management (IWM)

### **February 2013**

- Review DWR Delta Levees Investment Priorities
- Consideration of Changes to/Adoption of State Water Project Encroachment Regulations
- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment
- Update on Status of Urban Water Management Plans
- DWR Program Briefing
- Participate in CWC Public Advisory Committee Meeting
- Meet with Central Valley Flood Protection Board

### **March 2013**

- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment
- Initial Review of Resolutions of Necessity in support of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan
- Legislative and Budget Update
- Presentation on Public Benefits in the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan
- Update on Status of Agricultural Water Management Plans
- Initial briefing on proposed amendments to Agricultural Water Measurement Regulations
- Briefing on Federal Appropriations
- Briefing on California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM)
- Compose/Submit Comments on Public Draft of Bay Delta Conservation Plan
- Participate in California Water Policy Conference
- Attend/Participate in WEF Executive Briefing

### **April 2013**

- Update on SWP key issues and activities
- Presentation on IWM Public Benefits Efforts
- Consideration of Resolutions of Necessity in support of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan
- Reservoir Site 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 Project in California, Review Draft Letter to Federal Appropriations Committees of Congress
- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment
- DWR Program Briefing
- Participate in Integrated Water Management Summit and Workshop

**May 2013**

- State of the State Water Project Workshop
- Comment period on Commission White Paper on Subject TBD
- Prepare and submit comments on California Water Plan Update 2013
- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment
- Meet with Delta Vision Foundation
- DWR Program Briefing
- Participate in CWP Groundwater Caucus

**June 2013**

- Release of Commission White Paper on Subject TBD
- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment
- DWR Program Briefing

**July 2013**

- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment
- Commission FY 2013/2014 Budget Update
- Federal Legislative Update
- DWR Program Briefing

**August 2013**

- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment
- DWR Program Briefing

**September 2013**

- Update on SWP key issues and activities
- DWR Program Briefing
- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment
- Tour of State Water Project Facilities
- Attend/Participate in the Floodplain Management Association 2013 Annual Conference

**October 2013**

- Public workshop on topic TBD
- Submit comments on Final Bay Delta Conservation Plan EIR/S
- Staff begins drafting 2013 SWP annual report for approval in January 2014
- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment
- DWR Program Briefing
- Participate in/attend Groundwater Resources Association Annual Conference

**November 2013**

- Review of CWC Workplan 2014
- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment
- Anticipated Deadline for Final Approval of SWP Encroachment Regulations
- DWR Program Briefing

**December 2013**

- Approval of CWC Workplan 2014
- Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair
- Approval of SWP annual report
- Staff post 2013 Summary of Activities to CWC Website
- Participate in ACWA Conference

**California Water Commission**  
**Signed Resolutions 2012**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Adopted</b>
2011-14	River Maid Land Co., DCAP-223	January 18, 2012 Revised: March 21, 2012
2012-03	Norman J. and Katherine Marks Trust, DCAP-287	February 15, 2012
2012-04	Wurster Ranches, LP; DCAS-339	February 15, 2012
2012-06	Greene and Hemly, Inc., DCAP-601	February 15, 2012
2012-10	Coney Island Farms, Inc.; DCAT-685, DCAP-532	February 15, 2012
2012-13	Robert A. Sr., David and Kelley Dal Porto, DCAW-710	February 15, 2012
2012-14	Biagi Living Trust Agreement; DCAE-439	February 15, 2012
2012-15	Delta Wetlands Properties, An Illinois General Partnership, DCAP-415	February 15, 2012
2012-16	Venice Island, Inc.; DCAS-705	February 15, 2012
2012-19	Delta Wetlands Properties, An Illinois General Partnership, DCAP-423	February 15, 2012
2012-20	The Conrad and Berniece Silva Revocable Trust, and The Conrad Silva Exempt Marital Deduction Trust; DCAP-426	February 15, 2012
2012-21	Carolyn A. Nichols Revocable Living Trust; Eileen V. Nichols Revocable Living Trust and Victoria Island, L.P., DCAP-428	February 15, 2012
2012-22	Arnaudo Bros. LP, Arnaudo Bros. Inc., DCAE-706	February 15, 2012
2012-24	Mark Scribner, Jr. Successor Trustee, Grace M. Scribner Living Trust, DCAE-110	February 15, 2012
2012-25	Lucille Christensen Family Trust; Lorraine L. Croup 1992 Trust, DCAE-122	February 15, 2012
2012-07	Elliot Family Revocable Trust date April 13, 1993	March 21, 2012
2012-09	Clifton Court, LP; Alba C. Moore Survivor's Trust, and the Moore Exemption Trust	March 21, 2012
2012-23	Tsakopoulos Family Trust	March 21, 2012
2012-26	Adopt the permanent agricultural water measurement regulations	May 8, 2012
2012-27	Adopt the permanent agricultural water measurement regulations (Final)	July 6, 2012

## **Commission Activities by Subject**

### **Administration**

- Election of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair - January 18, 2012
- Delegation of Authority to Executive Officer - January 18, 2012
- Adoption of Mission Statement and Discussion of Strategic Plan - March 21, 2012
- Consideration of 2012 Strategic Plan and Update on Commission workplan - September 19, 2012
- Approval of Meeting Schedule for 2013 - December 12, 2012
- Approval of Commission Workplan - December 12, 2012
- Election of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair - December 12, 2012

### **Agricultural Water Measurement Regulations**

- Update on Office of Administrative Law Decision on Agricultural Water Measurement Regulation and Consideration of DWR Proposal for Revision to Regulation - February 15, 2012
- Consideration of Agricultural Water Measurement Regulations - March 21, 2012
- Consideration of Final Agricultural Water Measurement Regulations - April 18, 2012
- Consideration of Final Agricultural Water Measurement Regulations - May 8, 2012
- Consideration of Final Agricultural Water Measurement Regulations - July 6, 2012

### **Eminent Domain/Resolutions of Necessity**

- Consideration of Resolutions of Necessity for properties in Sacramento and Solano Counties - January 18, 2012
- Consideration of Resolutions of Necessity for properties in Contra Costa, Sacramento, and San Joaquin Counties - February 15, 2012
- Amendments to Resolutions of Necessity passed prior to February 2012 regarding quit - claim language and hazardous materials testing - March 21, 2012
- Consideration of Resolutions of Necessity for properties in Contra Costa and Sacramento Counties - March 21, 2012

### **Public Benefits of Water Storage**

- Working Session: Quantification of Public Benefits - January 18, 2012
- Update on the Quantification of Public Benefits Project - April 18, 2012
- Update on work by DWR, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game and the State Water Resources Control Board, on Quantification of the Public Benefits associated with Water Storage Projects - August 15, 2012

- Discussion of Commission priorities and next steps concerning Quantification of Public Benefits issues - September 19, 2012
- Discussion of Issues Regarding Public Benefits of Water Projects -October 17, 2012
- Discussion of Issues Regarding Public Benefits of Water Projects: Water Quality Benefits - November 14, 2012
- Discussion of Issues Regarding Public Benefits of Water Projects: Ecosystem Benefits - December 12, 2012

### **State Water Project**

- Tour of Ronald B. Robie Thermalito Pumping Generating Plant, Hyatt Powerplant, and Lake Oroville - May 2, 2012
- Staff inspection of State Water Project Delta facilities including Bethany Reservoir and South Bay Pumping Plant - May 15, 2012
- Briefing on State Water Project Key Activities - June 20, 2012
- Tour of State Water Project Southern California Facilities including Edmonston Pumping Plant, Alamo Power Plant, and Pyramid Lake - October 18, 2012
- Briefing on State Water Project Power and Energy Issues - November 14, 2012
- State Water Project "Town Hall" panel at the Association of California Water Agencies Conference - December 5, 2012
- State Water Project Facilities Update: Thermalito Pumping Generating Plant and Alamo Power Plant - December 12, 2012