



Overview of Water Sector Recommendations in the 2013 Update to AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan

Assembly Bill 23 (AB 32), the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, required the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to develop a Scoping Plan to describe the steps to be taken in order to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in California to 1990 levels by 2020. The initial Scoping Plan, released by the ARB in 2008, outlined comprehensive strategies aimed at meeting the goals of AB 32. The legislation calls for an update to the Scoping Plan every five years. In accordance with this requirement, a public Discussion Draft of the updated Scoping Plan was released October 1, 2013. The update includes recommendations for continuing the reduction of emissions in six key sectors, one of which is water. Most of the water measures in the Scoping Plan focus on the GHG emissions associated with the conveyance, treatment, and use of water.

The State is currently implementing several targeted, agricultural, urban- and industrial- based water use efficiency, recycling, and conservation programs as part of an integrated water management effort that achieves GHG emission reductions within the water sector. The State has set ambitious goals for the development of alternative water sources including recycled water and stormwater. The report notes that state grant and loan programs have provided over \$1.15 billion for recycling and stormwater capture infrastructure. Additionally, the State has invested \$1.5 billion to support regional collaborative efforts to develop water management plans, diversify regional water portfolios, and increase regional water supply self-reliance.

The update to AB 32 included recommendations to continue progress toward emission reduction goals in the water sector through energy efficiency and water conservation strategies.

Key Recommended Actions for the Water Sector

Funding:

- Increase non-traditional water supplies and make water and wastewater conveyance, treatment, and distribution systems more energy efficient.
- Provide regional funding for local water management plans, water and energy efficiency projects (particularly for upgrades to older buildings), and climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.

Technology:

- Increase water conservation and energy efficiency in agricultural and food processing sectors, industrial processes, and residential and commercial buildings.
- Update and implement new water-related energy conservation measures and energy efficiency standards for water use.
- Support resource-recovering wastewater treatment sector projects.
- Collect data on water use and related energy used for water services.

Administration:

- Assess impacts of decoupled water rates and develop rate and revenue structures to decouple municipal utility programs.
- Develop policies with local partners that thoroughly and accurately reflect the economic, social, and environmental value of water in California.
- Develop pricing and rate structure policies that promote water use efficiency while ensuring that low-income households are able to purchase minimum necessary water supplies.
- Develop partnerships between electric utility and water utility programs and develop model programs in agricultural irrigation, landscape irrigation, and other water use areas.
- Develop and implement a groundwater management strategy that contributes to enhanced water quality and water supply reliability.
- Modify State and regional water board policies, permits, and monitoring guidelines to reflect regional climate change scenarios and other best-available climate science.
- Facilitate partnerships between local water, wastewater, and energy utilities to further implement joint water-energy programs.
- Enable a greater State role in developing policies, providing financial and regulatory incentives, and employing regulatory oversight.

Education:

- Promote water-energy conservation outreach and education.

Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff made recommendations during the drafting process. Some of these recommendations were included in the update to the Scoping Plan, others were not. The public comment period for the Discussion Draft runs through November 1, 2013. There will be a public meeting in Sacramento on October 15, 2013 for public comments on the Discussion Draft. Updates for the ARB will be held in October and December 2013, and the ARB hearing to consider the final plan update will be held in Spring 2014. The Commission may wish to consider commenting on the update to the Scoping Plan.

John Andrew, DWR Assistant Deputy Director and Executive Manager for Climate Change, will be speaking to the Commission on DWR's role in the development of this update to the original scoping report, and discussing the proposed recommendations for the water sector.

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