California Water Commission 2014 Workplan DRAFT

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 in 2012 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; it 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. The Commission adopted its first workplan in January 2013 and intends to update it workplan yearly.

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.

<u>A. Inform and engage the public on water issues</u>

- Identify opportunities for Commission 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 and consideration of topics related to specific water storage issues at regular meetings.
- Develop recommendations based on discussions of public benefits and identify issues for additional research and analysis; provide recommendations to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Delta Stewardship Council and others as appropriate.
- 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 monitor and update the 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.

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 administrative 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 and discussion 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 DWR's Director on key policy issues as appropriate.
- Participate in the development of the California Water Plan Update.
- 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 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, public policy organizations, 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. 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 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 appraised 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 travel 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)

January 2014 - Agenda Items

- Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair (1C)
- Approval of Commission Workplan 2014 (1C)
- Approval of 2014 Meeting Dates (1C)
- Review DWR Regulation Calendar for 2014, approve for submittal to OAL (1C, 2A)
- Briefing on Area of Origin Issues (3A)
- Approval of SWP Annual Review (1C, 2C)
- Update on Public Draft of Bay Delta Conservation Plan and draft EIR/EIS (3A, 3F) (Public Comment Period November 15 , 2013 - March 17, 2014)
- SWP Update - Alamo Powerplant (2C)
- Drought Update (3A)
- Briefing on Delta Stewardship Council's Water Storage Issue Paper (1B, 3B, 3C)
- Briefing on the Natural Resources Agency's Safeguarding California Plan (3E)

January 2014 - Other Activities

- Public Comment Period on Regulations and Guidelines for Public Benefits (November 1, 2013- January 17, 2014)(1B, 3B)
- Release survey for near-term water project inventory (3A, 3B, 3C)
- Participate in Safeguarding California Plan Public Meetings (3A, 3E)
- Members meet with Chair of Central Valley Flood Protection Board (3C)
- Final Governor's California Water Action Plan Released in Mid-January

February 2014 - Agenda Items

- PUBLIC WORKSHOP: Criteria and weighting for funding the public benefits of water storage projects (1B, 3B)
- Review of Public Comments Received on Regulations and Guidelines for the Quantification and Management of Public Benefits of Water Storage Projects (1B, 3B)
- Consideration of Changes to/Adoption of State Water Project Encroachment Regulations (2A)
- Drought Conditions Update (3A)
- Briefing on DWR's Water Transfers Program (3A, 3C)
- Update on DWR's Tribal Consultation Program (3C)
- Briefing on National Flood Insurance Program (3C)
- Legislative Update (3A)

February 2014 - Other Activities

- Participate in California Water Plan Public Advisory Committee Meeting (February 12) (3A, 3C, 3D)
- Coordinate with Delta Stewardship Council regarding near-term water project inventory (1B, 3B, 3C)
- Members speak at "Investing in California's Water" (February 21) (1A, 1B)

March 2014 - Agenda Items

- PUBLIC WORKSHOP: Impacts of Drought on Small Water Systems in Southern California (1A)
- Update on key Salton Sea Issues and Activities, including Salton Sea Unfunded Mitigation (Possible trip to Salton Sea in conjunction with drought workshop) (3A, 3C)
- PUBLIC WORKSHOP: Exploring DWR's Role in Water Transfers (1A, 3A, 3C)
- Possible Joint Meeting with California Board of Food and Agriculture (3A, 3C)

March 2014 - Other Activities

- Final California Water Plan Update 2013 Released
- Begin compiling and analyzing near-term water project inventory results (1B, 3B)
- Attend Water Education Foundation Executive Briefing (3A)

April 2014 - Agenda Items

- Case Study: Options for Applicability of Public Benefits Guidelines to Potential Projects (1B, 3B)
- Briefing on Demand Management/Reduction (3A)
- Briefing on Groundwater Management Activities (3A)
- Update *on Draft Decision Paper: BDCP and Delta Farmland* (3A)
- DWR Program Briefing: Save Our Water/Water Conservation (3A)
- Update on Implementation of 20x2020 (1A, 3A)
- Legislative Update (3A)

April 2014 - Other Activities

- Participate in California Water Policy Conference (1A, 3A, 3F)
- Release preliminary results from near-term water project inventory survey (1B, 3B)

May 2014 - Agenda Items

- Review Draft Regulations and Guidelines for Public Benefits of Water Projects (1B, 3B)
- Legislative Update (3A)
- DWR Program Briefing: Environmental Services Programs (3A)

May 2014 - Other Activities

- Commission identifies key subject areas for further research (1A, 3F)
- Meet with Delta Vision Foundation (3C)
- 7 Current Commission member terms expire

June 2014 - Agenda Items

- PUBLIC WORKSHOP: SWP Governance Issues (2C)
- Briefing on development of DWR Regulations for Awarding of Architecture and Engineering Contracts (2A)
- Drought Activities Updates (3A)
- Legislative Update (3A)

June 2014 - Other Activities

- Tour of Orange County Groundwater Replenishment District (3A, 3C)

July 2014 - Agenda Items

- Climate Change Planning: Updates on AB 32 Scoping Plan Update, Little Hoover Commission's Climate Change Adaptation Report, Natural Resources Agency's Safeguarding California Plan (1A, 3E)
- Briefing on WETCAT (3E)
- Commission FY 2014/2015 Budget Update (1C)
- Update on Federal Legislation Related to Water (3G)
- Briefing on SWP Issues including subsidence, SWP Resiliency, and others (2C)

August 2014 - Agenda Items

- Review Draft Regulations and Guidelines for Public Benefits of Water Projects (1B, 3B)
- Discuss issues related to Energy, Forest Management and Water Nexus (3A, 3C)
- Initial Consideration of DWR Regulations for Awarding of Architecture and Engineering Contracts (2A)
- Letter to Congress in support of Funding for Flood Protection and Water Resources in California (3F, 3G)
- DWR Program Briefing: Delta Special Projects (2B)

September 2014 - Agenda Items

- **On-site Meeting at Field Division TBD (1A, 2C)**
- Update on SWP key issues and activities Facilities Updates, Contract Extension Negotiations, and Organizational Issues (2C)

September 2014 - Other Activities

- Potential Water Storage Facility Tour (3B)
- Participate in/attend the Floodplain Management Association 2014 Annual Conference (3A)

October 2014 - Agenda Items

- Flood Planning Update (3A)
- DWR Program Briefing: Energy Issues (3A)
- San Joaquin River Restoration Program Update by Reclamation (3A, 3C)
- Legislative Update (3A)

October 2014 - Other Activities

- Participate in/attend Groundwater Resources Association Annual Conference (3A)
- Staff begins drafting 2014 SWP annual report for approval in January 2014 (1A, 2C)

November 2014 - Agenda Items

- Discuss public financing strategies for investments in water resources and environment (1B, 3B)
- Update on Bay Delta Conservation Plan (3A)
- DWR Program Briefing: TBD (3A)

November 2014 - Other Activities

- November Election: Bond?

December 2014 - Agenda Items

- Consideration of DWR Regulations for Awarding of Architecture and Engineering Contracts (2A)
- Review/Approval of Commission Workplan 2015 (1C)
- Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair (1C)
- Approval of SWP annual report (2C)

December 2014 - Other Activities

- Staff post 2014 Summary of Activities to Commission Website (1C)
- Participate in Association of California Water Agencies Conference (1A, 3C)