

California Water Action Plan

A 5-year Plan Towards Sustainable Water Management

California Water Commission

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Long-term objective: Sustainable water management

Vision: California has healthy, resilient watersheds and reliable and secure water resources and management systems. Public health, safety, and quality of life in rural, suburban, and urban communities are significantly improved as a result of advancements in integrated water management. The water system provides the certainty needed for quality of life, sustainable economic growth, business vitality, and agricultural productivity. California's unique biological diversity, ecological values, and cultural heritage are protected and have substantially recovered.

- CA Water Plan 2013 Update

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This vision is possible but CA's unique suite of challenges poses tremendous hurdles.

- Uncertain water supplies
- Water scarcity/drought
- Declining groundwater supplies
- Poor water quality
- Declining native fish species and loss of wildlife habitat
- Floods
- Supply disruptions
- Population growth and climate change

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Current extreme drought conditions put these challenges in even more clear light.

- June snowpack survey: **0%** of normal.
- Reservoir levels.
- Public health.
- Stream conditions.
- Wildfire.



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Developed to address our ongoing water challenges and to lay the foundation for sustainable water management

- Governor's charge: CNRA, CalEPA, CDFA collaboration and leadership, with broad stakeholder outreach and input.
- Three overarching goals: Reliability, restoration, and resilience.
- 10 broad actions, with specific sub-actions.

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CA Water Action Plan: 10 Actions

- Make conservation a CA way of life.
- Increase regional self-reliance / integrated strategies.
- Achieve the coequal goals for the Delta.
- Protect and restore important ecosystems.
- Manage and prepare for dry periods.
- Increase storage and improved groundwater management.
- Provide safe water for all communities.
- Increase flood protection.
- Increase operational and regulatory efficiency.
- ID sustainable financing opportunities.

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**1st year strategy: Drought response & foundations
for long-term sustainability.**

- **December.** Governor convenes State Drought Task Force.
- **January.** CA Water Action Plan; State of Emergency; State Budget.
- **February/March.** SB 103/104 developed and signed into law.
- **April.** Executive Order re-doubling drought efforts.

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**1st year strategy: Drought response & foundations
for long-term sustainability.**

- **June.** Final State Budget includes additional drought relief funding:
 - \$53.8M for forest fire prevention and response.
 - \$30M for salmonid monitoring & habitat restoration.
 - \$20M for food assistance.
 - \$18M for surface/groundwater supply assessments, transfers, and local technical assistance.
 - \$4M for water rights enforcement and curtailment actions.
 - ...and more.
- **Ongoing.** Community assistance; SB 103/104 & State Budget implementation; Water Bond; Groundwater policy; Planning for Year 2.