



## Briefing by ACWA on Water Storage Recommendations

### Background

In response to the passage of Proposition 1 with \$2.7 billion designated for water storage, the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) developed recommendations and a vision for water storage in California. *21<sup>st</sup> Century Water Storage: Recommendations for California's Future*, which was released in April, recognizes the vital role played by water storage and aims to provide a vision for water storage as a tool that supports a broad portfolio of strategies for California's water managers.

The report outlines ACWA's vision for water storage to meet California's needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Investment in additional surface and groundwater storage will improve the integration of water management practices in order to achieve water supply reliability and enhanced ecosystem health. ACWA's vision highlights the need for interagency coordination and conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in order to respond to climate change and accommodate a growing population. ACWA identifies five components that are necessary to achieve this vision for the future: additional surface storage to capture and manage more variable hydrology; increased utilization of groundwater storage, including through conjunctive use and banking; enhanced operational flexibility and integration of infrastructure; effective implementation of Integrated Regional Water Management; and new and more flexible regulatory approaches. The report also notes that these actions will require federal, state, and local investments and contributions.

ACWA also articulates specific recommendations for the Commission as it implements Chapter 8 of Proposition 1. Those recommendations are:

1. Ensure that Commission actions fully implement Chapter 8.
2. Recognize that storage needs and opportunities are diverse in scale, location and function.
3. Allocate Chapter 8 funds wisely by leveraging dollars and cost shares and funding CALFED and other non-CALFED projects.
4. Encourage integration.
5. Preserve the Water Commission's authority and discretion over Chapter 8 funds.

Tim Quinn, Executive Director of ACWA, will brief the Commission on the water storage vision and recommendations that are discussed in the report.

### Contact

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