

From: [Union of Concerned Scientists](#)
To: [California Water Commission](#)
Subject: Make sure new water investments account for climate change
Date: Saturday, July 04, 2015 10:26:22 AM

Dear Water Commissioner,

Thank you for your work to develop guidelines and regulations to allocate water bond funding through an open public process.

In considering priorities for funding, it is important that you ensure the water infrastructure we build today will serve us far into the future. As you know, science tells us climate change is altering the timing and supply of water across California. This means that our water management in the future must be different than the past. As the Department of Water Resources wrote in its climate change adaptation strategy, "For California water managers, the future is now.

Climate change is already having a profound impact on water resources as evidenced by changes in snowpack, river flows, and sea levels."

In order to design a water system of the future that is resilient to climate change, I ask that you ensure that all public funding support projects that will work under a range of likely future conditions.

Important questions include:

- How will projects work in both drier and wetter conditions?
- How will projects be connected to each other to improve the ability to manage surface and groundwater together?
- How will water rights and allocation systems ensure that water is available to be stored or moved by new projects?

California is known as an economic and environmental leader. It's time for California to become a water leader as well. But that will only happen if we approach water management in a fundamentally new way that recognizes that our water system is changing and that we need real solutions that prepare us for the future. U

Please ensure that new investments in water infrastructure account for the effects of climate change.

Sincerely,

[Individual Name Redacted]
Union of Concerned Scientists