

**From:** [Chris Lish](#)  
**To:** [CWC Water Storage Investment Program](#)  
**Subject:** Protect California's Water Future. Create a climate resilient water storage system for California -- Rulemaking: Water Storage Investment Program Quantification Regulations  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2016 5:41:27 AM

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California Water Commission  
 P.O. Box 942836  
 Sacramento, California 94236-0001  
**Subject:** Protect California's Water Future. Create a climate resilient water storage system for California -- Rulemaking: Water Storage Investment Program Quantification Regulations

Dear Ms. Jennifer Marr,

I have recently learned that the California Water Commission (CWC) is about to give away billions of dollars in public money for water storage projects that do not fully account for a changing climate. According to the draft criteria the CWC will use to award money, storage projects must only account for climate change through the year 2050. As virtually all climate models show, these projects will need to meet our water needs under more extreme climate conditions, especially in the second half of the century. Current regulations fail to ensure that projects will be designed to meet our needs as the climate continues to change. With California's strong history of climate action, I was surprised that your Water Storage and Investment Program criteria do not include the best climate science. Our water, like the public money you are charged with allocating, is a precious resource.

*"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."*  
 -- Ansel Adams

To create a sustainable, climate resilient storage system for California, your criteria should:

- require projects to show they are climate resilient for their entire life cycle;
- require a more precautionary "hot-and-dry" climate scenario instead of the proposed "middle-of-the-road" scenario; and
- be matched in funding cycle timeline to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act planning process so critical groundwater storage projects can apply for funding.

*"Then I say the Earth belongs to each generation during its course, fully and in its own right, no generation can contract debts greater than may be paid during the course of its own existence."*  
 -- Thomas Jefferson

You have the opportunity to create a climate resilient water storage system for California. Please don't waste it.

*“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”*

*-- Aldo Leopold*

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Lish  
San Rafael, CA