



Update on State Water Project (SWP)

BACKGROUND

Water Code section 165 requires the Commission to conduct an annual review of the construction and operation of the SWP and make a report on its findings and recommendations to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Legislature. In support of this role, DWR regularly updates the Commission on the construction, operation, and management of the SWP. At this meeting, DWR staff will brief the Commission on subsidence around the California Aqueduct, Oroville Dam spillway construction, and DWR's progress on achieving greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy goals.

Over-pumping of groundwater in the San Joaquin Valley has caused significant land subsidence. This year, DWR produced the California Aqueduct Subsidence Study to analyze the effects of this subsidence on SWP aqueducts and flood control structures. DWR staff will describe the study's findings, the plan for remedial work, and next steps.

In February 2017, during a storm that caused unusually high inflow to Lake Oroville, a large portion of Oroville Dam's concrete spillway broke away as both the spillway and its foundation eroded. These circumstances led to use of Lake Oroville's emergency spillway, which eroded much faster than anticipated, raising concerns about the integrity of the emergency spillway structure, and leading to the Butte County Sheriff's mandatory evacuation order for the Oroville area. Since February, DWR and the Kiewit Corporation have worked to repair both spillways to prepare for this year's winter storms. DWR staff will provide an overview of the construction work completed this year, and the work to be performed during the next phases of construction.

In 2012, DWR adopted a Climate Action Plan to guide how DWR addresses climate change in its programs, projects, and activities. The plan includes a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan and annual monitoring reports. DWR staff will brief the Commission on DWR's progress toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing use of renewable energy sources for the SWP.

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Information about DWR's Climate Action Plan is available here:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange/CAP.cfm>

DWR's Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reports are available here:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange/GHGReports.cfm>

This is an informational item.

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