

ACWA GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE 2018-2019 WORK PLAN

“There shall be a Groundwater Committee whose duty it shall be to recommend policies and programs to the Board of Directors and to the State Legislative Committee and/or Federal Affairs Committee as appropriate. The committee shall consist of at least one member from each region.”

-ACWA Bylaws, Article VII, Section 11

The Groundwater Committee will be guided by the ACWA 2018-2019 Strategic and Business Plan and will focus especially on helping the Association implement the following policy priority:

“Identify Strategies to Increase Groundwater Sustainability & Replenishment. ACWA will continue to advocate for ACWA members’ interests in state processes for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation. ACWA will also lead by identifying strategies to increase groundwater replenishment.”

More generally, the Groundwater Committee will continue to be a leading force to help California effectively implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in accord with ACWA’s “Recommendations for Achieving Groundwater Sustainability” (April 2014). Groundwater Committee will continue to help the Association implement the “ACWA Groundwater Management Policy Principles” (March 2009) and the Groundwater Framework “Sustainability from the Ground Up: A Framework for Groundwater Management in California” (April 2011).

The Groundwater Committee will also continue to monitor and advocate with regard to the regulatory actions of state and federal regulatory agencies, and by mandates set forth in legislation.

The Groundwater Committee is staffed by ACWA State Regulatory Relations Department staff and meets at least four times per year, at each ACWA Spring and Fall Conference and at two meetings between conferences, one in Northern California and one in Southern California.

Committee Responsibilities

- Recommend policies and programs to the Board of Directors and to the State Legislative Committee and/or Federal Affairs Committee as appropriate.
- Monitor state and federal regulations and legislation that could affect the quality or quantity of groundwater.
- Conduct studies and develops policies regarding the management of groundwater.

- Coordinate with other ACWA committees on issues directly related to groundwater.
- Committee members are expected to participate in a variety of activities including writing legislation, preparing comments for state or federal hearings on groundwater issues, developing programs for workshops and conferences, and providing input on state and federal legislation. Committee members are expected to attend committee meetings and subcommittee meetings as necessary to contribute to the work of the committee.

Groundwater Committee Subcommittees and Work Groups

The Groundwater Committee will be organized into the following subcommittees and work groups for the identified purposes, to advance the policy priorities of the Association. The subcommittees and work groups will include members of the Groundwater Committee, as well as interested persons from other ACWA committees or persons representing the interests of member agencies. The subcommittees and work groups will meet and collaborate as needed advance their purposes. Additional subcommittees or work groups may be formed as necessary during the term.

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems and Stream Depletion Best Management Practices Work Group – Monitor and provide policy and technical input regarding Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems and Streamflow Depletion analysis and implementation considerations for GSPs.

Groundwater Replenishment Work Group – In conjunction with the work of the ACWA Groundwater Replenishment Initiative Task Force, monitor and provide policy and technical input regarding strategies to increase groundwater replenishment.

Legislative Work Group – Review groundwater legislation and offer policy recommendations to the State Legislative Committee to inform possible amendments or positions.

Land Use and GW Management Subcommittee – Identify and develop recommendations in collaboration with land use entities to address regulatory requirements of SGMA, and help foster consistent terminology, new policies and practices aimed at sustainable groundwater management.

SGMA Implementation Subcommittee – Monitor and provide policy and technical input to support staff engagement and advocacy with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) processes related to implementation of SGMA, Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Regulations, and enforcement activities by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Water Quality Best Management Practices Work Group – Monitor and provide policy and technical input to support staff engagement and advocacy with DWR regarding development of water quality best management practices (BMPs) that advance best professional practices for SGMA implementation.