

ACWA WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE 2024 – 2025 WORK PLAN

“There shall be a Water Quality Committee whose duty it shall be to develop and recommend Association policy, positions, and programs to the Board of Directors, to promote cost-effective state and federal water quality regulations that protect the public health, to enable interested members of the Association to join together to develop and coordinate with other organizations, and to present unified comments regarding agricultural and domestic water quality regulations. The committee shall consist of at least one individual from each region.”

-ACWA Bylaws, Article VII, Section 17

The Water Quality Committee will be guided by ACWA’s Five-Year Strategic Plan adopted by the ACWA Board of Director’s in early 2020. As stated below, the Five-Year Strategic Plan identified several issue areas, including water quality and safe drinking water, as priorities for continued engagement.

“Effective Water Treatment: Advocate for reasonable water quality standards based upon scientific and peer-reviewed health assessments that can be implemented by economically and technically feasible technology in an appropriate time frame.”

“Safe Drinking Water for All: Promote safe drinking and clean water solutions and advance science based, peer reviewed drinking water quality standards in a manner that protects public health, while not working against affordability. Prioritize improvement of the supply and quality of drinking water to disadvantaged communities with the annual state funding provided by SB 200 (Monning) in a timely and sustainable manner. ACWA is committed to active involvement in ensuring that this funding is distributed in a solution-oriented manner that results in unsustainable systems becoming sustainable.”

The Water Quality Committee’s priorities will continue to be influenced by the actions of state and federal regulatory agencies and by mandates set forth in legislation. The Water Quality Committee will periodically review its priorities to ensure the most efficient and effective use of the Association’s resources.

Water Quality Committee Priorities

- Implement ACWA’s Water Quality Policy Principles.

- Review state and federal legislation related to water quality issues and provide recommendations to the ACWA State Legislative and Federal Affairs Committees.
- Provide technical assistance in the development of ACWA Legislative proposals.
- Coordinate with other ACWA committees, as needed, to address cross-jurisdictional water quality issues (*e.g., collaborate with the Water Management Committee on recycled water and storm water issues, consult with the Groundwater Committee on groundwater quality issues, and coordinate with the Agriculture Committee on agricultural water quality issues*).
- Strengthen partnerships with State and federal regulatory agencies by engaging on relevant issues and providing constructive, solutions-based, recommendations.
- Assist in the development of relevant ACWA conference panels.
- Select and retain Subject Matter Experts from ACWA member agencies to lead working groups, and actively provide input on regulatory developments in state and federal water quality issues. This includes providing input for comment letters, setting meeting agendas, and recruiting speakers for committee meetings and conference panels.
- Strengthen partnerships with other water-related organizations, such as the California Water Association, California Municipal Utilities Association, and California-Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association.
- Continue to work with the ACWA Communications Committee to proactively address issues in the media and with the public related to public health and water quality treatment and research.

Safe Drinking Water Subcommittee Priorities

The Safe Drinking Water Subcommittee monitors, informs, and provides technical input on ACWA's activities related to the state and federal Safe Drinking Water Acts. This work includes efforts to:

- Monitor and engage on drinking water standards including maximum contaminant levels, public health goals, detection levels, response levels, and notification levels.
- Monitor and participate in the development of any representations of drinking water quality information by state and federal regulatory agencies.
- Utilize workgroups to provide expertise on specific issues such as contaminants (*e.g., Hexavalent Chromium, PFAS, Perchlorate, Microplastics*), Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, the economic feasibility of Maximum Contaminant Levels, and others as needed.
- Provide technical expertise and input to the ACWA Disadvantaged Community Task Force where appropriate.

Clean Water Subcommittee Priorities

The Clean Water Subcommittee monitors, informs, and provides technical input on ACWA's activities related to the Clean Water Act, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and endangered species and their management. This work includes efforts to:

- Monitor and engage on statewide policies and plans, including the Toxicity Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters and the dredge and fill requirements for wetlands and the definition of “waters of the state”.
- Monitor and engage the State Water Resources Control Board’s (State Water Board) efforts to regulate agricultural water quality, such as discharges from agricultural land through the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, CV-SALTS, and other regulatory programs.
- Monitor and engage on storm water capture efforts, requirements associated with the State Water Board’s STORMS initiative and implementation of municipal storm water permits statewide.
- Monitor and engage on federal and state Endangered Species Act implementation and reform.
- Monitor plans and programs related to the Bay-Delta, such as the Delta Conveyance Project, Delta Plan, and Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento/-San Joaquin Delta Estuary.