

2026-27 Water Quality Committee Work Plan

Adopted _____

“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

CHARGE	INITIATIVES
1. Water Quality Committee Deliverables Provide a structure where Water Quality member agencies can come together and discuss issues of mutual concern and interest and based on that interaction, provide representative input to the ACWA Board.	A. Hold quarterly Water Quality Committee Meetings. Encourage participation by Committee members and Region Committee Reporters. B. Advance Water Quality policy priorities through focused subcommittee and working groups— both to respond to regulatory and legislative development and to develop proactive policy solutions. - Subcommittees: - Drinking Water - Clean Water Act and Aquatics - Working Groups: maintain and regularly update a list of active working groups to ACWA’s website.
	C. Conduct conference programs and/or webinars as needed to advance Committee priorities.
2. Proactive Policy Initiative Process Consider input and priorities from ACWA’s State Legislative Committee, Federal Affairs Committee, and regions.	A. Evaluate and provide recommendations if proposals should be advanced by ACWA’s Water Quality Committee: - Review and List State Legislative Committee and Federal Affairs Committee recommendations relevant to this committee - Review and consider regional priorities in the development of the Committee Work Plan
	A. Establish a working group to: Evaluate ACWA’s existing Drinking Water policy principles, and

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3. Refine regulatory processes for establishing and updating drinking water standards	• Develop ACWA recommendations regarding interagency public health goals and drinking water standard-setting processes, including: increased public transparency on the inputs used to develop drinking water standards and priorities, compliance timelines, contamination and treatment needs, treatment optimization, contamination response, regulatory compliance, affordability and funding concerns, and policy-level accountability to follow established statute, and clarity around delegated authority and Board oversight. B. Utilize the PFAS Working Group to complete ACWA's PFAS Cost of Compliance and Barriers Study, and develop Committee recommendations on how study findings should inform ACWA advocacy.
4. Address implementation barriers to achieving water quality standards compliance	A. Establish a working group to: • Identify most common implementation barriers for both Drinking Water and Clean Water Act topics • Develop and review internal ACWA 1-2 page resources to illuminate compliance pathways, modernize operations, and pursue efficient permitting on topics of interest, as needed • Identify opportunities address Golden Mussels coordination, and AB 1319 implementation • Identify barriers to be addressed in future advocacy, as needed. • Invite and encourage participation from other ACWA Committees in this effort
5. Address Source Control challenges to prevent contaminants from entering drinking water systems	A. Establish a working group to: • Update ACWA's existing Clean Water Policy Principles • Identify workable solutions to address source control through regulatory authority over polluters, improved funding, streamline and expedite processes for environmental reviews and permitting, and overall alignment on implementation programs • Encourage participation of the Agriculture Committee to identify practical approaches to agricultural regions • Identify challenges to be addressed in future advocacy, as needed