



Department of Water Resources staff members conduct the April 1 snow survey, confirming that a dry March left sparse snowpack in the Sierra Nevada. *Photo courtesy of DWR*

ACWA Encourages Members to Support Vision for Our Water Future Policy Initiative

ACWA in April publicly launched the Vision for Our Water Future policy initiative to define the association's statewide water priorities and inform engagement with California's next Administration.

This member-driven initiative positions ACWA to engage early with gubernatorial candidates, advance a unified policy agenda and reinforce the association's role as the leading voice on water in California.

The Vision for Our Water Future initiative centers on four key priorities that are outlined within the Vision document and were approved by the ACWA Board of Directors in March. Those priority recommendations are:

- Elevating water as a statewide leadership priority
- Protecting affordability for Californians
- Delivering critical infrastructure upgrades and investments
- Modernizing water management and permitting systems

Together, these priorities aim to strengthen California's ability to capture, store and deliver water when and where it is needed, while improving coordination across state, regional and local partners.

"Water is foundational to everything California is trying to achieve, from building housing and growing our

Dry March Left No Measurable Snow for April Survey

The Department of Water Resources' (DWR) critical April snow survey at Phillips Station found no measurable snow, a stark indicator of how record-hot March temperatures and high elevation rain have erased the Sierra Nevada snowpack months ahead of schedule.

The combination of warm storms and unusually hot temperatures rapidly melted what remained of this year's already sparse snowpack. Statewide, the snowpack is now just 18 percent of average for this date, according to the automated snow sensor network.

Storms later in April marginally improved the outlook, but fell far short of

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ACWA Interim Executive Director
MARWAN KHALIFA

Momentum, Energy and Potential Building at ACWA for 2026



A couple of months into my role as Interim Executive Director, I attended the ACWA 2025 Spring Conference in Monterey. It was a Thursday, and most attendees were heading home for a well-earned long weekend. But my new colleagues kept working with the same intensity as if the conference had just begun.

There were trucks to be packed, post-conference surveys to go out and work projects waiting back in Sacramento and Washington D.C. ACWA staff members didn't miss a beat. I was surprised and deeply impressed. Now, a year later, I am incredibly honored to be leading this world-class organization while working alongside ACWA staff professionals to deliver results for our member agencies.

We're just a few months into 2026, yet the pace and impact of ACWA's work have been remarkable. There's a palpable sense of momentum, energy and potential being realized.

The launch of ACWA's Vision for Our Water Future has moved forward at an impressive speed. The cornerstone of this initiative is a policy document that articulates our members' unified priorities and recommended actions to secure a reliable and affordable water future for California.

Through regional board meetings, and briefings, committee and board discussions, and outreach at both the state and federal levels, this effort is already elevating water as a key priority for California's future. The professionalism, collaboration and dedication that went into launching this initiative reflects the very best of ACWA.

You can learn more about Vision for Our Water Future on page 1, including how members can access a recently distributed toolkit with messaging materials to help support and promote the initiative.

Meanwhile, we continue working hard to provide the services members expect. From planning and delivering major events such as the Legislative Symposium and D.C. Conference, to navigating the legislative season and regulatory issues, we continue to support our members.

This outstanding performance can be measured. ACWA's 2025-'29 Strategic Plan established 50 key performance indicators, or KPIs, more than 80% of which have either been completed or on track to completion in areas spanning advocacy, connections, education and organizational effectiveness.

What stands out most to me is the teamwork across our organization, and this applies both internally among staff and externally throughout our membership. The willingness of people to step up, support one another and move important work forward together is what makes ACWA such a strong and respected association.

That spirit of teamwork is what will continue to carry ACWA forward. The challenges facing California water are immense, but so is our strength, which is deeply rooted in collaboration, expertise and commitment to a water resilient future. ♦

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Interim Executive Director
Marwan Khalifa

Director of Communications
Heather Engel

Editor
Will Holbert

Staff Writers
Caroline Meade
Ellen Martin

Graphic Design
Katherine Causland

economy to protecting public health and ensuring community resilience,” said Chelsea Haines, ACWA Director of State Regulatory Relations and Vision project manager. “This Vision reflects the collective expertise of water suppliers across the state and puts forward practical, actionable solutions. What is needed now is strong, coordinated leadership and partnership to move these solutions forward.”

How to Participate

ACWA is encouraging member agencies to download the toolkit and help elevate the Vision in communities across the state.

Members can:

1. Adopt a resolution or proclamation supporting the Vision; Request other local boards and councils to adopt resolutions or proclamations in support of the Vision.
2. Share your agency’s support for the Vision with local media using the sample news release.

3. Share your agency’s support for the Vision with local elected officials, legislators and other community leaders. Use the Vision fact sheet when meeting with them.
4. Share Vision for Our Water Future content on your agency’s social media platforms and use the hashtags: **#VisionforOurWaterFuture**, **#CAThrivesOnWater** and/or **#CAWater**. The toolkit includes sample social media posts and graphics.

Learn More

Members can learn more about the Vision for Our Water Future initiative by attending a members-only webinar on April 21 to review the recommendations and learn how to use the toolkit.

More information will also be available at ACWA’s 2026 Spring Conference, including a Main Stage discussion with ACWA and other partners.

For questions regarding Vision for Our Water Future, please contact ACWA Regulatory Relations Director Chelsea Haines at (916) 669-2431. For help with toolkit items, contact ACWA Communications Specialist Ellen Martin at (916) 669-2416. ♦



making up the difference, according to DWR.

“The storms in early April increased the snowpack across the Sierra. In the Central Sierra Nevada, the snowpack jumped from 16% of average to 27% of average over three days. While that is better than nothing, the storms did not make a significant dent in the major snowpack deficit California is experiencing,” stated DWR State Climatologist Dr. Michael Anderson by email. “Springtime storm systems are not uncommon in April, but they don’t usually deliver the significant precipitation we can see during the winter from atmospheric rivers.”

The April 1 results were the second lowest April measurement on record for Phillips Station, largely because there was still

some visible snow on the ground. By contrast, the lowest April reading occurred in 2015 when no snow was present at the site. Although DWR and its partners in the California Cooperative Snow Surveys Program are completing additional surveys across the Sierra Nevada, preliminary data indicates this year’s April 1 snowpack is the second lowest on record.

The April measurement is a critical marker for water managers across the state, as it is typically when the snowpack reaches its maximum volume and begins to melt. However, this year’s extremely hot and dry conditions throughout the month of March, along with a warm atmospheric river system in late February, initiated snowmelt several weeks ahead of schedule. According to automated sensors across the Sierra Nevada, this year’s statewide

snowpack likely reached its peak on or near February 24.

“It feels like we skipped spring this year and dropped straight into a summer heatwave,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “What should be gradual snowmelt happened suddenly weeks ago. To me, this is another reminder that aging water systems need to be retrofit for more volatile precipitation patterns. We’re seeing fewer, warmer storms and shorter wet seasons. Future water supplies will depend upon our ability to capture water when it’s available and manage it more efficiently.”

DWR conducts four or five snow surveys at Phillips Station each winter near the first of each month, January through April and, if necessary, May. ♦



ACWA-Sponsored Bills Advancing, Advocacy Push Underway to Preserve Water Funding

ACWA advocacy staff as of mid-April were tracking and advocating in support or opposition on nearly 60 bills in the state Legislature. The bills address a wide range of topics of interest to association member agencies, including infrastructure funding, wildfire policy, invasive species and Proposition 218 reform affecting rate settings.

Additionally, ACWA is advocating in support of protecting funding for water-related areas in 2026-'27 state budget. The funding is across multiple areas, including water quality, dam safety and safe drinking water. The next stage in the state budget process is the governor's release of a revised version in May before the Legislature approves a final version in June.

A few key water-related bills and their status are summarized below.

Wildfire Liability

Author: Senator Anna Caballero (D-Merced)

ACWA Position: Sponsoring

What it would do: SB 1153 would clarify and declare the limited role of public water systems during wildfires. While water systems support firefighting, they are not designed or intended for wildfire defense or suppression, and it would be impractical and costly to require them to function as such. The bill would establish that water supply or pressure limitations during a wildfire are not a substantial cause of wildfire damages and that wildfire spread is not an inherent risk of water system design. It also would require certain urban water suppliers in high fire-risk areas to include wildfire specific response procedures in their emergency response plans.

Status: In Senate

Wildfire Impacts

Author: Senator Shannon Grove (D-Bakersfield)

ACWA Position: Co-sponsoring with California Forest Watershed Alliance

What it would do: SB 899 would require the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, created by Gov. Gavin Newsom, to assess the health costs and impacts of high-severity wildfire smoke to better value the importance of investing in achieving the task force's action plan goals.

Status: In Senate

Rate Setting

Author: Assemblymember Chris Ward (D-San Diego)

ACWA Position: Sponsoring

What it would do: AB 2180 would clarify how water agencies comply with Proposition 218 when setting water rates. This clarification will provide predictability for agencies, support California's water-use conservation goals and help minimize unnecessary legal disputes over water rates. ACWA is leading a coalition supporting the bill.

Status: Passed Assembly, headed to Senate

Golden Mussels

ACWA advocates are monitoring three bills in the early stages of development that could strengthen California's response to invasive species, specifically golden mussels. The bills would build on the success of a coalition formed earlier this year, and supported by ACWA, led by Metropolitan Water District and East Bay Municipal Utility District. That

Take Action

These are among dozens of priority bills that could affect ACWA member agencies. Support and strengthen ACWA's advocacy by joining a coalition today at acwa.com/coalitions.

effort resulted in a \$20 million allocation being added to a budget trailer bill from an invasive species account for use in responding to golden mussel issues such as severe damage to water infrastructure. ACWA advocacy on the issue is also focused on educating legislators about impacts to water agencies and the vital importance of funding to countering the threat of invasive species to water infrastructure.

Water Affordability

Author: Assemblymember Esmerelda Soria (D-Fresno)

ACWA Position: Support

What it would do: AB 2739 proposes a lasting funding solution to water affordability at the household, system and community levels. The bill advances a sustainable funding solution to support a statewide Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program for water while also supporting strategic investments that stabilize water systems and help reduce cost pressures before they are passed on to ratepayers.

Status: In Assembly

ACWA Looking at Policy Change on Project Positions

The ACWA Board of Directors at its March 20 meeting unanimously approved forming a new task force, received updates on state and federal advocacy and voted to approve support for the ACWA Foundation.

The newly formed ACWA Board-level task force will explore a recommendation from the association's Water Management Committee that could result in changing how ACWA takes positions on projects of statewide significance.

The Board also approved a policy document developed through ACWA's Vision for Our Water Future initiative. The initiative advanced this week with its public launch, the subject of an article on page 1.

Task Force

The task force will include a representative from the Board from each ACWA region and will provide recommendations to ACWA's Board on two points:

- Whether ACWA should establish a formal Board process to take positions on projects of statewide significance.

- The appropriate criteria and process for the Board to consider taking positions on projects of statewide significance.

Historically, ACWA has not taken positions on specific infrastructure projects. This informal practice has reflected efforts to preserve broad membership cohesion and organizational capacity. While there is no explicit policy prohibiting ACWA from establishing a formal process for such consideration, none has been formalized.

Advocacy

Board members heard updates on state and federal advocacy. On the state side, updates included progress on ACWA-sponsored bill SB 1153 (Caballero) that would clarify that water systems are designed to provide the public with safe and reliable drinking water and water service to aid in extinguishing structural fires, not to combat wildfires. ACWA is also advocating for an increase in both the water and wildfire chapters of Proposition 4 in support of member projects and investments.

On the federal side, updates for Board members included introduction the MORE Water Act by U.S Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA), supported by ACWA and seeking to reauthorize several Bureau of Reclamation programs that association members have successfully utilized in the past.

ACWA Foundation

Board members approved a memorandum of understanding with the ACWA Foundation that authorized a \$40,000 contribution from the association to the foundation, which is consistent with past annual ACWA contributions.

The ACWA Foundation works with ACWA members, associates and other organizations to provide programs and opportunities that promote workforce development. The ACWA Foundation and its Board of Trustees operate separately and independently from ACWA and the Board. ♦

Plan Ahead to Explore California Water

See the lineup of our upcoming region events.

REGION 1

OCT **28**

Location TBD

REGION 2/4

NOV **4**

Winters

REGION 3

SEP **11**

Lake Tahoe

REGION 5

SEP **3-4**

Oxnard

REGION 6/7

OCT **8-9**

Coalinga

REGION 8

JUN **26**

Los Angeles

REGION 9

JUL **17**

Temecula

Stay tuned
for date on
Region 10

Interior Announces \$540 Million Investment in CA Water

The Department of the Interior announced in March \$889 million in investments for critical water infrastructure projects across the West, with \$540 million going to California projects.

The investment will support improvements to major water conveyance systems and storage projects that serve farms, communities and businesses throughout the Central Valley.

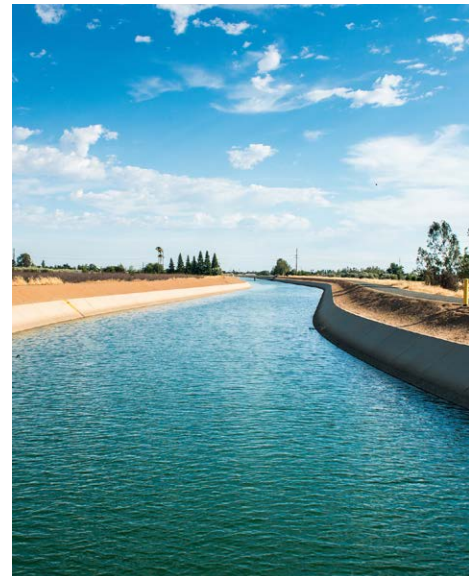
- The largest allocation, \$235 million, will fund improvements to the Delta-Mendota Canal, operated and maintained by the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority. The funding will support rehabilitation of the upper canal, including raising canal embankments, repairing check structures and advancing potential construction of a new concrete-lined canal segment.
- The Friant Water Authority will receive \$200 million for subsidence correction efforts along the Friant-Kern Canal.
- The Interior Department will invest \$50 million to address subsidence issues on the San Luis Canal affecting water delivery reliability. The canal is jointly operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources.

- The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority will receive \$15 million to increase flow rates and improve system performance at its pumping plant.
- An additional \$40 million will support planning and preconstruction activities associated with raising Shasta Dam, operated by the Bureau, which will increase water storage capacity by approximately 634,000 acre-feet. That volume of water is enough to supply about 2.5 million people for a year.

“The Friant-Kern Canal is a lifeline for farms, communities, and groundwater recharge efforts throughout the San Joaquin Valley,” stated Johnny Amaral, Chief Executive Officer of Friant Water Authority (FWA), in a news release. “It cannot be overstated how important and lasting this funding will be for FWA and the communities we serve.”

Westlands Water District also issued a news release expressing appreciation for the funding.

“This critical funding will help put shovels in the ground and position California to better capture and store water during wet years for use during inevitable dry years,” stated General Manager Allison Febbo, in a news release. “This year’s mix of wet days followed by an unusual March heatwave only demonstrates how critical



expanding storage capacity is in the state. It is a practical, forward-looking, and essential strategy that protects necessary water supplies that sustain productive farmland and ensures that our family farmers can continue growing the food that feeds America.”

Made possible by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the funding will support Bureau projects in California, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming that improve water conveyance, expand storage and modernize infrastructure that supports American communities and agriculture. ♦

Federal Agencies Issue Cyber Advisory to Water Systems

Federal agencies recently issued an advisory that urges water systems to ensure their cybersecurity measures are up to date. ACWA is sharing resources with member agencies they can use in heeding the advisory and remain vigilant and proactive in maintaining strong cybersecurity practices.

Cyberattacks against public water systems that diligently work to ensure a clean, safe water supply are increasing. Cyber threats continue to evolve, and water agencies remain critical infrastructure targets.

ACWA recommends reviewing and reinforcing your agency’s current security protocols — including system monitoring, access controls, employee training and incident response plans — to help prevent, detect, respond and recover from cyber incidents. ACWA also urges coordination with local, state and federal partners and to report any suspicious activity promptly.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s website epa.gov/cyberwater is devoted to cybersecurity in the water sector and includes several resources,

including information about funding and how to respond to a threat.

In addition, members can watch an ACWA webinar recorded last year with EPA experts discussing the topic. Access a link in the April 10 Advisory. Member login required. ♦



Scan to
access
resources

Padre Dam Decommissions Water Recycling Facility

The Ray Stoyer Water Recycling Facility was decommissioned on April 8, following more than 50 years of service in East San Diego County.

As a pioneering water reuse facility, it addressed critical water supply challenges, improved pollution control and enhanced recreational opportunities at Santee Lakes, all while serving as a model for sustainable water management both locally and globally.

Ray Stoyer, former General Manager of the Santee County Water District, paved the way for this award-winning facility and was a true trailblazer in advancing water reuse.

The facility was relocated to its current site just north of Santee Lakes in 1967, laying the foundation for future growth. In 1997, it was renovated to expand its capacity, allowing it to produce up to two million gallons of recycled water per day to support Santee Lakes and other non-potable uses throughout the community.

“The Ray Stoyer Water Recycling Facility has been a cornerstone of water sustainability in East County for more



Photo courtesy of Padre Dam MWD

than half a century,” stated Kyle Swanson, General Manager and CEO of Padre Dam Municipal Water District, in a news release. “Its legacy of innovation has set the standard for responsible water reuse. While we honor this incredible facility, we are excited to continue its pioneering spirit with the East County Advanced Water Purification (AWP) Program, providing reliable potable water for our community for generations to come.”

The East County AWP Program will create a local, sustainable and drought-proof drinking water supply using state-of-the-art technology to purify recycled water. It will treat up to 16 million gallons of wastewater per day, producing roughly 11.5 million gallons of purified potable water daily — enough to supply up to 30 percent of the region’s drinking water. Once operational, it will be one of California’s first surface water augmentation programs — bridging the region’s legacy to a leading-edge future. ♦

OCWD, OC San Unveil Commemorative GWRS Brew

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) and the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) unveiled a commemorative, limited-edition beer made with purified recycled water from the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) during the 2026 WaterReuse Symposium in Los Angeles. The beer, called GWRS Brew, was produced by Anaheim-based Brewery X and sponsored by H2O Innovations.

“GWRS Brew is a creative way to highlight the innovation behind the Groundwater Replenishment System,” stated OCWD Board President Denis R. Bilodeau,

P.E., in a news release. “For nearly two decades, GWRS has helped establish the global roadmap for potable reuse, from engineering and operations to public outreach. As the industry leader, we remain committed to advancing water recycling and strengthening reliable local water supplies.”

Online since 2008, GWRS is the world’s largest water purification system for indirect potable reuse. Developed through a partnership between OCWD and OC San, the system recycles 100% of OC San’s reclaimable wastewater and produces up to 130 million gallons of high-quality



Photo courtesy of OCWD

water each day through an advanced, multi-step treatment process. The purified water replenishes the Orange County Groundwater Basin, the primary drinking water supply for 2.5 million people in north and central Orange County. ♦

LIKE, SHARE & FOLLOW

EXPLORING THE WATER WORLD ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

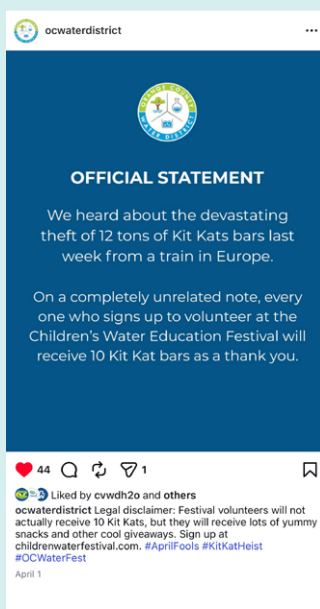
In today's crowded digital landscape, even the most important messages can get lost in the scroll. For water agencies, maintaining credibility is key, but so is finding creative ways to stand out and connect with audiences.

That's where a moment like April Fools' Day can be especially effective. It provides a chance to lean into humor and surprise while still reinforcing your agency's voice and visibility online.

The examples below highlight how ACWA and its members embraced April Fools' Day as an opportunity to engage their communities in an unexpected way, showing that even serious organizations can have a little fun.



ACWA (@acwawater) pranked members by saying that ACWA Conference 2032 would be held on a cruise.



Orange County Water District (@ocwaterdistrict) combined April Fools' Day with the almost unbelievable (but true!) heist of a truckload of Formula 1 KitKats.



Coachella Valley Water District (@cvwdh2o) launched a "new" (fake) product – dehydrated water.



Sonoma Water (@sonoma_water) teased followers with a promise of a "light show, sea animals, unicorns and rainbow magic" on its public tours, making the Lisa Frank fans smile.

For more creative ways to keep your customers and followers engaged so they see your content when you really need them to, follow ACWA (@ACWAWater) on Instagram, X, LinkedIn and Facebook.



Sacramento Suburban Water Commissions New Wells

Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) has commissioned three new groundwater wells — a major infrastructure investment that strengthens water reliability for local customers while supporting broader regional water resilience in a changing climate.

The three new groundwater wells, known as the “Triplets,” and another nearby new well were made possible through support from SSWD ratepayers and an \$18.84 million grant from the Department of Water Resources. These wells will replace other wells that have reached the end of their service lives and will help increase capacity and reliability in SSWD’s North Service Area.

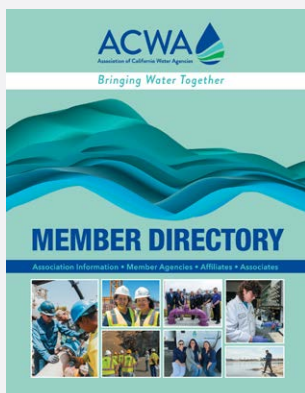
“The commissioning represents SSWD’s commitment to investing in and modernizing its infrastructure,” stated Dan York, SSWD General Manager, in a news release. “One of our ongoing, top priorities is improving and strengthening water reliability for our nearly 200,000 customers through thoughtful and careful planning. The grant funding we received from the California Department of Water Resources helped reduce costs for our ratepayers and move these projects forward.”



Pictured from left are U.S. Rep. Ami Bera, State Senator Roger Niello, SSWD General Manager Dan York, Regional Water Authority Executive Director Jim Peifer, SSWD Director Robert Wichert and Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond. *Photo courtesy of SSWD*

The new wells also support the Sacramento region’s broader strategy for managing water supplies through the Sacramento Regional Water Bank. By strengthening groundwater infrastructure, local agencies gain flexibility to rely more on groundwater during dry periods and more on surface water during wet periods.

This coordinated approach improves regional water reliability while allowing more surface water to remain in the Lower American River during critically dry years, supporting fish and wildlife when they need it most. ♦



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Bay Area Members Help Build Advanced Radar Network

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), along with a coalition of other Bay Area water, wastewater and flood control agencies, is taking action to put new weather radar technology to use, bringing advanced precipitation observations and forecasts to California.

This advanced network works like a magnifying glass, giving agencies and the communities they serve a clearer, real-time view of atmospheric rivers and rainfall intensity. It helps show where the heaviest rain will fall. This improved data enables public agencies and communities to prepare and respond when dangerous storms approach the coast. And, in this drought-prone state, it provides water agencies pinpointed data to maximize water supply reservoir storage.

This system, known as Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information, or AQPI, was developed through a decade-long local, state and federal agency collaboration working with key researchers to improve monitoring of extreme weather

events within the Bay Area's complex terrain. In areas shaped by hills, valleys and coastal mountains, traditional weather radar can miss critical details where heavy rain is developing.

The San Francisco Bay Area AQPI Network uses five X-band radar installations positioned around the region to provide a much sharper picture of where rain is falling with updates every one to two minutes. This means the system can focus much closer to the ground and capture fine-scale rainfall details that broader, long-range radar systems miss.

Critical funding for the radar installations was provided by the Department of Water Resources in the form of a \$19.7 million grant. SFPUC is among a half-dozen ACWA member agencies behind the project.

"Our sewer system is at the forefront protecting public health and the environment, and 2.7 million people in the Bay Area also depend on us to deliver high-quality drinking water around



Photo courtesy of SFPUC

the clock," SFPUC General Manager Dennis Herrera stated in a news release. "This advanced radar system gives us more precise, real-time storm data so we can better manage stormwater and our reservoirs before and during major storms. Earlier and more accurate information helps us make critical operational decisions that strengthen reliability for the communities we serve." ♦

LAO Acknowledges Potential Benefits of Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) in March issued a report on the Bay-Delta Plan and Voluntary Agreements, also known as the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program, that acknowledges the HRL Program's potential to benefit the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed.

ACWA is a long-standing supporter of the HRL Program as the best approach to protecting, restoring and enhancing the Bay-Delta watershed. The LAO report takes a balanced approach in evaluating

the HRL Program alongside the State Water Resource Control Board's pathway that would primarily rely on enforcing unimpaired flows.

In analyzing the benefits of the HRL Program, the report acknowledges that it has potential to balance multiple competing goals in restoring the Bay-Delta's health and native fishery, while also pointing out that many of the HRL Program's habitat restoration projects are already underway.

As the State Water Board approaches a final decision on the Bay-Delta Plan Update, expected by the end of this year, ACWA will continue engaging with its Bay-Delta Working Group. ACWA's advocacy will remain focused on supporting the HRL Program's inclusion in the updated plan and ensuring its successful implementation.

The report can be found on the LAO's website at lao.ca.gov. ♦

THIS MONTH IN ACWA HISTORY

10 years ago

ACWA distributed a toolkit with talking points as the state's focus began to transition from the State Water Resources Control Board's 2015 emergency regulation to a long-term water management vision for California's future. The messaging reinforced ACWA's strong belief that any long-term policy should recognize investments in drought-resilience, emphasize ongoing water-use efficiency and leave local management discretion to local water agencies.

20 years ago

ACWA and Huell Howser added a "Flood Fight of 2006" segment to the popular television personality's "California Water" PBS series following record rainfall throughout the month. The successful series was underwritten by ACWA members and explored topics raised in the association's "No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California Water" document.

30 years ago

Testifying before the U.S. House Resources Committee, ACWA's

Endangered Species Act Workgroup Chair John Stovall called California "the endangered species capital of the United States." Stovall pointed to the endangered and threatened species list growing to more than 262 and testified in support of cooperating partnerships with a more reasonable approach to enforcement.

40 years ago

ACWA News announced the association's endorsement of Proposition 51. The initiative proposed limiting non-economic damage to a defendant's degree of fault as found by the court, instead of forcing the party with the deepest pockets to cover 100% of an award if other defendants couldn't pay. It went on to pass the June ballot.

50 years ago

The April edition of ACWA News led with the results of a survey reflecting deepening concerns over the prospect of a drought continuing into 1977. The survey of 167 water districts showed that nearly half — 48.7% — would experience a serious water shortage if 1977 was a dry year. ♦



Jennifer Cusack

Bighorn-Desert Names GM

The Board of Directors of the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency recently selected **Jennifer Cusack** as the agency's next General Manager, succeeding **Marina West**, who will remain at the agency as its Chief Engineer responsible for managing grant projects to completion.

Cusack brings more than two decades of experience in public agency leadership, utility operations, government affairs and community engagement to the Mojave Desert water supplier. She currently serves as Director of Public & Government Affairs at Hi-Desert Water District and previously served in leadership roles at Hi-Desert Water District and Joshua Basin Water District.

West's public sector career spans nearly four decades, including many years dedicated to water system operations and management. During her tenure, she helped build a strong operational and governance foundation while elevating the agency's reputation statewide as a model for small rural water systems serving disadvantaged and income-limited communities. ♦

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Association of California Water Agencies
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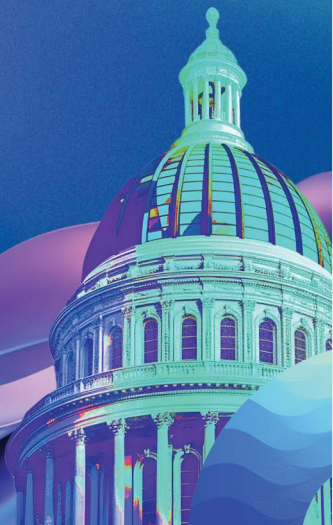
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May 5 – 7 • Sacramento

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Interior Announces \$540 Million Investment in California Water – Mar. 17

Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency Board Selects Jennifer Cusack as General Manager – Mar. 13

Dry March Leaves No Measurable Snow for April Survey – Apr. 1

OCWD and OC San Unveil GWRB Brew Made with Purified Recycled Water – Apr. 1

Westlands Responds to Updated CVP Allocation – Mar. 24

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit acwa.com/events for complete listing and registration

MAY 2026

5–7

ACWA 2026 Spring Conference
ACWA | Sacramento

ACWA conferences are the premier event for water industry professionals to learn, network, and engage through various programs and exhibits. It brings together experts and leaders to discuss key water issues and innovations.

ACWA EVENT

MAY 2026

12–14

CWA Spring Policy Symposium
California Water Association | Sacramento

As California faces climate, affordability, and infrastructure challenges, this symposium brings together utilities, regulators, and policymakers to explore how clear, proactive communication can build trust, support informed decisions, and strengthen connections with the communities they serve.

MAY 2026

20–21

San Joaquin Valley Water Resilience Summit: From Reports to Results
Fresno State – CA Water Institute | Fresno

The San Joaquin Valley's water systems face rising stress from climate, groundwater rules, infrastructure limits, and land shifts. New studies highlight the need for alignment—driving this Summit toward coordinated strategy and action.

MAY 2026

20–22

Bay-Delta Tour
Water Education Foundation | Sacramento

This tour explores California's water hub, traveling through the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta—a 720,000-acre network vital to the state's water system. It continues to San Francisco Bay and includes a ferry ride.

JUNE 2026

26

ACWA Region 8 Event
ACWA | Los Angeles

Discover how artificial intelligence is transforming the water industry. Experts will explore real-world impacts and emerging innovations. Join us to gain insights, ask questions, and stay ahead of the rapidly evolving role of A.I. in water management.

ACWA EVENT

JULY 2026

17

ACWA Region 9 Event
ACWA | Temecula

Save the date for the ACWA Region 9 event. More details will be shared soon, and registration is expected to open in May.

ACWA EVENT