

2026-27 Legal Affairs Committee Work Plan

Adopted _____

“There shall be a Legal Affairs Committee whose duty it shall be to support the mission of the Association, and more particularly to deal with requests for assistance involving legal matters of significance to member agencies, including but not limited to state and federal court litigation, water rights matters, selected regulatory and resources agency matters, proposed bylaw revisions, review of legislation as requested by the State Legislative Committee, etc. The committee shall consider matters and issues submitted to it in order to determine which ones are of major significance to the member agencies and, assuming a finding of major significance, recommend to the Board of Directors the position(s) which the committee believes the Association should take with respect thereto. The committee shall be composed of between 34 and 44 attorneys, each of whom shall be a member of the California Bar and shall be, or act as, counsel for a member agency, representing diverse interests within the Association, including but not limited to, different geographical areas throughout the state, large and small agencies, agricultural and urban agencies, agencies created under the various enabling statutes, etc. The committee shall consist of at least one member from each region.”

-ACWA Bylaws, Article 7, Section 7.12

CHARGE	INITIATIVE & PROGRESS
1. Prioritize legal issues of significance to all ACWA members <i>(Strategic Plan Goals: Advocacy, Connections, Education, Organizational Effectiveness)</i>	A. Promptly review requests for assistance and recommend actions, including to the Board and other policy committee(s) as appropriate, regarding litigation, legislation, and other matters on legal topics of significance to California water agencies.
	B. Review and consider ACWA regional priorities in advocacy efforts (Advocacy Priorities), including but not limited to: a. Groundwater b. Headwaters c. Infrastructure d. Permitting e. Water Rates and Finance f. Water Rights g. Water Transfers
2. Collaborate on issues of mutual concern and interest	A. Work with other ACWA policy committees on cross-over issues to implement ACWA’s strategic goals.

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<i>(Strategic Plan Goals: Connections, Education, Organizational Effectiveness)</i>	B. Facilitate meetings of subcommittees and working groups when matters that fall within the scope and jurisdiction of the subcommittee or working group are brought to the attention of the Committee.
	C. Increase engagement by Committee members and Region Committee Reporters, including by: a. eliciting from Committee members which topics are of greatest interest to them and bringing issues of interest to the Committee based on input received; and b. encouraging Committee member participation in subcommittees and working groups and on requests for assistance.
	D. Maintain and regularly update a list of active subcommittees and working groups on ACWA's website.
3. Proactive policy initiative process <i>(Strategic Plan Goals: Advocacy, Connections, Education, Organizational Effectiveness)</i>	A. Evaluate and provide recommendations on various policy proposals advanced by the Committee, with an emphasis on litigation, legislation, and regulatory actions that impact one or more of the Committee's Advocacy Priorities (see Work Plan § 1.B, above).
	B. Proactively raise matters of cross-over interest to other relevant policy committee(s) and LAC subcommittee(s) or working group(s).
	C. Implement the Committee's Advocacy Priorities through active subcommittee and working group engagement.
	D. Enhance advocacy efforts aligned with Committee issues by elevating representation with policymakers and building coalitions (e.g. ACWA-sponsored bills AB 2180 and SB 1153) in collaboration with other relevant policy committees and ACWA staff.
4. Advance the development of educational tools that showcase legal issues pertinent to ACWA's members <i>(Strategic Plan Goals: Connections, Education)</i>	A. Produce organizational publications and resources including fact sheets, advisory alerts, and an annual Summary of Appellate Cases.
	B. Organize and conduct conference programs and webinars focused on relevant content that advances Committee priorities, addresses current industry trends, and provides technical and legal instruction for continuing education credits.