



MONTHLY REGULATORY ROUNDUP



May 2023

UPCOMING ACWA EVENTS

ACWA 2023 SPRING CONFERENCE

ACWA will host its 2023 Spring Conference in Monterey, CA from May 9-11. Click here to [register](#) for Conference, including to attend ACWA Regulatory Committee Meetings on Tuesday, May 9 (schedule below):

8:00 AM – 9:45 AM	Agriculture Committee
10:00 AM – 11:45 AM	Groundwater Committee
10:00 AM – 11:45 AM	Energy Committee
1:00 PM – 2:45 PM	Water Management Committee
1:00 PM – 2:45 PM	Water Quality Committee

BI-MONTHLY WATER USE EFFICIENCY MEETING

Join ACWA's Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Subcommittee on March 8 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm to discuss the state's drought response and implementation of Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life. Click here to [attend](#).

POLICY UPDATES

WATER MANAGEMENT

Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment

- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will hold an [Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment](#) (Assessment) Information Meeting. The meeting will discuss lessons learned from the 2022 Annual Assessments, changes to the second round of analysis and reporting, and the Assessment and Annual Water Shortage Assessment Report (Report) submittal process. Every water supplier that provides over 3,000 acre-feet of water annually or serves more than 3,000 urban connections is required to perform an Annual Assessment and submit an Annual Report to DWR.
 - [Informational Meeting](#): May 12 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
 - Assessments due July 1

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Bay Delta Plan: Biological Goals for Lower San Joaquin River

- In April, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) released the [Second Draft Initial Biological Goals for the Lower San Joaquin River](#) (LSJR). The State Water Board Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/ Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan), as amended on December 12, 2018, requires the development of biological goals for the LSJR salmonids. Biological goals are quantitative metrics that describe desired biological outcomes of flow and non-flow management actions to provide for the reasonable protection of fish and wildlife.
 - [Board Workshop](#): May 3 at 9:30 am
 - [Written Comments](#) due May 12 at 12:00 pm

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Bay-Delta Plan: Possible Amendment

- On April 11, the State Water Board issued a [Notice of Preparation of Environmental Documentation and Scoping Meeting](#) regarding a [Possible Amendment of the Bay-Delta Plan to Incorporate Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement](#). To consider the proposed Voluntary Agreement, the State Water Board will need to consider

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modifications to the Bay-Delta Plan and prepare a staff report to support those possible changes because the Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement does not fully conform to the current provisions of the Bay-Delta Plan. The State Water Board has not yet determined whether to approve changes to the Bay-Delta Plan to incorporate the proposed Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement, but is commencing preparation of the staff report to inform its consideration. ○ Scoping Meeting: May 18 at 10:00 am ○ Written Comments due May 25 at 12:00 pm	
California Water Plan Update 2023 • DWR is in the process of updating the California Water Plan. Update 2023 will promote climate resilience across regions and water sectors with a statewide vision, watershed resilience planning framework, and indicators to track progress. DWR is hosting a series of workshops to describe and update a broad set of Resource Management Strategies (RMS) intended to help local agencies and governments manage their water and related resources. ○ Webinar: Water Balances Data: May 3 from 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm ○ Workshop: Water Use Efficiency Resource Management Strategy: May 9 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm ○ Workshop: Desalination Resource Management Strategy: May 18 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com 
Electronic Annual Report – 2022 • This month, all public water systems must complete the 2022 electronic Annual Report (eAR) to the State Water Board. The eAR is a survey of public water system, required annually, to collect water system information such as source water capacity, contact and inventory information, and financial capacity. ○ Brownbag 4: May 3 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm ○ Reporting Deadline: May 13	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com 
Fees: 2023 – ‘24 Drinking Water, Water Quality and Water Rights • The State Water Board is holding a series of stakeholder meetings to discuss drinking water, water quality and water rights fees. ○ Water Quality: June 10, August 3 from 9:00 – 11:00 am ○ Water Rights: June 12, August 3 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm ○ Drinking Water & ELAP: June 13, August 4 from 9:00 – 11: 00 am	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com
Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life • On March 15, the State Water Board released a Draft Staff Framework for Making Water Conservation a Way of Life Regulation (Proposed Regulatory Framework). The Proposed Regulatory Framework summarizes aspects of State Water Board’s staff proposed water use efficiency standards, objective, and Commercial, Industrial, Institutional (CII) Performance Measures. On March 13, the State Water Board also released the Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment of the Proposed Making Water Conservation a California way of Life Regulation. The State Water Board expects to begin the formal rulemaking process for the regulation this May and consider adoption by the end of this year/early next year.	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com 
Six-Year Drought White Paper • As part of Water Resilience Portfolio Action 26.3, the California Water Commission (CWC) is continuing to explore potential strategies to protect communities, fish and wildlife in a six-year drought. The CWC will conduct public outreach in May and June	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com

and expects to release a draft white paper this summer for public comment, and a final white paper this September.	
Water Rights: UPWARD - The State Water Board is launching a new project called Updating Water Rights Data for California (UPWARD). UPWARD is intended to improve how the state collects and manages water rights data and information to support data-driven water management decisions. Public Webinar: May 19 from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com
Water Supply Allocations On April 20, DWR announced increased State Water Project deliveries to 100% of requested supplies – up from 75% announced in March.	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com
GROUNDWATER	
Drinking Water Well Impacts In March, DWR released Guidance for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation: Considerations for Identifying and Addressing Drinking Water Well Impacts. The objective of the document is to provide guidance and technical assistance to groundwater sustainability agencies for identifying and addressing drinking water well impacts while implementing and updating groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com
Groundwater Sustainability Plans Approved On April 27, DWR announced the approval of GSPs for twelve groundwater basins: Big Valley, Shasta Valley, Scott River Valley, East Side Aquifer, Forebay Aquifer, Langley Area, Monterey, Upper Valley Aquifer, San Jacinto, Upper Ventura River, San Luis Obispo Valley and Santa Margarita. DWR is expected to continue releasing GSP determinations throughout 2023.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com
Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program Guidelines - On March 23, the State Water Board released draft guidelines for the third and final funding round of the Groundwater Grant Program funded by Proposition 1. The program provides competitive grants for projects that prevent or clean up contamination of groundwater that serves or has served as a source of drinking water. This funding round will make available \$102.2 million. Board Consideration of Draft Amended Guidelines: May 2 at 9:30 am	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com
WATER QUALITY	
Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program - On May 5, 2020 the State Water Board adopted the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program's (ELAP) proposed regulations. State Water Board staff will provide a progress update on two years of implementation of the ELAP's new regulations. Board Meeting: May 2 at 9:30 am	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com 
Hexavalent Chromium On March 27, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) requested information for consideration in completing the updated Public Health Goal (PHG) for hexavalent chromium (Cr6). A PHG is the level of a drinking water contaminant that does not pose a significant risk to health and are used as the basis to support California's primary drinking water standards established by the State	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com 

Water Board. In 2011, OEHHA established a PHG of 0.02 parts per billion for Cr6. The State Water Board intends to propose a Cr6 Maximum Contaminant Level in Spring 2023, and adopt by the end of the year.	
SAFER: Administrator Policy Handbook - On April 26, the State Water Board issued a Notice of Public Webinars regarding the Administrator Policy Handbook. The Administrator Policy Handbook provides standards, terms, and procedures that apply to the selection and duties of appointed administrators for designated water systems. The workshop will be an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute towards enhancement of the handbook. Public Workshop: May 24 from 9:00 - 11:00 am	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com
Water Quality Enforcement Policy - On Feb. 10, the State Water Board released Proposed Amendments to the Water Quality Enforcement Policy that aim to ensure more transparent and consistent application of the statutory factors outlined in California Water Code that the Water Boards must consider when assessing a civil liability. Board Consideration: August 15 at 9:30 am	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com
ENERGY	
Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation - On April 28, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted the Proposed Regulation Order of the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Regulation. The ACF will require California fleet owners and operators to start purchasing zero emission vehicles in 2024, with the goal to move California's medium- and heavy-duty trucks to zero emission, where feasible, by 2045. - Office of Administrative Law approval: date TBD	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com  WORKING GROUP
Clean Energy Interconnection: Electric Distribution Grid - The California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a public workshop to gather information on processes and timelines for interconnection and energization of clean energy resources such as electric vehicle chargers and distributed solar and storage with electricity distribution systems. The workshop is a part of the 2023 Integrated Energy Policy Report, which focuses on identifying barriers and solutions to accelerate the connection of clean energy resources with both the bulk electric and the electric distribution grid. This workshop will focus on connection of resources to the electric distribution grid. Public Workshop: May 9 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm - Written Comments due May 23 by 5:00 pm	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com
Demand Side Grid Support - On April 21, the California Energy Commission released Demand Side Grid Support (DSGS) Program Guidelines, Second Edition. The program guidelines for the DSGS Program establish the rules for the program, including eligibility requirements, participation process, and incentive structure. The DSGS program provides incentives to reduce customer net energy load during extreme events with upfront capacity commitments and per-unit reductions in net load. Written Comments due May 11 by 5:00 pm	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com  WORKING GROUP
ACWA COMMENT LETTERS	
Proposed 15-Day Changes to the Proposed Regulation Order Advanced Clean Fleets, California Air Resources Board, April 7	

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- [Second Data Call-In for the Hexavalent Chromium Public Health Update](#), Office of the Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, April 25
 - [ELAP Progress Update on 2 Years of Implementation](#), State Water Resources Control Board, April 28
 - [Draft Water Quality Enforcement Policy Update](#), State Water Resources Control Board, April 28
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To receive a monthly email of the Regulatory Roundup, please contact [Sonja Eschenburg](#). The Regulatory Roundup is also available on ACWA's [website](#).
