

MONTHLY REGULATORY ROUNDUP



FEBRUARY 2022

UPCOMING ACWA REGULATORY EVENTS

ACWA QUARTERLY COMMITTEE FORUM

ACWA QUARTERLY COMMITTEE FORUM – Register [here](#) to attend. View Preliminary Agenda [here](#). You must register separately for each committee meeting that you want to attend using the unique zoom links below.

Feb. 16, 2022	Feb. 17, 2022
• Energy Committee 9:30 – 11:30 am • Water Management Committee 12:30 – 2:30 pm • Groundwater Committee 3:00 – 5:00 pm	• Agriculture Committee 9:00 – 11:00 am • Water Quality 12:00 – 2:00 pm • Communications Committee 2:30 – 4:30 pm

*Due to health and safety, upcoming committee meetings will be held remotely

ACWA BI-MONTHLY WUE MEETING

ACWA Bi-Monthly WUE Meeting

ACWA's Water Use Efficiency Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm to discuss the State's implementation of Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life. Click [here](#) to attend.

POLICY UPDATES

WATER MANAGEMENT

30x30: Conservation of Lands and Coastal Waters

- In Dec. 2021, as part of Gov. Newsom's Executive Order N-82-20, the California Natural Resources Agency released the draft [Pathways to 30x30 Strategy Report](#). The Executive Order called on California to protect 30 percent of its land and coastal waters by 2030 to counter catastrophic biodiversity loss and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The final Report will chart the course of action to meet the 30x30 goal.
 - Written comments due Feb. 15

Staff Contact

Soren Nelson
Sorenn@acwa.com



California Water Commission 2022 Workplan

- On Jan. 19, 2022, California Water Commission (CWC) staff presented the CWC's [2022 Workplan](#), which summarizes CWC activities anticipated in 2022. This includes continued efforts on the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP), groundwater trading, and [Water Resilience Portfolio Action 26.3](#), which directs the State to develop strategies to protect communities as well as fish and wildlife in the event of drought lasting at least six years.

Staff Contact

Soren Nelson
Sorenn@acwa.com

CESA Steelhead Endangered Species Listing

- This month, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) will consider whether to accept the [petition](#) to list Southern California steelhead as an endangered species. If the Commission accepts the petition for consideration, the species would be temporarily afforded the same protections as a state-listed endangered or threatened species, while a one-year status review would be

Staff Contact

Kris Anderson
krisa@acwa.com



conducted to determine whether the species should be added to the list of endangered species. - Written comments due Feb. 3 - Commission meeting on Feb. 17	
Commercial, Industrial and Institutional (CII) Performance Measures - On Jan. 25, 2022, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted a meeting to solicit feedback on draft CII Performance Measure Recommendations to State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). At the meeting, DWR staff reviewed recommendations on thresholds for converting mixed-use CII meters to dedicated irrigation meters/ equivalent technologies, in-lieu of technologies, CII best management practices and annual reporting. - Written comments due Feb. 8	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com 
Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Appropriation - The Budget Act of 2021 appropriated \$1.55 billion to the State Water Board for the Infrastructure Appropriation, including \$650 million for drinking water projects and \$650 million for wastewater projects. The State Water Board posted the Draft Implementation Plans for both drinking water and wastewater. - Written comments due Feb. 7 by 12:00 pm (noon)	Staff Contact Ivy Brittain ivyb@acwa.com
Emergency Regulations – Prevention of Drought Wasteful Uses On Jan. 18, 2022, the Office of Administrative Law approved the State Water Board adopted emergency regulations to prevent wasteful water uses and promote urban water conservation during the current drought emergency. The emergency regulations will remain in effect for up to one year. ACWA has developed a FAQ to help member agencies understand and enforce the State Water Board’s emergency regulation.	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com 
Water Loss Performance Standards - On Dec. 24, 2021, the State Water Board issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Water Loss Performance Standards (proposed Standards). The proposed Standards would establish individual volumetric water loss performance standards that each urban retail water supplier would be required to meet by Jan. 1, 2028. - Public hearing on Feb. 10 at 2:00 pm - Written comments due Feb. 11 by 12:00 pm (noon)	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com 
Water Storage Investment Program On Feb. 16, 2022, the CWC is expected to allocate the remaining WSIP funds to eligible projects. In Oct. 2020, Temperance Flat Reservoir Authority (TFRA) withdrew from the WSIP. The CWC voted to redirect a portion of these funds to Kern Fan and Willow Springs to meet their full eligible amount. They also voted to provide an inflation adjustment for existing projects. Following the adjustments, the CWC is left with approximately \$64 million to distribute to WSIP participants.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson Sorenn@acwa.com
GROUNDWATER	
Groundwater Sustainability Plans In Jan. 2022, DWR released 14 determinations on groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) developed by local agencies to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). DWR found in its technical	Staff Contact Soren Nelson Sorenn@acwa.com

review that the GSPs in 12 basins contain deficiencies that preclude approval and the plans were determined to be “Incomplete.” These basins have 180 days to address deficiencies and resubmit their corrected GSPs to DWR for review.

Groundwater Trading White Paper

- On Jan. 19, 2022, the CWC released a draft white paper, [A State Role in Supporting Groundwater Trading with Safeguards for Vulnerable Users: Findings and Next Steps](#). The draft white paper frames state considerations around how Groundwater Sustainability Agencies might shape well-managed groundwater trading programs that include appropriate safeguards for communities, farms and the environment.
 - Written comments due Feb. 28

Staff Contact

Soren Nelson
Sorenn@acwa.com



SAFE AND AFFORDABLE FUNDING FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE (SAFER)

SAFER Drinking Water Needs Assessment for 2022

- The State Water Board will hold a [public webinar](#) to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to review and discuss proposed changes to the [Drinking Water Needs Assessment for 2022](#). The annual Drinking Water Needs Assessment provides foundational information and recommendations to guide the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity Resilience (SAFER) Drinking Water Program.
 - [Public webinar](#) on Feb. 2 at 9:00 am
 - Written comments due by March 2

Staff Contact

Ivy Brittain
ivyb@acwa.com



ENERGY

Advanced Clean Fleets Rule

- CARB will continue to host a series of workgroup meetings this Feb. to receive focused stakeholder input on the Draft Advanced Clean Fleets Rule, including activities, challenges and solutions surrounding the build-out of fueling infrastructure needed to support a growing fleet of zero-emission trucks and buses.
 - [Cost and Funding](#) on Feb. 11, 2022 from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm
 - [Electricity and the Grid](#) on Mar. 10 from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Staff Contact

Nick Blair
nickb@acwa.com



Governor Newsom - Historic \$10 Billion Zero-Emission Vehicles Package

- On Jan. 26, 2022, Governor Newsom outlined his \$10 billion zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) package to [accelerate the transition to zero-emission vehicles and fight climate change](#). The \$10 billion ZEV package builds on Governor Newsom’s action to shift the automotive industry to all electric by 2050.

Staff Contact

Nick Blair
nickb@acwa.com

Net Energy Metering 3.0 Program

- On Dec. 13, 2021, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued a [Proposed Decision](#) that would adopt a successor net energy metering (NEM) tariff. NEM allows customers who generate energy to serve their energy needs directly onsite to receive a financial credit on their electric bills for any surplus energy sent back to their electric utility. The Commissioners are expected to vote on the Proposed Decision in Feb. or March 2022.

Staff Contact

Nick Blair
nickb@acwa.com

Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Plan

- On Jan. 18, 2022, the California Energy Commission (CEC) released the draft [2022 Statewide Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Plan \(ZIP\)](#) (draft ZIP). The draft ZIP would inform state programs on ZEV infrastructure needs including medium and heavy duty fleets and would be used to inform the development of the CARB Draft Advanced Clean Fleets Rule.
 - Comments due Feb. 3

Staff Contact

Nick Blair

nickb@acwa.com**RECENT ACWA COMMENT LETTERS**

- [Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program](#), DOC, 1/31/22