

MONTHLY REGULATORY ROUNDUP



February 2023

UPCOMING ACWA EVENTS

ACWA QUARTERLY REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Register now to attend ACWA's Quarterly Regulatory Committee Meetings on February 15 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. The Quarterly Regulatory Committee Meetings will include the Water Management, Groundwater, Agriculture, Water Quality, and Energy Committees. These meetings will be held virtually. [Register](#) once to attend any or all of the meetings. The agenda includes:

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	ACWA Updates
9:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Water Management Committee
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM	Groundwater Committee
12:45 PM – 2:00 PM	Agriculture Committee
2:15 PM – 3:30 PM	Water Quality Committee
3:45 PM – 5:00 PM	Energy Committee

ACWA 2023 WASHINGTON D.C. WATER CONFERENCE

ACWA's 2023 DC Conference will feature three days of programs from February 28 – March 2 covering implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; insights and opportunities for the 118th Congress; Biden Administration action on the ongoing drought. Visit the [link](#) to learn more and register now!

POLICY UPDATES

WATER MANAGEMENT

Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

- On January 5, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) released a [notice](#) of a public Board workshop and an opportunity for public review and comment on a [Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement in Support of Proposed Voluntary Agreements for the Sacramento River, Delta, and Tributaries Update to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta](#) (Scientific Basis Report). The Scientific Basis Report describes the science supporting staff's proposed Sacramento/Delta Update to the Bay-Delta Plan.
 - [Public workshop](#) on January 19 at 10:00 am
 - Written comments due February 23

Staff Contact

Soren Nelson
sorenn@acwa.com



Drought & Conservation Technical Reporting Order

- On January 1, the State Water Board issued a [Drought & Conservation Technical Reporting Order](#) that requires all water systems, including those operated by urban water suppliers, to report monthly information on sources, supply and demand, supply augmentation and demand reduction actions on a quarterly frequency. The complete submittal of monthly reports in 2023 will now satisfy the Electronic Annual Report's supply and demand reporting, which is collected in 2024. The report covering January, February and March will be due April 30 and must be submitted using the new web-based reporting tool, [SAFER Clearinghouse](#).

Staff Contact

Chelsea Haines
chelseah@acwa.com



Fees: 2023-'24 Drinking Water, Water Quality and Water Rights

- The State Water Board scheduled a series of [stakeholder meetings](#) to discuss drinking water, water quality and water rights fees.

Staff Contact

Chelsea Haines
chelseah@acwa.com

○ Water Quality: March 9, June 10, August 3 from 9:00 – 11:00 am ○ Water Rights: March 9, June 12, August 3 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm ○ Drinking Water & ELAP: March 10, June 13, August 4 from 9:00 – 11:00 am	
Racial Equity Action Plan • On January 18, the State Water Board was briefed on the final Racial Equity Action Plan (Plan). The State Water Board did not take any action but supported the final Plan. The State Water Board’s 2023-2025 Racial Equity Action Plan is a compilation of goals, actions, and metrics intended to advance the organization’s efforts to create a future where we equitably preserve, enhance, and restore California’s water resources and drinking water for all Californians, regardless of race, and where State Water Board employees at all organizational levels reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of California.	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com 
Six-Year Drought White Paper • The California Water Commission (CWC) is continuing its process to explore potential strategies for long-term management to protect communities and fish and wildlife in a six-year drought as part of Water Resilience Portfolio Action 26.3. The CWC expects to host a series of public workshops on the topic this spring. A final whitepaper will be released this summer.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com 
State Water Project 2023 Deliveries • On January 26, the Department of Water Resources announced that recent storms will allow the State Water Project to boost deliveries to 29 public water agencies serving 27 million Californians. DWR now expects to deliver 30 percent of requested water supplies – or 1.27 million acre feet – in 2023, up from the initial 5 percent announced on December 1.	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com
Striped Bass Slot Limit • California Department of Fish and Wildlife is considering a proposal submitted by the Nor-Cal Guides and Sportsmen’s Association that would restrict the harvest of striped bass to a “slot limit” between 20 and 30 inches for inland anadromous waters. The stated goal of the proposal is to protect bass populations by increasing the minimum length to allow more fish to mature and successfully spawn prior to harvest and to protect the larger fish that tend to be the most prolific spawners and are becoming increasingly rare in the fishery. The Commission is expected to make a decision in early 2023.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com 
Water Rights Ownership Notice Requirements and Reporting Dates • On January 4, the State Water Board adopted a regulation modifying water rights ownership notice requirements and reporting dates. At the direction of and as a result of review by the Office of Administrative Law, the State Water Board considered proposed changes to the regulation that the Board previously adopted on September 20, 2022.	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com
SAFE DRINKING WATER	
2023 Drinking Water Needs Assessment • The State Water Board will hold a public webinar to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to review and discuss proposed changes to the 2023 Drinking Water Needs Assessment. Under the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program, the Needs Assessment consists of three components: (1) Affordability Assessment, (2) Risk Assessment, and (3) cost Assessment. Results of	Staff Contact Cindy Tuck cindy@acwa.com

the Needs Assessment are used to inform the prioritization of projects in the annual Fund Expenditure Plan for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund.

- [Public Webinar](#) on February 3 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding Program

- On January 6, the State Water Board released a [Notice of Opportunity for Public Comments, Public Workshops, and Board Consideration of Draft Guidelines for Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding Program](#). The Draft Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding Program Guidelines (Guidelines) would provide an expedited process by which public agency applicants with qualifying high priority projects can receive State grant funding. The Expedited Drinking Water Grant funding program will utilize a variety of state funding sources for drinking water infrastructure projects, including but not limited to: Proposition 1, Proposition 68, the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, and the Budget Act of 2021.
 - [Public workshop](#) (Southern California) on February 6 at 1:00 PM (in person)
 - [Public workshop](#) (Northern California) on February 7 at 9:30 AM (hybrid)
 - [Public workshop](#) (Central California) on February 8 at 2:00 PM (in person)
 - Written comments due February 10
 - [Board Consideration](#) of Draft Guidelines on March 7

Staff Contact

Nick Blair
nickb@acwa.com

SAFER Drinking Water Program Advisory Group

- The SAFER Advisory Group issued a [notice of public meeting](#) for a two-day onboarding and collaboration meeting for new and continuing members. The SAFER Advisory Group is a consultative body that advises the State Water Board on the SAFER Fund Expenditure Plan, and other key analyses and policies as needed. SAFER Advisory Group meetings are open to the public.
 - Public Meeting (Day 1) on February 9 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm (in-person)
 - Public Meeting (Day 2) on February 10 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (in-person)

Staff Contact

Cindy Tuck
cindyt@acwa.com

ENERGY

Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation

- The California Air Resources Board (CARB) will hold a [public workshop](#) to discuss proposed changes to the Draft Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation and solicit feedback from stakeholders about those changes. The ACF Regulation would 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. CARB will consider adoption of the Proposed ACF in Spring 2023.
 - [Public workshop](#) on February 13 at 9:00 AM

Staff Contact

Nick Blair
nickb@acwa.com



WATER RESILIENCE FUNDING

2021-'22 Water Resilience Funding Matrix

In May of 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom's Administration unveiled a four-year \$5.16 billion package of immediate drought response and long-term water resilience investments to address immediate emergency needs, build regional capacity to endure drought and safeguard water supplies for communities, the economy, and the environment. The final 2021-'22 state budget included \$3.58 billion of the Water Resilience Package funding. Track funding [here](#).

To receive a monthly email of the Regulatory Roundup, please contact [Chelsea Haines](#). The Regulatory Roundup is also available on ACWA's [website](#).

