



MONTHLY REGULATORY ROUNDUP



JANUARY 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 BI-MONTHLY WUE MEETING

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

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 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

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Department of Water Resources Snow Survey

- On January 3, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted its first snow survey of the season at the Phillips Station. Based on the manual survey, DWR recorded the statewide snowpack is 174 percent of the average for this date. DWR conducts snow surveys each year near the first of each month, January through April, and if necessary, May. The next survey is tentatively scheduled for February 1.

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Racial Equity Action Plan - On January 6, the State Water Board released its final Racial Equity Action 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 Water Board employees at all organizational levels reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of California. - Board information item on Jan. 18 at 9:30 am	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com 
State Water Board Yearly Strategic Work Plan and Board Priorities - The State Water Board will present the draft 2023 Yearly Strategic Work Plan and Board Priorities. The Strategic Plan lays out the actions the State Water Board plans to make progress on in 2023 to advance four thematic priorities: Protect public health by ensuring reliable access to safe, affordable drinking water and sanitation; Protect and restore watersheds, marine waters and ecosystems; Increase statewide water resiliency in the face of climate change and other threats by expanding and integrating California's water supply portfolio; and Strengthen internal capacity and systems to accomplish the State Water Board's mission strategically, transparently, equitably, and efficiently. - Board meeting on January 18, Item 6	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com
Six-Year Drought White Paper On October 19, the California Water Commission (CWC) presented a Long-term Drought Framework as part of its process to explore potential strategies for long-term management to protect communities and fish and wildlife in a six-year drought. The CWC expects to host a series of public workshops on the topic in early 2023. A final whitepaper will be released by July 2023.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@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

GROUNDWATER

LandFlex Program

- On December 9, DWR launched a public comment period on the [draft guidelines](#) for the [LandFlex Program](#). The Landflex Program aims to free up water in the event of a fourth consecutive dry year, accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and prevent drinking water supply problems in 2023. The \$25 million grant program would award funds to local groundwater sustainability agencies to pay growers to immediately idle land as a one-year drought-relief measure.
 - Written comments [due](#) December 29
 - Applicant workshop on January 19

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**WATER QUALITY****Hexavalent Chromium Maximum Contaminant Level**

- On December 13, the State Water Board released a [Hexavalent Chromium Maximum Contaminant Level Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment](#) to detail the forecasted economic impacts of the proposed Hexavalent Chromium Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The State Water Board anticipates release the draft MCL in early 2023, and Board Adoption in 2023.

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**ENERGY****Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation**

- The California Air Resources Board (CARB) announced additional [public workshops](#) to discuss the Proposed Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Regulation prior to draft language for public comment in early 2023. On October 27, CARB held the first of two [public hearings](#) to consider the ACF Regulation. 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](#) January 13 at 9:00 AM
 - Public Workshop on 15 Day Language on TBD

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**Demand Side Grid Support Program & Distributed Electricity Backup Assets Program**

- The California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a public workshop to discuss both the [Demand Side Grid Support](#) (DSGS) and the Distributed Electricity Backup Assets (DEBA) program. Both of these programs will operate to secure additional power to support the state power grid during extreme weather events. These programs will offer incentives for water agencies to use existing infrastructure to reduce power usage or provide backup power during extreme heat events (DSGS) and build cleaner energy infrastructure that can be used to supply or reduce power load during extreme heat events (DEBA).
 - Public workshop on January 27

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**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](#).

ACWA COMMENT LETTERS

- [Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program](#), DOC, 12/23/22

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