

MONTHLY REGULATORY ROUNDUP



JANUARY 2022

UPCOMING ACWA REGULATORY EVENTS

ACWA QUARTERLY COMMITTEE FORUM

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

POLICY UPDATES

WATER MANAGEMENT

2021 – 2022 Water Resilience Funding Sheet

- The final 2021-2022 state budget included \$3.58 billion for water resilience that includes funding for drinking water, water supply and drought relief. ACWA has developed an online [tracking tool](#) for members, including open grant applications, and will continuously update the tool with current information.

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Emergency Regulations – Prevention of Drought Wasteful Uses

- On Jan. 4, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted emergency regulations to prevent wasteful water uses and promote urban water conservation during the current drought emergency. The emergency regulations are expected to go into effect by mid-January, following the Office of Administrative Law's approval, and will remain in effect for up to one year. A full list of prohibitions is available in the [emergency regulation](#).

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Water Loss Performance Standards

- On Dec. 24, 2021, the State Water Board issued a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) for Water Loss Performance Standards (proposed Regulation). The proposed Regulation would establish individual volumetric water loss performance standards that each urban retail water supplier would be required to meet by Jan. 1, 2028. The State Water Board has set the following key dates:
 - Public workshop on Jan. 11 at 2:00 pm
 - Public hearing on Feb. 10 at 2:00 pm
 - Written comments due Feb. 11 by 12:00 pm (noon)

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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 has posted the [Draft Implementation Plans](#) for both drinking water and wastewater and will hold a public workshop to solicit public input on allocating the funds.
 - Public workshop on Jan. 20 [at 9 am](#)

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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 (CNRA) released the [Draft Pathways to 30x30 Report](#). The Executive Order calls 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 Pathways Report will chart the course of action needed to meet the 30x30 goal.
 - Written comments due Feb. 15, 2022

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CESA Steelhead Endangered Species Listing

- In June 2021, California Trout [petitioned](#) the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) to list Southern California steelhead as an endangered species. In November 2021, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife prepared an [Evaluation of the Petition](#) recommending that the Commission list Southern steelhead as endangered under CESA. In February, the Commission will consider whether to accept the petition for consideration, which would initiate a one-year status review to determine whether the species should be added to the list of endangered species.

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GROUNDWATER

Groundwater Management and Drinking Water Well Principles and Strategies

- On Dec. 16, 2021, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in coordination with the State Water Board, released its final [Groundwater Management and Drinking Water Wells Principles and Strategies](#) (Principles and Strategies). The Principles and Strategies identify State actions to mitigate the impact of drought on drinking water wells and other groundwater management actions.

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Groundwater Trading White Paper

- In March 2021, the California Water Commission (Commission) initiated a [public process](#) to frame state considerations around how Groundwater Sustainability Agencies might shape well-managed groundwater trading programs that include appropriate safeguards for communities, farms, and the environment. The Commission is developing a white paper that will include a set of conclusions and suggested next steps. ACWA anticipates a draft document will be released in Jan. for public comments.

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Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SMGA) Grant Program

- On Dec. 17, 2021, DWR released the 2021 final [Implementation Guidelines](#) and [Proposal Solicitation Package](#) for the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program](#). DWR will deliver the funding through a minimum of two solicitation rounds. The first round will provide more than \$150 million by spring 2022 to regional groundwater sustainability agencies in critically overdrafted basins for planning and implementation projects to help comply with SGMA. Applicants should submit a Spending Plan by February 18, 2022, to obtain funding.

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AGRICULTURE**Multibenefit Land Repurposing**

- On Dec. 21, 2021, the Department of Conservation (DOC) released the [Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program](#) (Program) [Draft Guidelines](#). The Budget Act of 2021 allocated \$50 million to the Program for the implementation of groundwater sustainability projects that reduce groundwater use, repurpose irrigated agricultural land, and provide wildlife habitat. DOC expects to release the final Solicitation Notice and Application on February 4, 2022 and has identified the following [key dates](#):
 - [Public Workshop 1](#) on Jan. 18 from 10:00 – 11:00 am
 - [Public Workshop 2](#) (Tribes) on Jan. 19 from 3:00 – 4:00pm
 - [Public Workshop 3](#) on Jan. 20 from 1 – 2 pm
 - Written comments [due](#) Jan. 31 by 11:59 pm

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**ENERGY****CARB Advanced Clean Fleets Rule**

- The California Air Resources Board (CARB) will be hosting a series of workgroup meetings in January 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. Meeting dates include:
 - [Electricity and the Grid](#) on Jan. 12 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
 - [Cost and Funding](#) on Jan. 19, 2022 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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**Zero-Emission Commercial Vehicles Grant Program**

- In April 2021, the California Energy Commission (CEC) launched Energy Infrastructure Incentives for Zero-Emission (EnegIIZE) Commercial Vehicles. [\(EnegIIZE\) Commercial Vehicles](#) is a first-of-its kind project that will provide \$50 million for electric vehicle infrastructure incentives for public and private fleets, owner/operators, school bus fleets and transit agencies that wish to deploy battery electric or hydrogen fuel cell vehicle technology. CEC and CalStart will host a webinar to provide an in-depth walk through of each step of application process.
 - [Public workshop](#) on Jan. from 9:00 – 10:30 am

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RECENT ACWA COMMENT LETTERS

- [Water Conservation Legislation Comments – Outdoor and CII](#), DWR, 11/24/21
- [Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment](#), DWR, 11/24/21
- [EIR for the Adoption of a Hexavalent Chromium MCL](#), State Water Board, 12/6/21
- [A State Role in Guiding Groundwater Trading that Safeguards Communities, Ecosystems, and Small Farms](#), California Water Commission, 12/6/21
- [Microplastics in Drinking Water Methods and Plan](#), State Water Board, 12/21/21
- [Drought Conservation Emergency Regulation](#), State Water Board, 12/21/21