



MONTHLY REGULATORY ROUNDUP



March 2023

UPCOMING ACWA EVENTS

ACWA 2023 Legislative Symposium

ACWA will host its 2023 Legislative Symposium on March 23 from 1:00 – 5:00 pm followed by a networking reception from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Discussion topics will include infrastructure permitting and infrastructure funding. Click [here](#) for more details and to register.

ACWA Bi-Monthly WUE 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

Drought & Conservation Technical Reporting Order

- On Jan. 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, the [SAFER Clearinghouse](#).
 - [Brownbag Q&A Session](#) on March 27 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm
 - [Brownbag Q&A Session](#) on April 13 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm
 - [Brownbag Q&A Session](#) on April 25 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Staff Contact

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Executive Order N-3-23

- On Feb. 13, Governor Newsom signed an [Executive Order](#) to protect the State's water supplies from the impacts of climate-driven extremes in weather. The order helps expand the State's capacity to capture storm runoff in wet years by facilitating groundwater recharge projects. It also continues conservation measures and allows the State to maximize water supplies north and south of the Delta while protecting the environment. Additionally, it directs state agencies to review and provide recommendations on the State's response actions by April 28, including the possibility of terminating specific emergency provisions that are no longer needed.

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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.
 - 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

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Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life - The State Water Board will hold a workshop on the Making Water Conservation a Way of Life Regulation. Board staff will provide an overview of the proposed regulatory framework. The Board will also take public comments and may provide guidance and direction to staff. Later this year, the State Water Board will begin the formal rulemaking process for the regulation, which will set efficiency standards and performance measures for urban retail water supplies. Public workshop on March 22	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com 
Project 2023 Deliveries On Feb. 22, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced an increase in forecasted State Water Project deliveries to 35 percent of requested water supplies, up from 30 percent forecasted in January. The Bureau of Reclamation also announced initial water supply allocations for Central Valley Project water users.	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 
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 Fish and Game Commission is expected to make a decision in early 2023.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson Sorenn@acwa.com 
Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) Approved On Feb. 21, the State Water Board approved a TUCP submitted by the DWR and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) requesting approval to modify a single compliance point for compliance with Delta water quality conditions specified in their water right permits. These actions allow DWR and Reclamation to temporarily move and store more water while the state experiences high flows.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson Sorenn@acwa.com
SAFE DRINKING WATER	
2023 State Water Board Work Plan Priorities - The State Water Board will consider a Resolution Adopting Proposed Prioritization of Drinking Water Regulations Development for Calendar Year 2023. The Resolution directs the State Water Board to prioritize the development of drinking water regulations including numerous MCLs (hexavalent chromium, PFAS, arsenic, and more), direct potable reuse, water quality standards for on-site treatment and reuse, recycled water regulations, Cross Contamination Policy Handbook, Lead and Copper Rule and Revisions, detection limits, electronic reporting, notification levels, and financial assurances. Board Consideration on March 8 at 9:30 am	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com
Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding Program	Staff Contact

- The State Water Board will consider adoption of the Draft Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding Program Guidelines (Guidelines). The 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. Board Consideration of Draft Guidelines on March 8	Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com
SAFER Drinking Water Program Advisory Group - On Jan. 26, the State Water Board issued a notice of public meeting for the SAFER Drinking Water Program Advisory Group. The meeting will include a discussion of the 2022-24 SAFER Work Plan and SAFER program updates. Public Meeting on March 2 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Staff Contact Cindy Tuck cindy@acwa.com
GROUNDWATER	
Groundwater Sustainability Plan Review On Jan. 26, DWR announced the approval of groundwater sustainability plans (GSP) for four groundwater basins – Napa Valley Subbasin in Napa County, Santa Rosa Plain Subbasin, Petaluma Valley Basin, and Sonoma Valley Subbasin in Sonoma County. DWR is expected to continue releasing GSP determinations throughout 2023.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com
National Groundwater Awareness Week - From March 5 – 12, ACWA will join DWR and other groundwater organizations in observing National Groundwater Awareness Week, including with a kick-off Interactive Workshop that includes presentations from groundwater professionals describing their work in groundwater and the importance of groundwater in California. DWR Kick-Off Event on March 6 at 9:00 am	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com
WATER QUALITY	
2024 California Integrated Report: List of Impaired Waters (303(d)/305(b)) - On Feb. 16, the State Water Board released the Draft 2024 California Clean Water Act section 303(d) List (303(d) List)). The 303(d) list includes new listing and delisting recommendations for waterbodies in the regions of the San Francisco Bay, Los Angeles, Santa Ana, Central Valley, Central Coast, and San Diego Regional Water Boards. Approximately 876 new listings and 92 new delistings of impaired waterbody-pollutant combinations are recommended for the 303(d) List. Public Workshop on March 21 at 9:30 am Written Comments due April 3 at 12:00 pm	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com
Lead Service Line Replacement - On Feb. 24, the State Water Board issued notice of listening session: Lead Service Line Inventory Contracting Services. The listening session will discuss options to assist community water systems with completing their lead service line inventories. The inventories are needed so that community water systems can replace lead service lines and apply for the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) funds provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) require all community water systems and non-transient, noncommunity water systems to complete their service line inventories by October 16, 2024. Public Meeting on April 4 at 1:00 pm	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com 

Once Through Cooling

- The State Water Board will receive oral comments at the upcoming State Water Board meeting and accept written comments on the Draft Amendment to the Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling to Extend the Compliance Schedule for Alamitos, Huntington Beach, Ormond Beach, and Scattergood Generating Stations (OTC Policy Amendment) and Draft Staff Report. The OTC Policy Amendment also includes a change without regulatory effect to revise the compliance date for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.
 - [Board Consideration](#) on March 7 at 9:30 am
 - [Written Comments](#) due March 17 at 12:00 pm

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Water Quality Enforcement Policy

- On Feb. 10, the State Water Board released [Proposed Amendments to the Water Quality Enforcement Policy](#) (Proposed Amendments) that aim to ensure more transparent and consistent application of the statutory factors outlined in California Water Code (Water Code) sections 13327 and 13385, subdivision (e) that the Water Boards must consider when assessing a civil liability.
 - [Public Workshop](#) on April 18 at 9:30 am
 - [Written Comments](#) due April 28 at 12:00 pm
 - [Board Consideration](#) on August 15 at 9:30 am

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ENERGY**Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation**

- The California Air Resources Board (CARB) estimates that the Final Draft of the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation (ACF) will be released in March 2023. CARB has also announced the intent to adopt ACF at an upcoming CARB Board Meeting. The ACF 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 Board Meeting](#) on April 27-28 starting at 9:00 am

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**ACWA COMMENT LETTERS**

- [Hexavalent Chromium PHG](#), OEHHA, 2/16/23
- [DSGS and DEBA Programs](#), CEC, 2/17/23
- [2023 Needs Assessment & Preliminary Results](#), SWRCB, 2/24/23

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