



MONTHLY REGULATORY ROUNDUP



MARCH 2022

UPCOMING ACWA REGULATORY EVENTS

ACWA REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS & SPRING CONFERENCE 2022

Register [now](#) to attend ACWA's 2022 Spring Conference at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento from [May 3 – May 5](#)! View the Preliminary Agenda [here](#).

ACWA REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Regulatory Committee meetings will be held at Spring Conference on Tuesday, May 3. Please be advised that attendance at any part of the conference, including the Committee meetings, will require applicable registration, and adherence to current health & safety attendance requirements. Registration to attend committee meetings is complementary.

Tuesday, May 3

- Agriculture Committee 8:00 – 9:45 am
- Groundwater Committee 10:00 – 11:45 am
- Energy Committee 10:00 – 11:45 am
- Water Management Committee 1:00 – 2:45 pm
- Water Quality Committee 3:00 – 4:45 pm

ACWA 2022 LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

ACWA will host its annual Legislative Symposium virtually on March 10 from 9:00 am – 12:20 pm. The Legislative Symposium will include panel discussions on the state's implementation of "Make Conservation a California Way of Life" and state budget funding for infrastructure, drought, and healthy forests. Register [here](#) to attend.

POLICY UPDATES

WATER MANAGEMENT

Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment

- The Department of Water Resources will hold a [stakeholder meeting](#) to further inform and solicit additional feedback on the Public Release Draft of Annual Water Supply and Assessment Guidance (Guidance). DWR anticipates that it will finalize the Guidance document by the end of March 2022. Urban water suppliers must submit Annual Water Shortage Assessment Reports to DWR by July 1, 2022.
 - Public workshop on March 7 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
 - Written comments due March 21

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CESA Steelhead Endangered Species Listing

- On Feb. 17, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) voted to delay action on the [petition](#) to list Southern California steelhead as an endangered species. Instead, the Commission directed the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to work with stakeholders, including public

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water agencies, to identify projects that would be impacted by the proposed listing in order to develop incidental take provisions. This issue will be discussed at the next Commission meeting. ○ Commission hearing April 20 - 21	
Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Appropriation • This month, the State Water Board will consider adoption of amendments to the SFY 2021-22 DWSRF and CWSRF Intended Use Plans (IUPs). If adopted, the IUPs will serve as the Implementation Plans for the Drinking Water and Wastewater Allocations from the 2021 Budget Act and multiple other funding sources. 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. ○ Meeting on March 15 at 9:30 AM	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com
Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program • On February 16, 2022, the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) released the draft Program Guidelines for the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Established by Congress in December 2020, the federally funded LIHWAP will help low-income households pay down their outstanding water bills. California has been allocated \$116 million in one-time funding to provide to LIHWAP assistance. Enrollment of public water systems in the LIHWAP program is starting immediately, and payments may occur as early as May. ACWA plans to send an Advisory with the latest information during the first week of March.	Staff Contact Cindy Tuck cindy@acwa.com
Water Storage Investment Program • This month, the California Water Commission (CWC) is expected to allocate the remaining \$64 million in WSIP funds to eligible projects. In Oct. 2020, Temperance Flat Reservoir Authority 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 and provide an inflation adjustment for existing projects. ○ Meeting on March 16 at 9:30 AM	Staff Contact Soren Nelson Sorenn@acwa.com
GROUNDWATER	
Groundwater Trading White Paper • This month, the CWC is expected to approve a final Water Paper on A State's Role in Groundwater Trading with Safeguards for Vulnerable Users: Findings and Next Steps (White Paper). On Jan. 19, the CWC released a draft White Paper that included state considerations around how Groundwater Sustainability Agencies might shape well-managed groundwater trading programs and appropriate safeguards for communities, farms and the environment. ○ Meeting on March 16	Staff Contact Soren Nelson Sorenn@acwa.com 
SAFE AND AFFORDABLE FUNDING FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE (SAFER)	

SAFER Drinking Water Needs Assessment for 2022

- On Jan. 28, the State Water Board released [Proposed Changes for the 2022 Drinking Water Needs Assessment](#). Proposed changes include expanding the inventory of water systems assessed to include large community water systems with more than 3,300 service connections and eight new risk indicators including contaminants of emerging concerns, residential arrearages, days cash on hand, operating ratio and total annual income. The Drinking Water Needs Assessment provides foundational information and recommendations to guide the SFAER Program.
 - Written comments due March 2

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**Countywide and Regional Funding Solutions**

- The State Water Board has opened [a County-wide and Regional Funding Solicitation](#) for counties or eligible partner entities to receive SAFER funding to implement county-wide or regional programs that address drought-related and/or contamination issues for state small water systems and domestic wells serving disadvantaged communities and low-income households. The State Water Board will host two trainings for county staff/representatives and non-governmental organizations that could apply to implement a program on a participant's behalf:
 - [March 2 from 10 AM – 12 PM](#)
 - [March 4 from 10 AM – 12 PM](#)

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WATER QUALITY**2022 Drinking Water Priorities**

- The State Water Board will consider [Adopting the Proposed Prioritization of Drinking Water Regulations Development for Calendar Year 2022](#) (Proposed Resolution). The Proposed Resolution would set the priorities to guide the State Water Board's development of drinking water regulations, and include Hexavalent Chromium and PFAS Maximum Contaminant Level, Lead and Copper Rule Revision, Cross Connection and Backflow Protection, Direct Potable Reuse, and Microplastics.
 - [Board Meeting](#) on March 1 (Agenda Item 4)

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Microplastics

- The State Water Board Microplastics Monitoring Subcommittee will hold its [First Quarterly Meeting](#) of 2022. The meeting will focus on establishing the goals of the Subcommittee, introducing two workgroups (Consumer Messaging and Sampling/Analytical Methods), and discussing feedback on the [Draft Microplastics in Drinking Water Handbook](#).
 - Meeting on March 11 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

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Statewide Sanitary Sewer Systems Waste Discharge Requirements

- In Jan. 2022, the State Water Board issued a [notice of opportunity](#) for public comments and public workshop on the Proposed Statewide Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order (General Order) Reissuance. Through the existing General Order, the State Water Board regulates sewage spills and local system management of approximately 1,100 publicly owned sewer systems. The Proposed General Order Reissuance would expand upon the original scope set in 2006, and update the General Order to reflect the latest complementary state and federal programs.
 - [Workshop](#) on March 15 at 9:00 AM
 - Written comments [due](#) April 8 by 12:00 PM (noon)

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ENERGY

Advanced Clean Fleets Rule

- The California Air Resources Board will continue its series of workgroup meetings this March to receive stakeholder input on the Draft Advanced Clean Fleets Rule, focusing on the activities, challenges and solutions surrounding the build-out of grid infrastructure needed to support a growing fleet of zero-emission trucks and buses.
 - [Workshop](#) on Mar. 10 from 8:30 am – 12:00 PM

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SB 100 Natural and Working Lands

- On Feb. 22, the California Energy Commission (CEC) conducted a [workshop](#) in collaboration with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) to discuss approaches for examining the environmental and land use implications of potential resource portfolios to meet Senate Bill 100 goals. The workshop included presentations from the CEC, CPUC, and CAISO, and additional panelists covering the status of resource and transmission planning and coordination on land use.

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AGRICULTURE

Multibenefit Land Repurposing

- On Feb. 22, the Department of Conservation released the [Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program's](#) (Program) final [Solicitation Notice and Application](#). 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.
 - Applications due on April 1
 - Awards announced on May 16

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RECENT ACWA COMMENT LETTERS

- [CEC Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Plan](#), CEC, 2/3/22
- [Water Loss Performance Standards](#), SWRCB, 2/11/22
- [WUE CII Performance Measure Recommendations](#), DWR, 2/14/22
- [Draft Pathways to 30X30 Strategy](#), CNRA, 2/14/22
- [Groundwater Trading White Paper](#), CWC, 2/22/22
- [Low Income Household Water Assistance Program Guidelines](#), CSD, 2/23/22