



MONTHLY REGULATORY ROUNDUP



MAY 2022

UPCOMING ACWA REGULATORY EVENTS

ACWA REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS & SPRING CONFERENCE 2022

ACWA's 2022 Spring Conference is set to take place from [May 3 – May 5](#) at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento from! On-site registration is available. View the Brochure & 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

POLICY UPDATES

Drought

Executive Order N-7-22

- On March 28, Gov. Newsom released [Executive Order N-7-22](#) directing the State Water Board to adopt emergency regulations by May 25 that: (1) require urban water suppliers to enact Level 2 of their Water Shortage Contingency Plans, (2) to define “non-functional” turf and ban the irrigation of non-functional turf for commercial, industrial and institutional sectors, and (3) submit a preliminary Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment (AWSDA) by June 1.

Draft Proposed Emergency Regulations for Water Conservation

- On April 22, the State Water Board released a working staff [draft Proposed Emergency Regulation for Water Conservation](#). The State Water Board has indicated the proposed timeline for adopting the Emergency Regulations.
 - By Mid-May: Notice the rulemaking with the proposed regulation text with instructions for public comment
 - By May 24: Consider adoption of the emergency regulations
 - By June 10: Emergency regulations may be in effect

Staff Contact

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Preliminary Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment

- On April 28, DWR held a technical meeting to present on the Preliminary AWSDA Report Requirements.
 - Preliminary AWSDA due June 1

Drought Well Permitting Requirements

- On April 4, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) issued a [fact sheet](#) for new well permitting requirements for local agencies to prepare for and lessen the effects of drought conditions (Action 9), and hosted a recorded [webinar](#) on April 14.

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Water Unavailability Methodology and Emergency Curtailments in the Delta

- On April 20, the State Water Board issued a [notice](#) of availability of refinements to the water unavailability methodology and draft emergency curtailments and reporting for the delta watershed and a notice of staff workshop and opportunity for public comment. Currently, the methodology is being used to inform curtailment decisions as described in the emergency regulation that was approved August 2021. The State Water Board plans to consider readoption of the emergency regulation this summer.
 - [Technical workshop](#) on May 12 at 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
 - Written comments due May 19 by 5:00 pm

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WATER MANAGEMENT

Allocations for Groundwater Cleanup and Water Recycling Projects

- On April 8, the State Water Board issued a [notice](#) of opportunity for public comments, board workshop and board consideration of a proposal to utilize a \$330 million allocation from the Budget Act of 2021 for groundwater cleanup and water recycling projects. State Water Board staff propose to direct \$165 million to water recycling projects as grant funds and \$165 million to groundwater cleanup projects as grant funds.
 - [Written comments](#) due May 9 at 12:00 pm

Staff Contact

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California Water Plan Update

- DWR is currently working to update the California Water Plan (CWP). Updated every five years, the CWP is the State's strategic plan for sustainably and equitably managing and developing water resources for current and future generations. This update will promote climate resilience across regions and water sectors with a statewide vision, clear goals, a watershed planning framework and toolkit, and progress-tracking dashboard of indicators.
 - Public [workshop](#) on May 4 from 9:00 – 12:00 am

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CESA Steelhead Endangered Species Listing

- On April 21 the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) voted to list Southern California Steelhead as a candidate species for protection pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act. The Commission also adopted a regulation pursuant to Section 2084 of the Fish and Game Code to allow incidental take of Southern California Steelhead for certain types of projects during the candidacy listing. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife will now undertake an evaluation of Southern California Steelhead to determine if a permanent listing is warranted.

Staff Contact

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Extreme Heat Action Plan On April 28, the State released its Extreme Heat Action Plan, which outlines a set of strategic actions to adapt and strengthen resilience to extreme heat. The Plan includes actions to help California reduce heat risks to water supply and systems. The proposed actions range from nature-based solutions to increased investments in groundwater recharge.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson Sorenn@acwa.com
Making Water Conservation a Way of Life - The State Water Board will hold a public workshop to solicit input on the potential effects that the forthcoming water use efficiency standards may have on local wastewater management. - Public workshop on May 11 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com 
Pathways to 30 x 30 and Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy On April 22, the California Natural Resources Agency released the final Pathways to 30 x 30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature and Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy. The reports implement Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-82-20, which elevate the role of natural and working lands in the fight against climate change and advancing biodiversity conservation as an administration priority.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson Sorenn@acwa.com 
GROUNDWATER	
Groundwater Trading White Paper - On Jan. 19, the California Water Commission released a draft White Paper, <i>A State's Role in Groundwater Trading with Safeguards for Vulnerable Users: Findings and Next Steps</i> (White Paper). The White Paper included state considerations around how Groundwater Sustainability Agencies might shape well-managed groundwater trading programs with appropriate safeguards for communities, farms and the environment. The CWC delayed finalizing its White Paper and is now expected to finalize it in May of this year. - CWC meeting on May 18 at 9:30 am	Staff Contact Soren Nelson Sorenn@acwa.com 
SAFE AND AFFORDABLE FUNDING FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE (SAFER)	
2022 Drinking Water Needs Assessment - On April 11, the State Water Board issued a notice of public webinar to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to review and discuss the results of the 2022 Drinking Water Needs Assessment (Needs Assessment). The Needs Assessment will guide the implementation of the SAFER program, which provides up to \$130 million per year through 2030 for underperforming drinking water systems. Webinar on May 5 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Staff Contact Ivy Brittain ivyb@acwa.com 
WATER QUALITY	
Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund - The State Water Board will hold a workshop to share basic information about Underground Storage Cleanup Fund programs and processes, share upcoming changes and observed trends, and respond to non-claim-specific questions. Workshop on May 4 at 1:00 pm	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com
ENERGY	

Advanced Clean Fleets Rule

- The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has released a revised [Public Fleets Requirements](#) for the draft Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation Proposed Draft Regulation Language. The potential draft regulatory language for stakeholder review is intended to encourage public feedback and is not part of the formal regulatory proposal.
 - [Workshop](#) on May 4 at 9:00 am

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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**

- [Net Energy Metering](#), CPUC, 4/6/22
- [Hexavalent Chromium MCL Letter](#), SWRCB, 4/29/22