



MONTHLY  
**REGULATORY  
ROUNDUP**



September 2022

## POLICY UPDATES

### DROUGHT

#### California's Water Supply Strategy

- On August 11, Governor Newsom released [California's Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future](#). The document outlines California's strategy and priority actions to adapt and protect water supplies in an era of rising temperatures. The document is divided into four main categories with identified implementation steps:
  - Develop new water supplies
  - Expand water storage capacity above and below ground by four million acre-feet
  - Reduce demand
  - Improve forecasting, data and management, including water rights modernization

#### Staff Contact

Chelsea Haines  
[chelseah@acwa.com](mailto:chelseah@acwa.com)

### WATER MANAGEMENT

#### \$300 Million in Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Funding

- On August 16, DWR released the [draft Guidelines/ Proposal Solicitation Package](#) (GL/PSP) for the 2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Program for a 15-day public comment period. The GL/PSP includes \$175 million for urban community drought relief, \$38 million for turf replacement and \$71.25 for water conservation for urban water suppliers.
  - Final GL/ PSP released and applications accepted in September
  - Awards announced between November 2022 and March 2023

#### Staff Contact

Chelsea Haines  
[chelseah@acwa.com](mailto:chelseah@acwa.com)

#### Bay-Delta Plan: Public Scoping Meeting – Proposed Regulation to Implement LSJR Flows

- The State Water Board issued a [notice of preparation and CEQA Scoping Meeting](#): Regulation to Implement LSJR and Southern Salinity Objectives in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The State Water Board will seek input and recommendations on the scope and content of the environmental information, including significant environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures for a proposed regulation to implement LSJR flows and southern Delta salinity objectives in the Bay-Delta Plan
  - Written comments due September 9 by noon

#### Staff Contact

Soren Nelson  
[sorenn@acwa.com](mailto:sorenn@acwa.com)



#### Delta Conveyance Project Draft EIR

- On July 27, DWR released the proposed [Delta Conveyance Project Draft Environmental Impact Report \(EIR\)](#). DWR prepared the EIR in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is soliciting public input.
  - Public workshop on September 13 from 9:00 – 11:00 am
  - Public workshop on September 22 from noon – 2:00 pm
  - Public workshop on September 28 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm
  - Public comments due October 27 by 5:00 pm

#### Staff Contact

Chelsea Haines  
[chelseah@acwa.com](mailto:chelseah@acwa.com)

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| <b>Regulation Modifying Water Rights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On June 13, the State Water Board issued a <a href="#">notice of staff workshop and opportunity for public input</a>: Proposed Rulemaking on the Proposed Regulation Modifying Water Right Ownership Notice Requirements and Reporting Dates (Proposed Regulation). The Proposed Regulation would amend requirements for reporting annual water use and change of ownership of water rights. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Adoption Hearing on September 20</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Staff Contact</b><br>Chelsea Haines<br><a href="mailto:chelseah@acwa.com">chelseah@acwa.com</a><br> |
| <b>Six-Year Drought White Paper</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The California Water Commission (CWC) expects to host a second panel to explore potential strategies for long-term management to protect communities and fish and wildlife in a <a href="#">six-year drought</a>, in accordance with Water Resilience Portfolio Action 26.3. In March, the CWC released a <a href="#">work plan</a> for developing the strategies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CWC Meeting on September 21 at 9:30 am</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Staff Contact</b><br>Soren Nelson<br><a href="mailto:sorenn@acwa.com">sorenn@acwa.com</a><br>       |
| <b>Southern California Steelhead Status Review</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On July 15, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) initiated a <a href="#">status review</a> for Southern California Steelhead under the California Endangered Species Act and invites data or comments on a petition to listing the species. CDFW issued this notice following a decision by the California Fish and Game Commission approving a petition to list Southern California Steelhead as candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act. CDFW has twelve months to review the petition and any data submitted by third parties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments and data <a href="#">due</a> by September 30</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                     | <b>Staff Contact</b><br>Soren Nelson<br><a href="mailto:sorenn@acwa.com">sorenn@acwa.com</a><br>       |
| <b>Striped Bass “Slot Limit”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDFW is <a href="#">soliciting public input</a> on a proposed regulation change 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish and Game Commission Wildlife Resources Committee <a href="#">meeting</a> on September 15</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <b>Staff Contact</b><br>Soren Nelson<br><a href="mailto:sorenn@acwa.com">sorenn@acwa.com</a><br>     |
| <b>GROUNDWATER</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>California Groundwater Projects Tool</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On August 9, DWR announced the development of a new web-based interactive <a href="#">mapping tool</a> that will allow the public to explore thousands of groundwater projects initiated in California over the last decade. The tool includes various filters to identify projects in a basin, subbasin, legislative district, county, and many others. The tool focuses on project benefits and effectiveness in relationship to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Sustainability Indicators.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Staff Contact</b><br>Soren Nelson<br><a href="mailto:sorenn@acwa.com">sorenn@acwa.com</a>                                                                                              |
| <b>SAFE AND AFFORDABLE FUNDING FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE (SAFER)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Drinking Water Cost Assessment Model</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On August 4, the State Water Board released a <a href="#">Draft White Paper</a> that details proposed updates to the Cost Assessment Model for the Drinking Water Needs Assessment. The SAFER Program is responsible for conducting an annual Needs Assessment, which consists of three components: Affordability Assessment, Risk Assessment, and Cost</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Staff Contact</b><br>Ivy Brittain<br><a href="mailto:ivyb@acwa.com">ivyb@acwa.com</a><br>         |

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| <p>Assessment. Results of the Needs Assessment are used to inform the prioritization of projects in the annual Fund Expenditure Plan for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written comments due September 8</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>FY 2022-23 Fund Expenditure Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On August 15, the State Water Board released the <a href="#">Draft FY 2022-23 Fund Expenditure Plan</a> for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. SB 200 (2019) established the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund and requires the annual adoption of a Fund Expenditure Plan. Expenditures from the Fund will complement other funding sources as part of the broader Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Drinking Water Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">SAFER Advisory Group Meeting</a> on September 9, 10:00 – 5:00pm.</li> <li>Written comments <a href="#">due</a> September 14</li> </ul> </li> </ul>     | <p><b>Staff Contact</b><br/>Ivy Brittain<br/><a href="mailto:ivyb@acwa.com">ivyb@acwa.com</a></p>    |
| <p><b>Drinking Water Needs Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The State Water Board will hold a workshop on its proposed enhancements to how it incorporates affordability into the Drinking Water Needs Assessment for public water systems, state small water systems, and domestic wells. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">SAFER Affordability Workshop</a> on September 20, 10:00 – 12:00 pm. Register <a href="#">Here</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>Staff Contact</b><br/>Ivy Brittain<br/><a href="mailto:ivyb@acwa.com">ivyb@acwa.com</a></p>    |
| <p><b>WATER QUALITY</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>2022-23 Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Integrated Use Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The State Water Board will hold an informational update to highlight key aspects of the 2022-23 Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Integrated Use Plans (IUPs). The State Water Board will discuss changes to this year's IUPs, including the introduction of supplementary IUPs for administering the additional funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the proposed schedule for implementation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Board Workshop</a> on September 7 at 9:30 am (will be heard after 1 pm)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p><b>Staff Contact</b><br/>Nick Blair<br/><a href="mailto:nickb@acwa.com">nickb@acwa.com</a></p>                                                                                       |
| <p><b>Microplastics Testing and Reporting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The State Water Board will consider adoption of the <a href="#">proposed Policy Handbook Establishing a Standard Method of Testing and Reporting of Microplastics in Drinking Water</a> (Policy Handbook). The purpose of the Policy Handbook is to set forth requirements for conducting monitoring and reporting of Microplastics in drinking water, including an iterative, two-step, four-year plan for monitoring and reporting. To date, no government in the world has required monitoring of Microplastics in drinking water. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Board Workshop</a> on September 7 at 9:30 am</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                     | <p><b>Staff Contact</b><br/>Nick Blair<br/><a href="mailto:nickb@acwa.com">nickb@acwa.com</a></p>  |
| <p><b>Proposed Statewide Construction Stormwater General Permit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On July 22, the State Water Board noticed that it will consider adoption of the <a href="#">proposed statewide Construction Stormwater General Permit reissuance</a> (General Permit). The General Permit would update the regulation of stormwater runoff from construction sites and is intended to minimize the administrative burden associated with permitting individual stormwater discharges. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Board Workshop</a> on September 8 at 9:30 am</li> <li>Proposed effective date is September 2023.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                           | <p><b>Staff Contact</b><br/>Nick Blair<br/><a href="mailto:nickb@acwa.com">nickb@acwa.com</a></p>  |

**Restoration Projects Statewide Proposed General Order**

- On August 16, the State Water Board adopted the [proposed Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for Restoration Projects Statewide](#) (proposed General Order) and certification of the supporting proposed CEQA consolidated final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) at the Board meeting. The General Order went into effect immediately following Board approval, and eligible projects can now be submitted to regional water boards as appropriate for consideration.

**Staff Contact**

Nick Blair  
[nickb@acwa.com](mailto:nickb@acwa.com)

**ENERGY****Clean Transportation Incentives Program**

- The California Air Resources Board (CARB) will hold a third public workshop on the Fiscal Year 2022 - 23 Funding Plan for Clean Transportation Incentives. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss staff's proposed allocations and recommendations for CARB's Clean Transportation Incentives.
  - [Workshop](#) on September 8 at 4:00 pm

**Staff Contact**

Nick Blair  
[nickb@acwa.com](mailto:nickb@acwa.com)

**Proposed Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation**

- On August 30, The California Air Resources Board (CARB) released its [Initial Statement of Reasons](#) (ISOR) and noticed [Public Hearing](#) for the CARB Board to hear about the Advanced Clean Fleets Rule on October 27. The Advanced Clean Fleet Rule would require California fleet owners and operators to purchase zero emission vehicles (starting in 2024) with the goal to move California's medium- and heavy-duty trucks to zero emission, where feasible, by 2045.
  - Public Hearing held in hybrid format on October 27 at 9:00 AM
  - Comments due October 17

**Staff Contact**

Nick Blair  
[nickb@acwa.com](mailto:nickb@acwa.com)

**RECENT ACWA COMMENT LETTERS**

- [Proposed Revisions to the State's Capacity Development Strategy for Public Drinking Water System](#), SWRCB, 8/5/2022
- [Bay-Delta Plan Revised Draft Initial Biological Goals](#), SWRCB, 8/11/2022