



MONTHLY REGULATORY ROUNDUP

ACWA 
SEPTEMBER 2026

UPCOMING ACWA EVENTS

ACWA WEBINARS

- From Burden to Breakthrough: Launching California's Water Data Reporting Initiative / September 3 at 10:00 am / Register [here](#).
- ACWA Virtual CLE Workshop / September 30 at 1:00 pm / Register [here](#).

ACWA REGION EVENTS

- ACWA Region 5 / September 4 at 9:00 am / Register [here](#) to attend.
- ACWA Region 3 / September 11 at 9:00 am / Register [here](#) to attend.

ACWA FALL 2026 CONFERENCE

ACWA will host its Fall 2026 Conference and Exhibition in Anaheim, CA from December 1-3. ACWA Policy Committee Meetings will be held in person on December 1. Click [here](#) to register for the Fall Conference, including the Policy Committee Meetings.

9:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Groundwater Committee
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Energy Committee Water Management Committee
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Agriculture Committee Local Government Committee
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM	Water Quality Committee
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Federal Affairs Committee Legal Affairs Committee

POLICY UPDATES

FEDERAL

ACWA's Federal Regulatory Issues chart is accessible [here](#).

PROPOSITION 4 IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER

State agencies are in the process of drafting guidelines for Proposition 4 funding allocations. ACWA is maintaining a Proposition 4 Implementation Tracker for informational purposes. The tracker is accessible [here](#).

Staff Contact

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WATER MANAGEMENT

Bay-Delta Plan

- On August 19, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) released the [final draft of updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed](#) (Bay-Delta Plan) and the [final Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document](#). Public comments are restricted to changes made since the December 2025 draft, while comments on the final Staff Report are not being accepted. The State Water Board will consider adoption of the final draft Bay-Delta Plan and the final Staff Report at a public meeting in October.

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○ Public comments due: September 18 ○ Public meeting: October 28-29	
Colorado River • On August 21, the United States Department of the Interior issued the 2027-28 Operating Guidelines and the Record of Decision for the Post-2026 Colorado River Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement. Together, these documents establish a 10-year decision framework that will be used to develop future operational guidelines for Lake Powell, Lake Mead, and the Colorado River system.	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com
Delta Conveyance Project • On July 1, the State Water Board announced a Thirteenth Amended Notice of Public Hearing and Procedural Ruling. The hearing will gather evidence that the State Water Board will consider to determine whether to approve change petitions filed by Department of Water Resources (DWR) to add two new points of diversion and rediversion for the State Water Project. ○ Public hearings: September 2-3	Staff Contact Stephen Pang stephenp@acwa.com
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: Intended Use Plan • On August 18, the State Water Board adopted the SFY 2026-27 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan (DWSRF IUP). The DWSRF IUP outlines the State Water Board's business plan for administering the DWSRF and the types of projects eligible for financing.	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com 
Urban Water Use Objective Reporting • The State Water Board will be holding office hours for urban water suppliers requesting variances and temporary provisions for Urban Water Use Objective Reporting. Urban water retailers are required to submit their annual urban water use objectives and actual water use data to comply with the Making Conservation a California Way of Life Regulation. ○ Office hours: September 1, 2 at 5:00 pm ○ Reporting form due: January 1, 2027	Staff Contact Amber Rossow amberr@acwa.com 
Zone 0 Defensible Space Regulations • On August 19, the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection approved the Draft Zone 0 Defensible Space Regulations. The regulations focus on wildfire safety actions for the first five feet around homes and structures (Zone 0).	Staff Contact Kylie Wright kyliew@acwa.com
AGRICULTURE	
Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability Funding • The Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability is screening concept proposal applications for eligible organizations to serve as Healthy Soils Program and State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program block grant recipients. ○ Award notification: September 2026	Staff Contact Stephen Pang stephenp@acwa.com
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program • The Department of Food and Agriculture is accepting proposals for the 2027 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP). The program will administer up to \$28 million for projects that enhance the competitiveness of California's specialty crops.	Staff Contact Stephen Pang stephenp@acwa.com

- [Concept proposals due](#): September 21 at 9:00 am
- The Department of Food and Agriculture is accepting applications for the [SCBGP Technical Review Committee](#). The Committee reviews, evaluates, and recommends proposals submitted for funding and is comprised of volunteers with expertise on California's specialty crop industry.
 - [Application due](#): September 25 at 9:00 am

GROUNDWATER

Proposition 4 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant

- On July 31, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the [2026 Draft Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Guidelines \(Guidelines\)](#). The Guidelines detail how DWR will administer \$3.5 million for Small Groundwater Agencies and \$6.5 million for Technical Assistance. DWR will host public workshops to provide an overview of the program, review key components of the Guidelines, and accept public comments.
 - Public comment workshops: [September 1 at 11am](#), [September 22 at 10am](#)
 - [Public comments due](#): September 30

Staff Contact

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WATER QUALITY

Draft Small MS4 Permit

- On July 8, the State Water Board issued a [Revised Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment, Public Staff Workshops, and Public Board Hearing for Draft Small MS4 Stormwater Permit](#). The [Draft Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems permit](#) (Draft Small MS4 Permit) will be a reissuance of the existing 2013 NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, which regulates the discharge of stormwater from traditional and non-traditional small municipalities.
 - Public comments due: September 2 at 12:00 pm

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Lead and Copper Rule Improvements

- On August 19, the State Water Board approved the federal [Lead and Copper Rule Improvements \(LCRI\)](#). The key provisions of the LCRI include requirements to locate existing lead pipes, replace service lines classified as lead and galvanized requiring replacement within 10 years, improve lead and copper tap sampling, lower the lead action level, sample for lead in schools and child care facilities, strengthen public health protection through the use of at-home filtration units, and improve communication. Community and nontransient non-community water systems are required to comply with the federal LCRI by November 1, 2027.

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Rainwater Catchment Systems Report

- On August 24, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) released a [Draft Report of Research Findings](#) on Senate Bill 597 (Statutes of 2024, Chapter 861) which requires HCD to consult with specific state agencies and non-governmental stakeholders to help develop recommendations regarding building standards for the installation of rainwater catchment systems for nonpotable uses in newly constructed residential dwellings.
 - Public comments due: September 10

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State Water Quality Control Plans

- On August 7, the State Water Board issued a [Revised Notice of Document Availability, Opportunity to Comment, Notice of Board Hearing, and Notice of Staff-Hosted Public Workshop for the Review of State Water Quality Control Plans and State Policies for Water Quality Control](#) (Review of State Plans and Policies). The State Water Board has released a [Revised Draft Staff Report and Workplan](#) for the Review of State Plans and Policies, which aims to assess the adequacy of state water quality plans, policies, and other standards.
 - [Public workshop](#): September 10 at 6:30 pm
 - Public comments due: September 21 at 12:00 pm

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PRIORITY Golden Mussels Regulation

- The 45-day public comment period for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)'s [rulemaking pertaining to invasive mussels](#) (rulemaking) recently ended on August 18. ACWA provided written and oral comments to the Department on the rulemaking which will make changes to California Code of Regulations § 650, 672, 672.1, and 672.2 to address golden mussels and implement AB 149 (2025). The rulemaking also includes new regulatory language related to a statewide framework for inspections and decontamination of watercraft. CDFW anticipates the regulations being finalized later this fall.

Staff Contact

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**ENERGY****2026-27 Clean Transportation Program Investment Plan Update**

- On August 17, the California Energy Commission (CEC) approved the fiscal year [2026-27 Clean Transportation Program Investment Plan Update](#). The plan details how the CEC's Clean Transportation Program will spend \$95.2 million to accelerate the buildout of zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) infrastructure in California. The investments will go towards deploying EV charging and hydrogen refueling infrastructure for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty ZEVs.

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PRIORITY Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation

- On July 30, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) submitted [proposed amendments](#) to the Advanced Clean Fleets regulation (ACF) to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for review prior to enactment, and released its [Final Statement of Reasons](#) associated with the ACF amendments. OAL has until September 11 to make a decision on accepting or denying CARB's amendments to ACF.
 - OAL Deadline to accept CARB Amendments: September 11

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**Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization, Storage Listening Sessions**

- CARB and other state agencies are hosting a [series of community meetings](#) regarding the [Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization, and Storage](#) (CCUS) Program, which was established by SB 905 (2022). CCUS aims to capture, transport, and create long-term storage of carbon dioxide that would otherwise be released to the atmosphere. The meetings will include informational presentations about the CCUS program and opportunities to give feedback on the current pre-rulemaking concepts.
 - Long Beach public meeting: September 1 at 5:30pm

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○ Bakersfield public meeting: September 2 at 5:30pm ○ Virtual public meeting: September 8 at 5:30pm	
IEPR Workshop on Energy Demand Forecast • On August 20, the California Energy Commission (CEC) hosted the Integrated Energy Policy Report Update (IEPR) Commissioner Workshop on Energy Demand Forecast Inputs and Assumptions. The meeting covered data center demand forecast methodology and investor-owned utility forecasting.	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com

ACWA COMMENT LETTERS

- [Draft California Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan](#), Governor Newsom, Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force, August 7, 2026
- [Support for Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act](#), United States Office of Management and Budget, United States Environmental Protection Agency, August 10, 2026
- [Amendments to Sections 650, 672, 672.1, 672. 2 of Title 14 of the CCR Regarding Invasive Mussels](#), California Department of Fish and Wildlife, August 17, 2026
- [Horizontal Sliding and Swinging Gates July Discussion Draft Comments](#), California Department of Industrial Relations, August 21, 2026
- [Revisions to Establish 6th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule for Public Water Systems](#), United States Environmental Protection Agency, August 31, 2026

To receive Regulatory Roundup via email, please email [Annie Kanjamala](#). Regulatory Roundup is also available on ACWA's [website](#).



Indicates ACWA Working Group



Indicates ACWA Priority Issue