



MONTHLY REGULATORY ROUNDUP



February 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

ACWA DC 2024 CONFERENCE

ACWA will host its DC 2024 Conference February 27 – 29 in Washington, D.C. Registration capacity has been reached, but interested attendees can be added to a waitlist by clicking [here](#).

ACWA QUARTERLY REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ACWA's next [Quarterly Regulatory Committee Meetings](#) will be held virtually on March 6 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. [Register](#) once to attend any or all of the meetings. The schedule includes:

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	ACWA Updates and Committee Orientation
9:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Water Management Committee
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM	Groundwater Committee
12:45 PM – 2:00 PM	Agriculture Committee
2:15 PM – 3:30 PM	Water Quality Committee
3:45 PM – 5:00 PM	Energy Committee

POLICY UPDATES

FEDERAL

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

WATER MANAGEMENT

PRIORITY California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future

- On January 30, Governor Newsom released the [California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future: Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems in the Age of Climate Change](#) (Strategy) which aims to reverse the decline of salmon. The Strategy outlines 71 actions and six priorities: barrier removal, habitat restoration, protection of water flows and quality, hatchery modernization, technological management improvements, and strengthened partnerships.

Staff Contact

Stephen Pang
stephenp@acwa.com

Dam Safety and Enhancements

- On January 29, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) held a [public meeting](#) to discuss the draft Dam Safety and Enhancements Grant Program (Program) [Guidelines](#) and [Proposal Solicitation Package](#). The Program will make up to \$96 million for repairs, rehabilitation, enhancements, and other dam safety projects at existing state jurisdictional dams and associated facilities. The 2024-25 January State Budget is proposing to reduce this total by \$50 million.

Staff Contact

Chelsea Haines
chelseah@acwa.com

Delta Adapts Draft Adaptation Plan

- The Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) will host a [public workshop](#) on the [Delta Adapts Draft Adaptation Plan](#) to discuss climate adaptation strategies for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and Suisun Marsh, including high-priority actions, entities responsible for implementation, and financing adaptation.

Staff Contact

Stephen Pang
stephenp@acwa.com

- Public Workshop: March 1 at 9:00 am



Delta Levees Investment Strategy On January 1, the DSC amended the Delta Levee Investment Strategy. The amendment assign “very high”, “high”, or “other” priority to islands or tracts within the Delta and Suisun Marsh and directs DWR to fund levee improvement projects by order of priority. Additionally, it requires DWR to submit an annual report to the DSC describing Delta levee investments relative to the established priorities.	Staff Contact Stephen Pang stephenp@acwa.com 
Drought Strategies On January 17, the California Water Commission (CWC) approved a White Paper on Potential Strategies for Protecting Communities and Fish and Wildlife in the Event of Drought. The CWC developed four key strategies for augmenting drought resilience including scaling up groundwater recharge; conducting watershed-level planning to reduce drought impacts to ecosystems; better positioning communities to prepare for a respond to drought emergencies; and supporting improved coordination, information, and communication in drought and non-drought years.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com
Electronic Annual Report: Brown Bag Trainings - The State Water Board will host a series of Brown Bag Electronic Annual Report (eAR) Reporting Training throughout the eAR reporting period. Brown Bag #1 (Overview and Sections 1-4): February 7 at 10:00 am Brown Bag #2 (Sections 5,7, and AIR Reporting): February 14 at 10:00 am Brown Bag #3 (Section 8): February 21 at 10:00 am Brown Bag #4 (Sections 9-18 and Finalize): February 28 at 10:00 am	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com 
Electronic Annual Report: Closure of Reporting Year 2022 - On January 2, the State Water Board announced its closure of the reporting year (RY) 2022 eAR Survey. All public water systems are required to complete the eAR under the January 2024 Technical Reporting Order (Order). - RY 2023 eAR release: February 1 - RY 2023 eAR due April 1	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com
Fees: 2024 Drinking Water, Water Quality, and Water Rights - The State Water Board is holding a series of stakeholder meetings to discuss drinking water, water quality, and water rights fees. - Water Quality: March 7 from 9:00 – 11:00 am - Water Rights: March 7 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm - Drinking Water: March 8 from 9:00 – 11:00 am	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com
Final Initial Biological Goals for Lower San Joaquin River Flow Objectives - The State Water Board is considering adopting a proposed revised resolution reapproving the Final Initial Biological Goals for the Lower San Joaquin River Flow Objectives. The proposed revised resolution provides additional clarifying information and would supersede Resolution 2023-0028. No changes are proposed to the Final Initial Biological Goals themselves. Public Meeting: February 6 at 9:00am	Staff Contact Stephen Pang stephenp@acwa.com
PRIORITY Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life On August 18, the State Water Board initiated the formal rulemaking process for “Making Conservation a California Way of Life” and released the Proposed	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com

Text of the Regulation and supporting material that are intended to implement AB 1668 and SB 606 (2018). The State Water Board expects to release a revised draft of the Regulation in February.	 WORKING GROUP
State Water Project Annual Review On January 17, CWC staff presented the Draft 2023 Annual Review of the State Water Project for CWC consideration and approval. Water Code Section 165 requires the CWC to conduct an annual review of the construction and operation of the State Water Project and to report its findings and recommendations to DWR and the State Legislature.	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com
Streamlined Water Transfer Process On January 31, the State Water Board closed its noticing process for those seeking a temporary water transfer approval. This process is optional and reduced the maximum processing time for a temporary transfer from 65 days to 55 days by expediting the noticing process.	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com
AGRICULTURE	
Agriculture Water Management Plans On January 25, DWR published the Status of 2020 Agricultural Water Management Plans (AWMPs) and Implementation of Efficient Water Management Practices (EWMPs) Report, which documents the status of AWMP submittals, including outstanding elements, and the implementation of associated EWMPs or Reclamation Best Management Practices to the Legislature.	Staff Contact Stephen Pang stephenp@acwa.com
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program On January 12, the Central Valley Water Board released a preliminary draft of their findings on the influence that management practice implementation has on nitrogen use efficiency, using data collected from the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The findings suggest that testing for nitrogen in soil, and tissues, in conjunction with fertigation and split nitrogen, are the most effective at improving nitrogen efficiency.	Staff Contact Stephen Pang stephenp@acwa.com
GROUNDWATER	
Groundwater Sustainability Plans On January 18, DWR announced determinations for seventeen groundwater basins. DWR approved groundwater sustainability plans (GSP) for Anderson and Enterprise Subbasins, San Antonio Creek Valley and Santa Ynez River Valley Basins, Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin, Solano Subbasin, Temescal Subbasin, Tracy Subbasin, Upper San Luis Rey Valley Subbasin, and Yucaipa Subbasin. Seven basins were deemed “incomplete” and have 180 days to return an updated GSP to DWR.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com  WORKING GROUP
SAFE DRINKING WATER	
SAFER Advisory Group - On January 11, the State Water Board released a Notice of Public Meeting of the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Advisory Group. No action will be taken at the meeting; instead, the meeting will onboard new members, give an overview of member roles, and introduce available resources and support. - Public Meeting: February 13 at 9:30 am	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com  WORKING GROUP

PRIORITY SAFER Program: Proposed Updates to the Cost Assessment Model On December 12, the State Water Board released a Draft White Paper on Proposed Updates to the Drinking Water Cost Assessment Model: Other Essential Infrastructure, Admin Needs, and Interim Solutions. The State Water Board is proposing to increase its estimate for the cost of capital improvements to support long-term solutions from \$4.56 billion (2021 estimate) to \$10.57 billion, driven by the addition of \$2.86 billion for private well construction and an increase in the number of systems needing assistance. The State Water Board is expected to finalize updates to the Cost Assessment Model in April.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com  WORKING GROUP
SAFER Program: Proposed Updates to the Needs Assessment On December 13, the State Water Board released a Draft White Paper Discussion on Proposed Updates for the 2024 Drinking Water Needs Assessment. The State Water Board is proposing to expand the existing criteria for “Failing Systems” to include new Source Capacity and Water Outage related violations, among other changes. The State Water Board is expected to finalize updates to the Needs Assessment in April.	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com  WORKING GROUP
WATER QUALITY	
PRIORITY Hexavalent Chromium Maximum Contaminant Level - On January 31, the State Water Board released a Notice of added materials to the list of Documents Relied Upon for the proposed Hexavalent Chromium (Cr(VI)) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Regulations and is making the additional documents available for public comment for 15 days prior to adoption of the proposed regulations. The proposed Cr(VI) MCL is 0.01 micrograms per liter (or 10 parts per billion). - Comments due February 19 - Anticipated adoption by State Water Board: April 2024	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com  WORKING GROUP
California Clean Water Act: 2024 California Integrated Report - On December 21, the State Water Board released a Notice of Public Meeting and Consideration of Adoption of California's 2024 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List Portion of the 2024 California Integrated Report (2024 303(d) List), and Notice of Availability of Proposed Final Documents and Response to Comments. The 2024 303(d) List includes new proposed listings and delistings for waterbodies in the San Francisco Bay, Los Angeles, Santa Ana, Central Valley, Central Coast, and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Boards. - Public Meeting: February 6 at 9:00 am - Anticipated submission to US EPA: Spring 2024	Staff Contact Stephen Pang stephenp@acwa.com
Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund On January 30 and 31, the State Water Board posted the Draft Updated 2023-24 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP) Comprehensive Lists and Draft Updated 2023-24 DWSRF and CWSRF IUP Fundable Lists for public comment. Per the 2023-24 DWSRF and CWSRF IUPs, the Division of Financial Assistance will periodically update the Comprehensive Lists which also identify those projects which are on the Fundable Lists. These updated Fundable Lists include all projects that may be eligible for grant or principal forgiveness under Appendices D and E, for consolidation incentive with a	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com  WORKING GROUP

complete application, public health projects, estuary projects, or water recycling or stormwater projects, ○ Comments due March 1	
Wastewater Needs Assessment Advisory Group • The State Water Board is accepting applications for its Wastewater Needs Assessment (WWNA) Advisory Group, which will advise the WWNA project team developing a statewide assessment for Californians' equal and human right to sanitation and safe wastewater management and critical wastewater infrastructure needs. Members will serve for up to a three-year term. ○ Applications due February 29 at 5:00 pm	Staff Contact Stephen Pang stephenp@acwa.com
ENERGY	
PRIORITY Advanced Clean Fleets: Implementation Group • On January 29, the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Truck Regulation Implementation Group (TRIG) held its second outreach meeting to discuss processes for and challenges with implementing rule provisions, deploying infrastructure, and outreach. The additional TRIG subcommittees will all meet in early 2024.	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com  WORKING GROUP
Future Grid Study • The California Public Utilities Commission will host a series of High Distributed Energy Resource Future Grid Study workshops to identify operational needs, assess gaps, and develop recommendations to address gaps. ○ Workshop 1: February 8 at 1:00 pm	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com  WORKING GROUP
Senate Bill 100 Report • On January 17, the California Energy Commission (CEC) released a Notice of 2025 Senate Bill 100 Report Land Use Workshop. The CEC will discuss approaches for examining environmental and land use implications of potential resource scenarios and considerations in energy resource and climate planning. SB 100 requires that renewable energy and zero-carbon resources supply 100 percent of electric retail sales to end-use customers by 2045 and that 60 percent of the State's electricity is renewable by 2030. ○ Workshop: February 1 at 9:30 am	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com  WORKING GROUP
ACWA COMMENT LETTERS	
• Draft White Paper Discussion On: Proposed Updates for the 2024 Drinking Water Needs Assessment, State Water Resources Control Board, January 18, 2024 • Proposed Updates to the Drinking Water Cost Assessment Model: Other Essential Infrastructure, Admin Needs, and Interim Solutions, State Water Resources Control Board, January 18, 2024 • Sacramento/Delta Draft Staff Report, State Water Resources Control Board, January 19, 2024	
To receive a monthly email of the Regulatory Roundup, please contact Sonja Eschenburg. The Regulatory Roundup is also available on ACWA's website.	



Indicates active ACWA Working Group.



Indicates ACWA priority issue.