



MONTHLY REGULATORY ROUNDUP



OCTOBER 2026

UPCOMING ACWA EVENTS

ACWA WEBINARS

- Karla Nemeth Virtual Town Hall / October 6 at 1:00 pm / Register [here](#).
- Region 1 and 5 Office Hours with Karla Nemeth / October 23 at 10:00 am / Register [here](#).
- Region 6 and 7 Office Hours with Karla Nemeth / October 30 at 10:00 am / Register [here](#).

ACWA REGION EVENTS

- ACWA Region 6 and 7 / October 9 at 8:00 am / Register [here](#) to attend.
- ACWA Region 10 / October 14 at 9:00 am / Register [here](#) to attend.
- ACWA Region 1 / October 28 at 8:00 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

Amber Rossow
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WATER MANAGEMENT

2026 Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment: Bulletin 161-2026

- On September 23, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the [Bulletin 161-2026 Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment Summary Report](#) (Summary Report). The Summary Report summarizes projected water shortage information from urban water suppliers, as well as regional and statewide analyses of water supply conditions.

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PRIORITY 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. 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. Public meeting: October 28-29	Staff Contact Stephen Pang stephenp@acwa.com 
California Financing Coordination Committee Funding Fairs - The California Financing Coordination Committee (CFCC) will be hosting the 2026 Fall Funding Fairs (Funding Fairs). At the Funding Fairs, federal, state, and local agencies will discuss available bonds, grants, loans, and technical resources for local infrastructure projects. - Funding fairs: October 29 at 9am, November 4 at 9am	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com
Candidate Bumble Bee Conservation Guidance On August 3, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) published the non-regulatory Considerations for Conserving Crotch's Bumble Bee, Franklin's Bumble Bee, Western Bumble Bee, and Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee Guidance Document (Guidance Document). The Guidance Document intends to provide best practices for avoiding project-related impacts to these bee species.	Staff Contact Sophie Morin sophiem@acwa.com
El Niño State of Emergency On September 21, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency regarding the emerging El Niño storm season. The state of emergency order directs state agencies to lead flood-risk-reduction efforts, prepare roads, and other critical infrastructure, as well as assist local governments to reduce flood, landslide, and coastal risks.	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com
Prop 4 Watershed Resilience Grant Program - On September 10, DWR released the 2026 Draft Watershed Resilience Grant Program Guidelines and 2026 Draft Conservation Implementation Proposal Solicitation Package. The Watershed Resilience Grant Program will administer \$152 million in grants for water conservation and improvements to climate resilience on a watershed basis. DWR will host a public workshop to provide an overview of the program and accept public comments. Public workshop: October 22 at 1pm Public comment due: November 9	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com
PRIORITY Sites Reservoir - On September 3, the State Water Board released a Revised Draft Water Rights Decision and Draft Permit for Sites Reservoir. The revisions expand opportunities to divert water and ensure the project aligns with the Bay-Delta Plan. Public comment due: October 5 at 11:59pm - On September 10, the State Water Board issued a Final Water Quality Certification for the Sites Reservoir Project. The Water Quality Certification	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com

focuses on the construction of the reservoir and is needed for construction to begin.	
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. - Reporting form due: January 1, 2027	Staff Contact Amber Rossow amberr@acwa.com 
Water Rights Fee Schedule On September 15, the State Water Board adopted the emergency regulations amending the Water Rights Fee Schedules for FY 2026-27. Changes to the water rights fee schedule include: an increase in the water rights application, permit, and license fees, an adjustment to the fee cap on change petitions involving transfers, a revision of the timing of SGMA automatic late fees, and an assessment of a new SGMA fee to recover staff costs.	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com
AGRICULTURE	
Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability Funding - The Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability is currently working with invited concept proposal applicants for the Healthy Soils Program and State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program block grants. - Award execution: January 2027	Staff Contact Stephen Pang stephenp@acwa.com
SAFE DRINKING WATER	
Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund - On September 30, the State Water Board released the Draft Fiscal Year 2026-27 Fund Expenditure Plan for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (FEP). The FEP includes anticipated available Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program funding, and details funding targets, prioritization, and eligibility. Board workshop: October 6 at 9am Public comment due: October 30 at 12pm	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com
GROUNDWATER	
DWR Groundwater Recharge Working Group - DWR will be hosting a Groundwater Recharge Working Group (GRWG). The GRWG will support the development of recommendations to advance groundwater recharge as part of the California Water Plan 2028. The first meeting of the GRWG will include an overview of the working group's work plan and solicit initial input on groundwater recharge priorities. GRWG Open Session: October 1 at 9am	Staff Contact Soren Nelson sorenn@acwa.com
WATER QUALITY	
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 and a subsequent 15-day comment period for a	Staff Contact Sophie Morin sophiem@acwa.com 

revised draft ended on September 17. CDFW anticipates the rulemaking to be finalized in Fall 2026.	
Harmful Algal Blooms and Cyanotoxins Policy - The State Water Board is developing statewide water quality objectives to reduce the risk and occurrence of harmful algal blooms (HABs) in California's inland surface waters, enclosed bays, estuaries, and coastal lagoons. The State Water Board will be hosting an outreach meeting to solicit input to inform the development of the statewide policy on HABs. Outreach meeting: November 2 at 2pm	Staff Contact Amber Rossow amberr@acwa.com
State Revolving Fund Environmental Package Requirements - On December 29, the State Water Board released a Notice of Public Webinars relating to Funding Programs Environmental Package (EP) Guidance. The webinars will focus on the EP requirements for the State Water Board's funding programs, including the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF and DWSRF). Public webinar: November 12 at 1pm	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com
Stormwater Grant Program Guidelines - On October 6, the State Water Board will consider adoption of the proposed Proposition 4 Stormwater Grant Guidelines (Guidelines). The Guidelines establish the process and criteria that the State Water Board will use to solicit, evaluate, and select applications, and award grants for multi-benefit urban stormwater management projects. Board Meeting: October 6 at 9am	Staff Contact Amber Rossow amberr@acwa.com
Waste Discharge Requirements for Dairies On September 16, the State Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements General Order NO R5-2013-0122 for Milk Cow Dairies in the Central Valley Region. The order limits dairies' application of manure to croplands, requires dairies responsible for nitrate impacts to wells to provide alternate drinking water supplies, and requires stricter nitrogen monitoring.	Staff Contact Amber Rossow amberr@acwa.com
Water Quality Regulatory Fee Schedule On September 15, the State Water Board adopted the emergency regulations revising the Core Water Quality Regulatory Fee Schedules. The FY 2026-27 fee structure remains unchanged from the previous fiscal year, with the exception of a slight change to the Water Quality Certification Fill & Excavation fee and an increase to the Cannabis Cultivation program.	Staff Contact Sophie Morin sophiem@acwa.com
ENERGY	
PRIORITY Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation On September 10, the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved and filed the California Air Resource Board (CARB)'s amendments to the Advanced Clean Fleets regulation. The amendments repeal the High-Priority Fleet and Drayage Fleet requirements and clarify requirements for private contractors providing services to public agencies.	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com 
CARB Drive Forward Expo CARB will be hosting a free Drive Forward Expo in Fresno. The Drive Forward Expo highlights zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty commercial trucks and off-road equipment. At the event, CARB staff will be available to answer	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com

questions on regulatory obligations to adopt medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles.

- [Expo date](#): November 18 at 9am

ACWA COMMENT LETTERS

- [Request for Immediate State Action to Protect California Communities Before 2026-27 Winter Season](#), Governor Newsom, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, September 9, 2026
- [Revised Draft of Amendments to Sections 650, 672, 672.1, 672. 2 of Title 14 of the CCR Regarding Invasive Mussels](#), California Department of Fish and Wildlife, September 17, 2026
- [Final Draft Bay-Delta Plan](#), State Water Resources Control Board, September 18, 2026
- [Review of State Plans and Policies](#), State Water Resources Control Board, September 21, 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