



MONTHLY REGULATORY ROUNDUP



June 2023

UPCOMING ACWA EVENTS

ACWA REGION EVENTS

- ACWA Region 10 / Pure Water Oceanside / June 29 at 8:00 am/ Register [here](#).
- ACWA Region 8 / West Basin's Water Recycling Facility / July 13 at 8:30 am/ Register [here](#).

POLICY UPDATES

SAFE DRINKING WATER

Drinking Water Needs Assessment: 2023 Final Report

- On April 27, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) released its third annual [Drinking Water Needs Assessment](#), which describes the overall health of the State's water systems and domestic wells and will inform the funding and regulatory work of the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) drinking water program. State Water Board staff held a public webinar on Tuesday, May 2 to review the document. A recording of the webinar will be available [here](#). While the Needs Assessment is final, the State Water Board is accepting feedback on the report.
 - Written comments due June 2 via [email](#)

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SAFER: Administrator Policy Handbook

- On May 10, the State Water Board issued a [Notice of Public Webinars: SAFER: Administrator Policy Handbook Workshop](#). The Administrator Policy Handbook provides standards, terms, and procedures that apply to the selection and duties of appointed [water system administrators](#). The workshop will be an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the handbook.
 - [Public Workshop](#): June 14 from 9:00 - 11:00 am

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WATER MANAGEMENT

Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment

- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will hold an [Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment](#) (Assessment) Information Meeting. The meeting will discuss lessons learned from the 2022 Annual Assessments, changes to the second round of analysis and reporting, and the Assessment and Annual Water Shortage Assessment Report (Report) submittal process. Every water supplier that provides over 3,000 acre-feet of water annually or serves more than 3,000 urban connections is required to perform an Annual Assessment and submit an Annual Report to DWR.
 - Assessments due July 1

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Bay Delta Plan: Environmental Justice

- On May 11, the State Water Board issued a [Notice of Environmental Justice Listening Session on the State Efforts to Update and Implement the Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay Delta Plan](#) (Bay-Delta Plan) to receive input from environmental justice organizations, economically disadvantaged communities, and black, indigenous, and people of color community members and individuals on its

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efforts to update and implement the Bay-Delta Plan, including consideration of possible Voluntary Agreements. ○ Listening Session: June 7 at 3:00 pm	
Bay Delta Plan: Possible Addition of Tribal Beneficial Uses • On May 11, the State Water Board issued a “Save the Date” for Consideration of Additional Tribal Beneficial Uses to the Bay-Delta Plan. The addition of tribal beneficial uses to the Bay-Delta Plan would provide for explicit recognition and reasonable protection of these beneficial uses within the context of the Bay-Delta Plan, which is focused on instream flow and associated habitat conditions and implementation through water rights related actions. ○ Informational Item: June 7 at 9:30 am	Staff Contact Stephen Pang stephenp@acwa.com 
Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds: Intended Use Plan • On May 22, the State Water Board issued a Notice of Opportunity to Comment, Board Workshop, and Consideration of Adoption of the State Fiscal Year 2023-24 Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) IUP with Supplemental IUPs and Guidelines for Complementary Funding from the Budget Acts of 2021, 2022, and 2023 and Propositions 1 and 68. The draft CWSRF and DWSRF IUPs outline the State Water Board’s plan for administering the CWSRF and DWSRF and the types of projects eligible for financing for SFY 2023-24. ○ Board Workshop: June 20 at no earlier than 1:00 pm ○ Written comments due June 23 by 12:00 pm ○ Board Meeting: July 18 at 9:30 am	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com 
Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds: Section 106 Agreements • On May 17, the State Water Board and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a Notice of Consultation Meeting regarding the Development of Section 106 Programmatic Agreements for the CWSRF and DWSRF Programs. These two new statewide programmatic agreements, one for the CWSRF and one for the DWSRF, will guide compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. ○ Board Meeting: June 22 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com 
Drought and Conservation Technical Reporting Order • The State Water Board will hold an Information Item on the Drought and Conservation Reporting to the SAFER Clearinghouse. The SAFER Clearinghouse Drought and Conservation Reporting was launched in January 2023 and is the reporting platform now used to submit drought and conservation reporting data from public drinking water systems. ○ Board Meeting: June 6 at 9:30 am	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com 
Fees: 2023 – ‘24 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: June 12, August 3 from 9:00 – 11:00 am ○ Water Rights: June 12, August 3 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm ○ Drinking Water & ELAP: June 13, August 4 from 9:00 – 11:00 am	Staff Contact Chelsea Haines chelseah@acwa.com 

Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life

- On March 15, the State Water Board released a [Draft Staff Framework for Making Water Conservation a Way of Life Regulation](#) (Proposed Regulatory Framework). The Proposed Regulatory Framework summarizes aspects of State Water Board's staff proposed water use efficiency standards, objective, and Commercial, Industrial, Institutional (CII) Performance Measures. On March 13, the State Water Board also released the [Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment](#) of the Proposed Regulatory Framework. The State Water Board expects to begin the formal rulemaking process for the regulation this May and consider adoption by the end of this year/early next year.

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**Six-Year Drought White Paper**

- As part of Water Resilience Portfolio Action 26.3, the California Water Commission (CWC) is continuing to explore potential strategies to protect communities, fish, and wildlife in a [six-year drought](#). The CWC will conduct public outreach through June and expects to release a draft white paper this summer for public comment, and a final white paper this September.

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**GROUNDWATER****"Be Well Prepared" Program**

- On May 17, DWR announced the launch of its [Be Well Prepared](#) program, which provides information and resources to help well owners, well users, and local agencies be ready for impacts of climate-driven weather extremes on groundwater supplies and drinking water wells. Groundwater is a critical component of California's water supply and is heavily relied on by communities, agriculture, and the environment, especially during dry and drought years.

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SGMA Funding: Round 2 Solicitation Recommendations

- On May 19, DWR announced the release of the draft [Funding Recommendations](#) for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation, Round 2 solicitation for public review. Solicitation for eligible applicants located within eligible high and medium priority groundwater basins, including critically over drafted basins, closed on December 16, 2022. DWR received 82 applications requesting over \$795 million in grant funds. The Draft Funding Recommendation will provide over \$187 million from the General Fund and Proposition 68.
 - Written comments due June 9 by 5:00 pm

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AGRICULTURE**Streamlining Regulatory Processes for Agriculture**

- On May 2, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) [announced a new study to explore opportunities to streamline regulatory processes for agriculture](#). The study will evaluate agriculture's food safety and water quality regulatory reporting requirements as part of an effort to streamline administrative processes and optimize information collected by the state. The results of the study are expected to be completed by 2025. CDFA will hold listening sessions in Summer 2023 to gather input from agricultural groups.
 - Listening sessions (dates TBD)

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WATER QUALITY**Water Quality Enforcement Policy****Staff Contact**

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- On Feb. 10, the State Water Board released [Proposed Amendments to the Water Quality Enforcement Policy](#) that aim to ensure more transparent and consistent application of the statutory factors outlined in California Water Code that the Water Boards must consider when assessing a civil liability.
 - [Board Consideration](#): August 15 at 9:30 am

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ENERGY

2023 Summer Loads and Resources Assessment

- On May 15, the California Independent System Operator released its [2023 Summer Loads and Resource Assessment](#) (Summer Assessment), is an assessment of the expected 2023 summer supply and demand conditions to maintain grid reliability. The Summer Assessment shows considerable improvement in resources available for the upcoming summer, driven by accelerated resource development and favorable hydropower conditions within California.

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Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation

- On April 28, the California Air Resources Board adopted the [Proposed Regulation Order](#) of the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Regulation. The ACF will require California fleet owners and operators to start purchasing zero emission vehicles in 2024, with the goal to move California's medium- and heavy-duty trucks to zero emission, where feasible, by 2045.
 - Office of Administrative Law approval: date TBD

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Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

- On April 25, the Department of Energy published [Guidance for Eligibility of Activities Under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant \(EECBG\) Program](#). The EECBG Program will make \$550 million available to local governments in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency.
 - Applications [due](#) July 31 at 5:00 pm ET

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Hydroelectric Incentives Program Updates

- On March 22, DOE published guidance for [Hydroelectric Efficiency Improvement Incentives](#) (HEIT), and on May 8 published guidance for [Maintaining and Enhancing Hydroelectricity Incentives](#) (MEHI). These programs were created as part of the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) to maintain and enhance hydroelectric facilities to ensure generators (\$553.6 million over the next 5 years) continue to provide clean, affordable electricity, while integrating renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, improving dam safety, and reducing environmental impacts.
 - Applications for HEIT [due](#) June 20 at 5:00 pm ET
 - Letters of Intent for MEHI [due](#) June 22 at 5:00 pm ET
 - Applications for MEHI [due](#) October 6 at 5:00 pm ET

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Load Shifting Goal

- On May 31, the California Energy Commission approved a [new goal](#) to make up to 7,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity available through the smarter use of existing clean energy resources as the state seeks to avoid running fossil fuel power plants during grid emergencies. A requirement of Senate Bill 846, this goal refers to a suite of efforts helping and offering incentives to customers to shift their electricity use (or load) in response to electricity grid conditions, including time of use programs like the Emergency Load Reduction Program and Demand Side Grid Support. This

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represents a doubling of current levels and is enough electricity to power up to 7 million homes by 2030 when the state projects to need 38,000 MW of new clean energy.	
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To receive a monthly email of the Regulatory Roundup, please contact [Sonja Eschenburg](#). The Regulatory Roundup is also available on ACWA's [website](#).
