



2025 Annual Review of the State Water Project (Action Item)

Introduction

Water Code section 165 requires the California Water Commission to conduct an annual review of the construction and operation of the State Water Project (SWP) and to report its findings and recommendations to the Director of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Legislature (Legislature).

In 2025, DWR made 10 presentations to the Commission on various SWP topics. DWR also provided four updates on current operations. These presentations helped the public stay informed of DWR's efforts, improved the public's understanding of decision making within the SWP, and provided the basis of the findings and recommendations included in the Commission's annual report that will guide subsequent SWP briefings.

Background

The California State Water Project consists of 36 water storage facilities and 700 miles of rivers, pipelines and canals. It also supplies water to 27 million people and irrigates 750,000 acres of farmland. The system includes 21 pumping plants, powered by a system of power-generation and power-recovery plants. DWR also operates the world's tallest water lift – the Edmonston Pumping Plant – which pumps water more than 1,900 feet up and over the Tehachapi Mountains into Southern California.

The 2025 Annual Review of the State Water Project implements Goal Five of the Commission's 2025 Strategic Plan, which directs the Commission to receive briefings on the SWP on an annual basis, and to produce a report that includes findings and, as appropriate, recommendations for DWR and the Legislature.

Meeting Overview

Paul Cambra, the Commission's Public Information Officer, will present the 2025 Annual Review of the State Water Project, focusing on the Commission's findings and recommendations. Following his remarks, the Commission will hear Tribal and public comments and discuss the information presented.

Commission Decision

This is an action item. The Commission may approve the report as written, approve with direction for minor edits, or delay approval until staff make additional edits.

Staff Recommendation

Commission staff recommend approval of the 2025 SWP Annual Review at this meeting.

Agenda Item: 15

Meeting Date: January 21, 2026

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