



Coordination on Water Plan Update (Senate Bill 72)

Introduction

The California Water Plan (CWP) is the State's strategic plan for sustainably managing and developing water resources for current and future generations. It presents the status and trends of California's water-dependent natural resources; water supplies; and agricultural, urban, and environmental water demands for a range of plausible future scenarios. [Senate Bill 72](#) (SB 72, 2025) directs the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to update the CWP and establishes new requirements related to public participation. These requirements include consultation with the California Water Commission regarding the formation of an Advisory Committee pursuant to Water Code section 10004(c), beginning with the 2028 update and continuing in subsequent updates.

At this meeting, DWR staff will provide an overview of the proposed framework for organizing the CWP 2028 update, including the intended purpose, role, and structure of the statutorily required advisory committee. The presentation will describe DWR's preliminary approach to committee and caucus formation, membership type, and responsibilities and outline how DWR intends to consult and coordinate with the California Water Commission as implementation moves forward. The discussion is intended to support early, meaningful consultation with the Commission, confirm alignment on roles and expectations, and establish a foundation for ongoing coordination as DWR advances the CWP 2028 update and SB 72 implementation.

Background

California Water Code section 10005(a) requires DWR to prepare a plan to guide the orderly and coordinated control, protection, conservation, development, management and efficient use of the water resources of the state. The plan, called the California Water Plan, is updated every five years, provides an opportunity for various groups to collaborate on findings and recommendations, and does not mandate actions.

The most recent update, [California Water Plan Update 2023](#), promotes climate resilience across regions and water sectors with a statewide vision, clear goals, watershed planning framework and toolkit, and progress-tracking dashboard of indicators. It also includes updated resource management strategies, regional planning and performance tracking tools, water balances, future scenarios, and other technical and policy-related activities related to water resilience and sustainability. For the first time ever in a California Water Plan, an entire chapter is dedicated to the challenges, strengths, and resources of California Native American Tribes.

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As part of the 2028 California Water Plan Update, SB 72 directs DWR to modernize the CWP by building a data-driven playbook, quantify water-supply gaps at the statewide and watershed level, identify effective water management actions with economic analyses, and set measurable statewide and watershed-level targets, including an interim statewide goal of nine million acre-feet of additional water, water conservation, or water storage capacity by 2040.

This agenda item advances Goals Three and Four of the [Commission's Strategic Plan](#), which calls on the Commission to use its public forum to explore pressing water management issues and advise DWR to support implementation of [DWR's Strategic Plan](#).

Meeting Overview

At the January meeting, Joel Metzger, Deputy Director of DWR's Statewide Water Resources Planning and Enterprise Management, will provide an overview of DWR's proposed framework for organizing the CWP 2028 update, roll out of SB 72, and coordination and consultation with the Commission.

Following his remarks, the Commission will hear Tribal and public comment on the information presented. Commissioners will then have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

This is an informational item.

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