

# Water Plan Update 2018: Investing in a Shared Vision for California's Water Future



California Water Plan Update 2018 (Update 2018) provides recommended actions, funding scenarios, and an investment strategy to bolster efforts by water and resource managers, planners, and decision-makers to overcome California's most pressing water resource challenges. It reaffirms State government's unique role and commitment to sustainable, equitable, long-term water resource management; it also introduces implementation tools to inform sound decision-making. The plan's broad and diverse portfolio of recommended actions address California's critical, systemic, and institutional challenges.

## What are the most critical challenges?

The story of water in California is a tale of having too little water or too much water. These conditions affect the integrity and the security of essential water, transportation, and other utility infrastructure, as well as fish, wildlife, and ecosystems.

Challenges for California's water future include:

- One in five Californians lives in a floodplain (more than \$580 billion in assets are at risk).
- Thousands of Californians lack access to safe, clean water and adequate sanitation.
- Many ecosystems and the services they provide continue to decline.
- Groundwater overdraft and unreliable water supplies persist in some regions.
- Extensive tree mortality and persistent drought have resulted in the most destructive wildfires in the state's history and in devastating mudslides.
- Climate change is exacerbating many critical challenges, including flood risk, reduced water supply, and wildfire.

Some communities that are proactively planning and investing in water management strategies have shown resilience. At the same time, many communities remain vulnerable – those with limited resources and insufficient technical, managerial, and financial capacity to manage water resources.

## What is the shared vision for California's water future?

Update 2018 presents a vision where all Californians benefit from such desirable conditions as reduced flood risk, more-reliable water supplies, reduced groundwater depletion, and greater habitat and species resiliency – all for a more sustainable future.

Planning and policy priorities will have a mutual understanding of resource limitations, management deficiencies, and shared intent – with a focus on sustainability and actions that result in greater public health and safety; healthy economy; ecosystem vitality; and cultural, spiritual, recreational, and aesthetic experiences.

In this vision, investments result in intended outcomes through the application of adaptive management by first focusing and agreeing on the end in mind and then

recommending and implementing actions. Learning and adaptation cycles strengthen decision-making, maximize return on investment, and support proactive management.

## What needs to be done to attain this vision?

Accomplishing this vision will require systemic changes to the way decisions are made, water is regulated, investments are funded, and progress is tracked, as framed by Update 2018's goals.

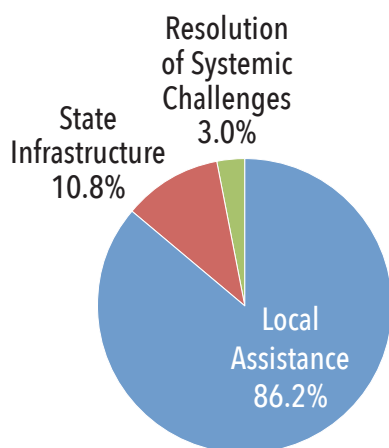
- Improve Integrated Watershed Management.
- Strengthen Infrastructure Resiliency & Operational Flexibility.
- Restore Critical Ecosystem Functions.
- Empower Under-Represented or Vulnerable Communities.
- Improve Alignment & Address Regulatory Challenges.
- Support Decision-Making, Adaptive Management & Planning.

Update 2018 recommends actions that must be taken immediately to address California's critical challenges. Successful implementation of Update 2018 requires early authorizations and funding, as well as a sustained commitment by State and local water managers to foster and sustain partnerships.

Collaboration and planning across water management sectors – flood, water supply reliability, groundwater, water quality, ecosystems, and people and water (i.e., recreation, social and cultural uses; aesthetics) – is essential to achieving the goals.

## How much will it cost?

To implement Update 2018's recommended actions will require a \$90.2 billion investment over 50 years.



Of this, \$77.8 billion is for financial and technical assistance to regional and local entities, \$9.7 billion for State-managed water infrastructure, and \$2.7 billion to resolve systemic challenges.

## What will it take to implement the plan?

Most of the work must happen at regional and local scales. Regional agencies and organizations have extensive knowledge of their watersheds and communities. To advance regional sustainability, State government commits to supporting regional water agencies and organizations, and augmenting State investment in regional infrastructure and ecosystems. Approximately 86 percent of the recommended State funding (approximately \$78 billion) is to assist and empower local and regional managers to plan, fund, implement, and report on their accomplishments.

Over the long term, implementing Update 2018 will strengthen adaptive planning and management through increasingly robust data, knowledge, and guidance for effective State policy, priority investments, and financing options.

## How can I get involved?

The California Department of Water Resources has integrated input from State, regional, Tribal, and local entities; water managers; policy-makers; planners; stakeholders; and the public in Update 2018. You can have your voice heard by commenting on the public review draft of Update 2018.

Further, there are a number of ways to participate in current and future [Water Plan updates](#).

- Subscribe to [California Water Plan eNews](#).
- Participate in Policy Advisory Committee meetings; all meetings are open to the public.
- Participate in the annual Water Plan plenary.
- Provide public comments on released documents or meetings.

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## Useful links:

### California Water Plan Update 2018

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/California-Water-Plan/Water-Plan-Updates>

### California Water Plan Participation

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/California-Water-Plan/Water-Plan-Participation>

### California Water Plan eNews

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/California-Water-Plan>

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