

California Water Plan 2028

Advisory Committee Charter

I. Purpose

To develop the California Water Plan (CWP), the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), in consultation with the California Water Commission, established an Advisory Committee (AC) to assist and provide input on the development of the CWP consistent with Senate Bill 72 (SB 72) and Senate Bill 659 (SB 659). The AC is composed of representatives from a cross-section of diverse water interests, including agricultural and urban water suppliers, local government, business, agriculture, tribes, labor representatives from building and construction trades, labor representatives from public agencies involved in critical water infrastructure, including, but not limited to, water treatment and water wholesalers, environmental justice interests, environmental interests, and other interested parties (CA Water Code § 10004 (c)).

II. Background

Developed every five years by DWR, the CWP serves as the State's long-range framework for water management across all sectors. Signed by Governor Newsom in October 2025, SB 72 marked the start of a multi-year effort to modernize statewide water planning in response to climate-driven extremes and long-term water reliability challenges. SB 72 established for the first time in state history, a statewide interim planning target of 9 million acre-feet by 2040. The statewide planning target will be updated as part of CWP 2033. The plan will also develop strategies to meet water supply targets with a goal of long-term water supply reliability (CA Water Code § 10004.6).

SB 659, signed in 2023, requires DWR to, as part of the CWP 2028 and each subsequent update to the CWP, develop actionable recommendations and best practices to advance groundwater recharge, including the estimation of recharge potential and the identification of legal, regulatory, and financial requirements and incentives to advance recharge (CA Water Code § 10004.7).

Given the scale and importance of these efforts, the policy, planning, and technical work supporting the CWP will be closely tracked by the water community and the broader public. The diversity of perspectives represented within the AC membership provides a comprehensive and collaborative forum that supports the strategic integration of these efforts and supports the State to incorporate regional and system-wide, multi-objective water issues, initiatives, and information in CWP 2028.

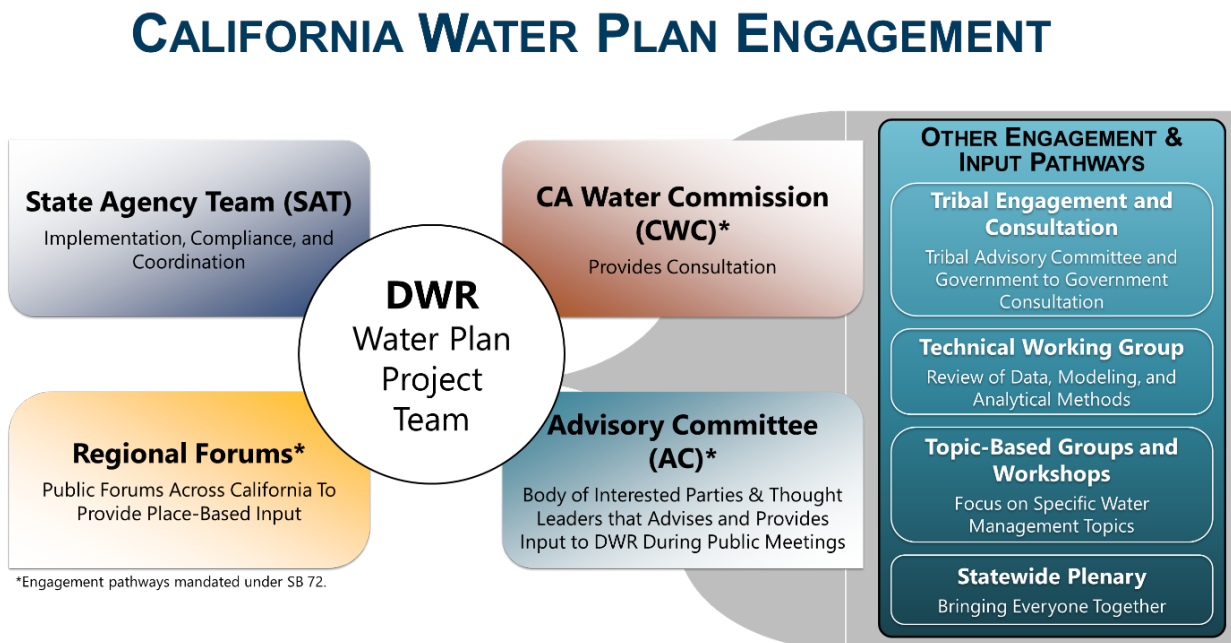
III. Objective and Intended Outcomes

The AC is convened and members appointed by DWR to provide consultation, where requested, to support development of the CWP 2028 in a manner consistent with CA Water Code § 10004 and the mandates outlined in SB 72. A central objective of the AC is to seek to build consensus around the CWP's

most promising strategies and approaches among recognized experts and practitioners across the water resources field. Through this process, DWR seeks to achieve alignment and buy-in on the planning and technical direction, gather input on recommendations, and cultivate a group of informed leaders who can serve as ambassadors for the CWP. The AC helps to ensure CWP 2028 will inform policy and investment decisions, track progress, and support adaptive planning and management.

IV. Relationship with other CWP Communication & Engagement Efforts

As shown in the figure below, the AC operates alongside and in coordination with several complementary engagement pathways, including the State Agency Team (SAT), regional forums and workshops, Tribal Advisory Committee (Tribal AC), topic-based workshops, Technical Work Group (TWG), and the Statewide CWP Plenary. DWR will also consult with and provide regular updates to the California Water Commission on the development of the CWP (CA Water Code § 10004 (c)). While these forums provide input on technical methods, State, Tribal, and public priorities, and regional perspectives, the AC is specifically focused on serving as a public forum representing all statewide interests to inform the CWP planning, technical, and engagement approach and provide input on CWP content.



Coordination across these groups is essential. Input from the TWG, SAT, Tribal AC, and public engagement processes informs priorities and assumptions for the AC. The AC will periodically receive updates from other engagement forums AC and will help to translate these inputs into recommendations and feedback to inform the content for the CWP 2028.

V. Membership and Composition

AC members are appointed by the DWR Director. A full list of AC members is included on the [California Water Plan website](#).

VI. Open Meetings

Meetings of the AC will be open to the public and are subject to the Bagley-Keene Act. Agendas will be sent out in advance of the meetings and posted on the California Water Plan website. At each meeting, the public will be given an opportunity to provide comment.

VII. Approach to Providing Input

The AC may be asked to assist and provide input to DWR on the planning, technical, and engagement approach and the development of content for the CWP 2028. Input may be used to help DWR understand the extent to which there are shared perspectives and common priorities among the AC members.

CWP 2028 content and recommendations receiving a predominance of agreement will receive the highest consideration; however, agreement on a certain approach or content does not mandate either its inclusion or exclusion from the CWP. In the event agreement is not reached on any topic area, the range of perspectives will be recorded and DWR will make a determination as to the best way to proceed in that topic area.

VIII. Roles and Responsibilities

Executive Sponsor

The Executive Sponsor is the DWR staff member who provides guidance, oversight, and resource support for the development of AC materials. The sponsor is also responsible for ensuring the work of the AC remains in scope. Joel Metzger, the DWR Deputy Director for Statewide Water Resources Planning, will serve as Executive Sponsor.

Project Leader

The Project Leader is the DWR staff member who provides day-to-day guidance and coordination for the initiative and is responsible for advancing AC activities. Eric Tsai, Supervising Engineer, will serve in this capacity for the AC.

Facilitation Team

Facilitators provide neutral, third-party leadership to the dialogue process, as well as overall session convening and meeting management. Emily Finnegan, Lead Facilitator, with Stantec will provide

facilitation services. Francisco Guzman, Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist with DWR, will provide logistics support, and DWR and Stantec will assist with notetaking.

AC Members

AC members serve at the pleasure of DWR in a voluntary, uncompensated capacity. Status as a member, including removal, is determined by the DWR Director and the Executive Sponsor. Members are responsible for attending all scheduled meetings or, if unavailable, coordinating in advance with an approved alternate and notifying both the Project Leader and Facilitation Team. Members are expected to come prepared, having reviewed all materials in advance, and to engage in discussions in a constructive, informed, collaborative, and solutions-oriented manner consistent with the objectives of the AC.

Membership Activities

AC member responsibilities include:

- Assist and provide input to DWR on the development of CWP 2028, including discussing and providing feedback on the planning, technical, and engagement approach, identifying opportunities for alignment across planning efforts, and informing content for CWP 2028.
- Represent interest- and place-based perspectives to inform a comprehensive approach for water planning and management in California.
- Review materials provided and attend meetings prepared to provide input about specific items shared.
- Ensure primary or alternate representative is made available for meetings.
- Between meetings, engage with peers and leaders inside their agency / organization to share CWP 2028 progress, and to gather relevant information to share with the AC.
- Provide support, if available, for the regional forums and topic-based groups and workshops.
- Be responsive to requests from DWR staff, facilitators, and other AC members about related topics
- Uphold the Ground Rules as enumerated in Section XI of this charter.
- Participate in the statewide CWP 2028 Plenary.

IX. Attendance Requirements, Alternates, and Withdrawal

Time Commitment and Attendance Requirements

AC members commit to a process scheduled to conclude in December 2028. Meetings are expected to occur quarterly, in person, and at rotating meeting locations throughout California. Meetings are anticipated to be 6–8 hours in length. Due to Bagley-Keene Act Open Meeting requirements, all AC meetings must be held in person, and a quorum of AC members (19 members) must be present to conduct business. If an in-person quorum is not present, no business can be conducted, and the AC meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

AC members are also asked to participate, if available, in regional forums in their part of the state. Regional forums are expected to be 4–6 hours in duration and convened as needed to discuss regional perspectives and specific topics related to the CWP.

Alternates

Attendance is important to the continuity and effectiveness of the group, and AC members should make every attempt to personally attend meetings. Alternates may be permitted in consultation with the Project Leader and the Facilitator. Alternates will act as proxies and are responsible for representing the member's perspective. AC members who use an alternate agree to properly prepare their alternate and ensure the alternate briefs the member on the meeting discussions and outcomes. The Project Leader and Facilitator are also available to help brief AC members and alternates as requested.

Withdrawal

A member wishing to withdraw is asked, as a professional courtesy, to notify the Facilitator and the Project Leader by email at their earliest convenience and communicate the reason(s) for withdrawal. Notification allows DWR to update the AC roster as needed and plan accordingly for ongoing work. Withdrawal is effective upon the member sending notification to the Facilitator and the Project Leader, or on a later date specified by the member in their notification.

X. Media Communications

AC members are not constrained from speaking with reporters but must indicate that they are providing their perspectives and are not speaking for the AC itself. To the extent possible, members should provide advance notice to the Facilitator if their organization is planning a major media announcement or event related to the CWP. For the purpose of tracking outreach, the Facilitator would also appreciate notification of press inquiries.

XI. Ground Rules

This section includes community norms:

- Use common conversational courtesy: Don't interrupt; don't be disruptive to the meeting; don't use inappropriate language; no third-party discussions.
- Humor is welcome and important, but never at someone else's expense.
- All ideas and points have value. AC members may hear something with which they do not agree. The purpose of dialog is to share ideas. All ideas have value in this setting. AC members are not required to defend or promote their perspective, but they are asked to share it. If an AC member believes another approach is better, it should be offered as a constructive alternative. AC members should be cautious of ascribing motives to others.

- Electronics courtesy: Most of the participants have demanding responsibilities outside of the meeting room. AC members are asked for their attention during the full meeting. Please turn cell phones, or any other communication item with an on/off switch, to “silent.” If an AC member believes they will be unable to participate fully during a meeting, they are asked to discuss their situation with the Facilitator and/or Project Leader.
- Honor time: With ambitious agendas, in order to meet our goals, it will be important to follow the time guidelines given by the Facilitator.

XII. Contact Information About This Document

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