



California Water Plan 2028

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California is Entering a Defining Moment for Water

Climate-driven weather extremes, long-term water supply uncertainty, and aging infrastructure are stressing a system built for a different era. The modernized **California Water Plan 2028** is the state's opportunity to respond with a clear, actionable, and durable approach to statewide water planning.

A new California Water Plan is produced every five years by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The **2028 Water Plan** will guide water resource decisions, support implementation, and help California plan for a hotter and more unpredictable future. It will be grounded in data, informed by regional realities, and shaped through meaningful public engagement.



Modernizing Water Policy

The modernization of the California Water Plan is driven by Senate Bill (SB) 72. This legislation sets a clear expectation: move statewide water planning from description to direction. The Water Plan will be modernized to:

- Identify and evaluate effective water management strategies, informed by economic considerations
- Quantify beneficial uses of water at a watershed scale throughout California
- Expand engagement across all sectors as DWR develops the Water Plan
- Establish clear water supply targets that help align state, regional, and local actions



What the Water Plan Will Do

DWR will produce a modernized water plan that:

- Builds a clear understanding of statewide water supply and demand gaps, now and into the future
- Identifies effective, local, regional, and statewide water management strategies
- Establishes an interim statewide planning goal to identify 9 million acre-feet of additional water supply by 2040
- Lays the groundwork for setting measurable, watershed-level and statewide targets in future Water Plan updates
- Carefully considers future water supply needs for all beneficial uses across the state



Three Core Building Blocks

The 2028 California Water Plan is organized around three integrated workstreams:

1 Data for Water Use and Supply Balances

Incorporate improved and expanded statewide water data alongside advancing technologies.

2 Targets for Long-Term Water Supply

Understand what climate change is expected to do to future supplies and identify gaps. Use this to set credible, localized water targets across sectors and regions.

3 Actions for Adaptation and Implementation

Develop actionable strategies for water managers to adapt to climate change and improve water supply reliability. Include cost-benefit analyses and coordinated tracking across the state.



The Role of Public Engagement

An effective Water Plan requires meaningful engagement from across the state. The 2028 Plan is being developed through an open, transparent process designed to reflect California's diversity of regions, water systems, and perspectives.

DWR is convening an Advisory Committee with representation from urban, rural, and agricultural water suppliers, local government, business and labor, environmental and environmental justice interests, Tribes, and other interested parties. Advisory Committee meetings will be open to the public and governed by state open-meeting requirements.

DWR will also host public forums and caucuses across the state, a Tribal Advisory Committee, and a technical workgroup to broaden participation and ground statewide planning in real-world conditions. This engagement is not a formality. Input from communities, practitioners, and leaders across California will directly inform data development, planning assumptions, targets and strategies.

What This Means Going Forward

The California Water Plan is not a single report or a one-time exercise. It is the foundation for a more coordinated, action-oriented approach to managing water in an era of increasing uncertainty.

This work will succeed with sustained collaboration and the expectation that California's water future is a shared responsibility.



For more information

CaliforniaWaterPlan.com