Managing Water Resources for Sustainability
State Initiatives and Plans

Central Coast Sustainability Summit
October 16, 2019
Governor Newsom’s Water Resilience Portfolio
Executive Order for Multi-Agency Assessment & Actions

- Reassess Water Action Plan Priorities
- Update Climate Change Impacts
- Set Portfolio Priorities
- Integrate Actions Across Agencies

- Inventory & Assessments
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Resilience Portfolio of Actions
Principles for Preparing Water Resilience Portfolio

- Prioritize - *multi-benefit approaches* that meet multiple needs at once
- Utilize - *natural infrastructure* such as forests and floodplains
- Embrace - *innovation and new technologies*
- Encourage - *regional approaches* in watersheds
- Incorporate - *successful approaches* from other parts of the world
- Integrate - *investments, policies and programs* across state government
- **Strengthen Partnerships** - with *local, federal and tribal* governments, *water agencies* and *irrigation districts*, and *other stakeholders*
About the Water Resilience Portfolio

Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order in April 2019 directing three state agencies to develop a comprehensive strategy to build a climate-resilient water system and ensure healthy waterways through the 21st century.

The order directs the secretaries of the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to identify and assess a suite of complementary actions to ensure safe and resilient water supplies, flood protection and healthy waterways for the state’s communities, economy and environment. The portfolio will integrate and build on programs, policies and investments already in place to create a climate-resilient water system.

- Why Do We Need a Resilience Portfolio?
- What Happens Next?
Message from CNRA Secretary Wade Crowfoot

- CA water management is a grand exercise in partnerships.
- Update 2018 is a key tool for strengthening partnerships.
- Update 2018 has important role to inform Water Resilient Portfolio.
- State prioritizes “thinking long” on water solutions & investments to strengthen water systems with multi-benefit projects.
Message from DWR Director Karla Nemeth

- Recent extreme events causing volatility & uncertainty in CA hydrology.

- New climate reality -- must work statewide with innovative solutions & local partnerships in everything we do.

- Abundant expertise at local & regional levels.

- Update 2018 recommends policies & technical support for regional actions in watersheds, groundwater basins & communities.

- Implementing Update 2018 recommendations will be coordinated with Water Resilient Portfolio.
Chapter 1: California Water Today
Conditions assessment – status, trends, initiatives & investments

Chapter 2: Challenges to Sustainability
Understanding sustainability and critical, systemic & institutional challenges

Chapter 3: Actions For Sustainability
Recommended actions for the next 5 to 50 years

Chapter 4: Investing in Water Resources Sustainability
Implementation cost, funding mechanisms, and funding scenarios

29 Supporting Documents & 49 Companion State Plans
Setting the Context for Update 2018
- Unprecedented multi-year drought
- 2nd wettest year on record

Diverse Water Supplies & Uses
- Water balances 2011 - 2015

State Initiatives & Investments
- Water Action Plan & related State actions
- Propositions 1 and 68
California Water Today
Historical Investment in Water

- State expends ~ $2 Billion/year on water management
- State allocates only 2% of State General Fund for water
- 80% of investment from Local/regional entities
- 75% for ongoing costs
- Investment backlog is at least $350 Billion over next 50 years
California Water Management
A Tale of Extremes
Challenges to Sustainability Threaten the People & Ecosystems of CA

- Greater Drought Impacts - Unreliable Water Supplies
- Increasing Flood Risk
- Groundwater Depletion & Subsidence
- Degraded Water Quality
- Declining Environmental Conditions
- Aging Infrastructure
- Climate Change Impacts
Systemic & Institutional Challenges
Overcoming them Increases Return on Investment

- Fragmented and uncoordinated decisions, initiatives & actions
- Inconsistent, inflexible, & conflicting regulations
- Insufficient capacity for data-driven decision-making
- Insufficient & unstable funding
- Inadequate performance tracking
6 Sustainability Goals & 19 Rec’d’ed Actions To Overcome Challenges

1. Improve Integrated Watershed Management
2. Strengthen Infrastructure Resiliency & Operational Flexibility
3. Restore Critical Ecosystem Functions
4. Empower Under-Represented & Vulnerable Communities
5. Improve Agency Alignment & Address Persistent Regulatory Challenges
Update 2018 Innovations

- Multi-Sector Collaboration & Multi-Benefit Projects
- Sustainability Outlook
- Regional Water Mgmt Atlas
- Investment Strategy
- Funding Scenarios

“Innovation is change that unlocks new value” - Jamie Notter
Update 2018 Innovations
Agency Alignment & Sector Collaboration

Integrated Watershed Management

- Multi-Sector Collaboration
- Multi-Discipline Planning
- Multi-Benefit Projects
- Multi-Fund Investments
Flood-MAR

- Fact Sheet
- White Paper
- Draft Research & Data Development Framework
- Merced River Basin Conceptual Study
- Tuolumne River Climate Vulnerability Study
- Research Advisory Committee R&D Plan

2019 FLOOD-MAR PUBLIC FORUM

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 28-29, 2019
Update 2018 Innovations
Tracking & Adaptive Management
**Public Health & Safety**

**Sample Value:**
- An adequate water supply for domestic needs, sanitation, and fire suppression

**Sample Intended Outcome**

**Sample Sustainability Indicator**
- Number of public water systems (population served) not in compliance with drinking water standards

- 4
- 1 dozen
- 3 dozen
Update 2018 Innovations
Regional Water Management Atlas

- Planning & Data Synthesis Tool
- Identify Local Accomplishments and Multi-Benefit Projects
- Help Meet State Government Policies and Goals

Track Sustainability  
Build Partnerships  
Improve ROI
$90.2 Billion State Water Investment Strategy

- **$77.8 Billion** – State Cost Share for Local/Regional Infrastructure & Ecosystem Projects (Capital/O&M)
- **$9.7 Billion** – State Projects (Capital/O&M)
- **$2.7 Billion** – Actions to overcome systemic & institutional challenges

The following investments are less than 3% of the investment ($2.7 billion) needed to improve water infrastructure and restore ecosystems:

- Improve Agency Alignment, Planning & Regulatory Outcomes
- Empower Vulnerable Communities
- Informed and Adapative Decision-Making
Sustainability Requires Consistency with Values

The combined effect of actions and projects within watersheds and groundwater basins is consistent with societal values, while fostering trust and promoting equity.
Applying Update 2018 Tools
The Way Forward

- **Sustainability Goals** – Shared intent & outcomes to align actions
- **Recommended Actions** – Reflect State priorities and values
- **Sustainability Outlook** – Track outcomes/return on investment
- **Investment Strategy** – Funding to initiate actions/projects
- **Funding Scenarios** – Adequate & stable funding for action
Next Steps for 2019

1. Stakeholder Assessment of Update 2018
2. Inform Water Resilience Portfolio
3. Update 2018 Implementation Plan consistent with Water Resilience Portfolio
4. Scope & Launch Update 2023
Ways to Access Water Plan Information

- Visit the Water Plan Web Portal
- Subscribe to Water Plan eNews

California Water Plan

The California Water Plan is the State’s strategic plan for sustainability managing and developing water resources for current and future generations. Required by Water Code Section 10605.5, 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.

The plan:
- Is updated every 5 years
- Provides a way for various groups to collaborate on findings and recommendations
- Makes informed decisions regarding California’s water future
  - Elected officials
  - Government agencies
  - Tribes
  - Water and resource managers
  - Businesses
  - Academia
  - Stakeholders
  - General public
- Can’t mandate actions or authorize spending for specific actions

Contact Us

For any questions or comments about the Water Plan, please contact us.

Upcoming Meetings

DWR Releases CA Water Plan Update 2018

DWR has released the California Water Plan Update 2018, the latest in a series of plans for sustainability managing water resources and systems. Update 2018 provides recommendations, actions, funding scenarios, and an investment strategy to better address the state’s most pressing water resource challenges. It reaffirms the state government’s unique role and commitment to sustainable, viable, long-term water resource management. It also sets the stage for preparation of the next Water Plan implementation. The plans broad and diverse portfolio of recommendations can overcome California’s critical, systemic, and institutional challenges.

Supporting Documents

Update 2018 draws from and builds on, a number of reference documents to enhance the content and produce a better plan. These supporting documents provide the methodology, assumptions, data, estimates, and other information used in the development of Update 2018. The list of more than two dozen supporting documents is available on the Update 2018 webpage.

Featured Companion State Plans

The Update 10 update involves the production of a technical companion document, the “Mapping California’s Water Infrastructure.” The document also includes a State Water Plan overview, an assessment of the state’s water infrastructure, and a discussion on the role of the State Water Plan in addressing the state’s water challenges.

Update 2018 webinar set for July 29

On Monday, July 29, DWR will host a webinar to discuss the elements of Update 2018 and its relationship to Governor Brown’s Water Action Plan. Members of the California Water Plan’s executive staff will be available to answer questions during the one-hour webinar.

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Questions & Comments

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