

California Water Plan Update 2013

Summary: A representative from the Department of Water Resources will brief the Council on the California Water Plan Update 2013, which was released in October of this year. The California Water Plan Update 2013 is designed to work in tandem with, and help implement, the California Water Action Plan and the Council's Delta Plan.

Background

The California Water Plan provides a collaborative planning framework for elected officials, agencies, tribes, water and resource managers, businesses, academia, stakeholders, and the public to develop findings and recommendations and make informed decisions for California's water future. The Water Plan, which was first developed in 1957, is updated every five years by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and 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 California Water Plan also evaluates different combinations of regional and statewide resource management strategies to reduce water demand, increase water supply, reduce flood risk, improve water quality, and enhance environmental and resource stewardship. The evaluations and assessments included in the plan help identify effective actions and objectives for meeting California's resource management objectives in the near term and for several decades to come.

Relationship to the Delta Plan and California Water Action Plan

The California Water Plan Update 2013 is a broad document, providing a comprehensive picture of the current water, flood, and environmental conditions for the entire state. Both the California Water Plan and the Delta Plan seek to reduce water demand, increase water supply, improve water quality, practice resource stewardship, improve flood management, and focus on the people who will benefit; the Delta Plan is focused primarily on the geographic areas of the Delta and Suisun Marsh while the California Water Plan covers all areas of the state. The California Water Plan was a key document informing the development of the Delta Plan. Council staff also contributed to the development of the California Water Plan Update 2013, incorporating many of the Delta Plan's recommendations and promoting the Council's policy with respect to water supply reliability.

The Delta Plan also includes three recommendations developed specifically for the Water Plan:

- **WR R9 Update Bulletin 118, California's Groundwater Plan** – The Delta Plan recommends that Bulletin 118 be completed by Dec. 31, 2014 and that some of the pertinent groundwater data be included in the California Water Plan. Though DWR says the Bulletin 118 update won't be complete for several years, the California Water Plan Update 2013 does incorporate California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) data. This will be the first time the California Water Plan includes groundwater elevation data.
- **WR R18 California Water Plan** – The Delta Plan recommends that the California Water Plan include information needed to track water supply reliability performance measures identified in the Delta Plan. Council staff is currently assessing if the performance measures already included in the Delta Plan need to be expanded or refined. Once this effort is complete, Council staff will work with DWR to incorporate the performance measures in the next update of the California Water Plan.
- **WR R19 Financial Needs Assessment** – The Delta Plan recommends that DWR prepare an assessment of the state's water infrastructure and include it as part of the California Water Plan. Included in the California Water Plan Update 2013 is a chapter that represents what DWR calls "a first step in comprehensive integrated water management (IWM) finance planning from the state government's perspective and goals." Council staff will be working with DWR to encourage the completion of the assessment and its inclusion as a next-step in a future update of the California Water Plan.

The California Water Plan Update 2013 advances the California Water Action Plan, released by the administration of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. in Jan. 2014 as well as sections of the Council's Delta Plan. The governor's five-year plan sets forth 10 priority actions to meet urgent needs and set the foundation for sustainable management of California's water resources. The California Water Plan Update 2013 has a planning horizon to the year 2050. There are 17 cross-cutting objectives and over 300 specific actions to reinforce the implementation of the Governor's Water Action Plan. The goals of the Water Action Plan are to make conservation a way of life, provide safe drinking water and expand water storage capacity, improve public safety and secure wastewater systems for all communities, and foster environmental stewardship.

Today's Briefing

Kamyar Guivetchi, the Manager for Statewide Integrated Water Management with the California Department of Water Resources, will provide a briefing on the California Water Plan Update 2013. Mr. Guivetchi's presentation will describe the importance of integrated water management, the nexus between the California Water Plan Update

2013 and the Governor's Water Action Plan, the three overarching themes of Update 2013 (integration, alignment and investment), and its "Roadmap for Action".

Questions for Council Consideration

1. How well do the Delta Plan's recommendations and policies align with the California Water Plan's objectives and resource management strategies and with the actions identified in the Governor's Water Action Plan in promoting the state's coequal goals?
2. How can the Council most effectively work with DWR to help shape future updates of the California Water Plan; and how can the California Water Plan and the Delta Plan complement each other and amplify the efforts to further the coequal goals?
3. The current drought has exposed some of the inadequacies of California's water supply and resource planning. How does this California Water Plan, or how will future updates highlight some of these areas and what recommendations may future updates make to address them?

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: California Water Plan Update 2013 Highlights Document

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