



## **INFORMATION ITEM**

### The California Water Plan Update

#### Summary

The Council will receive a presentation from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on recent legislative updates regarding The California Water Plan (CWP). The CWP is the state's long-term strategy for managing, protecting, and using its water.

#### Background

DWR produces a wide range of guidance and reports that support California's water management, from well standards to water supply forecasts. The CWP is one of DWR's earliest and most significant publications—first issued in 1957, shortly after DWR was established. Since then, DWR has released 12 updates and is required to update The CWP every five years, with the next update due December 31, 2028. (Wat. Code, § 10004.) The CWP addresses water management strategies that are also addressed by the Delta Plan.

When DWR updates The CWP, it must hold at least one public hearing within the boundaries of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and receive comments. The CWP is required to discuss various alternatives for improving and protecting the current uses and configuration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. (Wat. Code, § 10011.)

Notably, Senate Bill 72 (ch. 210, stats. 2025) took effect on January 1, 2026, and revised and recast certain provisions of The CWP. (Wat. Code, §§ 10004, 10004.5, 10004.6, 10013.) Among other amendments, each update to The CWP now needs to include the following components:

- A discussion of environmental needs on a regional basis
- A discussion of urban sector water needs on a regional basis
- A discussion of agricultural water needs on a regional basis
- A summary of sources that could finance project types or actions

- A discussion of the estimated costs, benefits, and impacts of any project type or action recommended by DWR
- A report on the development of regional and local water projects within each hydrologic region of the state (Wat. Code, § 10004.5.)

Additionally, as part of the 2028 update, DWR is required to include an interim planning target of 9 million acre-feet of additional water, water conservation, or water storage capacity to be achieved by 2040 and conduct a series of public workshops to allow interested parties to comment on the plan. (Wat. Code, §§ 10004.5, 10004.6.) DWR also is required to expand its advisory committee to include representatives from Native American tribes, specified labor groups, environmental justice groups, and environmental interest groups. (Wat. Code, § 10004.6.)

The Council was created to advance the state's coequal goals for the Delta: a more reliable statewide water supply and a healthy and protected ecosystem, both achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique characteristics of the Delta as an evolving place. The CWP is an important opportunity for the Council to collaborate with DWR and other agencies and organizations to advance these objectives. Delta Plan regulations and recommendations, including reducing reliance on the Delta, can be advanced through Council participation in The CWP update process, providing opportunity for the Council to elevate Delta Plan priorities, performance measures, science, and implementation needs into the statewide plan. The CWP's update creates a place to surface cross-agency dependencies, timelines, and deliverables that keep The CWP on track with Delta Plan goals and objectives.

## Today's Meeting

In today's meeting, DWR will discuss its plans to coordinate with the Council and Council staff through the Water Plan State Agency Team and Regional/Issues-Based caucuses, including the potential for a Delta caucus.

In addition, DWR will discuss its approach to The 2028 CWP's inclusion of all of the following:

- Relevant Delta Plan targets and performance measures
- Ensuring consistency with Delta Plan policies
- Aligning statewide planning discussions with Delta priorities

## Fiscal Information

Not applicable

## List of Attachments

No Attachments

## Contact

James Edwards

916-902-6487

[James.Edwards@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:James.Edwards@deltacouncil.ca.gov)

*A recording of the presentation will be available on the Delta Council's YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/@DeltaCouncil>.*