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## State Water Resources Control Board

### **November 2023 State Board Liaison Report**

#### **Media Releases**

- **October 12:** [Water Board to hold first probationary hearing under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#)
- **October 19:** [Court grants board's request to appoint receiver to troubled drinking water system in Santa Cruz County](#)

#### **Water Supply Strategy Progress Report**

On October 16 Governor Newsom released a one-year [progress report](#) on the [Water Supply Strategy](#) and efforts state agencies have taken to combat the anticipated 10% loss of water supplies by 2040 due to a hotter, drier future caused by climate change.

- Among the highlights are the state board's efforts to enact [direct potable reuse](#), our role leading the interagency strike team on desalination, our acceleration of processing permits for groundwater recharge, and setting [water use efficiency regulations](#) to "Make Conservation a California Way of Life."

#### **Water Quality Coordinating Committee**

On October 23 and 24 regional board members and executive staff [met for WQCC](#) in Sacramento to share successes and challenges across regions, to consider perspectives on tribal beneficial uses, unpack the Sackett decision, and hear more about the Water Supply Strategy.

#### **Informational Items of Interest at November State Board Meeting**

On November 8 staff will provide a status update on the Office of Operator Certification, including recommendations from the Drinking Water Operator Cert Program, Wastewater Operator Cert Program Advisory Committees, and staff responses.

The state board will also receive an informational item and status update on the Site Cleanup Subaccount (SCAP), recommendations on revisions to it, which include changes to the SCAP Ranking Methodology and the formation of a standing stakeholder group.

Lastly, staff will preview the FY 2022-23 Annual Performance Report with board members, review results, and describe changes to the report.

#### **First Workshop on Proposed Probationary Status for Tulare Lake Subbasin**

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On November 3 and November 11, there will be virtual and in-person workshops held on [Tulare Basin's groundwater sustainability plan](#), which will go to the board for determination as the [first proposed probationary subbasin](#) under SGMA.

- Members of the board and staff will travel to Hanford, CA on November 11 to hold an in-person workshop.

### **Making Conservation a Way of Life – Water Use Efficiency**

Formal rulemaking began for the [Making Conservation a Way of Life regulation](#) on August 18, 2023.

- State Water Board staff hosted a [public hearing](#) on October 4, 2023. The first public comment period closed on October 17, 2023. The hearing included an overview of the proposed regulation, the regulatory timeline and process, and presentations from interested parties.

### **Water and Wastewater Extended Arrearage Payment Program**

The State Water Board also adopted [guidelines for a new Extended Arrearage program](#) at its October 3 meeting that will provide up to \$600 million dollars in payments to both water and wastewater customer arrearages for a relief period from March 4, 2020 through December 31, 2022.

- The new application period opened on November 1.
- State Water Board staff will provide an application package to all eligible applicants, establish an online portal for submittal of applications, and provide 60 days to receive applications. All community water systems, wastewater treatment providers, and wastewater billing entities, whether they participated in the original programs or not, are eligible to apply for funding, but periods of eligibility vary. Staff has developed a [FAQ](#) and has a [program website](#) that providers should consult.

### **Update to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan**

As part of the public process required to update and implement the [San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan](#), the State Water Board [released a draft staff report](#) on September 28 that evaluated environmental and related effects of instream flows and other potential changes to the Sacramento/Delta component of the plan.

- A multi-day series of [in-person hearings and virtual workshops](#) is planned. In-person hearings will be held in Sacramento on November 17, December 1, and December 11, with a public comment period that concludes on December 15, 2023.

# California's Water Supply Strategy

## California Water Supply Strategy and Implementation Actions

The Water Supply Strategy outlines California's strategy and priority actions to adapt and protect water supplies based on new data and accelerated climate change. To ensure California has the new water needed for generations to come, this strategy outlines four sets of actions the State will pursue, sets targets, and identifies specific implementation steps to prepare California for its new climate reality. The following is an update on the milestones and implementation steps since the last Executive Director's Reporting.

### Division of Water Quality

#### Recycled Water

The [California Water Supply Strategy](#) requires the State Water Board, by January 1, 2024, working with local water and sanitation agencies to identify recycled water projects that hold the potential to be operational by 2030 and by no later than 2040. The Water Supply Strategy also directs the State Water Board to convene a strike team to identify and resolve permitting and funding obstacles for recycled water projects. The strike team has developed a preliminary list of planned recycled water projects for which the Water Boards have permitting or funding records, facility-entered information from optional fields within the Volumetric Annual Report, and/or information provided by WaterReuse California. The strike team compiled and harmonized the available information to create the preliminary list and is conducting outreach to facilities to verify and update key project information to finalize it. The next strike team meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2023.

### Division of Drinking Water

#### Recycled Water DPR (Action 1.1)

##### Direct Potable Reuse Regulation Update

Division of Drinking Water staff initiated the rulemaking process for the proposed direct potable reuse (DPR) regulations under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The notice of regulatory action was published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on July 21, 2023, and the notice, the proposed DPR regulations, and the initial statement of reasons were distributed for public comment. The public comment period was July 21 through September 8, 2023. An APA public hearing was held at the September 7, 2023, board workshop. The purpose of the APA hearing was specifically to obtain public comment on the proposed regulations. The State Water Board did not take any action on the proposed regulations at the APA hearing. In accordance with the APA, all comments received by the close of the comment period will be addressed in subsequent regulation documents developed by the State Water Board staff that will be made available to the public. DDW staff anticipates board adoption of the DPR regulations in December 2023 to meet the deadline established by the legislature in [AB](#)

[574 \(Water Code, Division 7, Chapter 7.3\)](#) and commitment by the State Water Board in the governor's 2022 [California's Water Supply Strategy](#).

#### Groundwater Recharge (Action 2.1)

Division of Water Rights staff continue to process temporary permit applications for groundwater recharge. As of October 9, five applications are pending: Scott Valley Irrigation District, North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, Stockton East Water District, South Sutter Water District, and Dunnigan Water District. Information on the status of these projects is available on the Board's temporary permitting [website](#).

#### **Office of Research, Planning, and Performance**

The State Water Board held a hearing on the proposed Making Conservation a California way of life regulation on October 4. The first public comment period ends on October 17.