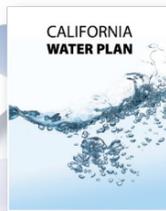


Sustainability is not a destination, but rather a direction that must constantly be monitored, evaluated, acted upon, and adjusted. While it is not possible to achieve or demonstrate sustainability at a point in time, trends and patterns observed over time can demonstrate movement toward or away from sustainability. Moving California towards more sustainable outcomes requires a long-term, consistent, and self-correcting planning and policy-making framework. Update 2018 and subsequent updates will provide a State venue for monitoring, evaluating, recommending actions, and adapting to keep California on a path of sustainability.



Managing for Sustainability

Recommend Policy and Investment Priorities



Envisioning California Water Sustainability

The Governor's California Water Action Plan calls attention to the need to respond to changing conditions and established the three goals of "more reliable water supplies, the restoration of important species and habitat, and a more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system (water supply, water quality, flood protection, and environment) that can better withstand inevitable and unforeseen pressures in the coming decades" (CNRA et al, 2016).

Sustainability must be the ultimate goal of water management in California. All water management actions must be driven by and connected to managing towards sustainability.

Sustainability is not an end point, but an ongoing, resilient, and dynamic balance among societal values: public health and safety, a healthy economy, thriving ecosystems, and opportunities for enriching experiences.

California's Societal Values



Societal Values and Intended Outcomes for Water Sustainability

Public Health and Safety



All Californians are protected from health and safety threats and emergencies.

Public health and safety means prevention of, protection from, and mitigation of events that could harm or injure people. Events that can pose a risk of harm or injury include accidents, outbreaks, illnesses, crimes or disasters (natural or man-made). Water management contributions to improve public health and safety include:

- An adequate water supply for domestic needs, sanitation, and fire suppression
- Reduced number of people exposed to waterborne health threats such as contaminants or infectious agents
- Reduced loss of life, injuries, and health risks caused from extreme hydrologic conditions, catastrophic events and/or system failures

Healthy Economy



California has a healthy economy and all Californians have opportunities for economic prosperity.

A healthy economy means there is positive and responsible economic development; a commitment to the long-term health of people and the planet; every Californian has an opportunity to prosper through a combination of jobs, household production, entrepreneurship, and public services; support for education initiatives; all Californians are engaged in the political and economic decisions that impact their health and happiness; and governments are working to promote job-creating investments and reducing the red tape and regulations that can prevent economic development. A healthy economy is also stable, i.e., there are no excessive fluctuations in the macro economy and there is low or stable inflation. Water management contributions to a healthy economy include:

- Reliable water supplies of suitable quality for a variety of productive uses, and productive water uses are based on a reliable supply
- Considerations of economic risks and rewards on floodplains, rivers, and coastal areas
- More benefits from economic activities, including from reduced costs to provide a given level of service (including transaction costs)
- Reduced likelihood or occurrence of significant social disruption following a disaster

Thriving Ecosystems



Ecosystems in the state are thriving.

Thriving ecosystems mean the healthy functioning and lasting resiliency of diverse communities of interconnected aquatic, riparian, and wetland organisms across California. Ecosystem resilience is defined as the ability of an ecosystem to withstand or respond to disturbances without undergoing major or irreversible changes in identity, function, or structure. Water management actions that contribute to thriving ecosystems include:

- Preserved or enhanced biodiversity throughout the state
- Sustained high quality natural resources and biodiversity in harmony with predicted economic activity and human population increases

Enriching Experiences



All Californians have opportunities for enriching experiences.

Enriching experiences add greater value or significance to people's lives. Water management contributions to enriching experiences for Californians include:

- Preserved or enhanced culturally or historically significant sites and communities, including continued and enhanced access to water and land used for sacred ceremonies or practices
- Preserved and increased natural areas with aesthetic or intrinsic value
- Continued and enhanced access to resources that support education and learning
- Continued or enhanced recreational opportunities in waterways, reservoirs, or natural and open spaces

