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*Wednesday Update*



*Year-End 2015*

This weekly electronic newsletter is designed to keep you current on California Water Plan news. We welcome comments, suggestions and any news tips that may be of interest to water planners.

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## California Water – A Tale of Extremes

2015 was [another reminder](#) that California’s climate and hydrology pose many challenges for water managers. The state has endured four years of drought – one of the worst in recent history – and now, the forecast of a strong [El Niño](#), brings the possibility of serious flooding. Ongoing and future changes to the climate are driving rising sea levels, altered precipitation patterns, and reduced Sierra Nevada snow pack – California’s largest surface water reservoir.

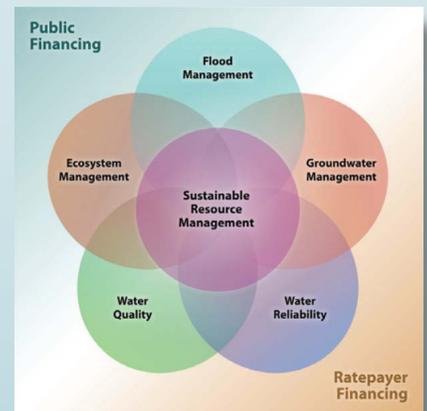
## Managing Water – Working Together to Shape Our Future

### Governor’s Water Action Plan

- Ensure reliable water supplies for all Californians.
- Build capacity for regional sustainability.
- Manage floodwaters while protecting ecosystems.
- Take action to reduce residual risk.
- Set planning priorities and investments for a sustainable future.
- Protect our communities through State, federal, tribal, and local cooperation and commitment.

The water challenges facing our communities, watersheds, and economies compelled the State of California to embark on a comprehensive, multi-agency, and practical approach to water resources management. The process, outlined in the Governor’s [Water Action Plan](#), encourages implementation of integrated, multi-benefit programs and projects.

Since 2014, the action plan has focused State water leaders on common goals and actions, and it has leveraged general obligation bond revenues with existing agency budgets and other funding sources. But, full implementation of the plan, and related actions to improve water sustainability, will require investments above the current baseline budgets of State, federal, tribal, and local governments. Multiple, and more stable, funding sources will be needed to improve flood protection, provide reliable and clean water supplies, restore and enhance ecosystems, and provide for enriching experiences – that is, to achieve sustainable water management. Details are available in DWR’s partnership paper, [Managing California Water Through Federal, State, and Local Cooperation](#).



## Ever-greening California Water Plan for Update 2018

To be relevant, California Water Plan Update 2018 needs to report on Water Action Plan implementation and its related State initiatives such as the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#), [State drought response](#), [Proposition 1 Water Bond](#), [future IRWM strategies](#), and [flood investment strategy](#). In addition to being State government’s long-term strategic water plan, Update 2018 needs to – *for the first time* – identify specific outcomes and metrics to track performance, prioritize near-term State actions and investments, recommend financing methods having more stable revenues, and inform water deliberations and decisions as they unfold.

In 2016, DWR will engage State, federal, tribal and local agencies and stakeholders in the development of the plan. Opportunities to get involved will be announced in the [California Water Plan eNews](#).

