

Climate Change Technical Advisory Group
California Water Plan Update
Department of Water Resources

Statement of Task

July 3, 2009

Climate change will increase the uncertainty and complexity already present in the scientific, engineering, economic, and societal challenges facing water resources and ecosystems in California. In fact, planning for and adapting to the impacts of climate change may be the most significant challenge facing California water managers this century.

In 2008 the Department of Water Resources (DWR), under the auspices of the California Water Plan Update, convened a highly-qualified group of climate change experts as the Climate Change Technical Advisory Group (CCTAG) to help incorporate climate change into water resources planning. The overall role of the CCTAG is to advise DWR on the scientific aspects of climate change, its impacts on water resources, the use and creation of planning approaches and analytical tools, and the development of adaptation responses for California's water sector. In particular, the CCTAG will address the following activities.

- California water managers must utilize the best available climate science to help reduce the uncertainty in climate change impacts. The CCTAG will thus identify, assess, and develop climate change science for use by DWR, local and regional water planners. The CCTAG will also evaluate the needs for observations and data collection to monitor climate change impacts to water resources. This activity will be directly overseen by the California State Climatologist, Michael Anderson, PhD.
- The CCTAG will work in coordination with the Water Plan's the Statewide Water Analysis Network (SWAN) to provide technical input on the use and quantification of future planning scenarios with respect to climate change. Specifically, this input will then be considered by DWR for use in the Water Evaluation and Planning System (WEAP) Model to better estimate scenario outcomes for factors related to climate change. The CCTAG will also review the WEAP modeling approach and results and help evaluate how they compare with other climate studies, particularly those conducted for the Governor's Climate Action Team biennial report.
- Using the best available monitoring and science, as well as climate change modeling and other planning tools, the CCTAG will help develop adaptation strategies for California's water sector, including flood management. These strategies, which will be based in part on the scenarios under development, will be used as management responses for future water scenarios for California. These strategies will also inform the California Climate Adaptation Strategy (CAS).¹

¹ In consultation with the CCTAG, in October 2008, DWR produced *Managing an Uncertain Future; Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for California's Water* for use in the Water Plan and the CAS (<http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange/docs/ClimateChangeWhitePaper.pdf>).