

The State's Water Strategic Plan



The California Water Plan (CWP) is the State's water strategic plan. First published in 1957, the plan is now updated every five years. The next plan update is due in 2009.

The plan contains information on topics such as:

- water uses
- water supplies
- regional conditions
- options for managing water

As a strategic plan, (and by law) the Plan does not provide recommendations about specific projects. Instead, decision makers use the document to consider how to meet water needs, where to make water investments, and for setting water policy.



Why is this important?

In order to fully respect the public's resources, make wise choices, create sustainable

options and ensure the best outcomes for the state, it is critical to plan comprehensively.

While recent bond issues will help with infrastructure improvements, more planning is vital to ensure California has reliable water supplies and is able to accommodate the effects of climate change and other events and issues on water supply, water quality and flood management.

Water Plan Regional Focus

Water Plan Update 2005 made two significant recommendations regarding planning at the Regional level.

1. **Diversify Regional Water Portfolios**
2. **Promote and practice Integrated Regional Water Management**

In response, Update 2009 includes a major emphasis on the regions. Regular region-specific workshops are being conducted throughout the State. These meetings focus on information directly related to a particular area or hydrologic region. Information is provided on the Water Plan and input sought regarding local and regional activities, conditions, and future plans.

In expanding the Water Plan's outreach activities, DWR invites and strongly encourages participation from:

- ✦ water agencies and associations
- ✦ local, state, Tribal and federal government
- ✦ regional planners
- ✦ watershed and community groups
- ✦ conservancies
- ✦ interested members of the public

Information on the regional workshops is available online at

www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/regional/workshops/index.cfm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Visit the Water Plan website at:

<http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov>



OVERVIEW of The California Water Plan Update 2005

**Regional
Outreach Meetings
Spring 2008**



≡ The California Water Plan Update 2005



HISTORY

First published in 1957, early Water Plans focused on defining how much water the state's people, farms and industries might want. Water experts then outlined what was thought to be the best way to provide it. In that era, the future was thought to be relatively predictable and many massive projects and engineering efforts were undertaken.

In 1999 the California Legislature and Governor enacted a law directing the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to modify the Water Plan approach. The new direction included, among other things, a requirement for broader stakeholder input and more reporting about planning assumptions.

Under this direction, DWR formed an advisory group of 65 individuals to work together with them and craft the 2005 Water Plan. Update 2005 evolved into a strategic plan with a vision, mission, goals, major initiatives, guiding principles, activities and statewide policy recommendations.

In Update 2005 more than one possible future was considered, and a variety of robust options for water management were offered. The update also acknowledged one approach or method may not fit all situations and the need for more regional planning.

One major recommendation of the Update was to increase Tribal participation and statewide access to funding. Another was to improve coordination among state agencies.

The 2005 plan represented a major shift in the planning approach, and more work remains. Update 2009 builds on the work started in the 2005 Plan.

WHAT'S IN THE PLAN?

Water Plan Update 2005 was organized into four volumes.

Volume 1—The Strategic Plan

- Strategic Plan and related elements
- Current statewide water use conditions including:
 - the natural and social setting in California
 - overview of water use, supplies, and quality
 - ongoing concerns (such as communities without safe drinking water supplies, Tribal water rights, groundwater overdraft, drought, floods, infrastructure, and climate change)
 - local and regional challenges
- Planning responses or approaches, such as integrated regional water management, coordination with land use planning, and coordination with other State agency programs.
- Legal framework and the related agencies that regulate water rights and water use (including Tribal water rights, surface water rights, area of origin, groundwater, environmental uses, water contracts, water transfers, and Colorado River guidelines)
- Scenarios of possible future water needs (these currently include three “big-picture” possibilities regarding water use in 2050 – one where the amount of water used in the State would be about the same as is used today, one where the amount of water used would be a little less than current levels, and one where the amount of water used would be substantially more than current levels)
- Changes that might occur in the future, regarding water supplies or uses
- Options for implementation of the strategic policy recommendations



Volume 2—Water Portfolio and Regional Reports

- Types of water supplies
- Detailed information on agricultural and urban water uses – as well as water that remains in the environment for natural processes
- Offers a statewide summary and information by ten hydrologic regions and two areas of special interest – the Delta and Mountain Counties

Volume 3—Resource Management Strategies

- 25 different approaches to managing water or water-dependent resources) that relate to five main themes:
 - reducing water demand
 - improving operational efficiency and transfers
 - increasing water supply
 - improving water quality
 - improving resource stewardship

Volume 4—Online reference resource— Provides over 60 complete articles on issues addressed in Update 2005.

WORKPLAN FOR UPDATE 2009

In addition to updating material contained in Update 2005, the 2009 Update will include:

- Information about climate change and potential responses
- Improve analytical tools (modeling and statistical approaches to help describe and forecast water conditions in local areas and Statewide)
- Incorporate companion State strategic plans (other high-level documents for large State agency programs, that are related to water)
- Incorporate Tribal issues and considerations