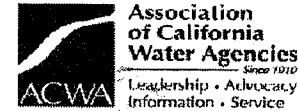




STATEWIDE WATER ACTION PLAN FOR CALIFORNIA

Submitted by staff at
12/9/13 Board Meeting



Item 14

Comparison of ACWA's Statewide Water Action Plan for California and the Brown Administration's Draft California Water Action Plan

ACWA's Board of Directors unanimously approved a Statewide Water Action Plan for California on Sept. 27, 2013. Developed by a broad cross-section of member water interests convened by ACWA over several months, the plan outlines 15 actions to improve water supply reliability, protect water rights, protect the integrity of the state's water system and promote better stewardship. It also includes guiding principles for implementation of the plan to help ensure actions benefit the entire state, respect water rights and contract terms, and reflect a new regulatory approach that can better meet the needs of water users and ecosystems.

ACWA submitted the Statewide Water Action Plan to Governor Brown on Oct. 2, 2013 as the water community's recommendations for developing the Administration's water action plan for the state. On October 31, the California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Food and Agriculture released the draft California Water Action Plan. Below is a comparison of the two plans.

Key Elements of ACWA's Statewide Water Action Plan compared to the Brown Administration's draft California Water Action Plan

Actions to Improve Statewide Water Supply

ACWA's SWAP	Draft California Water Action Plan	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Expand water storage capacity (both surface and groundwater) (pg. 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Expand both surface and ground water storage (pg. 11) ✓ Support funding partnerships for storage projects (pg. 11) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The storage section in the Administration's Plan indicates that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financing is often the limiting factor for storage projects, particularly for the larger surface storage projects. (pg. 11) • BDCP will increase feasibility of additional water storage. (pg. 11) • The Administration's Plan emphasizes

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		groundwater storage and management opportunities (pg. 12), but is not inconsistent with additional surface storage provisions in ACWA's SWAP. See the groundwater section of this document for the groundwater-related actions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Invest in water use efficiency and water conservation activities (pp. 3-4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Facilitate expansion of existing agricultural and urban water conservation and water use efficiency programs to exceed SBX7 7 targets (pg. 4) ✓ Increase coordinated water-energy efficiency (pg. 5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration's Plan indicates the State will work with the Legislature to expand funding for water use efficiency programs. Priority will be given to Integrated Regional Water Management Plans with existing/proposed measures including numeric targets. (pg. 5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Advance regional self-reliance/ Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (pg. 5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Streamline permitting for projects to increase local water supplies (pg. 6) ✓ Increase the use of recycled water (pg. 6) ✓ Support and enhance IRWMP program, targeting funding to those projects that result in multi-benefit solutions (pg. 5) ✓ Work more closely to promote land use decisions with sustainable water management (pg. 5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration's Plan also indicates the state will adopt criteria for indirect and direct potable water reuse of recycled water, which is required by SB 918 (Ch. 700 Stat. 2010). ACWA also recommended this action in its Groundwater Framework. (pg. 6) • ACWA included a recommendation in its Groundwater Framework regarding bridging the gap between land use decisions and sustainable water management. (pg. 31)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Facilitate water transfers (pg. 8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Streamline water transfers in both extreme situations and normal system conditions (pg. 10) 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Protect and improve water quality (pp. 5-6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Complete consolidation of drinking water and surface and groundwater quality programs; provide funding for disadvantaged communities (pg. 13) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This action in the Administration's Plan moves the CDPH Drinking Water Program to the State Water Resources Control Board. Originally opposed to this move, ACWA is now working with the Administration to accomplish the in a workable manner.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pass a water bond (pg. 7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop water financing strategy to identify all potential sources of revenue. Mentions general obligation (G.O.) bond as one financing opportunity, along with federal grants and loans, revenue bonds, fees, taxes, private investments etc. (pg. 16) ✓ Review changes needed to Prop. 218 that would allow water agencies to assess funds for sustainable water management (pg. 17) ✓ Analyze user and polluter fees (pg. 17) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration's Plan lays the foundation for possible agreement on the 2014 water bond, but clearly contemplates going beyond G.O. Bond financing of public benefits in the future.

Actions to Protect Water Rights

ACWA's SWAP	Draft California Water Action Plan	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Respect area of origin commitments (pg. 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Includes a statement in the operational and regulatory efficiency section that states "efficiently operating the State Water Project and Central Valley Project, while complying with the requirements of state and federal endangered species acts and operating consistent with the conditions of water rights, contracts and other entitlements, is a delicate balance." (pg. 14) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger commitments may be required for the Administration's Plan to satisfy the water supply assurances commitments of the SWAP.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure that reservoirs are not operated to "dead pool" as a result of state regulations or actions (pp. 4-5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There are not specific actions included in the Administration's Plan that address the operational concerns related to this issue, although the Administration's Plan does state in the <i>Manage and Prepare for Dry Periods</i> section that state and federal agencies will implement a series of administrative solutions to make water delivery decisions and propose options in extreme conditions (pg. 10). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration has acknowledged the issue, and ACWA and its affected members will continue working on efforts to address it with State agencies.

Actions to Protect the Integrity of the System

ACWA's SWAP	Draft California Water Action Plan	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Complete a Bay Delta Conservation Plan, consistent with the Statewide Water Action Plan (pg. 6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Complete the current Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Once the BDCP is permitted, it will become part of the Delta Plan (pg. 7) ✓ Identify improvement and restoration projects based in part on priority areas listed in the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan (pp. 7-8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration's Plan indicates many of the actions build on the priorities in the DSC's Delta Plan and directs all relevant agencies to fully participate in the Delta Plan Implementation Committee. (pg. 7)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continue to support DWR's Delta Levee Maintenance and Special Projects programs (pg. 6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continue implementation of the Delta Levee Subventions, Delta Special Projects and Floodway Corridor Programs (pg. 8) ✓ Develop prioritization plan by January 1, 2015 (pg. 14) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACWA's SWAP says that DSC should complete its levee prioritization plan by July 1, 2014. (pg. 6)

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prepare for emergencies to protect public safety (pg. 6-7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop funding, streamline permitting and coordinate response protocols to reduce flood risk and impacts (pg. 13) ✓ Review Prop. 218 for changes needed to exempt flood management activities as public safety concerns (pg. 13) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration's Plan and SWAP appear to be in conformance on this issue.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improve and expand groundwater management (pp. 7-8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Update Bulletin 118 (pg. 12) ✓ Outline strategy for sustainable groundwater management (pg. 12) ✓ Advance groundwater quality improvements (pg. 12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommendations on page 12 were in the storage section. • Many of the groundwater recommendations are similar to ACWA's Groundwater Framework.

Actions to Promote Better Stewardship

ACWA's SWAP	Draft California Water Action Plan	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Invest in headwaters management to sustain the environment and improve statewide water quality and supply. Areas include climate change, legacy issues and meadow restoration. (pg. 5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Restore mountain meadow habitat in Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountain ranges (pg. 8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are very limited actions in the Administration's Plan addressing California's headwaters; more work needed here in implementation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Coordinate state and federal regulatory actions (pg. 8) ✓ New regulatory approach needed (pg. 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improve and clarify coordination of State Bay Delta actions (pg. 15) ✓ Integration across and between all voluntary and regulatory efforts may be necessary to truly achieve basic ecological outcomes (pg. 16) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration's Plan appears to open the door to a more collaborative approach to regulation, but there will be a lot of "devil in the details."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan: Implement flow regulations through a collaborative, science-based process that protects beneficial uses and public trust balancing (pg. 7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Complete the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan establishing requirements, recommended actions and balancing competing uses of water (pg. 8) 	

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Additional Actions

ACWA SWAP	Draft California Water Action Plan	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The ACWA SWAP did not specify in its document restoration projects for individual areas or watersheds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implement actions for San Joaquin River, Salton Sea, Klamath Basin and Coastal watershed restoration (pp. 8-9) ✓ Develop and implement managed wetlands program (pg. 9) ✓ Address fish passage at California's rim dams (pg. 10) ✓ Enhance flows statewide in at least five stream systems that support critical habitat for anadromous fish (pg. 10) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of effort and funds among California headwaters and watersheds will require the active involvement of ACWA members during implementation.

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